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Greater Vancouver Regional District • Greater Vancouver Water District

Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage

RECEIVED ENVIRONMENT CANADA  
AUG 08 2011  
ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

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Operations and Maintenance Department  
Wastewater Treatment Division  
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August 8, 2011

File No: CR-07-04-ECA  
Ref: SE-02-05

Ms. Tanya Tulk, Inspection and Fishery Officer  
Environmental Enforcement Directorate  
Enforcement Branch  
Environment Canada  
Pacific and Yukon Region  
201-401 Burrard St.  
Vancouver, BC V6C 3S5

Dear Ms. Tulk:

Re: **Environment Canada Written Warning dated July 5, 2011  
Iona Island Wastewater Treatment Plant  
March 31, 2011 By-pass Incident**

I have in hand your letter dated 5 July 2011. Please be assured that Metro Vancouver takes incidents of this nature at our wastewater treatment plants seriously and that it is of paramount importance to Metro Vancouver that we deliver all of our services in an environmentally responsible manner.

Since the above-captioned incident, we have performed a formal internal investigation and implemented a number of actions with a view to preventing a recurrence. Although Metro Vancouver has already reported all relevant information in accordance with provincial regulatory and environmental requirements, I write to briefly provide additional information to assist with completing Environment Canada's records in this regard.

Based on our investigation, we have determined that atypical operational circumstances within the wastewater treatment plant caused the initial power interruption to the influent pumps. Subsequent delay in the proper application of the emergency response procedure contributed to the setback in restoring power and returning to normal plant operations.

Following the conclusion of our investigation, Metro Vancouver has completed an upgrade to the internal computer system to streamline operational controls. We have also revised our procedures with respect to power-related factors, and conducted training of such upgrade and procedures with all relevant staff. Metro Vancouver believes these measures improve preparedness for operational scenarios and specifically, timely and effective emergency responses to power interruptions.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide you with additional information, which we trust you will find of assistance.

Yours truly,

Paul Lam, P.Eng.  
Wastewater Treatment Division Manager  
Operations and Maintenance Department

PL/DH/EM

cc: Johnny Carline – Chief Administrative Officer, Metro Vancouver  
Doug Humphris – Manager, Operations and Maintenance Department, Metro Vancouver  
Ralph Hildebrand – Corporate Solicitor, Metro Vancouver  
Emily Mak – Legal Counsel, Metro Vancouver