



Report Date: March 11, 2026

File: 8182

Report Number: 252743

The Corporation of the City of Fernie
501-3rd Avenue
PO Box 190
Fernie, BC
V0B 1M0

Dear The Corporation of the City of Fernie,

Re: An Administrative Penalty Referral

On November 24, 2025, Ministry of Environment and Parks (Ministry) Officer Kylie Adebar (Officer Adebar) conducted a planned on-site inspection of the Corporation of the City of Fernie's wastewater treatment plant located on Thompson Road in Fernie, B.C. (Facility) to verify compliance with Permit 8182 (Permit). The Facility is owned and operated by the Corporation of the City of Fernie (CoF) (Permittee). The Permit authorizes the discharge of effluent to the Elk River from a wastewater treatment plant under the *Environmental Management Act*. The Permit was first issued on May 9, 1989, and last amended on December 12, 1994. The CoF has applied to the Ministry to revise the Facility's authorization to a registration under the Municipal Wastewater Regulation (MWR) (AMS Job #415602).

Present during the inspection was Douglas Mitchell (Wastewater Foreperson, the CoF). Bree Campbell (Manager of Public Works, the CoF) and the Wastewater Foreperson provided supplementary information to Officer Adebar upon request, following the on-site inspection.

For your information, this inspection record is being referred for an Administrative Penalty.

Inspection Details:

The inspection assessed compliance for the period from February 1, 2023, to December 23, 2025 (Inspection Period). Officer Adebar reviewed the following records:

- Inspection Report 160560, prepared by the Ministry of Environment, issued to the CoF on December 1, 2020 (IR160560);
- ISL Memorandum "Re: City of Fernie Sewage Treatment Plant Review", dated March 31, 2022, prepared by ISL (ISL Report 2022);
- The CoF Maintenance and Inspection records for alum dosing, lagoon berms, and aerator blowers, dated Feb 6, 2023, to November 20, 2025, prepared by the CoF (Maintenance and Inspection Records);
- Laboratory certificates of analysis for effluent sampling (discharge to the infiltration basins) from February 8, 2023, to November 12, 2025, prepared by ALS (Monthly COAs);
- Laboratory certificates of analysis for effluent and receiving environment (upstream and downstream sampling sites), while discharging to the Elk River, from February 16, 2023, to December 16, 2025, prepared by ALS and Bureau Veritas (Weekly COAs);
- Inspection Report 201155, prepared by the Ministry of Environment, issued to the CoF on March 8, 2023 (IR201155);
- Laboratory certificates of analysis for groundwater well sampling, from March 15, 2023, to December 13, 2023, prepared by ALS and Bureau Veritas (2023 Quarterly COAs);
- Revised Application Instruction Document (AID) Letter "Re: Confirmation of *Environmental Management Act* Waste Discharge Application Requirements" dated March 20, 2023, prepared by the Ministry (AID 2023);
- Elk River Discharge Notification emails with subject lines "Elk River Discharge Notification" or "Treated Effluent Notification", (collectively referred to as "Discharge Notifications"), sent on the following dates:
 - July 11, 2023 (sent to Director)
 - October 16, 2023 (sent to Authorizations Branch)
 - January 30, 2024 (sent to Authorizations Branch)
 - July 30, 2023 (sent to Authorizations Branch)

