

Ministry of the Environment,
Conservation and Parks

Ministère de l'Environnement, de
la Protection de la nature et des Parcs

Barrie District

District de Barrie

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September 16, 2019

Fred Jahn
Commissioner, Engineering and Public Works
The District Municipality of Muskoka
70 Pine Street, Bracebridge, ON P1L 1N3

RE: Abatement Plan for the Closure of the Unapproved Waste Transfer Stations (Bin Sites)

Dear Fred,

As follow-up to our meeting on September 6, 2019, I wanted to take this opportunity to reiterate the Barrie District Office's (Ministry) requirements in relation to the unapproved waste transfer stations (bin sites) being operated by the District Municipality of Muskoka (the District).

The District has been operating over 90 unapproved waste transfer stations (bin sites), on public and private properties, for greater than 20 years, in non-compliance with Section 40 of the *Environmental Protection Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. E.19*. As you are aware, these unapproved bin sites present potential human health and environmental impacts, as well as legislative non-compliance issues, so we are encouraged to see that the District is addressing this issue.

The bin sites are not designed to be environmentally secure, as they permit 24 hour per day access, with no site supervision. As a result, Ministry Environmental Officers have identified potential human health and environmental impacts from the uncontrolled dumping, which has at times, included the dumping of hazardous wastes. As many of the bin sites are located at boat launches and marinas, they present a significant risk of spills to the lakes in Muskoka. This also represents a significant liability to the District and the property owner, if there was a spill or other environmental incident.

During our meeting you confirmed that the District will submit an abatement plan by September 30, 2019, that will ensure that all of the unapproved bin sites will be removed/decommissioned by April 31, 2023, and that it is the District's intension to establish more centralized, approved, waste transfer stations, that meet all of the Ministry's design and operational standards, and are protective of human health and the Muskoka watershed. The abatement plan will include a schedule for the closure and

decommissioning of each of the bin sites, with those sites presenting the greatest risk of potential impacts to human health and the environment, being closed first.


If any of the private property owners (marina's), where unapproved bin sites are currently located, intend to continue to provide waste disposal services to water access cottagers, please ensure that they are aware of the requirements to first obtain an Environmental Compliance Approval (ECA) for the operation of a Waste Disposal Site (Transfer/Processing). Private property owners can be directed to the Ministry's Barrie District Office, at 705-739-6390, to speak with an Environmental Officer and coordinate a pre-consultation meeting to discuss the Environmental Compliance Approval application requirements. A copy of the Guidance Manual for applying for an ECA can be found at the link below:

<https://www.ontario.ca/document/guide-applying-environmental-compliance-approval-0>

One of the goals of the recently establishment Muskoka Watershed Conservation and Management Initiative is to better identify risks and issues facing the Muskoka Region. The work that the District of Muskoka is undertaking to close the bin sites will eliminate a significant risk to the watershed.

We look forward to working with, and supporting the District, as you bring the municipality into compliance. Feel free to contact me if I can provide additional details.

Sincerely,



Chris Hyde
District Supervisor
Barrie District Office

Cc: Cindy Hood, Barrie District Manager
Paul Plotz, Barrie District IPC
Stephanie Mack, District of Muskoka