



October 19, 2012

Dear Licencee,

RE: Wastewater discharge from land or floating camps

It has come to our attention that some Land Tenure Holders may be discharging wastewater without authorization from the Ministry of Environment. Wastewater discharge to the marine environment requires MOE authorization. Wastewater discharges to land require either MOE authorization or Public Health permitting.

Please see the attached information sheet for more information on the subject, including web links and BC Ministry of Environment contacts.



For any further questions, please contact Kathy Howard at (250) 956-5006 in our office.

Yours truly,

Andrew Ashford, RPF
District Manager
North Island Central Coast Resource District



Waste Discharges and Camps

What is Wastewater? It is the term used by BC Ministry of Environment to describe both the liquid discharge from a sewage treatment plant or septic system (often referred to as “black” water) and the liquid discharge from camps (e.g. washing water; often referred to as “grey” water).

- If your camp is discharging any wastewater into a marine environment, an MOE authorization (i.e. registration under the Municipal Wastewater Regulation) is required.
- If your camp is discharging wastewater onto land, depending on the volume an MOE authorization or a Public Health permit is required.
- If your camp is utilizing a holding tank and subsequently pumping it at suitable disposal site then no MOE authorization is required.

Ministry of Environment links:

- Environmental Management Act – Waste Discharge Authorizations:
www.env.gov.bc.ca/epd/waste_discharge_auth/intro.htm
- Registration Under a Regulation or Code of Practice
www.env.gov.bc.ca/epd/waste_discharge_auth/registration/index.htm
- Municipal Wastewater Regulation
www.env.gov.bc.ca/epd/mun-waste/regs/msr/
- Municipal Wastewater Regulation Guidance Documents
www.env.gov.bc.ca/epd/mun-waste/regs/msr/guidance/index.htm

For more information on Registration or what your camp facility may be required to do please contact one of the BC Ministry of Environment’s Environmental Protection Officers:

- For wastewater discharge from floating structures:
Melanie Mamoser – 250 751-3197, Melanie.Mamoser@gov.bc.ca
- For General Enquiries or if Melanie is not available:
MOE Main switchboard – 250 751-3177

For more information on Public Health permitting, contact the appropriate Environmental Health Officer:

- Within the Central Coast Regional District – 604 675-3800
- For Vancouver Island – 250 519-3341

On the Log Handling Prospectus/Management Plan form there is a listing of other possible tenures or authorizations the operations associated with the Crown Land tenure may need. Two of these are Health Authority Permit and MOE Authorization. If the operation has a camp (land-based or floating) and there is **any** wastewater discharge, one of the authorizations will be required. It is the responsibility of the Crown Land Tenure Holder to ensure that they are aware of and in compliance with all necessary government legislation and requirements.