



SCHEDULE E

Form of Completion Report for Studies

GMF number:	13054
Name of the Recipient:	qathet Regional District (formerly Powell River Regional District)
Phone, fax, e-mail, and address of lead contact:	Mike Wall Phone: (604) 485-2260 Fax: (604) 485-2216 mwall@qathet.ca 202 – 4675 Marine Avenue Powell River, BC V8A 2L2
Date of the Report:	May 12, 2020

1. Summary of the Initiative

- a. Please briefly describe the Study that was completed, ensuring to clearly explain what the Study examined the feasibility of.
The study set out to develop a landfill closure plan and environmental monitoring plan (inclusive of risk assessment) that would meet the approval of the Ministry of Environment.
- b. What was the objective in conducting the Study (i.e., what was the Recipient trying to achieve, and why)?
Design a closure plan and Environmental Monitoring Plan (EMP) (Risk Assessment pre closure) that met the Ministry of Environments approval. Execute the pre closure environmental monitoring (risk assessment) submit data to MOE and obtain approval to move into the “physical” landfill closure phase of the project.
- c. If the lead applicant is not a municipality, please briefly explain why the lead applicant undertook this Study. *NA*
- d. Please summarize the activities completed as part of this Study, as per Schedule A. Note: Your summary should build on the information you included in your previous Progress report(s). Please be sure to briefly (four to five sentences) explain how the Study was done—that is, what was the approach (or methodology) the Study took to meet its objectives. If applicable, please describe any public consultation process that was undertaken as part of this study and its impact on the Study.
*-Develop a Closure and Environmental Monitoring Plan for the site
-Include the project as a key deliverable within the Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP) and include in all SWMP engagement activities over a 2 year development period.*

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*-Obtain Ministry of Environment approval of both the closure and environmental monitoring plans
-Complete risk assessment portion of the EMP and obtain MOE approval to move forward with the physical landfill closure works.*

- e. Were there any significant changes to the scope or costs of the Study as described in the Agreement or in a previously submitted Project Progress Report (if applicable)? If so, please briefly explain why.

*2 added ground water monitoring wells
Additional pile sampling and analytical testing on the ash piles
Riparian assessment
Hydraulic connectivity testing of the surficial soils*

These scope changes were a result of the lengthy approval process by the Ministry of Environment Primarily the direction and approval process when going through the layers of staff through senior staff to the Minister.

- f. How much did it cost to conduct the Study, and how was it paid for?
The cost of the study (net of the GST rebate) was \$241,515. The study was funded \$116,392 (48%) through the FCM Green Municipal Fund and \$125,123 (52%) through the qathet Regional District.

- g. Roughly how long (in months) did it take to conduct the Study?
The study took approximately 19 months to complete. The draft closure plan commenced in October, 2013 and was completed in August, 2014. It was then submitted to the Ministry of Environment for approval and direction on the extent of risk assessment that was required. When that was received the risk assessment commenced in March, 2019 and was completed in November, 2019.

- h. How is the Study related to existing plans, practices, guidelines or policies within the municipality, and how does it contribute to achieving the municipality's sustainability goals?
The study aligns with the qathet Regional District's past and current Strategic Plans, the newly developed GHG Reduction Strategy and is a key deliverable within the regions Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP).

2. Community Context

- a. Please provide a brief (five to six sentences) profile of the community in which the Initiative took place, including population, geographic area, demographics, and general economic conditions. (Note: This information is readily available from the Community Profiles section of the Statistics Canada website at www.statcan.ca.)

The qathet Regional District (qRD) has a population of approximately 20,000. Approximately 13,000 of the population live within the City of Powell River which is the jurisdiction in which the Initiative took place. The City of Powell River has a land mass of 28.91 square kilometres with a population density of 455 persons per square kilometre. Powell River lies along the shores of the Georgia Strait at the heart of the Malaspina Peninsula.

- b. Briefly (two to three sentences) indicate the size and structure of the municipal government, and the approximate number of full-time municipal employees.

The qathet Regional District (qRD) incorporates five electoral areas and one municipality. The qRD provides services such as land use planning, emergency preparedness and 911, solid waste management, regional parks and fire protection. The qRD has a board of seven directors and approximately 19 full time employees.

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3. The team: Who Was Involved?

- a. Briefly (four to five sentences) indicate who was involved in carrying out this Study, and their affiliations. Include both municipal staff and officials who managed the Study, and any consultants who worked on the Study.

Consultants include; Sperling Hanson and Associates (Closure Plan), Tetra Tech (Landfill Closure amendments and Environmental Management Plan) and Lets Talk Trash (public engagement and education).

Elected officials who sat on the SWMP Committee with this project as a key deliverable; Chair Patrick Brabazon, qathet Regional District and Counselor / Regional director CaroleAnn Leishman Staff; Mike Wall, Linda Greenan of the qathet Regional District and Tor Birtig and Jason Gow of the City of Powell River

- b. Was there a Project champion who was instrumental to the completion of the Study? If so, please include his or her name, title and contact information, and describe his or her role in the completion of the Study.

Mike Wall, Manager of Asset Management and Strategic Initiatives qathet Regional District.

