



# REPORT

To: Solid Waste Committee

Report Number: ENV-SWC-156

From: Gerritt Lacey, Solid Waste Manager

Date: April 5, 2024

**Subject: Chetwynd Landfill Replacement Project Update**

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## **RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Solid Waste Committee recommend that the Regional Board share the report titled “Chetwynd Landfill Replacement Project Update ENV-SWC-156” including the attached reports titled “New Landfill Feasibility – Site Selection – Landfill Siting Memo” and “New Landfill Feasibility – Chetwynd Area Stage 1: Site Selection – Site Reconnaissance” with the following government agencies and neighbouring communities:

- District of Chetwynd,
- BC Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy,
- Blueberry River First Nations,
- Doig River First Nation,
- Halfway River First Nation,
- Kwadacha Nation,
- McLeod Lake Indian Band,
- Saulteau First Nations,
- Tsay Keh Dene Band,
- West Moberly First Nations,
- Lheidli T'enneh First Nation,
- Horse Lake First Nation,
- Simpcw First Nation,
- Secwepemc LOC,
- Dene Tha First Nation,
- Prophet River First Nation,
- Ross River Dena Council,
- Kaska Dena Council,
- Liard First Nation,
- Carrier Sekani Tribal Council,
- Gitxsan Hereditary Chiefs,
- Takla Nation,
- Binche Whut'en,
- Tahltan Central Government, and
- Nak'azdli Band.

**BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:**

The Chetwynd Landfill manages approximately 12% (12,000 tonnes) of the waste generated in the Peace River Regional District (PRRD) annually. As per the 2022 annual report for the landfill, it is anticipated that all the available airspace will be used by the end of 2029, meaning the landfill will no longer be able to accept waste. As a result, waste that originates from Electoral Area E and Chetwynd would need to go to a new landfill located in the Chetwynd area for disposal.

In 2023 the PRRD began the process of siting a new landfill, and secured Tetra Tech Canada Inc to assist the PRRD through the process.

**2023 Recap**

A desktop site selection was performed which investigated 11 potential areas within a 20km radius of Chetwynd. The 2016 BC Landfill Criteria was used to evaluate the suitability of each as a potential landfill site against the regulatory requirements. These 11 potential sites were narrowed to four for further investigation which are referred to as:

- Area A - Located approximately 4km north along Don Phillips Way past the existing landfill;
- Area B - Located beside to the existing landfill;
- Area C - Located approximately 4.5km down the Lone Prairie Road; and
- Area L – Located approximately 27km down the Jackfish Lake Road.

The results of the desktop site selection process are available in the attached report titled “New Landfill Feasibility – Site Selection – Landfill Siting Memo” dated November 3, 2023.

Site visits and field reconnaissance of the four potential locations were completed by Tetra Tech and PRRD staff in the fall of 2023. The results of the site visits are captured in the report titled “New Landfill Feasibility – Chetwynd Area Stage 1: Site Selection – Site Reconnaissance” dated February 20, 2024, and attached to this report for reference.

**Planned work in 2024**

Based on the initial investigations in 2023, Area A and B are planned to move forward to complete the feasibility study. In 2024, this will include lidar investigation for narrowing the potential location of the landfill within each area and performing a preliminary geotechnical investigation of each site to establish subsurface site conditions. The results of the completed feasibility study will be shared through public consultation to assist the PRRD on the selection of the preferred location of the new landfill. This will then lead to proceeding with obtaining the appropriate permitting and updating the Regional Solid Waste Management Plan in the following year. As part of the works, the PRRD may need to apply for and obtain License's of Occupation for the two areas to perform the preliminary geotechnical investigations.

**Public Engagement and Consultation**

Public consultation for the at the Feasibility and Site Selection stage will include engagement with the District of Chetwynd, Member First Nations Communities, neighbors, and BC Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy regarding the proposed location of the new landfill.

Providing this report to member municipalities, First Nations, and government agencies is the first step towards that engagement, as further communications materials are developed they will be shared with the project stakeholders.

**ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:**

1. That the Solid Waste Committee provide further direction.

**STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANCE:**

- ☒ Asset and Infrastructure Management
- ☒ Collaboration and Cooperation with First Nations

**FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION(S):**

The cost of establishing a new Landfill that is ready to accept waste is estimated to cost upwards of \$5,500,000.

**COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATION(S):**

The PRRD is working on developing communications materials to be shared with the public regarding the status of the project and receiving feedback regarding the proposed locations. This includes creating materials such as:

- A Have Your Say Page which allows for posting of project updates and public to submit questions.
- Reports
- Surveys
- Posters/Pamphlets
- Workshops

**OTHER CONSIDERATION(S):**

None at this time.

**Attachments:**

1. New Landfill Feasibility – Site Selection – Landfill Siting Memo
2. New Landfill Feasibility – Chetwynd Area Stage 1: Site Selection – Site Reconnaissance