**Ministry of Environment
and Climate Change
Strategy**

Compliance and
Environmental
Enforcement Branch

Mailing Address:
205 Industrial Rd G
Cranbrook BC V1C 7G5

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- October 21, 2024 (sent as a non-compliance report)
- June 30, 2025 (sent to Authorizations Branch)
- October 20, 2025 (sent as a non-compliance report);
- Dangerous Goods Incident Reports (DGIRs; i.e., Spill Reports) submitted by the CoF to the Ministry within the Inspection Period, Reports prepared by the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (collectively referred to as “DGIRs”):
 - DGIR 234803 - incident date December 6, 2023
 - DGIR 252310 - incident date June 12, 2025
 - DGIR 254778 - incident date December 11, 2023
 - DGIR 254890 - incident date December 17, 2023;
- Laboratory certificate of analysis for effluent and receiving environment (Upstream and Downstream sampling sites), sampled during the bypass and emergency release to the Elk River at Mt. McLean Drive Lift Station on December 6, 2023, (Work Order: CG2317336) prepared by ALS (COA DGIR 234803);
- Six Non-Compliance Reports (NCRs) for non-compliance events of spills to water within the Inspection Period, prepared by Joanne Quarmbly on behalf of the CoF and sent via email submissions (collectively referred to as “NCRs”):
 - NCR 2023-12-15
 - NCR 2023-12-22 (Lift Station)
 - NCR 2023-12-22
 - NCR 2025-07-03
 - NCR 2025-12-19
 - NCR 2025-01-09;
- Effluent Flow Monitoring Data PDFs with title “Effluent Regulatory Reporting Information; Monitoring Report” for 2023, 2024 and Q1-Q3 for 2025, unknown date, prepared by the CoF (Quarterly and Yearly Flow Monitoring Data);
- Water quality result tables for groundwater well sampling, from March 13, 2024, to December 9, 2025, prepared by CoF (2024 and 2025 Quarterly sample results);
- Email Correspondences between Authorization Branch and CoF, dated between August 30, 2024, and January 14, 2026 (collectively referred to as “Authorization Branch Email Correspondences”) with the following subject lines:
 - 2024-08-30 Fernie MWR Submission Timing Extension Request (Tracking #145602 and Pre-Authorization #111285)
 - 2024-10-08 Fernie MWR Submission Timing Extension Request Granted (Tracking #145602 and Pre-Authorization #111285)
 - 2026-01-14 Fernie MWR Registration More Information Required (Tracking 415602);
- Laboratory certificates of analysis for effluent and receiving environment (upstream and downstream sampling sites), sampled during the bypass and emergency release to the Elk River, between December 11, 2025, to December 13, 2025, prepared by ALS (COAs DGIR 254778) and includes the following work orders:
 - CG2518011 sampling conducted on December 11, 2025
 - CG2518087 sampling conducted on December 11, 2025
 - CG2518088 sampling conducted on December 11, 2025
 - CG2518078 sampling conducted on December 13, 2025
 - CG2518208 sampling conducted on December 16, 2025;
- Laboratory certificates of analysis for effluent and receiving environment (Upstream and Downstream sampling sites), sampled during the bypass and emergency release to the Elk River between December 17, 2025, to December 19, 2025, prepared by ALS (COAs DGIR 254890) and includes the following work orders:
 - CG2518268 sampling conducted on December 17, 2025
 - CG2518374 sampling conducted on December 19, 2025;
- November and December 2025 Monthly Data Excel email submissions “2025 M11 WQ DATA” and “2025 M12 WQ DATA”, dated January 7, 2026, and January 16, 2026, prepared by Joanne Quarmbly on behalf of the CoF (2025 Monthly Reporting);
- Screening Phase Information Request Letter “Re: Screening Phase Further Information is required regarding your *Environmental Management Act* waste discharge application under the Municipal Wastewater Regulation” dated December 8, 2025, prepared by the Ministry (Screening Phase 2025);
- Incomplete Screening Information Letter “Re: Screening Phase *Environmental Management Act* waste discharge application under the Municipal Wastewater Regulation Incomplete”, dated February 19, 2026 (Screening Incomplete 2026); and
- PDF Map of Sampling Locations for DGIR 254778 and 254890 with document title “Maps of Discharge Locations”, unknown date, prepared by CoF and edited on February 27, 2026, by Officer Adebar for clarity (2025 Sampling Locations).

Compliance Assessment

Based on the information reviewed, only sections that have been found to be out of compliance or require further action to be taken have been included in this report.

Requirement Description:

1. AUTHORIZED DISCHARGE, 1.1.

1.1.1. : This subsection applies to the discharge of effluent from a MUNICIPAL SEWAGE TREATMENT SYSTEM as shown on the attached Site Plan A. The site reference number for these discharges are E210154 for the infiltration basins and E210155 for the Elk River. 1.1.1. The maximum authorized rate of discharge is 13,600 m³/day and an annual average of 4,500 m³/day.

Details/Findings:

Elk River Effluent (E210155)

The CoF has installed a Siemens Sitrans FM 6000 magnetic flow meter for the effluent discharged to the Elk River which is referenced with number E210155. Facility Staff informed Officer Adebar that the flow meter does not have a working datalogger to record daily data and that any daily flow measurements are recorded manually by Facility Staff during workdays. Compliance with the maximum daily discharge rate of 13,600m³ per day could not be determined since daily data is not recorded consistently using a datalogger. The CoF recorded the daily flow data for November and December 2025 and submitted these records to the Ministry (2025 Monthly Reporting).

Although daily discharge data is unknown, Facility Staff enter the monthly and quarterly flow data using the flow meter's totalizer into the Effluent Regulatory Reporting System database (Quarterly and Yearly Flow Monitoring Data). These values recorded that in 2024, 1,762,957 m³ of effluent was discharged to the Elk River over 352 days. This equates to an annual daily average of 5,008m³ (using 352 days) which exceeds the authorized rate of 4,500 m³ per day in 2024.

Infiltration Basins Effluent (E210154)

The CoF does not have an established sensor or flow meter to record effluent discharged to the infiltration basins on site. As a result, compliance with section 1.1.1 for site reference E210154 could not be determined.

