



BY EMAIL

File: 26250-20/9488
Site ID: 9488

May 13, 2021

North River Midstream Operations LP
200 – 425 1st Street SW
Calgary, AB T2P 3L8
Pablo.Martinez@nrm.ca

Dear Pablo Martinez,

Re: Protocol 4 Application for Local Background Soil Quality Determination for Arsenic in Soil at Mile 285 Alaska Highway, Fort Nelson, BC

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (“the ministry”) has completed a review of your application received December 18, 2020 for a local background concentration in soil approval for arsenic for the property located at Mile 285 Alaska Highway, Fort Nelson, BC, SITE ID 9488 (“the Site”).

The Site for which this approval has been issued is described as follows:

PID: 014-820-536

Legal Description: Block A District Lot 1848 Peace River District

A Site location plan is attached as Figure 1 for reference.

In reaching my decision I have relied on information provided in the following documents:

- Letter Report Regarding *Mile 285 Alaska Highway, Fort Nelson – Protocol 4 Application – Additional Information*, Prepared by Hemmera and dated May 6, 2021.
- Letter Report Regarding *Determination of Local Background soil quality, Mile 285 Alaska Highway, Fort Nelson, BC*, prepared by Hemmera and dated December 17, 2020.

These documents describe soil investigations and statistical calculations undertaken to establish local background concentrations for arsenic at the Site.

The purpose of the review was to determine if the submission satisfies the requirements set out in the ministry's protocol entitled [Protocol 4 for Contaminated Sites – Establishing Background Concentrations in Soil](#) ("Protocol 4"). Based on the review of the above-referenced documentation, the ministry has concluded that the submission meets the requirements specified in Protocol 4. The representative local background concentrations of aluminum, iron and vanadium in soil at the Site are as follows:

- **Arsenic in the surficial soil unit – 14.8 mg/kg**
- **Arsenic in the sand/silt/clay unit – 14.7 mg/kg**

The ministry acknowledges that the arsenic concentrations in 3 samples from the surficial soil unit (SED11, SED9 and SFC9) and three samples from the silt/sand/clay unit (BH15-1, BH15-13 and BH20-01) exceeded the above background soil concentrations. These exceedances are the result of the Protocol 4 requirement to calculate representative concentrations based on the 95th percentile of sampling results and are still considered representative of background conditions.

Documents submitted in support of this application were reviewed for purposes of evaluating Hemmera Envirochem Inc's conclusions regarding background concentrations in soil at the Site. The ministry has not reviewed information related to the assessment of potential site contamination. This letter, therefore, provides no opinion regarding the adequacy or completeness of investigations conducted to ascertain and address site contamination issues.

This approval is based on the most recent information available to the ministry regarding the above-referenced site. The ministry, however, makes no representation or warranty as to the accuracy or completeness of this information.

Please contact Steve Dankevych at stephen.dankevy@gov.bc.ca if you require additional information.

Sincerely,



Julia Brooke
for Director, *Environmental Management Act*

Attachment: Site Location Plan

cc: Jennifer Trowell, Hemmera Environchem Inc. (Email) jtrowell@hemmera.com
Steve Dankevych, Sr. Contaminated Sites Officer, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (Email) stephen.dankevy@gov.bc.ca
Client Information Officer, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (Email) esp_cio@victoria1.gov.bc.ca
Contaminated Sites Approved Professional Society of BC (c/o Anna Popova, Email) apopova@csapsociety.bc.ca

Figure 1. Site Location and Site Plan

