



Making a difference...together

Core Area Wastewater Project Backgrounder:

In June 2014, the municipalities of Langford, Colwood, View Royal, Esquimalt and the Songhees Nation formed the Westside Select Committee to begin planning for a new project to treat sewage and recover resources in those municipalities and the nation. In January 2015, a similar body, the East Side Select Committee - comprised of Saanich, Oak Bay, and Victoria – was formed to develop a similar plan for the Eastside municipalities.

This renewed effort allowed for participants to identify publicly acceptable site locations to broaden and deepen public involvement, with greater transparency throughout the process. Since June 2014 and January 2015, respectively, both Select Committees have been engaged in in-depth public engagement activities to share information with the public and seek input on a range of factors, including level of treatment, treatment technologies, siting of treatment plants, costs, risks and long-term social, economic and environmental benefits. The identification and release of feasible sites by municipalities and First Nations, followed by public engagement led by Eastside and Westside committees, was a critical factor in deciding which options were chosen for more detailed technical and financial analysis.

Over the past three months, technical studies commissioned have produced five wastewater treatment options for the Core Area communities. Each option set provides differences with respect to locations of treatment, levels of service for treated effluent, piping and conveyancing, infrastructure and opportunities for water reuse and heat recovery at select locations. Based on feedback from the first phase of public consultation earlier this year, all of the option sets provide the required level of secondary treatment and options for advanced tertiary treatment. They also represent both centralized and distributed approaches to treating wastewater. Each option provides a representative approach for developing a more refined plan once the approach is approved.

The five option sets:

- Option 1A and 1B, a single plant option proposed for Rock Bay in Victoria with two models of treatment. The first allows for secondary treatment with sidestream tertiary for water reuse - Capital Cost \$1.030 billion. The second is for full tertiary treatment – Capital Cost \$1.130 billion
- Option 2, the 2-plant option set includes a centralized plant at Rock Bay in Victoria to provide treatment for most of the Core Area and also a facility in Colwood – Capital Cost \$1.088 billion
- Option 3, the 4-plant sub-regional option has treatment facilities located at Rock Bay in Victoria, Esquimalt Nation, Colwood and East Saanich – Capital Cost \$1.195 billion

- Option 4, the 7-plant distributed option has facilities located in Langford, Colwood, View Royal, Esquimalt, Rock Bay in Victoria, Saanich Core and East Saanich – Capital Cost \$1.348 billion

Solids processing is proposed for a centralized location at either Rock Bay in Victoria or at Hartland landfill. According to the Urban Systems report, based on the analysis of solids alternatives and the five option sets, there are two viable and comparable solids recovery options: anaerobic digestion and gasification. In order to identify the best solution, the CRD will use a request for statements of interest (RFSI) approach to ask the private sector for a more innovative or cost effective market-based solution with regards to technologies for solids processing. The RFSI process will begin after a site has been chosen and a preliminary Liquid Waste Management Plan amendment has been submitted. Cost estimates in the engineering report use anaerobic digestion costs to calculate the projected capital and operating costs for each of the option sets.

Beginning in December through January, the public will be able to access information and offer feedback in a variety of ways, including:

- Updated information on the CRD website
- Community meetings and workshops
- A storefront at CRD offices – 625 Fisgard – open throughout January.
- An online survey
- Educational resources and videos that can help broaden understanding of the alternatives

Watch for newsletters, mailers, ads on radio, in local newspapers and social media, driving residents to project information. Public input will be gathered and provided as a report to elected directors to guide decision-making on an amendment to the current Core Area Liquid Waste Management Plan.

For more information, visit www.crd.bc.ca/wastewater