



April 10, 2013

File:

Planning Departments of Local Governments

Dear Sir/Madam:

**Re: Combined Heat and Power Generation at Greenhouses in the ALR**

The Minister of Agriculture has adopted 'Regulating Combined Heat and Power Generation at Greenhouses in the ALR' as a standard to guide local government bylaw development in farming areas (s.916 *Local Government Act*). The Minister's Bylaw Standard has been established by the Minister after consultation with the agricultural industry, local governments, cogeneration industry and the public. The feedback from these stakeholders, and a public online survey, together with further analysis with Ministry and Agricultural Land Commission staff is summarized in the April 2013 Discussion Paper posted on the Ministry's webpage at: [http://www.agf.gov.bc.ca/resmgmt/sf/co\\_generation\\_in\\_ALR\\_standard/co\\_gen\\_standard\\_index.htm](http://www.agf.gov.bc.ca/resmgmt/sf/co_generation_in_ALR_standard/co_gen_standard_index.htm) Separate reports on the online survey and feedback from invited stakeholders are also posted along with a copy of this letter.

The Minister's Bylaw Standard is described in Part 4 of the April 2013 Discussion Paper with the definitions and criteria for bylaw development. The Ministry's "Guide for Bylaw Development in Farming Areas" will be updated to include the standard in due course at: [http://www.al.gov.bc.ca/resmgmt/publist/800Series/840000-1\\_GuideforByLawDev\\_TofC.pdf](http://www.al.gov.bc.ca/resmgmt/publist/800Series/840000-1_GuideforByLawDev_TofC.pdf).

Please review your bylaws to determine if they permit Combined Heat and Power Generation (Cogeneration) at Greenhouses in the ALR and consider the new Ministry standard. Please note that combined heat and power generation facilities will continue to require non-farm use applications to the Agricultural Land Commission. Ministry regional agrologists (<http://www.agf.gov.bc.ca/ministry/who.htm>) are available to assist in this matter or you may telephone me (604 556-3109) if you have questions.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Yours truly,

Bert van Dalzen, PEng.  
Manager, Strengthening Farming Program  
Sustainable Agriculture Management Branch  
pc: