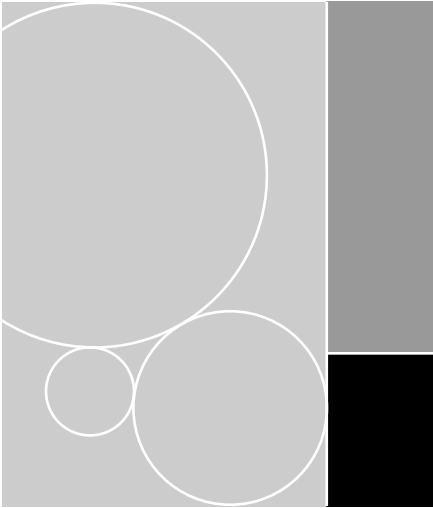


Information Update

Odour Abatement in Lively Tailings Ponds



The City of Greater Sudbury is reviewing sludge management alternatives to develop and implement a long-term Biosolids Management Program for sustainable treatment and disposal/end-use of its sewage sludges.

Please see the Biosolids Management Master Plan Environmental Assessment information package for further details.

For more information, please contact:

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The City of Greater Sudbury has been using tailings ponds in the Lively area for approximately 30 years as a disposal site for "waste activated sludge" – a normal byproduct of the wastewater treatment process.

Recurrent episodes of foul odour originating from this disposal site have emphasized the importance of developing new practices to manage the disposal of waste activated sludge and to protect the quality of life of area residents.

Short-term action plans to reduce episodes of foul odour:

Installation of coherent water resonator

Last year, the City of Greater Sudbury tested the effectiveness of a device known as a "coherent water resonator". The trial was a success and a unit has been put into operation. The solar operated resonator has boosted oxygen levels in the tailings pond, leading to increased biological (aerobic) activity that reduces the potential for generation of hydrogen sulphide odours.

Application of additional Bioxide

The City of Greater Sudbury treats wastewater sludge with Bioxide, a non-hazardous biological agent that minimizes the formation of hydrogen sulphide odours. Since last summer, the City has increased its applications of Bioxide at the Sudbury wastewater treatment plant, at the sludge transfer station adjacent to the tailings pond and directly into the tailings pond.

Application of lime

The City of Greater Sudbury uses lime to reduce pathogens and odours at the tailings pond. Lime will continue to be applied around the exposed shore of the tailings pond.

Air monitoring program

Portable air quality monitors will continue to sample air quality in and around the disposal area. To aid the air monitoring program, a weather station has been installed at the disposal site to monitor wind direction and velocity.

Truck routes

At the request of Lively residents, the City of Greater Sudbury redesigned its truck routes last summer to ensure that waste activated sludge is no longer transported through the residential and business core. All trucks, with the exception of trucks from the Lively and Naughton wastewater treatment plants, must access the sludge transfer station by proceeding south on Municipal Road 24.

Medium-term action plans to reduce episodes of foul odour:

Since last summer, the City of Greater Sudbury has been investigating options for an immediate solution to manage the municipality's waste activated sludge. Various options under consideration were proven impractical for an immediate solution.

Approach other municipalities

The City of Greater Sudbury approached seven municipalities across the province to determine the viability of transporting waste activated sludge to another area for processing. None of the municipalities contacted have sufficient capacity to process additional sewage sludge without significant expansion of their existing facilities. It was determined that the cost of capital expansion in another municipality, in addition to the cost of hauling municipal sewage sludge elsewhere, would be better applied to a local solution.

Move to another tailings pond

An alternate site was considered; however, it was felt that moving to another tailings pond is an undesirable solution to resolve the ongoing disposal of waste activated sludge, as it does not address long-term management.

Install a temporary dewatering plant

An option was considered to install a temporary dewatering plant at the Sudbury Wastewater Treatment Plant to create a "dewatered sludge" for disposal at the Sudbury Landfill site. Further investigation has determined that a temporary dewatering plant will not produce an end product that meets provincial standards for environmental protection.

Long-term action plans to reduce episodes of foul odour

The City of Greater Sudbury has been working since last summer to review a long list of alternative solutions to manage waste activated sludge. Alternatives included anaerobic and aerobic digestion, composting, alkaline stabilization, pelletization and incineration.

A short list of proven technologies has been prepared for public review and comment. Each alternative dewateres and stabilizes wastewater sludge to produce a Class A biosolid suitable for land reclamation, land application, development of soil blends or as a soil amendment.