Canada/ British Columbia Collaboration on Wastewater Management

The Governments of Canada and British Columbia believe in the importance of strong and consistent action to manage wastewater effluent.

On July 18, 2012, the Government of Canada has published the *Wastewater Systems Effluent Regulations.*

Furthermore, the Government of Canada has recently announced amendments to the *Fisheries Act* which allows the development of equivalency agreements.

The Government of British-Columbia regulates the treatment and discharge of wastewater effluent through its new *Municipal Wastewater Regulation,* and through Liquid Waste Management Plans and authorizations under its *Environmental Management Act.*

Canada and British Columbia recognize that a cooperative approach to wastewater management would reduce regulatory duplication and administrative burden. To that end, both governments are working towards the development of an equivalency agreement on wastewater effluent regulations. An equivalency agreement would see the federal regulations stand down in favour of a provincial regulatory system, as long as the provincial system is deemed to be equivalent in its effect.

Additionally, both Canada and British Columbia have begun discussions on interim arrangements for the harmonized implementation of the Federal and Provincial regulations, beginning with harmonized data reporting requirements.

These efforts are in line with the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME) *Canada-wide Strategy for the Management of Municipal Wastewater Effluent* (2009), to improve wastewater management and provide regulatory clarity to owners/operators of wastewater systems. Both the Governments of Canada and British Columbia have endorsed this strategy.

Agreed to on July 18th, 2012.

The Honourable Peter Kent
Minister of Environment
Government of Canada

The Honourable Terry Lake
Minister of Environment
Government of British Columbia

Canada

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