

# Sewage Treatment Plant Upgrades

Newsletter #5  
December 2020

Welcome to the fifth issue of the Comox Valley Regional District's newsletter providing updates on the Comox Valley Water Pollution Control Centre (sewage treatment plant). Watch for these newsletters for the latest about upgrade construction and the ongoing work of managing this critical facility. Updates will be posted to the facility's webpage: [comoxvalleyrd.ca/upgrades](http://comoxvalleyrd.ca/upgrades).

## Odour Control Upgrades set for install in new year

The equipment has been ordered and the installation contractor selected – the next step of odour control upgrades at the Comox Valley's sewage treatment plant on Brent Road is set to roll out in early 2021.

In late November, the Comox Valley Regional District awarded the tender for installation and supporting construction work to Knappett Industries for \$2,208,000. Knappett Industries will be tasked with installing the scrubber, which removes odour from the air, and the bioreactor covers, which are expected to arrive in early 2021.

"We are still on track to have these new covers installed and operational for summer 2021, when we know that odours from the treatment plant are more noticeable," said Marc Rutten, general manager of engineering services for the CVRD. "We look forward to having this work complete for the community."

### Project Background

In addition to a series of upgrades undertaken at the treatment plant in 2017 and 2018, in January 2020, the CVRD's sewage commission agreed to take another step at improving odour.

An investment of \$7.5 million was approved to complete the covering of the bioreactors and install a new wet chemical scrubber. Analysis of the odours at the facility shows that the implementation of this new equipment will bring odours down, resolving longstanding odour issues near the treatment plant.

The project team will now complete planning and schedules and expect to be working on the ground in early 2021.



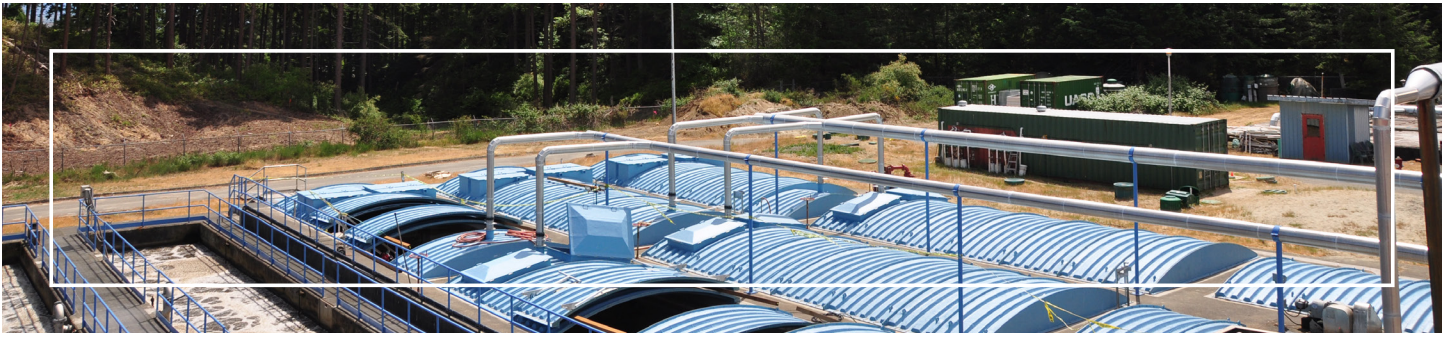
The bioreactors (left) will have covers installed, like those blue lids already in place over the primary clarifiers (to right).



### Sign Up for Phone/Text Notifications

Are you in the know? The CVRD has a sewage treatment plant notification option through the regional district's text and/or voicemail notification system (ConnectRocket). You can sign up to receive urgent or short notice updates directly to your phone. The facility team will send out a notice if there is planned maintenance that may result in noise or odour impacts, or if an unplanned operational issue causes increased impact that will be prolonged (more than one day). Residents will also be notified when the EQ basin is in use.

To sign up, visit: [comoxvalleyrd.ca/notifications](http://comoxvalleyrd.ca/notifications)



## Operational upgrades for plant continue

Along with odour control upgrades, the CVRD has undertaken a number of important upgrades at the sewage treatment plant that will support successful operations of the facility for years to come.

**Piping Update/Replacement:** Significant upgrades to some of the facility's innermost workings were started in October 2020. Many of the pipes that allow the facility to continue operating successfully were approaching the end of life - reaching over 30 years of age – and a replacement program is now underway. This work – which is almost entirely indoors – is being completed by Ridgeline Mechanical and is expected to be finished in the first quarter of 2021.

**Equalization Basin Construction:** The EQ Basin was completed earlier this year and landscaping was finished in September. The basin will allow for the facility to store untreated wastewater in the event of extremely high inflows, so that wastewater can be properly treated before being discharged to the ocean. While it will only be used a few times each year at most, the EQ Basin provides a critical safeguard for the facility.

This continued work will ensure that the facility remains successfully operational into the future as the communities it serves continue to grow.



## Planning next steps for the treatment plant

On Dec. 8, 2020, the Comox Valley Sewage Commission approved the secondary treatment of wastewater, with the addition of UV disinfection as the preferred option for the future of the treatment plant. This was the recommendation of the technical and public advisory committees, which includes representation from the Curtis Road Residents Association and considered feedback from the public. The option will be included in the Liquid Waste Management Plan for the Comox Valley Sewer Service that is under development.

The community has expressed interest in the use of reclaimed water from the facility as well. The viability of using reclaimed water will be studied as part of the master planning process for the plant. If financially feasible this would be included as part of the planning process in the future.

In September 2020, Area B residents were also asked to weigh in on conveyance (pipes and pump stations) options for the LWMP. The results of this consultation are still being reviewed and a preferred option will be announced in 2021.

For more information on the LWMP visit, [www.connectcvrd.ca/lwmp](http://www.connectcvrd.ca/lwmp).

## Hope to see you soon

The CVRD had hoped to host another open house at the sewage treatment plant in fall 2020, however, due to the ongoing public health risks and essential services provided by the staff at the facility, the event had to be postponed.

We are still available to answer questions you have. Please be in touch by calling 250-334-6056 or emailing [engineeringservices@comoxvalleyrd.ca](mailto:engineeringservices@comoxvalleyrd.ca). We hope to have you back again soon!

## Questions/Concerns?

### Contact Us:

**Phone:** Business hours/non urgent: **250-334-6056**, after hours/emergency: **1-888-777-5985**

**Email:** [engineeringservices@comoxvalleyrd.ca](mailto:engineeringservices@comoxvalleyrd.ca)

**Online:** [comoxvalleyrd.ca/upgrades](http://comoxvalleyrd.ca/upgrades)



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