

Campbell River Environmental Committee (CREC)
PO Box 20092 STN. A, Campbell River, BC V9W 7Z5

Thomas Doherty ECFO, C.Mgr, Fire Chief
Campbell River Fire Department
675-13th Ave Campbell River, BC
V9W 6C1

May 1, 2020

Dear Thomas Doherty,

Thank you for your excellent report on the Community Wildfire Protection Plan for the City of Campbell River.

The Campbell River Environmental Committee (CREC) research of studies regarding the Campbell River Waste Management Centre (CRWMC) has identified the following facts.

- “Topography in the vicinity of the Site generally slopes downward to the east from McIvor Lake, (approximately 400 m to the west of the landfill footprint), flattening out approximately 500 m to the east of the Site.” Source: 2018 Operations and Monitoring Report, Campbell River Waste Management Centre, 2.3 Topography and Drainage
<https://crecwebcom.files.wordpress.com/2019/09/056484-rpt-43-campbell-river-2018-om-report.pdf>
- “McIvor Lake lowers in the summer months due to dry weather conditions and BC Hydro power generation.” Source: BC Hydro https://crecwebcom.files.wordpress.com/2016/05/bc-hydro_-campbell-river-operations-update-dry-conditions-1.pdf
- Two aquifers are sandwiched under the CRWMC site. Source: Dr. Gilles Wendling, P. Eng. and Hydrogeologist, GW Solutions.
- “Moisture deficits occur during the summer months from May to August.” Source: July 1996 Closure Plans for Campbell River Municipal Landfill, 3.13 Water Balance.
<https://crecwebcom.files.wordpress.com/2020/04/1996-gartner-lee-dump-close-marked-2.pdf>
- “As stated in Section 2.5, groundwater elevations in the vicinity of the Site have decreased by approximately 2 - 4 m between 1995 and 2003. This apparent regional groundwater elevation decrease is likely the cause for the HBT94-5 going dry.” Also see figures 5.1a to 5.1d. Source: 2018 Operations and Monitoring Report, Campbell River Waste Management Centre, **5.3.4.3**
<https://crecwebcom.files.wordpress.com/2019/09/056484-rpt-43-campbell-river-2018-om-report.pdf>
- There are no fire hydrants at the CRWMC site. Source: City of Campbell River hydrant map. (attached)

CREC has questions we would appreciate your answers to:

1. What are the prevailing winds at the CRWMC?

2. What is the fire risk at the CRWMC site, considering the moisture deficit in the aquifers that occur during the summer months from May to August (fire season)?

3. Would the proximity of the large trees provide stands with continuous surface/crown fuel that will support regular torching/candling, intermittent crown and/or continuous crown fires?

4. Could a fire at the CRWMC site pose a risk to Elk Falls Park or to residences to the east?

5. Is the capacity of wells and water storage on site adequate to meet the fire code for fire suppression in all months of the year?

6. We have been notified by the Comox Strathcona Waste Management staff that the plan for fire suppression at the CRWMC is:

“The Fire Safety and Contingency plan within the DOCP specifies that the CRWMC is equipped with a well for emergency use which may be accessed by three stand pipes at the Site. Two 2,000 gallon water tanks are kept on site at all times, and are equipped with fire pumps and may be transported via roll-off truck. In addition, a 22,000 litre water tanker with a fire boss nozzle capable of a stream 300 ft long was procured for the Site in 2019.”

Are hydrants required for fire suppression for operation of a compost facility at the CRWMC site?

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Campbell River Environmental Committee,

Per,

Leona Adams
CREC Vice President
250-287-3506

Attachment

cc: Craig Idiens, Campbell River Fire Department
Leroy McFarlane, President, CREC