Compliance:

Out

Actions to be taken:

Ensure that a suitable flow meter has been installed to measure and record daily effluent for site reference numbers E210154 and E210155 in accordance with section 2.14 of the Permit. Ensure that the daily maximum rate of discharge and annual average discharge is not exceeded at site reference numbers E210154 and E210155.

Requirement Description:

1. AUTHORIZED DISCHARGE, 1.1.

1.1.2. : This subsection applies to the discharge of effluent from a MUNICIPAL SEWAGE TREATMENT SYSTEM as shown on the attached Site Plan A. The site reference number for these discharges are E210154 for the infiltration basins and E210155 for the Elk River. 1.1.2. The characteristics of the discharge of effluent discharged to the infiltration basins or the Elk River shall be: 5-day Biochemical Oxygen Demand; 45 mg/L Total Suspended Solids; 60mg/L

Details/Findings:

Officer Adebar reviewed the Monthly and Weekly COAs for the Inspection Period and confirmed the following exceedances for effluent discharging to the Infiltration Basins (E210154) and to the Elk River (E210155) were reported;

(The reported values listed below have been rounded due to internal rounding policy guidance.)

Infiltration Basins - Effluent (E210154):

The Total Suspended Solids (TSS) limit of 60 mg/L was exceeded once:

- June 12, 2024: 186 mg/L (208% exceedance)

The 5-day Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD5) limit of 45 mg/L was exceeded four times:

- June 12, 2024: 244 mg/L (442% exceedance)
- August 14, 2024: 69 mg/L (53% exceedance)
- September 18, 2024: 62 mg/L (37% exceedance)
- November 12, 2025: 81 mg/L (80% exceedance)

Elk River - Effluent (E210155):

The BOD5 limit of 45 mg/L was exceeded once:

- February 25, 2025: 53 mg/L (17% exceedance)

Elk River (E210155) Spill DGIR 252310:

Between June 6, 2025, and June 12, 2025, a spill of filtrate (sludge water) from a geotube (dewatering geotextile bag) entered surface water within a ditch and naturally flowed to “the vicinity of the outfall” at site reference E210155. Approximately 2,800 m³ of the filtrate sludge mixed with natural spring water flowed into the Elk River (Spill DGIR 252310; NCR 2025-07-03). The filtrate spill was sampled upstream of the receiving environment (the Elk River) and caused two exceedances as follows:

The TSS limit of 60 mg/L was exceeded:

- June 12, 2025: 101 mg/L (68.3% exceedance)

The BOD5 limit of 45 mg/L was exceeded:

- June 12, 2025: 53 mg/L (17% exceedance)

Compliance:

Out

Actions to be taken:

Ensure that the characteristics of the discharge for the BOD5 and the TSS do not exceed Permit limits as required by section 1.1.2.

Requirement Description:

1. AUTHORIZED DISCHARGE, 1.1.

1.1.3. : This subsection applies to the discharge of effluent from a MUNICIPAL SEWAGE TREATMENT SYSTEM as shown on the attached Site Plan A. The site reference number for these discharges are E210154 for the infiltration basins and E210155 for the Elk River. 1.1.3. The authorized works are lift station, forcemain, aerated lagoons, infiltration basins and outfall to the Elk River for use during periods of high groundwater and related appurtenances located approximately as shown on attached Site Plan A.

Details/Findings:

Discharge of municipal effluent was conducted through authorized works of a lift station, forcemain, aerated lagoons, and infiltration basins. However, additional works have been added to the Facility without an approved amendment to the Permit. Two aeration basins and another infiltration basin were added in 2009. The polishing pond was also constructed as a storage basin in 2009. In 2015, two phosphate removal cells were constructed, with an alum dosing system and an ultraviolet (UV) disinfection system for the water that is diverted to the Elk River.

Additionally, Facility Staff informed Officer Adebar that the Facility constructed a new outfall to the Elk River downstream of infiltration basin #4 and downstream of the original outfall shown on Site Plan A. The Facility currently discharges UV treated effluent through this new outfall, even though the Permit does not authorize it. Facility Staff also stated that the original outfall shown on Site Plan A, which is authorized under the Permit, now serves as the emergency outfall for emergency release events requiring discharge from the infiltration basins to the Elk River.

Compliance:

Out

Actions to be taken:

Ensure that the Permit accurately reflects the works for the Facility and Site Plan A correctly represents the authorized works. Continue to work with the Ministry's Authorization Branch on job tracking number 415602 to ensure the Facility's works are authorized and representative.

Requirement Description:

2. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS, 2.1. Maintenance of Works and Emergency Procedures

2.1. : The permittee shall inspect the pollution control works regularly and maintain them in good working order. In the event of an emergency or condition beyond the control of the permittee which prevents continuing operation of the approved method of pollution control, the permittee shall Immediately notify the Regional Waste Manager and take appropriate remedial action.

