



March 29, 2012

File: 140-50/EMA-AWCR

Re: Agricultural Waste Control Regulation Consultation Document

Dear Stakeholder:

As you may know, the Ministry of Environment is continuing the process of reviewing and revising the Agricultural Waste Control Regulation (AWCR) of the *Environmental Management Act (EMA)*. The AWCR review process follows the ministry policy of continuous improvement and commitment to review our regulations on a regular basis and to update them as appropriate.

A notice was sent on January 27, 2012, informing of the start of the consultations. This letter is to inform you that the Ministry of Environment is **extending the consultation period** for review of the AWCR Intentions Paper from March 31, 2012 to **May 31, 2012**. This extension is in response to stakeholders who requested additional time to respond and provide comments.

The Ministry is also currently working with the BC Agriculture Council to organize further detailed consultation with the sector. The intent of the consultations will be to provide a full opportunity to discuss the environmental concerns which the intentions paper is intended to address and the suite of possible responses. There is not a fixed timeline for this project. It is not anticipated that regulatory changes will occur before spring 2014.

The ministry's objectives and the proposed content of the revisions are provided in a policy intentions paper, which is presented as a starting point for consultation (intentions paper). This intentions paper is available for review on our web site at <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/epd/codes/awcr/index.htm>. The intentions paper also describes the aspects of particular concern for protection of human health and the environment and other relevant information. A response form to seek responses and comments from stakeholders and the public is also available on the website indicated above. **Comments should be submitted by May 31, 2012**. If you have provided comments already, there is no need to re-submit them, unless you wish to add additional comments.

The Ministry is happy to receive both collective and individual responses, and where we receive responses from associations, the input from those associations will be weighted accordingly. However, if you are an "association" we would appreciate your assistance in forwarding this correspondence and website address to your members, should they wish to submit individual comments. You are also encouraged to forward this information to others who you feel may wish to comment.

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Additional information and links to related legislation are posted on the Ministry of Environment's website and can be accessed by clicking on the address below, or from the Ministry of Environment homepage, by following the Environmental Protection Division and Environmental Management Branch links. See <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/epd/main/ema.htm>.

Information received will be treated with confidentiality by ministry staff and contractors. However, please note that information you provide and information that identifies you as a source of comments may be publicly available if a Freedom of Information request is made under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

The ministry has contracted Cindy Bertram of C. Rankin & Associates to manage the information collection process. If you have any questions regarding the information-gathering process, check the ministry website: <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/epd/codes/index.htm> or contact Cindy Bertram at:

Email: cindybertram@shaw.ca

Fax: 250 598-9948

Thank you for your time and consideration. We look forward to receiving your comments.

Sincerely,



David Ranson
Director
Environmental Standards Branch