



Fisheries
and Oceans

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Pacific Region
Habitat and Enhancement Branch
100 Annacis Parkway, Annacis Island
Delta, BC V3M 6A2

July 17, 2006

City of Abbotsford
Attention: Ms Tanya Bettles

City of Surrey
Attention: Ms. Rachel Jones

Township of Langley
Attention: Mr. Brad Bedelt

Re: Recommended Sediment Discharge Limits

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) understands that the Municipalities of Abbotsford, Surrey and Langley (Township) are considering regulation of development initiated sediment discharges within their respective boundaries through the enactment of appropriate bylaws. We applaud this initiative and believe it to be beneficial to the environment and local government.

In order to harmonize standards between municipalities and ensure compliance with Sections 36(3) and 35(1) of the *Fisheries Act*, we recommend that the following criteria be adhered to:

Suspended Sediment:

1. During normal weather conditions, total suspended sediment concentrations shall not exceed 25 mg / liter. Suspended sediments shall be defined as non-filterable residue (1.5micron filter) weighed in dry condition.
2. During wet weather conditions, total suspended sediment concentrations shall not exceed 75 mg / liter. Wet weather conditions shall be defined as 25mm of rain within the previous 24 hours.

Turbidity:

1. During normal weather conditions, turbidity shall not exceed 25 Nephelometric Turbidity Units (NTU).
2. During wet weather conditions, turbidity shall not exceed 100 Nephelometric Turbidity Units (NTU). Wet weather conditions shall be defined as 25mm of rain within the previous 24 hours.

Notes:

- 1. All measurements are at point of discharge from site. Sediment settling within the natural environment beyond the point of discharge cannot be relied upon.*
- 2. The preceding standards are intended only for short term (<6 month total duration), discontinuous discharges (<50% of total time) from construction and property development over a limited proportion of a catchment area (less than 30% of total watershed flows). Such standards are not applicable to nonpoint source stormwater pollution.*
- 3. DFO reserves the right to vary the preceding levels in the event of aquatic habitats of extraordinary sensitivity or management concern.*

Compliance with the preceding discharge criteria shall ensure minimal impact to aquatic habitat results from land development activities. This letter is valid for two years from date of issue.

Although municipal bylaws shall be complementary to DFO's own enforcement activities, we wish to state that as senior government, our enforcement activities and protocols shall be conducted independently. Bylaw monitoring and enforcement, or lack thereof, by municipal staff shall have any bearing on the enforcement of the Fisheries Act or any other federal law or regulation within the jurisdiction of Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Environment Canada or any other federal agency.

If you should have any questions regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned at 604-666-0226.

Sincerely,

Alan Jonsson EIT
Habitat Engineer, Land Use Section
Habitat and Enhancement Branch
Lower Fraser Area