

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 13, 2021

Biosolids Composting in Peachland: A Crappy Idea?

Peachland, B.C. At its May 25, 2021 Council Meeting, the District of Peachland Mayor and Council must felt a strong sense of déjà vu. They were presented with a proposal yet again for the disposal of “bio solids” (sewage treatment plant sludge containing among other things human feces) in Peachland’s watershed.

A similar proposal was brought forward in 2013 and ultimately rejected by Interior Health (IH) who were not convinced Peachland’s drinking water would be unaffected.

Now, the twist in 2021 is that the proponents want to construct a processing facility there, to render the poop slurry into compost first, then spread it on the land around the mine site.

This may be a good idea, or it may be a crappy one. The Peachland Watershed Protection Alliance (PWPA) is intent on finding out. Since the proponents have provided nothing more than glowing statements of assurance that our drinking water will not be contaminated or polluted, we just don’t know.

In the absence of facts, data, and research to prove the proponent’s assertion that our water and water source are safe from leachate and contamination, are the residents of Peachland expected to just trust the fancy PowerPoint presentations?

PWPA believes Peachland needs more information, including research reports, submissions to the government with respect to environmental licenses, and meaningful community consultation about what exactly is proposed, what are the risks to the drinking water supply, and how those risks will be mitigated.

To initiate a community-driven conversation about composting biosolids in the Peachland and Trepanier watersheds, PWPA is inviting all Peachlanders to a special presentation on June 24, 2021, at 7:00 pm at the Little Schoolhouse. The guest speaker will be Aaron Sumexhelta, a Councillor of the Lower Nicola Indian Band and a practicing lawyer who successfully prevented biosolids processing in Merritt.

(All current COVID Health Orders will be followed)

Background:

Merritt biosolids proposal and protest

<https://www.merrittherald.com/biosolids-protest-comes-to-city-hall/>

Previous Peachland View articles from 2013 and 2014, and 2021

<https://www.peachlandview.com/2021/05/14/compost-and-natural-gas-producing-facility-proposed-for-brenda-mines-site/>

<https://www.peachlandview.com/2014/05/15/interior-health-rejects-rdco-biosolids-application-plan-for-brenda-mines/>

<https://www.peachlandview.com/2013/11/21/land-application-of-biosolids-proposed-at-brenda-mines/>

Contacts:

Taryn Skalbania

PWPA Representative on the District of Peachland Healthy Watershed Committee

PWPA Director - Outreach

250-864-8644

tarob@shaw.ca

Alex Morrison

PWPA Communications Chair

204-955-1839

peachlandwpa@gmail.com