Details/Findings:

The CoF demonstrated that pollution control works such as the aeration pumps, blowers, and berms are regularly inspected and maintained in good working order (Maintenance and Inspection Records). However, various releases and bypasses occurred and were reported to the Ministry during the Inspection Period as documented in section 2.2 and section 2.3. The emergency releases demonstrate that various authorized works from the Facility, including the lift stations, forcemain, pumps and infiltration basins are not updated sufficiently to maintain good working order to eliminate the risk of stormwater overflows from overwhelming the wastewater system and causing emergency releases. During the on-site inspection, Officer Adebar observed the infiltration basins were nearly full (Photo 1).

During this Inspection Period, untreated and unscreened effluent combined with stormwater was bypassed to the Elk River prior to entering the wastewater treatment plant from a Lift Station on three occasions as emergency releases to relieve pressure on the pump system. A summary of those three reported events are as follows:

2023 Event:

- The CoF reported on December 15, 2023, that approximately 11,700 m³ of untreated and unscreened influent and stormwater was released to the Elk River at Mt. McLean Drive Lift Station between December 6, 2023, and December 8, 2023 (NCR 2023-12-15; NCR 2023-12-22 (Lift Station); DGIR 234803).

2025 Events:

- The CoF reported on December 19, 2025, that approximately 7,959 m³ of untreated and unscreened influent and stormwater was released to the Elk River at three locations including the Mt. McLean Drive Lift Station, Eckersley Street Lift Station, Dogwood Park Boat Launch, between December 11, 2025, and December 13, 2025 (NCR 2025-12-19; DGIR 254778). Five vacuum truck loads of untreated and unscreened influent from Mt. McLean Drive Lift Station was discharged also directly to the Elk River on December 11, 2025 (DGIR 254778).
- The CoF reported on December 19, 2025, that approximately 16,928 m³ of untreated and unscreened influent was released to the Elk River from the Mt. McLean Drive Lift Station between December 17, 2025, and December 18, 2025 (NCR 2026-01-09; DGIR 254890).

Officer Adebar reviewed the Non-Compliance Reports (NCR's) submitted within the Inspection Period and confirmed that the CoF provided immediate notification following an emergency or condition beyond the control of the CoF by reporting the spill as required by the Spill Reporting Regulation. However, the Director (Regional Waste Manager) was not immediately notified of the following emergency releases:

- The unauthorized emergency releases on December 6, 2023, to December 8, 2023, was notified to the Director 11 days after the identification of the emergency through NCR 2023-12-15. A non-compliance notification was not submitted prior to NCR 2023-12-15.
- The unauthorized emergency releases and bypass on December 11, 2025, to December 12, 2025, was notified to the Director eight days after the identification of the emergency through an NCR 2025-12-19. A non-compliance notification was not submitted prior to NCR 2025-12-19.

Remedial actions completed by the CoF for emergency releases and bypasses during the Inspection Period was not assessed by Officer Adebar.

Compliance:

Out

Actions to be taken:

Ensure to maintain pollution control works in good working order and provide the Ministry with immediate notification for any emergency or any condition beyond the control of the CoF as required in section 2.1 of the Permit. The immediate non-compliance notification must be submitted to the Director at: EnvironmentalCompliance@gov.bc.ca

An NCR can be provided following the non-compliance notification so that immediate notification can be provided to the Ministry at the same email address: EnvironmentalCompliance@gov.bc.ca

Additional information on reporting can be obtained here: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/waste-management/waste-discharge-authorization/comply>

As separate notification is also required as applicable under the under the Spill Reporting Regulation using the 24-hour Spill or Environmental Emergency Reporting line at **1-800-663-3456**.

Additional information on for the Provincial Emergency Program spill reporting can be obtained here: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/air-land-water/spills-environmental-emergencies/report-a-spill>

Requirement Description:

2. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS, 2.2. Bypasses

2.2.: The discharge of effluent which has bypassed the designated treatment works is prohibited unless the approval of the Regional Waste Manager is obtained and confirmed in writing.

Details/Findings:

The designated treatment works, or Authorized Works are described in Section 1.1.3 as “lift station, forcemain, aerated lagoons, infiltration basins and outfall to the Elk River”.

As documented in Section 2.1, emergency releases of effluent from the Mt. McLean Drive Lift Station to the Elk River occurred during the Inspection Period, and are considered bypasses of the lift station, forcemain, and treatment works. Due to the unplanned nature of these events, Ministry approval was not obtained.

