

## News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 17, 2014



### CHEMAINUS ODOUR SURVEY CONCLUDED

**Duncan, B.C** – As a result of odour complaints lodged by residents and businesses in Chemainus, SENES Consultants was retained by the Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD) in partnership with the Municipality of North Cowichan (MNC) to determine the magnitude and possible source of odours reported in the community of Chemainus and in the Chemainus industrial park.

Odour complaints have originated from two main areas of the community: from businesses on Smiley Road in the Chemainus industrial park and from residents living in the community of Chemainus. In most cases, the complainants have assumed that Coast Environmental Ltd.'s (Coast) operations are the source of the odours.

As there is no standard definition of what constitutes a nuisance odour within the context of CVRD and MNC bylaws, or for any other municipal or provincial jurisdiction in British Columbia, the World Health Organization's (WHO) definition of a nuisance threshold level (when more than 5% of the population experiences annoyance for more than 2% of the time), has been used as a benchmark in the report as recommended by SENES Consultants.

An eight week odour survey was carried out during the months of May and June 2014 and the findings show odours that were classified predominantly as 'offensive' were observed in five areas in Chemainus, according to the following frequencies: at River Road up to 46% of the time (expected source – agricultural); at MacMillan Bloedel Forest Service Road up to 6.7% of the time (expected source – industrial); along Smiley Road up to 4.9% of the time (expected source – Coast); in the community of Chemainus, between the ferry terminal and Old Victoria Road up to 3.7% of the time (expected source – agricultural); and, on Bare Point Road up to 2.4% of the time (expected source – Chemainus wastewater treatment plant).

The report concluded that the majority of odours observed along Smiley Road originate from Coast. In addition to the predominantly 'offensive' odours that occurred up to 4.9% of the time, intense short-term odours typically lasting up to thirty seconds were observed on ten occasions. Overall, the majority of odours were largely recorded as 'barely noticeable' or 'noticeable' along Smiley Road.

SENES Consultants determined that odours in the community of Chemainus did not originate from Coast. Instead, odour complaints and odour observations in these areas appear to be related to nearby farm activities.

As a result of the report's findings, the CVRD and the MNC have requested Coast to voluntarily work to reduce the frequency of nuisance odours detectable beyond their property boundary. Coast has expressed their commitment to continue to reduce odours from their onsite operations and have planned, with the assistance of two independent experts, a number of improvements to their facility operations, including amendments to the composting process, the ventilation and biofilter systems and the waste water pump out system. All systems upgrades are expected to be in place by the end of September, 2014.

"It is unlikely that operations in industrial areas will manage to completely eliminate odours at all times, however, working further to reduce odour impact on neighbouring businesses in the industrial park is a reasonable request", notes Mayor Jon Lefebure.

The odour survey report is available at [www.cvrld.bc.ca/ChemainusOdourSurvey](http://www.cvrld.bc.ca/ChemainusOdourSurvey)

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