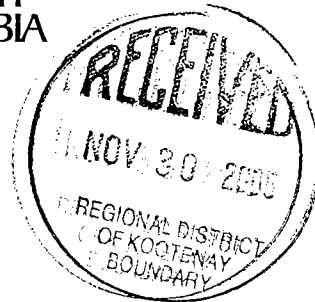




Reference: 85207

NOV 25 2005



Rick Hardie, Chair, and Directors
Regional District of Kootenay Boundary
202-843 Rossland Ave
Trail BC V1R 4S8

Dear Chair Hardie and Directors:

Thank you for your letter requesting the Province to move as quickly as possible to establish extended producer responsibility (EPR) programs to cover all product waste, particularly containers for milk and milk substitutes. I apologize for the delay in responding.

I agree that product waste is an appropriate definition for the ultimate scope of EPR programs which would leave local governments with the responsibility to manage only materials, such as: garden or food waste for composting; organic based waste; and demolition, land clearing and construction refuse.

The speed at which we can move towards that ultimate goal depends on a number of factors, including time for research, preparation of necessary documents and consultation, availability of ministry staff, willingness of the affected industry, harmonization with other provinces, and other ministry programs and priorities.

As an example of how those factors affect what the ministry can do in a specified period of time, the 'EPR team' in the Environmental Management Branch intends to work on the following projects during the 2005/06 and 2006/07 fiscal years:

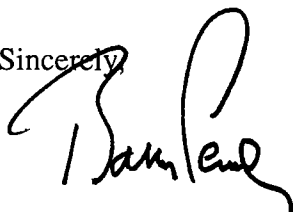
- add schedules for e-waste and tires to the Recycling Regulation. In addition to the work required for preparation of the schedules and getting them through the approval process, "adding a product to a schedule" also involves reviewing and approving submitted plans, working with industry, and participating in its required consultation processes;

.../2

- > carry out a review of the whole beverage container program, including the return-to-retail requirement and other issues. This review will also be an opportunity to assess the efforts of the Dairy Council to develop its voluntary plan;
- > review the revised plans submitted by the existing stewardship agencies (as required in the Recycling Regulation). Regarding products in the residuals schedule, the ministry will discuss with the relevant agency the inclusion of other products in the household hazardous waste stream;
- > work on the development of a prioritized list of products to be included in EPR programs;
- > work with other provinces and territories on a Canadian Council of Ministers of Environment EPR Task Group, whose first project is packaging waste.

As the first regional district to commit to zero waste, I commend your commitment to waste reduction and welcome your support for our EPR programs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Barry Penner', written over the word 'Sincerely,'.

Barry Penner
Minister

pc: Natalie Zigarlick, Executive Director, Recycling Council of British Columbia