Contact email mwall@gathet.ca or phone; 604 485 2260. M. Wall acted as the project lead for this project.

4. Environmental, Economic and Social Benefits of the Initiative

- a. What are the expected environmental benefits of the preferred alternative?

Cleanup and closure of an approximate 18 acre historic waste management site that included both an incinerator and landfill component.

- b. What are the expected economic/financial benefits of the preferred alternative (if known)? Please include any anticipated financial savings resulting from operational efficiencies.

Approximately 50% of the site will be available to construct a state of the art Resource Recovery Centre inclusive a residual waste transfer station and the remaining 50% will be available for public amenity inclusive of; overflow parking to support Wellington Beach Park, trails and botanical gardens.

Currently the region relies on a privately owned and operated waste transfer site that has received orders from the MOE posing a risk to sustainable solid waste service delivery. The concept of site cleanup, landfill closure and a state of the art RRC being built on the site and incorporating recyclable materials from the site enabled the qRD in accessing a \$6,000,000 grant towards the project. The build out of the site and landfill closure will reduce the qRD's green house gas emissions.

- c. What are the expected social benefits of the preferred alternative (if known)?

Creation of added green space and green space access (trails). Elimination of off site discharge of potential contaminants to the surrounding environment.

5. Outcomes and Next Steps

- a. What were the results of the Study?

The qRD and City of Powell River can move forward with the closure and cleanup of the site

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- b. What are the Study's recommended next steps?
Move forward with the physical cleanup and landfill closure of the site. Move forward with the construction of a state of the art Resource Recovery Centre inclusive of residual waste transfer station.
- c. What is the expected financial cost of the recommended next steps?
Approximately 12 million
- d. What financial savings (if any) will be realized for the community, if the Study proceeds to the recommended next steps?
Approximately 3 million dollars of cleanup and landfill closure costs and approximately 3 million dollars in the siting and build out of a Resource Recovery Centre inclusive of waste transfer station.
- e. Do you anticipate any changes to municipal operations, policies or programmes as a result of having conducted this Study? If so, please describe these changes.
More awareness of our solid waste system, the poor practices of the past and a greener direction forward.

6. Lessons Learned and Knowledge Sharing

In answering the questions in this section, please consider all aspects of the preparation of the Study—from the initial planning through each of the essential tasks until the Final Report of the Study was completed.

- a. If your municipality was planning to undertake the preparation of this kind of study again, what (if anything) would you do *differently* (based on your experience with the preparation of this Study), and why?
Allocate more staff time. Intergovernmental communications, approvals, permitting etc. took more time than originally anticipated.
- b. If your municipality was planning to undertake the preparation of this kind of study again, what (if anything) would you want to do *in the same way* (based on your experience with the preparation of this Study), and why?
Focus on establishing and maintaining intergovernmental, agency and professional relationships. Our efforts in this area significantly contributed to our successes.
- c. What barriers/challenges (if any) did your municipality encounter in conducting this Study, and how were they overcome?
*Availability of staff time initially from the City of Powell River in the closure planning process. This was addressed with strategic relationships established within the organization.
Availability of Provincial Ministry staff time to review and approve and or direct required amendments to the submitted closure plan.
Staff pursued plan approval on a scheduled, documented and repeated basis. Staff reported to the Regional Board on these actions and prepped Board for Ministerial meetings at the UBCM. Once plan was approved staff reported EMP / Risk Assessment results in a timely manner.*
- d. Aside from the Study findings, has your work resulted in anything else that could be of use to another municipality (for example, a new policy for sustainable community development, a series of model by-laws, the design of a new operating practice, a public consultation manual, a measurement tool to assess progress in moving towards greater sustainability, and so forth)? If so,

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please describe briefly here, and include a copy of the item(s) when submitting this report, so that it can be shared with other communities.

The study has been a group effort incorporating the expertise of the consultant and the desire from management of all three local governments for a result that incorporates leading edge best practices. Learning from the Cowichan Valley Regional Districts recent experience in the closure of the Peerless Road ash land fill site and resurrection of a state of the art Resource Recovery Centre has been a significant benefit to the management staff in the planning of this project as well as local desire for resource recovery options that maximize the communities ability to divert valuable materials from the waste stream.

- e. Would you like to showcase your Study through an FCM webinar or workshop?
Possibly in 2021 when the entire project is completed

7. Publicity and Outreach

- a. Has the Study received any recognition, media coverage, or notable public support? If so, please describe briefly (three to four sentences).

The project has received local media coverage and notable public support

- b. Is there a website where more information about the Study can be found? If so, please provide the web address with links to the relevant section.

The qRD's website can be accessed at www.qathet.ca

Please look for Resource Recovery Centre under News and Notices.

Contacts

- a. Please provide the name and coordinates (title, full address, phone, fax and email) of someone who can be contacted for more information about the Study.

Mike Wall, Manager of Asset Management and Strategic Initiatives. mwall@qathet.ca

Phone 604 485 2260

- b. In the event the contact is no longer available, please provide general contact information for the lead applicant, such as the administrative office of the municipal department that coordinated the Project or some other general contact for the Recipient/lead applicant.

NA