

# Questions and Answers

## Fisher Road Recycling Licence Amendment

### 1. Why has Fisher Road Recycling been granted a provincial permit and a CVRD license? What is the difference between the two?

Because Fisher Road Holdings (operating as Fisher Road Recycling ('FRR')) operates a composting and a recycling facility within the CVRD, it is required to be licensed under CVRD No. 2570 – *Waste Stream Management Licencing Bylaw, 2004* (Bylaw 2570).

FRR applied to the CVRD to amend its previous license under Bylaw 2570 to:

- Update its operating practices, including adding another composting building;
- Increase the amount of yard waste and food waste composted; and,
- Increase the amount of garbage and rubble material managed.

With the 2016 update to the provincial *Organic Matter Recycling Regulation* (OMRR), FRR was also required to apply for a permit with the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (ENV). Prior to the change in the provincial regulation, composting facilities like FRR had to operate in compliance with the regulation, but were not required to have a permit.

FRR's permit was issued by ENV in February 2018 and FRR's licence was issued by the CVRD in May 2018.

### 2. I am concerned that the increase in yard waste, food waste and compost at FRR will also increase the risk to groundwater quality – what has been done to protect groundwater?

Protecting groundwater quality is one of the key priorities for Cobble Hill residents and the CVRD. The CVRD's approval of FRR's licence application relies on preventing contact water (including any leachate from yard waste, food waste and compost) from entering the environment.

Both the CVRD licence and the ENV permit include strict conditions for groundwater protection. These conditions require FRR to:

- Continue to manage compostable materials on impermeable surfaces and collect and re-use contact water in its composting operation.
- Continue to be required to provide environmental monitoring data to the CVRD as part of the licence.
- Provide environmental monitoring data to ENV as part of the ENV permit.

Further, construction upgrades to FRR's operation will reduce the quantity of contact water generated as more compostable material will be protected from rain.

For details on the conditions, see the [permit](#) and the [licence](#).

It is also important to note that to further address groundwater quality concerns, the CVRD and ENV is working in cooperation with other government agencies, including Island Health, the Ministry of Agriculture, and the Ministry of Forest, Lands, Natural Resource

Operations and Rural Development as part of the Cobble Hill Interagency Task Group. Cobble Hill groundwater issues include many jurisdictions and government agencies, making teamwork between these organizations necessary. The purpose of this task group is to analyse the status of groundwater quality in the area and evaluate future impacts to local groundwater users. The task group review will also consider FRR's operations, as well as other land use activities in the Fisher Road area of Cobble Hill.

**3. I am concerned that odours will increase with the doubling of compostable materials being managed at FRR – how will odours be controlled?**

Similar to groundwater quality, odour is also a key concern. Odours themselves are challenging to regulate, and there is limited ability to do so under CVRD Bylaw 2570. This is why the focus of FRR's licence has been aimed at ensuring best management practices for FRR's facility. Odour related conditions have also been included in the provincial [permit](#).

When ideal composting conditions are maintained, odours are reduced during the composting process. This is why requirements for compost oxygen levels and moisture levels, etc., are clearly defined within the CVRD licence. With the addition of a second FRR composting building, composting material will be managed indoors for a longer time. As a result, the compost that leaves the building will have matured for longer than previously – mature compost produces less odour. However, it is likely that the compost product will still have some odour, often described as 'musty' or 'earthy'.

FRR's composting buildings are connected to large bio-filters that treat the odorous exhaust air from the buildings. As the bio-filters are produced from a woody material, they themselves will also give off some odour, typically described as 'woody'. FRR's bio-filters have to be regularly inspected to ensure that they are functioning as designed. In the event of power outages, FRR has installed backup generators to ensure its odour control systems continue to work.

Grinding yard and garden waste is mostly done outside and may also cause some odour. Odours from grinding yard waste are typically described as a mix of 'pine', 'mint', 'hay', 'lemon' and 'eucalyptus'. To help ensure that yard and garden waste does not become anaerobic and produce unnecessary odours, the CVRD license limits the amount of time the yard waste can be stored before it goes through the grinding process. Once the yard waste is ground, it must be moved inside the composting building or placed on an air floor.

Any foul smelling garbage from the recycling facility or the composting facility will continue to be stored in a container inside the composting building until it is hauled away for landfill disposal.

Odour concerns related to FRR and/or Central Landscape Supplies (CLS) composting facilities in Cobble Hill should be reported to the CVRD using the [online odour complaint form](#).

**4. I am concerned that traffic will increase near the Cobble Hill Village - what has been done to avoid more traffic there?**

To minimize traffic impact at and near the Cobble Hill Village, FRR must continue to require truck traffic to enter and exit FRR property from the highway.

**5. What is the current land use permitted for the FRR property?**

The current land use bylaw permits in-vessel composting and recycling facilities on this property.

**6. Will the expansion of the FRR composting facility result in increased noise?**

FRR's operating hours will continue to be 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sundays. The facility is open for residential drop-off Monday through Sunday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. In an effort to reduce noise, FRR has replaced its diesel compost screener with an electrical screener. In addition, and as a condition of the CVRD licence, diesel powered grinding equipment may not operate on Saturdays or Sundays.