

Memo



Date: April 7, 2010
File No.: 0705-26
To: City Manager
From: Policy & Planning
Subject: RDCO Referral - Ministry of Energy & Mines Application
Report Prepared By: Gary Stephen, Long Range Planning Manager

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council receive for information the report from the Policy & Planning Department dated April 7, 2010 on the proposed mineral exploration south of the City in the vicinity of the Gillard Forest Service Road;

AND THAT Council direct staff to respond to the Regional District with a recommendation of support for the proposed mineral exploration.

BACKGROUND:

The City has received a Ministry of Energy and Mines referral application via the Regional District for mineral exploration (removal of bulk samples of dimension stone) as well as a forestry license request to remove 15m³ of dead Lodgepole Pine and Douglas Fir trees in the area to be mined.

Mr. Rick Mitchell (Vernon) is proposing to remove up to a maximum 10,000 tonnes of material over an eighteen month period (April 1, 2010 to September 30, 2011). A standard dump truck will haul approximately 20 tonnes so removal of 10,000 tonnes would mean approximately 500 truck trips over the 18 months. Assuming only Monday - Friday operations that would mean an average of just over 1 truck per day using the Gillard Forest Service Road back into the City of Kelowna.

The time frame could be compressed to allow for site preparation and clean up so the average number of trucks per day may be slightly more. The applicant can remove up to a maximum of 10,000 tonnes, but they may not need to remove that much to verify the value of the stone, in which case the duration and number of trucks using the road could be lower.

The proposed removal of dead trees is considered to be minor, particularly in this small amount.

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This exploration could result in a more extensive quarry operation in the future but that would require a new application to which the City would have the same opportunity to comment. It should also be noted that there is another quarry operation in the vicinity (Archbishop of Nelson property) using the Gillard Forest Service Road as well as on-going forestry activity that currently generates truck traffic on the road.

Given that there are numerous other trucks for forestry uses and other extraction operations already using the Gillard Forest Service road on a daily basis, the addition of one more truck per day would be minimal and could be supported. However there may be road network changes in this area that could route traffic using this road through nearby properties, which may be of concern to adjoining property owners / developers.

LEGAL/STATUTORY AUTHORITY:

Local Government Act - Section 804.1(2)

EXISTING POLICY:

The City of Kelowna has an agreement with the Regional District of Central Okanagan with respect to Fringe Area Planning. Development applications to the Regional District or referrals of applications for use of crown land within the designated fringe area are referred to the City of Kelowna for comments.

Current OCP policy is as follows:

Policy 10.1.9 **Regional Co-operation.** Continue to work with other local governments in the RDCO to achieve the objectives of the Aggregate Supply and Demand Study, as part of the Regional Growth Management Strategy.

INTERNAL CIRCULATION TO:

Subdivision Approving Officer
Development Engineering Manager
Traffic and Transportation Engineer
Director of Regional Services

ALTERNATE RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council direct staff to respond to the Regional District with a recommendation of non-support for the proposed mineral exploration.

Considerations that were not applicable to this report:

LEGAL/STATUTORY PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS:

EXTERNAL AGENCY/PUBLIC COMMENTS:

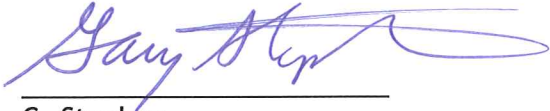
FINANCIAL/BUDGETARY CONSIDERATIONS:

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS:

COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATIONS:

PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS:

Submitted by:



G. Stephen
Long Range Planning Manager

Approved for Inclusion:

Director of Policy & Planning