Three bypass events occurred during the Inspection Period and include:

December 6, 2023, to December 8, 2023 (3 days):

On December 15, 2023, the CoF reported that approximately 11,700 m³ of untreated and unscreened influent and stormwater was released to the Elk River from the Mt. McLean Drive Lift Station between December 6, 2023, and December 8, 2023 (NCR 2023-12-15; NCR 2023-12-22 (Lift Station); **DGIR 234803**).

In response to the bypass and emergency release, the CoF collected influent samples and additional samples 100 metres upstream and downstream from the discharge location at the Mt. McLean Drive Lift Station (see DGIR 234803 and Table 1 below). Three sets of samples were taken between December 6, 2023, and December 8, 2023. The sampling locations for Table 1 below are approximately located as indicated by the December 2025 Sampling Locations Map attached to this IR, as confirmed by the CoF’s Wastewater Foreperson.

December 11, 2025, to December 13, 2025 (3 days):

On December 19, 2025, the CoF reported that approximately 7,959 m³ of untreated and unscreened influent and stormwater was released to the Elk River from three locations including the Mt. McLean Drive Lift Station, Eckersley Street Lift Station and Dogwood Park Boat Launch, between December 11, 2025, and December 13, 2025 (NCR 2025-12-19; NCR 2025-01-09; **DGIR 254778**).

The CoF collected eleven influent and receiving environment samples between December 11, 2025, and December 16, 2025 (see DGIR 254778 and Table 2 below). The receiving environment samples were collected in the Elk River at locations nearby to the Mt. McLean Drive Lift Station, Dogwood Park Boat Launch, and the CoF’s Facility. Table 2 below includes sample results collected on December 11, 2025. Refer to the 2025 Sampling Locations Map attached to this IR for the mapped sampling locations for this bypass event.

December 11, 2025:

Five vacuum trucks loads containing untreated influent and stormwater from the Mt. McLean Lift Station were also discharged directly to the Elk River on December 11, 2025 (**DGIR 254778**).

December 17, 2025, to December 18, 2025 (2 days):

On December 19, 2025, the CoF reported that approximately 16,928 m³ of untreated and unscreened effluent was released to the Elk River from the Mt. McLean Drive Lift Station between December 17, 2025, and December 18, 2025 (NCR 2026-01-09; **DGIR 254890**). Five influent and receiving environment samples were collected at various locations at the Mt. McLean Drive Lift Station between December 17, 2025, and December 19, 2025 (see DGIR 254890 and Table 3 below).

Additional sampling was completed on January 13, 2026, at the request of the Environmental Emergency Branch of the Provincial Emergency Program (for DGIR 25778 and DGIR 254890) and is not included in the assessment of this section as it is outside the Inspection Period.

The water quality results presented in Tables 1-3 below show that the bypasses and emergency releases negatively affected the Elk River, as shown by increases in microbiological indicators (fecal coliforms and *E. coli*) between upstream and downstream sampling sites from the location of discharge. The single-sample limit of 200 CFU/100 mL for fecal coliforms (Livestock-Use BC Water Quality Guideline (BC WQG)) was exceeded (highlighted red in Tables 1-3). This BC WQG is applicable because the Elk River is adjacent to and upstream of agricultural land, is physically accessible to

animals, and could reasonably be used as a livestock water source.

The single-sample limit of 400 *E. coli*/100 mL was also exceeded multiple times in December 2023 and December 2025 (highlighted red in Tables 1-3). This BC WQG is applied to primary-contact recreation. Even in winter, primary-contact activities (e.g., swimming) can occur, presenting a reasonable expectation of exposure. Therefore, the *E. coli* exceedances that occurred represent a potential human-health risk for recreational users downstream.

The water quality parameter of TSS measured from the influent and released to the Elk River at the Mt. McLean Drive Lift Station on December 6, 2023, December 8, 2023, and December 17, 2025, exceeded the 60 mg/L Permit limit required by section 1.1.2 (highlighted in blue in Tables 1 and 3).

IR 160560, issued by the Ministry on December 1, 2020, determined that the CoF was out of compliance with section 2.2 for failing to obtain Ministry approval for the February 2020 for emergency releases and bypasses, including untreated and unscreened effluent discharges to the Elk River during precipitation events that exceeded the Facility's capacity and resulted in discharge of the influent at the Mt. McLean Drive Lift Station; the Ministry's response was a Warning.

IR 201155, issued March 8, 2023, documented two extreme weather events and one emergency blocked pipe which caused bypasses and the discharge of untreated effluent into the environment. Section 2.2 was assessed as "not applicable" in this report as the Environmental Protection Officer at the time determined that these bypasses were the result of emergency releases that were assessed in Section 2.1 of that report. The Ministry's response was a Warning.

The recurrent nature of the bypasses at this Facility confirms that the CoF is not able to manage the influent volumes, resulting in wastewater bypassing the treatment works and being discharged to the environment. Effluent that bypasses the designated treatment works and discharges to the environment is prohibited, regardless of whether the bypass is planned or unplanned; therefore, the CoF has failed to obtain written approval from the Director for bypasses between December 6, 2023, and December 18, 2025, as described above.

