

Feedback from the Online Survey to the Discussion Paper on Combined Heat and Power Generation at Greenhouses in the ALR

Summary

May 14, 2012

The Ministry of Agriculture prepared a discussion paper titled *Regulating Combined Heat and Power Generation at Greenhouses in the ALR* in the fall of 2011. The discussion paper was developed to provide criteria that could be incorporated into the *Guide for Bylaw Development in Farming Areas*. The criteria could then be used by local governments to establish land use policy or regulations to address on-farm energy production through natural gas-fired cogeneration systems.

Industry stakeholders, the public and local governments were invited to respond to an online survey on the draft discussion paper. The survey included six questions, including in which Regional District they live, whether they own and/or farm property in the ALR, and their support of cogeneration in the ALR. The survey was posted to the Ministry of Agriculture website on December 20, 2011 and it was closed on March 15, 2012. Written submissions were also accepted.

This document summarizes the feedback received from the online survey. The findings from the written submissions are summarized in a separate report.

The Ministry received five responses to the online survey, which included three from the Fraser Valley and two from Metro Vancouver. Four of the respondents reported that they live in a municipality, but only three specified which municipality. The three municipalities reported were Chilliwack, Delta, and Langley.

Forty percent of the respondents reported that they own property in the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) and sixty percent operate a farm on property in the ALR.

All of the respondents supported the use of combined heat and power generation in the ALR. Two respondents provided additional comments regarding the criteria proposed in the discussion paper.

A non-farming resident of Metro Vancouver commented that they were opposed to a limit on the size of the cogeneration unit (MW/ha) because efficiency measures will ensure it is sized properly. They also suggested the paper should state that cogeneration produces lower CO₂ emissions in comparison to electricity purchased from outside of BC.

A farmer in the Fraser Valley stated a preference for cogeneration systems to be fueled by natural gas produced from anaerobic digestion of farm waste or biomass rather than by natural gas from fossil fuel.