

westvancouver

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PLANNING, LANDS AND PERMITS

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February 27, 2009

File No.: 1147-20-5908-5920-MAR DR

West Vancouver Yacht Club
Martin Wale
5854 Marine Drive
West Vancouver BC V7W 2S2

Note: Also sent to Thunderbird Marine Corp,
Eagle Harbour Yacht Club, Race Rocks

Dear Mr. Wale:

Re: Update on the Status of the Fishermans Cove Fuel barge

As you are all aware, Esso ceased providing fuel at Fishermans Cove in January 2008. This decision was made based on a corporate decision to cease all of its marine fuelling operations in western Canada. At that time, Bruce Falkin, the individual who had been contracted by Esso to sell fuel at Fishermans Cove for many years expressed interest in continuing operations at the site independent of Esso. Esso indicated that it would be willing to transfer the operations to another provider, if the District indemnified Esso from all liability regarding any future environmental remediation costs.


In response, the District requested that an environmental assessment of the site be completed to determine the level of contamination, if any, before making any decisions regarding a new fuel provider at the site. Without such a study, and if the District was to indemnify Esso, the District Solicitor feared that the District could be held responsible for any potential future environmental remediation.

In spring 2008, Esso announced that it would develop a corporate process for decommissioning all of its former fuelling sites. After many months, Esso developed its decommissioning process and began its environmental assessment of the Fishermans Cove site. Results of the environmental assessment are expected in March 2009. In order to expedite resolution of this issue, in early February the District requested that Esso provide us with any preliminary information regarding this study. Esso has not responded to this request.

In anticipation of the results of Esso's environmental assessment and the strong desire to have a fuelling facility in place for the 2009 boating season, District staff contacted Mr. Falkin in November 2008 to encourage him to submit for District permits to establish a fuelling facility. The purpose was to begin the permit process ahead of the results of Esso's environmental assessment, so that should Esso be willing to transfer the facility to another provider, the new fuel provider could be operational on a relatively short time frame. Mr. Falkin has yet to submit the required information despite repeated requests.

The District recognizes the importance of having fuel provided at Fishermans Cove during the 2009 boating season, but must balance that with the potential environmental liabilities and the risks to all West Vancouver ratepayers. We look forward to working with all interested parties to ensure a relatively quick resolution of this issue once Esso completes its environmental studies. If you have any questions, please contact Gordon Reid, District of West Vancouver, Land Agent at 604-925-7067.

Sincerely,


Bob Sokol

Director of Planning, Lands & Permits

cc: Mayor and Council; Grant McRadu, CAO

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