



Memo

TO: Chief Administrative Officer

SUBJECT: Update on Future Deliverables-Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrades

DATE: August 29, 2025


FROM: Superintendent, Public Works and Engineering Services

The Town is currently awaiting completion of the Environmental Assessment, anticipated by December 2025. Once the study is finalized and presented to WSP (Engineering Consultants) modifications to the preliminary upgrade plan may be required. This will allow the project to move forward in response to the urgent requirements to improve treated effluent discharged into the Cowichan River.

The Town staff continue to work closely with WSP to evaluate all available options for upgrades and modifications and to ensure that the project remains on track to proceed toward the construction of necessary infrastructure.

To mitigate any immediate risks or challenges associated with low river flows some critical equipment may be purchased in advance of the final plans. This proactive approach will assist in meeting the regulatory conditions imposed by the Provincial regulatory and enforcement Ministries.

These steps reflect the Town's ongoing commitment to protecting the Cowichan River, meeting regulatory compliance standards and advancing toward a modernized and reliable wastewater treatment system.



Jas Sandhu

Superintendent, Public Works & Engineering Services



Memo

TO: Chief Administrative Officer

SUBJECT: Town of Lake Cowichan Wastewater Treatment Plant Compliance and Improvements

DATE: August 29, 2025

FROM: Superintendent, Public Works and Engineering Services

This summary provides a fact-based update to assist council in understanding the steps taken to mitigate risks related to the discharge of treated effluent into the Cowichan River.

- In early June 2025, the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (MECCS) contacted the Town of Lake Cowichan. MECCS issued an amendment to the existing permit to address interim seasonal phosphorus loading rates and seasonal discharge conditions, including pH levels in the Cowichan River. The amendment also requires additional monitoring and reporting.
- WSP Canada, the design engineers for the Town were contacted to provide professional advice on possible solutions to meet the new permit requirements. Following an on-site inspection WSP recommended optimizing the delivery of alum by adding an additional injection site and improving mixing methods.
- The necessary equipment was installed and became operational on July 18th, 2025. Phosphorus levels are now tested daily, and pH levels in the river are monitored 24 hours a day using an automated system, supplemented by four Town employees.

- As of mid-July, the Town is operating within the permit requirements for pH and the alum system is effectively managing high phosphorus levels.
- This report confirms that the Town of Lake Cowichan is in compliance with MECCS regulations and continues to proactively manage environmental risks associated with the Wastewater Treatment Plant.



Jas Sandhu

Superintendent, Public Works & Engineering Services