

BULLETIN 2015-002-ECT

September 21, 2015

Re: REMEDIATION ON CITY STREETS POLICY - AMENDMENTS

The City of Vancouver (the City) has prepared this bulletin to provide information on the *Remediation on City Streets* Policy, amended with City Council approval on September 16, 2015. The bulletin summarizes amendments to the policy, including changes to environmental standards for City streets.

REMEDICATION IN CITY STREETS POLICY BACKGROUND

In July 2001, the Standing Committee for Planning & Environment approved the *Soils Remediation on City Streets* Policy which recommended that the City require specific remediation standards for its streets that are more stringent than those prescribed in the BC *Contaminated Sites Regulation* (CSR); that the City may accept cash payment to offset future contaminated soil disposal costs; and that the City may accept risk assessment of contamination in City streets rather than physical remediation.

2015 POLICY AMENDMENTS

To more closely align with the CSR, and to support the Greenest City Action Plan and Vancouver Food Strategy, the following changes are effective immediately:

- Soil contamination in City streets and laneways must be remediated to Industrial Land Use standards, as defined in the CSR.
- To protect soil quality for urban agriculture, the top 1m of soil in boulevards and street medians must be remediated to Residential Land Use standards, with Industrial Land Use below the first 1m.
- Groundwater is to be remediated in accordance with the standards that apply under the CSR.
- Soil vapour must be remediated to Industrial Land Use standards.

APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL TO RISK ASSESS CONTAMINATION IN CITY STREETS

Under the *Remediation on City Streets* Policy, a risk-based approach to contamination remediation in City streets requires approval of the City Manager (or delegate). There is a formal application process to consider approval of a risk-based approach on a case-by-case basis, which evaluates the risk to human health and the environment, impact to City and third-party utilities/services, impact to traffic, and financial implications. Based on the review of this information, the City will determine the type of financial or other security required in order to allow risk assessment and for residual contamination to remain beneath City streets.

COMPLIANCE

Reporting and regulatory requirements will be clearly laid out in Remediation Agreements for contaminated sites, with options to fulfill the City's requirements as follows:

- Separate Certificate(s) of Compliance for all City-owned land (e.g., roads, laneways, Dedicated Lands), and
- Applicants may obtain Certificate(s) of Compliance from the BC Ministry of Environment which clearly state that soil within the top 1m of boulevards and/or street medians meets Residential Land Use standards and Industrial Land Use standards below 1m; or
- Applicants may obtain Certificate(s) of Compliance from the BC Ministry of Environment to Industrial Land Use standards and submit to the City a letter report with supporting documentation to confirm boulevards and/or street medians have been remediated in accordance with City standards. This letter report must be signed by an active Contaminated Sites Approved Professional (CSAP).

Applicants who have already entered into Remediation Agreements with the City to complete remediation of City streets or dedicated lands in accordance with the former policy may elect to complete remediation under their existing agreement or in accordance with the amended policy as set out in this bulletin.

CONTACTS

For questions related to information contained in this bulletin, please contact:

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