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**REPORT TO SALT SPRING ISLAND LIQUID WASTE DISPOSAL LOCAL SERVICE COMMITTEE  
MEETING OF FRIDAY 06 FEBRUARY 2009**

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**SUBJECT      CLOSURE OF GULF ISLAND SEPTIC LAGOONS**

**PURPOSE**

To present for information to the Salt Spring Island Liquid Waste Disposal Local Service Committee (SSILW) a report on recent activities relating to the closure of the two original lagoons at the Burgoyne site.

**BACKGROUND**

The original Ministry of Environment (MOE) Waste Management Permit PE-7955, issued to Gulf Islands Septic Ltd. (GIS) in 1988 for the purpose of operating septage lagoons at the Burgoyne Bay site, remains in effect. This permit relates to the two original lagoons, which have been inactive since the dewatering system was established in 1997. Although the Capital Regional District (CRD) purchased the site from Texada Logging Ltd. in 2002, PE-7955 remained in the name of GIS. In response to a request by GIS in 2007 to abandon the permit, MOE has directed GIS to establish a closure plan for the lagoons by June 1, 2009, jointly with the CRD and Texada Logging Ltd., including specific requirements (ATTACHMENT 1). The CRD has since determined that Texada Logging Ltd. is no longer a legal entity.

In discussions with GIS late in 2008, the CRD agreed to support GIS in the development of a closure plan for the lagoons, initially by providing staff expertise. Both GIS and the CRD have confirmed in writing to MOE the intent to work together to fulfill the requirements for closure of the lagoons and abandonment of PE-7955 (ATTACHMENTS 2 and 3). As required by MOE, the CRD has assigned the file to a Qualified Professional as defined in the Organic Matter Recycling Regulation (OMRR) for the development of a closure plan. At the time of this report, a closure plan is being developed by CRD staff based on parameters established in correspondence with MOE staff.

It is likely that the closure plan will not require removal or treatment of materials in the lagoons, but will involve protection of the materials in situ from water migration using a membrane or other impervious cap layer, with suitable organic cover material to restore the original grade and encourage vegetation. It is also anticipated that groundwater monitoring will continue. Compost produced from dewatered biosolids may be blended with soils to minimize the volume of cover material that would need to be imported. Apportionment of costs to develop and implement a closure plan will be determined in discussion with GIS.

**ALTERNATIVES**

Not applicable.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The cost to develop a closure plan will be accommodated within the 2009 operating budget for the Salt Spring Island Liquid Waste Disposal Local Service. The cost of implementation will be shared between the CRD and GIS, and will be estimated based on the closure plan accepted by MOE. It is anticipated that the closure plan will be implemented over two or more years, with the intent of accommodating costs without borrowing funds. If composted biosolids may be incorporated in cover materials, it may be possible to combine the closure plan with a composting pilot program, achieving multiple objectives cost-effectively.

**Salt Spring Island Liquid Waste Disposal Local Service Committee – 6 February 2009**

**Re: Closure of Gulf Island Septic Lagoons**

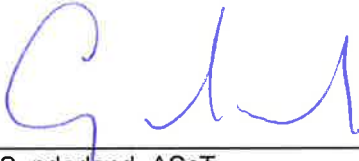
**Page 2**

**SUMMARY**

Based on a request by GIS to abandon its Waste Management Permit on the original septage lagoons at the Burgoyne site, MOE has required the CRD to support GIS in submitting a closure plan for the lagoons by June 1, 2009.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the Salt Spring Island Liquid Waste Disposal Local Service Committee receive this report for information.



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Colwyn Sunderland, ASCT,  
Local Services Engineering Coordinator

CS:ls

Attachments: 3



Date: DEC 10 2008

File: PE-07955

**REGISTERED MAIL**

Gulf Island Septic Ltd.  
1 – 105 Rainbow Rd  
Salt Spring Island BC V8K 2V5

Dear Permittee:

Re: Abandonment of Waste Management Permit PE-7955 on behalf of Gulf Island Septic Ltd. dated April 18, 1988 – Septage Disposal Site at Burgoyne Bay, Salt Spring Island.

This is in response to the letter from Gulf Island Septic Ltd. dated January 18, 2007 advising that Gulf Island Septic Ltd. elects to abandon Permit PE-07955 pursuant to Section 20(3) of the *Environmental Management Act (EMA)* and is further to my letter dated October 22, 2008. It is recognized that Gulf Island Septic Ltd. has exercised the right under the subject authorization to discharge waste.

In accordance with Section 20 (5)(b) of the *EMA*, the Director hereby imposes the following requirements:

1. The permittee shall submit a closure plan report to the Regional Environmental Protection Manager by June 1, 2009. The closure plan report must be certified by a "qualified professional" as defined by the Organic Matter Recycling Regulation (OMRR) and include:
  - i. A background and summary of all information and data including septage application locations, dates, quantities, qualities, sampling, procedures and methods used and monitoring results.
  - ii. The results of soil analyses representative of septage residues remaining in the septage lagoons, to be comprised of, but not limited to testing for mercury, boron, copper, silver, arsenic, manganese, lead and zinc;

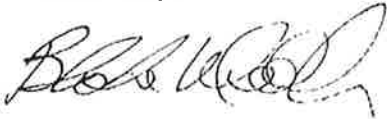
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- iii. Review, assess, compare and interpret all the information and data as it pertains to the protection of the environment, the permit and the standards, criteria and guidelines of the Contaminated Sites Regulation and the OMRR.
  - iv. Conclusions and recommendations including any sampling, monitoring, restoration of the environment, or further work.
2. Carry out any additional requirements that the Director may impose respecting restoration of the environment or the control and monitoring of the waste discharged or the waste that continues to be discharged after abandonment.

