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Greater Vancouver Regional District • Greater Vancouver Water District

Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District

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ENVIRONMENT CANADA

AUG 08 2011

ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT
DIVISION

Operations and Maintenance Department
Wastewater Treatment Division
Tel. 604 456 8818 Fax 604 436 6714

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