
BACKGROUND

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April 1, 2008

Ministry of Agriculture and Lands
Capital Regional District

CRD AND PROVINCE PARTNER TO CLEAN UP MILLSTREAM MEADOWS

History:

- Prior to 1974, the Millstream Meadows site was privately owned and operated as a septage disposal facility.
- At that time, the disposal of waste was largely unregulated. Waste received at the site included septage and other trucked liquid wastes, which also contained oily wastes.
- Beginning in 1974, the provincial government assumed ownership of the site. The CRD assumed operational responsibility for the site in 1974.
- The CRD took ownership of the site in 1984.
- Capping and closure of the Millstream Meadows site occurred between 1984 and 1990.

Environmental Monitoring:

- Environmental monitoring at the site began in 1995.
- A detailed site investigation was conducted in 1999/2000 to identify the extent of on-site contamination and the potential for off-site movement. The results identified hydrocarbon-contaminated soil and groundwater confined to the former septage lagoons. No off-site movement of contamination was identified.
- Based on the results of the investigation, a monitoring program was developed and the site has been monitored twice per year since 2000.
- In late 2007, contamination was identified on the property outside the boundary of the lagoon area.
- The CRD responded quickly by increasing site monitoring and developing plans for remediation of the site. As a precautionary measure, bottled water and well testing was offered to nearby residents.

Site Remediation:

- The site will be remediated beginning in the summer of 2008.
- This work will involve the excavation of the contaminated soil from the former lagoons. The contaminated soil will be trucked off-site and disposed at a permitted facility.
- The remediation will remove the source of the contamination to protect local groundwater quality.
- It is expected to take up to four months to fully excavate the lagoons and complete the remediation. The goal is to complete all work in the dry season.
- All work will be completed under the direction of a qualified professional.
- The site will continue to be monitored for a minimum period of three years after the remediation is complete.

B.C. Brownfield Renewal Strategy

- The Millstream Meadows project is one of three Brownfield pilot project sites under the BC Brownfield Renewal Strategy of the Crown Land Restoration Branch.
- The BC Brownfield Renewal Strategy is being led by the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands and is designed to encourage the redevelopment of brownfield sites that would otherwise sit idle due to possible contamination.
- Brownfields are defined as “abandoned, vacant, derelict or underutilized commercial or industrial properties where past actions have resulted in actual or perceived contamination and where there is an active potential for redevelopment.”

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