



June 25, 2020

Mayor Linda Brown
City of Merritt
2185 Voght Street
Merritt, BC

Via Email: lbrown@merritt.ca

Dear Mayor Brown,

On behalf of Merritt Green Energy (MGE), attached are two key documents in support of the launch of our 30-day public consultation process concerning the proposed use of construction and demolition wood waste as an alternative fuel supply to power the MGE facility. They are as follows:

1. The Environmental Protection Notice provides the legal outline of the changes that are being requested for the MGE Air Permit. This Notice has been published today in the Merritt Herald, in the BC Gazette, posted at the Main Post Office in Merritt and at the MGE facility.
2. The report summary by WSP Canada Inc. outlines the results of a qualified professional assessment of environmental impacts of the proposed use of construction and demolition wood waste.

The purpose of the public consultation, which will begin June 26 2020, is to inform and engage local residents, First Nations and other stakeholders. Public input is important to this process as we know people may have questions and want to know the environment, the enjoyment of their property and local businesses will be protected. As a component of the Permit amendment process, all communications are to be recorded and included in a Consultation Report which is to be submitted to the Ministry of Environment & Climate Change Strategy (Ministry) at the close of the 30 day consultation period (July 26, 2020). Given the situation with COVID-19, the Ministry has instructed us not to hold in-person public meetings for the health and wellbeing of the public.

MGE has been working closely with the Ministry on our application and using successful examples by other BC forest products companies and cement plants across the province that burn construction and demolition wood wastes including those operating in densely populated areas.

With MGE's state of the art pollution controls, we are confident our modelling for air emissions compares favorably with those facilities.

By way of background, the permanent closure of sawmills in Merritt, Chasm and Clearwater over the past year has resulted in critical fuel shortages at the MGE facility. As a result, from November of 2019, the MGE facility has had its electric generating capacity significantly reduced. Remaining fuel supplies come at significantly higher cost due to the cost of transportation from greater distances and the overall reduction in sawmill residues regionally.

Ministry approval to burn construction and demolition wood waste at the MGE facility will allow for the continued operation of the energy facility, protect over 100 direct and indirect local jobs and secure the supply of goods and services from local businesses. It will also allow MGE to continue to provide BC Hydro with a source of clean energy while diverting wood residue from landfills for beneficial reuse. The Thompson-Nicola Regional District and other communities within the Region will be given priority as suppliers of clean construction and demolition wood waste.

The 40 MW biomass-fired electricity generation facility is one of the largest biomass plants in North America. The facility has a 30-year electricity purchase agreement with BC Hydro to provide clean energy. In addition to offsetting the use of fossil fuels, the facility generates enough energy to power more than 30,000 homes across the province including those in Merritt and communities in the surrounding region. The MGE facility has also been designated an essential service by the B.C. government pursuant to the list of essential services in BC during the COVID-19 pandemic.

I would request that you share this information with the City of Merritt Council. We have also sent this information to the City's Communications Department and Mr. James Dinwoodie, Director of Engineering.

We invite your comments and questions and we will respond promptly. To help with maintaining the required record, please address your inputs to: waddellenvironmental@gmail.com We will be following up with you later today. If you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

Sincerely,



Jeremy Johnson
Facility Manager

C Councillor Bhangu
 Councillor Fehr

Councillor Christopherson
Councillor Luck

Councillor Etchat
Councillor White