The CoF have applied for registration under the MWR (AMS Job #415602). A revised Application Instruction Document (AID 2023) was issued by the Ministry on March 20, 2023, with a final application deadline of November 28, 2024. The AID identified concerns regarding the rapid infiltration basins operating below design capacity, influent volumes exceeding design capacity, and non-compliances identified in IR160560. The CoF did not meet the November 28, 2024, deadline and were granted an extension to October 2025 on October 8, 2024 (Authorization Branch Email Correspondences). As of December 2025, the application is currently in the screening phase. The Ministry requested additional information in a letter dated December 8, 2025 (Screening Phase 2025), with a deadline of January 22, 2026. The CoF subsequently requested a deadline extension to February 6, 2026, and failed to meet the January deadline (Authorization Branch Email Correspondences). On February 19, 2026, the Ministry notified the CoF of the submitted sections which were assessed as incomplete and issued a new deadline of February 27, 2026 (Screening Incomplete 2026). Overall, the CoF's repeated delays confirm ongoing difficulty in completing the required regulatory actions.

The non-compliance associated with Section 2.2 of the Permit, specifically the failure to obtain written authorization from the Ministry for the bypasses of the Authorized Works and the discharge of effluent during the periods of:

- December 6, 2023, to December 8, 2023 (DGIR 234803);
- December 11, 2025, to December 13, 2025 (DGIR 254778); and
- December 17, 2025, to December 18, 2025 (DGIR 254890).

Therefore, this non-compliance is being referred for an Administrative Penalty.

DGIR 234803 Table 1: Grab sampling water quality results from untreated influent and Elk River samples upstream and downstream of the Mt. McLean Drive Lift Station between December 6, 2023, and December 8, 2023 (COA DGIR 234803; NCR 2023-12-15; NCR 2023-12-22 (Lift Station)).

Parameter	December 6, 2023			December 7, 2023			December 8, 2023		
	Influent	Upstream	Downstream	Influent	Upstream	Downstream	Influent	Upstream	Downstream
TSS (mg/L)	60.5	71.7	160	29.3	22.3	60.5	66.5	6.3	13.3
CBOD (mg/L)	15.6	<2.0	<2.0	26.9	<2.0	<20.5	39.4	<2.0	<2.0
Ammonia (mg/L)	3.58	0.0244	0.0186	3.03	0.0113	0.0787	4.74	0.0544	0.0203
Total Phosphorus (mg/L)	1.19	0.145	0.222	-	-	-	-	-	-

Parameter	December 6, 2023			December 7, 2023			December 8, 2023		
	Influent	Upstream	Downstream	Influent	Upstream	Downstream	Influent	Upstream	Downstream
Fecal Coliforms (CFU/100mL)	>200000	85	600	407000	16	1800	>200000	4	1200
E.coli (MPN/100mL)	>242000	102	649	-	-	-	-	-	-

DGIR 254778 Table 2: Grab sampling water quality results from December 11, 2025, of untreated influent sample at Mt. McLean Lift Station, as well as Elk River receiving environment samples located adjacent to the Mt. McLean Lift Station, Dogwood Boat Launch, and the CoF's Facility (COAs DGIR 254778).

Parameter	December 11, 2025 (10:10-10:20)		December 11, 2025 (09:15-9:40)			December 11, 2025 (15:45)
	Dogwood Boat Launch		Mt. McLean Drive Lift Station			Facility Emergency Outfall
	Upstream	Downstream	Influent	Upstream	Downstream	Upstream
TSS (mg/L)	25.0	34.0	32.6	92.2	79.0	-
CBOD (mg/L)	<2.0	<2.0	26.3	<2.0	<2.0	-
Ammonia (mg/L)	0.592	0.254	4.24	0.26	0.0644	0.0115
Total Phosphorus (mg/L)	0.0487	0.074	1.1	0.169	0.158	0.214
Fecal Coliforms (CFU/100mL)	73	122	490000	260	880	700
E.coli (MPN/100mL)	59	71	242000	114	613	190

DGIR 254890 Table 3: Grab sampling water quality results from untreated influent and Elk River samples upstream and downstream of the Mt. McLean Drive Lift Station between December 17, 2025, and December 19, 2025 (COAs DGIR 254890).

