

# PEACE RIVER REGIONAL DISTRICT

## Tomslake Transfer Station Relocation

### Public Meeting Notes



DATE: Thursday, October 1, 2009

# MA-3

TIME: 7:00 p.m.

PLACE: Tate Creek Community Centre, Tomslake, BC

PRESENT: Public  
Approximately 25 members of the public in attendance

#### Peace River Regional District

Shannon Anderson, General Manager of Environmental Services

Jeff Rahn, Manager of Solid Waste Services

Sally Emory, Executive Director, NEAT, Fort St. John, BC

John Bass, NEAT, Fort St. John, BC

- 1) Call to Order                   The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m.
  
- 2) Background:                   The purpose of the public meeting is to present the Regional District's plans to re-locate the Tomslake Transfer Station from its existing location to Regional District owned property on the Old Edmonton Highway at the site of the old baseball diamond and community hall.
  
- 3) Solid Waste Waste Management Plan                   Mr. Rahn presented background information regarding the Regional Solid Waste Management Plan with its objectives for waste diversion and upgrading of transfer stations. Specific details about the Regional District's plan to relocate and upgrade the Tomslake Transfer Station were provided.
  
- 4) Proposed new site            It was outlined that initially, the PL6 bins from the existing location would be moved to the new site. As well, a chain link fence would be installed around the perimeter of the operating area of the new site with a locking gate at the entrance to control access. The new site would also have an attendant to oversee the facility on specific days and hours of operation that would be determined in consultation with the Tomslake community. Recycling bins would be set up right away by the Regional District's recycling contractor, Eco-Depot.  
  
It was noted that in 2010, the new site would undergo further development to provide roll-off containers for the collection of metal, wood waste, and bulky waste/household waste. The Regional District would also explore opportunities to collect product stewardship materials such as batteries, tires and electronics.
  
- 5) Comments/Questions        Before the presentation could be concluded, two property owners who reside in the vicinity of the proposed new transfer station site became quite vocal expressing concerns over the relocation plans. Comments are summarized as follows:
  - The decision to relocate the transfer station would appear to be a foregone conclusion without need for public input as work has already started on site development

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5) Comments/Questions (continued)

Response

Members of the public were advised that the Regional District had just found out about this before the meeting and that the work was done in error.

- How would Regional District staff like it if a garbage transfer station were established across the street from their homes?
- Foul odours will emanate from the garbage bins which will also attract bears and other scavenging wildlife.
- Having a refuse facility across the street will depreciate property values.
- Increased traffic facility operations will introduce an unacceptable level of noise to an otherwise quiet neighborhood.
- People will dump their garbage in front of the gate when the site is closed.

- Has the Regional District investigated other candidate sites for the relocation?

Response

Mr. Anderson replied that a privately-owned site was considered but rejected as unfavourable.

- Such a facility should not be located in proximity to private dwellings.
- Abuse at the existing transfer station is caused mostly by non-Tomslake residents.
- A suggestion was made that the Regional District should negotiate with EnCana to locate the new transfer station at one its oilfield sites. Other site suggestions included the highway triangle between Old Edmonton Highway and Highway 2 towards Grande Prairie, as well as the PNG pipe storage yard at 197 Street and Hwy #2. There was also a suggestion that the existing site be developed for enhanced transfer station operations. Mr. Anderson noted that there is insufficient space to do so.
- Volume-based tipping fees should be structured to promote waste reduction as current rate is no different for a single garbage bag or a whole pick-up truck load.
- The Regional District should consider issuing a fixed number of waste disposal tokens to each resident for specific waste volumes. Any additional tokens would have to be purchased.
- The Regional District does not have the means of enforcement to pursue illegal dumping that presently occurs at the existing transfer station or that may occur at the new site.

Mr. Rahn and Mr. Anderson replied that the Regional District is currently in the process of hiring a new by-law enforcement officer whose duties would include investigating solid waste by-law infractions.

6) Proposed new  
Site

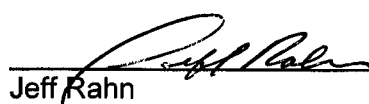
Those in attendance were canvassed to obtain their thoughts on the proposed location. The consensus was that the Regional District should investigate other locations before proceeding with the development of the proposed site.

The Regional District agreed to investigate the 2 locations brought forward and revisit the area for another location that would be favorable. The Regional District will present their findings at a future meeting with the community for discussion and/or approval.

It was indicated that the new site selection process may postpone the installation of the new Transfer Station to 2010.

7) Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm

  
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Jeff Rahn  
Manager of Solid Waste Services

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