Based on the results of your discussions with the Capital Regional District (CRD) on November 21, 2008 I understand that Gulf Island Septic Ltd. will work in collaboration with the CRD to carry out the above requirements for abandonment. This cooperative approach is appreciated.

The decision to impose these requirements may be appealed to the Environmental Appeal Board in accordance with Part 8 of the *EMA*. An appeal must be delivered within 30 days from the date that notice of the decision is given. For further information, please contact the Environmental Appeal Board at 250 387-3464.

Yours truly,



Blake Medlar  
For Director, *Environmental Management Act*

pc: Capital Regional District, PO Box 1000, 625 Fisgard St, Victoria BC V8W 2S6  
Attention: Larisa Hutcheson, P. Eng  
Gulf Island Septic Ltd., 292 Armand Way, Salt Spring Island, BC V8K 2B6  
Environment Canada



November 28, 2008

**Attachment 2**

Your File: PE-7955

Ministry of Environment  
Vancouver Island Region  
Environmental Protection Division  
2080A Labieux Road  
Nanaimo BC V9T 6J9

*via Fax @ (250) 751-3103*

*original by Mail*

Attention: Blake Medlar  
Head, Government and Compliance Section  
Vancouver Island Region

Dear Sir:

Re: Abandonment of Waste Management Permit PE-7955 on behalf of Gulf Islands Septic Ltd.  
Dated April 18, 1988 – Septage Disposal Site at Burgoyne Bay, Salt Spring Island

This is a response to your letter dated October 22, 2008.

We had a telephone conference call on November 21, 2008 with CRD representatives, Larisa Hutcheson, Senior Manager; Andy Liu, Manager, Environmental Engineering; and Colwyn Sunderland, Local Services Engineering Coordinator.

We received a copy of the CRD letter to you dated November 26, 2008 which is a fair reflection of that telephone conference call. We refer to paragraph (a) of the aforementioned letter. We can confirm that Gulf Islands Septic Ltd. has not used this site since November, 1994.

It is the intention of all parties to work together to move this matter forward to a successful conclusion and fulfill MOE requirements.

We will keep you apprised should any difficulties arise.

Yours truly,

Ed Peterson  
Gulf Islands Septic Ltd.

cc ✓ Larisa Hutcheson, PEng  
Senior Manager, Operations and Local Services  
Environmental Services Department



Making a difference...together

Environmental Services  
625 Fisgard Street, PO Box 1000  
Victoria, BC, Canada V8W 2S6

T: 250.360.3078  
F: 250.360.3079  
www.crd.bc.ca

November 26, 2008

## Attachment 3

File: 5340-20.05

Mr. Blake Medlar  
Head, Government and Compliance Section  
Vancouver Island Region  
2080A Labieux Road  
Nanaimo, BC V9T 6J9

Dear Mr. Medlar:

**RE: ABANDONMENT OF WASTE MANAGEMENT PERMIT PE-7955 ON BEHALF OF GULF ISLANDS SEPTIC LTD. DATED APRIL 18, 1988 – SEPTIC DISPOSAL SITE AT BURGOPYNE BAY, SALT SPRING ISLAND, BC**


This letter is in response to the Ministry of Environment (MOE) letter dated October 22, 2008 regarding the abandonment of Waste Management Permit PE-7955 (Permit) – Permit holder: Gulf Islands Septic Ltd. (GIS).

As per the MOE recommendation to take the opportunity to determine who will carry out the work that will be required, the Capital Regional District (CRD) initiated discussions with GIS on November 21, 2008. The key points discussed during this preliminary conversation were:

- a. The two lagoons under this Permit were operated solely by GIS from 1988 to 1994. The usage and responsibility of these lagoons from 1995 to the present time will need to be determined from various records. GIS and the CRD will gather the records available and discuss this issue further.
- b. In 2000 there were soil (material) samples taken from the two lagoons for analysis. The CRD will review these samples and conduct a preliminary analysis to determine lagoon closure options from the site owner's perspective.
- c. A copy of the 2000 soil analysis report will be forwarded to GIS for their analysis to determine next steps regarding fulfillment of the MOE requirements.
- d. The CRD suggested to GIS to prepare a response letter to the MOE before the end of November 2008. The letter could indicate the CRD's willingness to assist GIS to fulfill the MOE requirements.
- e. Both parties agreed to carry out the abandonment of this Permit and to prepare a closure plan to be submitted to MOE by June 1, 2009.

According to BC Ministry of Finance records, Texada Logging Ltd. amalgamated with another company and dissolved earlier this year. Attempts to contact representatives have not been successful to date.

Yours truly,



Larisa Hutcheson, PEng  
Senior Manager, Operations and Local Services  
Environmental Services Department

AL/LH:ls

cc: Duncan McLaren, Environmental Protection Officer, MOE  
Seamus McDonnell, PEng, Senior Manager, Engineering Services, CRD  
Andy Liu, PEng, Manager, Environmental Engineering, CRD  
Colwyn Sunderland, Local Services Engineering Coordinator, CRD  
Ed Peterson, Gulf Islands Septic Ltd.