

Reference: 311372

August 11, 2017

South Island Resource Management Ltd.

2158 Millstream Road Victoria BC V9B 6H4

Email: Raymond@allterraconstruction.ca

Email: Todd@allterraconstruction.ca

South Island Aggregates Ltd. Herald Street Law

101-536 Herald Street Victoria BC V8W 1S6

Email: info@heraldstreetlaw.com

Martin Uwe Block

A-693 Stebbings Road

Shawnigan Lake BC V0R 2W3

Email: <u>marty.sia@shaw.ca;</u> marty@chholdings.ca

Michael Kelly

A-693 Stebbings Road

Shawnigan Lake BC V0R 2W3

Email: mike.sia@shaw.ca;

mike@chholdings.ca

Cobble Hill Holdings Ltd.

Herald Street Law

101-536 Herald Street

Victoria BC V8W 1S6

Email: info@heraldstreetlaw.com

Allterra Construction Ltd. 2158 Millstream Road

Victoria BC V9B 6H4

Email: Raymond@allterraconstruction.ca;

Todd@allterraconstruction.ca;

Gary@allterraconstruction.ca

Dear Sirs:

Thank you for the Cobble Hill Landfill Updated Final Closure Plan Report (Updated Final Closure Plan), prepared by Sperling Hansen Associates Inc., dated July 21, 2017, and submitted pursuant to section 2 of the second amended Spill Prevention Order MO1701 (SPO), dated June 29, 2017.

The totality of the Updated Final Closure Plan is still under review by the Ministry. However, to lessen the risk of an escape or spill of the polluting substances identified in the SPO during this fall and winter, and in accordance with section 2 of the SPO, I hereby approve those portions of the Updated Final Closure Plan comprising of the minor construction works proposed for 2017 in section 4.8 of the Updated Final Closure Plan (Minor Construction Works) and the environmental monitoring program identified in sections 9.3 – 9.6 of the Updated Final Closure Plan (Environmental Monitoring Program), with the following conditions:

1. Construction activities for the Minor Construction Works must commence by August 28, 2017, and be completed as early as possible, and no later than October 31, 2017.

...2

- 2. A qualified professional as defined in the Landfill Criteria for Municipal Solid Waste, Second Edition, June 2016 (Qualified Professional or QP) must be continuously present on-site to supervise all Minor Construction Works activities and must carry out the following:
 - Inspect and approve works as they are constructed for conformance with plans and specifications;
 - Perform quality assurance and quality control monitoring and testing; and
 - Report to the Ministry in accordance with condition 6 below.
- 3. By September 15, 2017, four test pits must be excavated along the edge of the toe of the northern slope of the landfill cell and the presence and integrity of the basal clay layer must be assessed and documented. The Named Parties must provide notice and an opportunity for a ministry staff representative and/or other contractor designated by the Ministry to be present during the excavation of the test pits and to have the opportunity to assess the presence and characteristics of the basal clay layer before securing the area.
- 4. The Environmental Monitoring Program must involve collection of monthly rather than quarterly samples from the surface water, groundwater and seepage blanket as identified in sections 9.4 to 9.6 of the Updated Final Closure Plan. With regard to section 9.3, leachate in the Leak Detection Tank must also be sampled monthly when liquid is present in the tank, and analyzed for the same parameters as indicated in the Leachate Tank sampling program. Monitoring must commence at existing sampling sites by August 31, 2017, and must commence at the seepage blanket monitoring wells by October 31, 2017.
- 5. A high water level alarm system must be installed by October 31, 2017, and remain operational in the leachate collection tank to minimize the risk of an unforeseen overflow of leachate.
- 6. Additional reporting to the Ministry must be carried out as follows:
 - a. A detailed construction work plan and schedule must be submitted prior to commencement of construction activities, and by August 25, 2017, at the latest. The schedule must identify the timing of tasks associated with each of the Minor Construction Works, and identify the QP(s) responsible for oversight of those activities.
 - b. In addition to including the information listed in section 4 of the SPO, the semi-monthly status reports must also:
 - i. Identify any deviations to the construction work plan and schedule mentioned above;

- ii. Confirm the planned activities (and associated timing) for the next reporting cycle; and
- iii. Include water quality results received from the lab during the reporting period, suitably tabulated with copies of the original lab reports.

I reserve the right to amend the above conditions as circumstances warrant.

The requirements of the SPO remain in full force and effect. In accordance with section 3 of the SPO, the Named Parties must carry out those closure activities in the Updated Final Closure Plan that have been approved, namely the Minor Construction Works and Environmental Monitoring Program, in accordance with conditions 1-6 of this approval, and must complete this work by October 31, 2017. Failure to comply with the requirements of the SPO is a contravention of the *Environmental Management Act* and may result in legal action.

Please be advised that the Ministry will have a staff person or ministry hired contractor on site at any time and during the conduct of any work that the ministry deems appropriate. In addition, ministry staff or a ministry hired contractor will be on site to inspect any works or installations prior to those works or installations being completed and removed from plain view. The Ministry may also have ministry staff or ministry hired contractors observe and monitor some or all of the closure activities at the site, and collect samples of the clay layer, contaminated soil, leachate, surface water and/or groundwater as needed. Should any information be needed by the staff and/or contractors to inform their observations and/or assess compliance, it is expected that the information is provided in a timely manner to those staff.

Sincerely,

George Heyman

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Minister