

City of Abbotsford

J.A.M.E.S. Biosolids Utilization Study and Business Plan

In 2005, the JAMES treatment plant produced around 8,000 wet tones of mainly Class A biosolids, and by 2031 this volume is predicted to double. During 2000-2005, the majority of the JAMES biosolids has gone to mine reclamation in the BC interior, however a pilot program producing a soil conditioner marketed as 'Val-E-Gro' was quite successful during 2005.

Earth Tech was engaged by the City of Abbotsford to examine the technical alternatives for biosolids utilization, in addition to the business and marketing realities of beneficial biosolids re-use in the Lower Mainland of British Columbia. A key component of the study was also the examination and evaluation of non-financial aspects of alternative biosolids utilization strategies with specific regard to social and environmental criteria; also know as 'Triple Bottom Line' (TBL) accounting.

To establish and examine Best Practices in municipal biosolids management, Earth Tech drew on a unique and unparalleled depth of real world experience through the National Water and Wastewater Benchmarking Initiative to conduct a survey of experience and future objectives in biosolids management. In addition, case studies of selected US municipalities (eg. City of Tacoma's Tagro program) were undertaken to provide a view on leading North American biosolids reuse initiatives.

Based on the information gathered from leading municipalities and with the JAMES plant's technical constraints in mind, an initial Triple Bottom Line screening of biosolids management options was undertaken. Based on this screening, several biosolids products/end-uses were taken forward for in-depth financial analysis and further examination of environmental and social aspects.

Based on the outcome of the financial analysis and TBL assessment process, a 10 year business plan for production and marketing of a diversified range of biosolids products from the JAMES plant was prepared. This business plan is designed as 'living document' which will be used and updated by the City as the implementation of the biosolids management plan occurs. The business plan will assist the City in achieving its objectives of maximizing the beneficial re-use of biosolids, whilst maintaining a cost effective program that also takes into account important environmental and social benefits.



PROJECT DETAILS

LOCATION	Abbotsford, British Columbia, Canada
CLIENT	City of Abbotsford (previously FVRD)
DATE	December 2006 (ongoing)

REFERENCE INFORMATION

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EARTH TECH PARTICIPATION

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