



STAFF REPORT

To: Fraser Valley Regional District Board

Date: 2025-01-30

From: Kelly Lownsbrough, Director of Corporate Services & CFO

Subject: PFAS Reporting Requirements

Reviewed by: Jennifer Kinneman, CAO

RECOMMENDATION

This report is being brought forward for the Board's information and there is no staff recommendation.

BACKGROUND

FVRD has become aware of a new reporting requirement from the Federal Government.

Environment and Climate Change Canada ("ECCC") is requiring companies to report on their manufacture, import, and use of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances ("PFAS"). Companies must submit their report no later than **January 29, 2025**. ECCC is collecting this information to establish a baseline of commercial use data and support future activities related to 312 PFAS listed in Schedule 1 of the Notice (Appendix A). This reporting requirement is part of a broader government mandate to assess and manage potential risks to human health and environment, and, if appropriate, implement preventative or control measures before PFAS are imported into or manufactured in Canada.

PFAS are synthetic organic compounds that do not naturally occur in the environment. Due to their strong fluorine-carbon bond, these "forever chemicals" do not degrade and are thus highly persistent in the environment. Some PFAS have been widely used for decades in consumer products, such as food packaging, electronics, and non-stick coatings, and industrial applications such as fire fighting foams, drilling fluids, automotive and aerospace lubricants, coatings, and additives, and chemical surfactants, emulsifiers, and processing aids. PFAS are known to bioaccumulate, increasing risk to the environment and to human health.

DISCUSSION

Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) recently mandated that certain organizations need to report on their manufacture, import, or use of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS, also known as "forever chemicals") by no later than January 29, 2025 ([Notice](#)). Failure to report can result

in potential penalties for organizations and their officers and directors of up to **\$500,000** for initial offences and up to **\$1 M** for subsequent offences.

Staff has become aware of this new requirement from FVRD's auditors, KPMG, who has provided that some examples for local governments triggering reporting requirements, might include the following:

- Firefighting materials;
- Water Treatment and Management (sewage treatment plants, drinking water treatment);
- Landfill and Waste Management (landfill leachate, waste incineration);
- Snow and Ice Management (de-icing products);
- Public Facilities Maintenance (stain-resistant materials, roofing and sealants);
- Parks & Recreation (artificial field turfs, outdoor gear and equipment); and
- Industrial or Commercial Leasing.

Any organization who, during the 2023 calendar year, participated in any of the following activities must report:

1. Manufactured more than 1,000 g of any substance listed in Schedule 1;
2. Imported more than 10 g of a substance listed in Part 1 of Schedule 1, or more than 100 kg of Substances in Parts 2 or 3;
3. Imported more than 100 kgs of any substance listed in Schedule 1 at a concentration of one ppm or more in a manufactured item; or
4. Used more than 10 g of any substance listed in Schedule 1.

While FVRD staff are exploring the applicability of activities for the year 2023, a request for extension to the reporting timeline has been sent to the Minister of Environment.

FVRD staff have recently initiated a Fraser Valley CFO Forum, that will meet quarterly, for collaboration on topics of mutual interest. This will be an excellent opportunity for ongoing and continued collaboration and shared knowledge. When staff became aware of this reporting requirement, this group was consulted. FVRD staff understands that most, if not all member municipalities will be requesting extensions to the timelines as staff undertake assessments to determine applicability.

COST

At this point, there are no anticipated costs; though staff are still exploring applicability.

CONCLUSION

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While FVRD staff are exploring the applicability of the following activities for the year 2023; a request for extension to the reporting timeline has been sent to the Minister of Environment.