Parameter	December 17, 2025 (11:05-11:30)			December 19, 2025 (8:55-09:10)	
	Influent	Upstream	Downstream	Influent (Marsh Area)	Downstream
TSS (mg/L)	86.5	259.0	70.7	13.9	8.19
CBOD (mg/L)	37.8	<2.0	<2.0	<2.0	2.4
Ammonia (mg/L)	2.83	0.00930	0.0177	<0.0050	0.00780
Total Phosphorus (mg/L)	0.983	0.129	0.109	0.0807	0.017
Fecal Coliforms (CFU/100mL)	>200000	62	3400	11000	1700
E.coli (MPN/100mL)	>242000	34	2310	9080	548

Compliance:

Out

Actions to be taken:

Ensure that effluent does not bypass the designated treatment works unless the approval of a Director has been obtained and confirmed in writing.

Requirement Description:

2. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS, 2.3. Discharge to Elk River

2.3.: The treatment works shall be designed to allow discharge to the Elk River during periods of high groundwater when the infiltration basins are unable to operate at normal design capacity. The permittee shall notify the Regional Waste Manager prior to commencing discharge to the Elk River.

Details/Findings:

The ISL Report (2022) and AID (2023) letter identify operational constraints linked to elevated infiltration and inflow, which have resulted in design capacity limitations at the Facility. The CoF's infiltration basins are also not currently functioning at their normal design capacity. Although the treatment works may discharge to the Elk River during periods of high groundwater when the infiltration basins cannot operate as designed, the required groundwater conditions were not assessed; therefore, compliance with this clause could not be determined. The clause itself is not suitable for evaluating performance of the infiltration basins outside confirmed periods of high groundwater.

Discharge Notifications for effluent discharging through the UV outfall (unauthorized outfall):

Officer Adebar reviewed the information sent from the CoF regarding reported periods of discharge to the Elk River for UV-treated effluent through the unauthorized outfall, and the corresponding notifications of discharge (Discharge Notifications). The City of Fernie discharged to the Elk River during the following periods between February 1, 2023, to November 19, 2025:

- February 1, 2023 – June 7, 2023 (127 days): notification submitted prior to the inspection period.
- July 12, 2023 – September 13, 2023 (64 days): notification submitted July 11, 2023.
- October 11, 2023 – January 24, 2024 (106 days): notification submitted October 16, 2023.
- January 31, 2024 – July 3, 2024 (155 days): notification submitted January 30, 2024.
- July 31, 2024 – September 18, 2024 (50 days): notification submitted July 30, 2024.
- October 21, 2024 – June 20, 2025 (243 days): notification submitted October 21, 2024.
- July 2, 2025 – September 29, 2025 (90 days): notification submitted June 30, 2025.
- October 21, 2025 – November 19, 2025 (30 days): notification submitted October 20, 2025 (November 19, 2025, is the last date the Facility confirmed discharge).

However, the CoF failed to notify the Director (Regional Waste Manager) prior to commencing discharge to the Elk River on October 11, 2023, as the Ministry did not receive the notification until October 16, 2023 (Discharge Notifications). Additionally, the CoF both initiated discharge and submitted notification on October 21, 2024, and it cannot be confirmed whether notification was provided before the discharge began. The CoF is out of compliance with section 2.3.

Discharge Notifications for effluent discharging through the emergency outfall (authorized outfall):

Officer Adebar reviewed information submitted by the City of Fernie (CoF) regarding two reported emergency releases of treated effluent from the infiltration basins to the Elk River through the authorized emergency outfall (NCR 2023 12 22; NCR 2025 12 19). These events occurred when the system was overwhelmed by stormwater, resulting in a triggered emergency discharge. A summary of the two reported releases include the following:

- The CoF reported that approximately 24,000 m³ of treated effluent (aeration treatment only) was released to the Elk River from the infiltration basins through the emergency outfall from December 8, 2023, to December 13, 2023 (NCR 2023-12-22). A non-compliance notification was sent to the Ministry on December 18, 2023.
- The CoF reported that approximately 58,875 m³ of treated (aeration treatment only) effluent was released from the infiltration basins to the Elk River through the emergency outfall between December 11, 2025, and December 12, 2025 (NCR 2025-12-19). A non-compliance notification was sent to the Ministry on December 19, 2025.

Therefore, the CoF failed to notify the Director prior to commencing discharge on December 8, 2023, and December 11, 2025, to the Elk River through the emergency outfall, as required by this section. The CoF is out of compliance with section 2.3.

Compliance:

Out

Actions to be taken:

Ensure effluent is discharged to the Elk River only during periods of high groundwater when the infiltration basins are unable to operate at design capacity. Ensure a notification is sent to the Ministry prior to the commencement of discharge to the Elk River.

Requirement Description:

2. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS, 2.6. Posting of Outfall

2.6.: The permittee shall maintain a sign along the alignment of the outfall above high water mark. The sign shall identify the nature of the works. The wording and size of the sign requires the approval of the Regional Waste Manager.

