

---

## FACTSHEET

June 15, 2015

Ministry of Environment

### **Biosolids in the Nicola Valley**

- The Organic Matter Recycling Regulation (OMRR) is designed to protect human health and the environment in the application of biosolids.
- Biosolids have been applied to a variety of locations in the Nicola Valley - and around the province - since 2002 in accordance with OMRR.
- The ministry must be notified at least 30 days in advance of any biosolids application to the land base and all notifications must meet the requirements of OMRR.
- A qualified professional with technical expertise must complete a land application plan before biosolids can be applied to any piece of land.
- Currently there are four applications of biosolids in the Nicola Valley that meet the requirements of OMRR.
- The original Dry Lake proposal did not meet the requirements of OMRR and the ministry directed the proponent to provide additional information.
- The ministry and IHA reviewed the revised plan and determined it meets all the necessary requirements needed to protect the environment and human health.
- With respect to the Sunshine Valley Road composting facility, because it is a 'permitted use' under the ALC Act, rather than a 'farm use', the local government had the ability to prohibit it. The TNRD has not taken this step to prohibit or restrict this activity.
- We remain committed to working with First Nations and all parties regarding this matter.
- Example of where biosolids are being used and providing environmental benefits include: Vancouver Island University Forest, Aldergrove Regional Park, and landscaping at YVR and along the Sea to Sky Highway.
- Biosolids are also used in Class A compost which are used by several golf courses on Vancouver Island (including Crown Isles, Cordova Bay, Arbutus Ridge, Mt. Brenton and Nanaimo Golf Club), and for landscaping done by the Town of Ladysmith.

- An FAQ document on biosolids, including case studies highlighting the benefits of biosolids can be found at:  
[http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/DownloadAsset?assetId=920F26452DD841F4B9F60BB4E2DC99AB&fileName=biosolids\\_faq\\_and\\_case\\_studies.pdf](http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/DownloadAsset?assetId=920F26452DD841F4B9F60BB4E2DC99AB&fileName=biosolids_faq_and_case_studies.pdf)

Contact:  
Ministry of Environment Communications  
250-953-3834