



South Island Aggregates - Cobble Hill Holdings

FAQ related to Cancellation of Permit 105809

Updated March 23, 2017

What are the next steps with regards to managing the site?

- Ministry staff are taking actions to ensure material on the property is managed in a way that does not present a risk to human health or the environment.
- An amended Spill Prevention Order (SPO) was issued on March 15, which requires the parties listed on the SPO to decide by April 17th whether to proceed with final closure activities for the landfill, or develop and implement a plan to remove the soil from the site.
- In the short-term, the Order also requires that the landfill remain covered, and any leachate generated must be collected and managed so it is not discharged to the environment, and taken off-site to an authorized facility for treatment and/or disposal.
- Ministry staff will be monitoring for compliance with the Order, and non-compliance with this order is an offence under the Environmental Management Act.

Who are the parties responsible for following the Spill Prevention Order (SPO)?

- The following persons have been named as the parties responsible for fulfilling the requirements of the SPO:
 - Cobble Hill Holdings Ltd.
 - The directors of Cobble Hill Holdings Lt.
 - South island Resource Management Ltd., and
 - South Island Aggregates Ltd.

Will the soil be removed?

- In accordance with the Spill Prevention Order, by April 17th the company must either take actions to ensure long-term safety and stability of the soil in the landfill, or must develop and implement a plan to remove the soil from the site.
- If at any time ministry technical staff determine that the soil must be removed in order to ensure protection of the environment, the ministry may order the company to do so.

Who will pay for the clean-up?

- The company and other parties listed on the Spill Prevention Order are responsible for maintaining the site and dealing with any remediation necessary.
- In the event that clean-up activities are needed, under B.C.'s polluter pay principle, the ministry ensures that any costs associated with the site cleaned up are paid for by the polluter. This could include recovering costs through the courts if a company fails to comply with an order under the *Environmental Management Act*.
- The ministry will continue to hold the \$220,000 of financial security, and if needed, these funds could be applied to site management or clean-up activities.

Why did the Minister cancel the permit?

- The Minister's reasons for cancelling the permit under Section 18 of the Environmental Management Act can be found at the following links:
http://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/environment/air-land-water/site-permitting-and-compliance/sia/308290-chh_sia-final_sent.pdf
<http://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/environment/air-land-water/site-permitting-and-compliance/sia/307354-sia-mmp.pdf>

How much contaminated soil is on the site?

- Since July 31, 2015, approximately 100,000 tonnes of contaminated soil has been landfilled. This is less than the annual amount that was authorized in the permit.