

Reference: 317202

X-Reference: Pre-Authorization # 109198

*July 17, 2018*

Thomas Gates

Email: stopbowseroceansewage@outlook.com

Dear Mr. Gates:

Thank you for your email of June 21, 2018, addressed to the Honourable George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, regarding your concerns related to a sewage effluent disposal pipeline in Bowser, British Columbia. Minister Heyman has asked that I respond on his behalf.

I appreciate your commitment to protecting the environment from pollution, and I can assure you that environmental and human health considerations are at the forefront of our decision-making on all discharges to the environment.

Ministry staff on the South Authorizations Team have recently provided the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) with an Application Instruction Document that provides detail for what the final application package under the Municipal Wastewater Regulation must include. A copy of the document is attached to this letter so you can see the requirements that must be met as part of the application process.

The Application Instruction Document requirements include instructions on how the RDN should engage with First Nations regarding this application. Formal consultation with the broader general public is not a requirement for applications to discharge under the Municipal Wastewater Regulation. However, I encourage you to submit your concerns about the project directly to project staff at the RDN.

The RDN will have up to three years to complete the requirements and submit the final application. Ministry staff will review the final application submission for compliance with the Municipal Wastewater Regulation and make a decision on allowing the proposal to proceed or not. The final application submission, and any subsequent decision documents, can be made available to members of the public upon request.

You can learn more about the [regulatory requirements](#) on our website.

Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,

David Morel  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Environmental Protection Division

Attachment – Application Instruction Document and Information Requirements Table – Confirmation of EMA Waste Discharge Application Requirements

CC: Randy Alexander, General Manager - Regional and Community Utilities, Regional District of Nanaimo.

**From:** [stopbowseroceansewage@outlook.com](mailto:stopbowseroceansewage@outlook.com) [mailto:[stopbowseroceansewage@outlook.com](mailto:stopbowseroceansewage@outlook.com)]  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 21, 2018 10:59 PM  
**To:** Minister, ENV ENV:EX  
**Cc:** Bryan Holyk <[bryanholyk@gmail.com](mailto:bryanholyk@gmail.com)>; Dianne; [gord.johns@parl.gc.ca](mailto:gord.johns@parl.gc.ca); Fraser.MLA, Scott LASS:EX  
**Subject:** Bowser Village Centre Sewer System - Referral - Application Status

Honourable George Heyman June 21, 2018  
BC Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy  
Room 112 Parliament Buildings, Victoria BC V8W 9E2

Dear Sir:

In a May 11, 2018 letter (Bill Veenhof to Bryan Holyk, Executive Director Area H Ratepayers' and Residents' Association) regarding our request for referrals on the proposed Bowser Village Centre Wastewater System, the Regional District of Nanaimo indicated that **“Federal and Provincial referral processes are determined by those levels of government, and those agencies should be contacted regarding the potential to be included in referral processes”**. In the RDN's May 2018 Project update they said that **“The RDN has started the permitting and approvals process by submitting several application packages to Local, Provincial and Federal agencies. Approving agencies will direct the RDN on the required referrals procedures for each application”**.

As you are aware, our Association and a number of property owners whose lands will be affected by the proposed sewage outfall, have serious and unaddressed concerns regarding the severe detrimental

effects that the outfall will have on their properties and neighborhood, including, but not limited to, the negative effects on property values, human health and the environment, marine food supply and recreational and tourism activities. For these reasons it is vital that our Association is provided access to applications and supporting documentation to enable community association reviews and informed consultation.

Could you please indicate if the BC Ministry of Environment & Climate Change Strategy will be including our Association in the referrals process, or if the Ministry will be directing the RDN to include our Association in the referral process for the proposed system to service the Bowser Village Centre?

Could you please provide a copy of the referrals process?

Has the the Ministry received a MWR application for the proposed system to service the Bowser Village Centre?

Sincerely,

Thomas Gates

Campaign Director, AHRPRA

<http://sosbowser.ca>

CC: B. Holyk Executive Director, AHRPRA

D. Eddy Mapleguard Ratepayers' Association