

Engineering Bulletin #3 | Updates to Construction Site Water Discharge Monitoring Requirements

June 27, 2024

The City of Coquitlam is committed to protecting the watersheds within our community through various programs, policies, and tools. Real-time water quality monitoring is one such tool. Real-time monitoring facilities have been implemented in the Stoney Creek Watershed since January 2023 and have proven effective in preventing contaminated water from leaving construction sites and entering our drainage system. Real-time monitoring has also proven to be an effective tool for City and site staff to identify the source of spills and to quickly mitigate their impact. The City has now amended the *Stream and Drainage System Protection Bylaw* to require real-time monitoring facilities on large developments citywide.

Background

In November 2022, City of Coquitlam Council approved requiring real-time monitoring facilities on construction sites in the sensitive Stoney Creek catchment. This requirement, which applies to developments larger than a multiplex, has been in effect since January 2023.

The real-time monitoring facilities monitor the quality of water being discharged from a construction site's water treatment system into the City's drainage system. If the water quality does not meet bylaw requirements for turbidity or pH the water is recirculated back to the site for additional treatment. The data is available for both City staff and the developer online in real-time.

Since January 2023, 10 sites in Stoney Creek have installed real-time monitoring facilities. In 12 months, nine of these systems prevented over 2,300 spills and diverted almost 4.7 million gallons of non-compliant wastewater from creeks in the city.

New Development Site Requirements

In addition to expanding real-time water quality monitoring to all large development sites in Coquitlam, the updated *Stream and Drainage System Protection Bylaw* requires that Erosion and Sediment Control plans describe how the site will respond to extreme rainfall to ensure that there is no damage to neighbouring properties or the environment. The plans must also describe how groundwater will be managed during construction.

Developers must cover the cost of real-time monitoring facilities and will need to use a system from a list of pre-qualified providers. The City has previously approved one provider and expects to issue another Request for Proposals in mid-2024.

Any projects that have not yet had their ESC Plans approved will be required to comply with the amended bylaw and include real-time monitoring facilities.

For more information on the real-time monitoring facilities, as well as a list of pre-qualified RTM Facility providers and updated forms, please visit the webpage.

Contact Information

If you have any questions, please contact:

Caresse Selk, Manager Environment

cselk@coquitlam.ca

Phone: 604-927-3536