Details/Findings:

Officer Adebar observed the outfall sign maintained along alignment of the outfall above high water mark, which included the words: "WARNING, TREATED EFFLUENT OUTFALL, 10m BURIED PIPE IN RIVER" (Photo 2). However, a review of internal electronic records confirmed there is no approval from a Director for the wording and size of the current outfall sign on file; therefore, Ministry Staff could not determine if the existing outfall sign was accepted by a Director.

Compliance:

Not Determined

Actions to be taken:

Use the enquiry portal located at: <https://forms.gov.bc.ca/environment/wda-enquiry/> to contact the Authorizations Branch and ensure the existing sign is acceptable to a Director.

Requirement Description:

2. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS, 2.8. Sludge Wasting and Disposal

2.8.: Sludge wasted from the treatment plant shall be disposed of to a site and in a manner authorized by the Regional Waste Manager.

Details/Findings:

Facility Staff informed Officer Adebar that Lambourne Environmental Engineering typically removes sludge solids from the Facility and disposes of them at a location in Pincher Creek, Alberta. The Wastewater Foreperson confirmed to Officer Adebar during the on-site inspection that the Facility removed sludge from the aeration basins in 2023 and transferred it to a dewatering geotextile bag (geotube) located at the Facility. The Foreperson also confirmed that the Facility did not remove any sludge solids during the Inspection Period. Facility Staff further informed Officer Adebar that the water portion of the dewatered sludge is returned to the aeration basins at the Facility and is not normally removed from the site.

However, DGIR 252310 reported that an estimated 2,800m³ of stored filtrate (sludge water) spilled from the geotube into a nearby ditch and then flowed naturally downstream into the Elk River in June 2025. The disposal of waste filtrate from the Facility into the Elk River is not authorized by a Director and therefore the CoF are not in compliance with section 2.8.

Compliance:

Out

Actions to be taken:

Ensure that the sludge removed from the treatment plant is disposed of to a site and in a manner authorized by a Director.

Requirement Description:

2. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS, 2.9. Groundwater Monitoring Wells

2.9. : The permittee shall maintain groundwater monitoring wells. The numbers, locations and structural details of these facilities are subject to the approval of the Regional Waste Manager.

Details/Findings:

The CoF reported that there are three groundwater monitoring wells on site at the Facility. A fourth groundwater monitoring well was located on site and removed in order to install the phosphate removal cells and UV building expansion as stated in section 1.1.3. A review of internal electronic records confirmed there is no approval from a Director for the numbers, locations and structural details of the groundwater monitoring wells as required by this section.

Compliance:

Out

Actions to be taken:

Ensure to contact a Director to get approval for the numbers, locations and structural details of the groundwater monitoring wells by contacting the Ministry's Authorization Branch:

Email: envcia@gov.bc.ca

Online enquiry form: <https://forms.gov.bc.ca/environment/wda-enquiry/>

Requirement Description:

2. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS, 2.10. Standby Facilities

2.10. : The permittee shall set aside a standby area equivalent to 50% of the total installed infiltration basin area. The standby area is to be held in reserve for future use as an infiltration basin and is to be maintained free of any permanent structures.

Details/Findings:

The expansion of the aeration infiltration basins was completed by 2009, and the subsequent construction of the two phosphate removal cells and UV disinfection building were completed by 2015. These expansions have fully utilized the available footprint of the standby area. As a result, no remaining area on the property can accommodate the required 50% standby capacity for future expansion of infiltration basins according to the Wastewater Foreperson.

Compliance:

Out

Actions to be taken:

Ensure to continue the application for approval for the changes to the Facility and respond to information requests from the Ministry's Authorization Branch to ensure that the authorization accurately reflects the facilities and proper upgrades are implemented under job tracking number 415602.

Requirement Description:

2. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS, 2.14. Flow Measurement

2.14.: Provide and maintain a suitable flow measuring device and record once per day the effluent volume discharged over a 24-hour period.

Details/Findings:

Elk River Effluent:

Under section 1.1 and 2.3, the CoF is authorized to discharge effluent to the Elk River via an outfall during period of high ground water.

Officer Adebar observed a Siemens Sitrans FM 6000 magnetic flow meter in the UV building to measure flows prior to discharge to the Elk River (Site reference number E210155). However, the flow meter does not have a working datalogger to record daily data. The flow meter provides a running total of the effluent volume discharged and a Facility operator manually records the daily flow during workdays and calculates the average 24-hour flow on other days (i.e., weekend and holidays). This is not considered a suitable flow measuring device to record the effluent volume discharged for each 24-hour period. As a result of the on-site inspection the CoF provided daily flow records for November and December 2025 to the Ministry (2025 Monthly Reporting).

It should be clarified that these non-compliances associated with site reference E210155 of section 2.14 of the Permit are not being referred for an Administrative Penalty.

Infiltration Basin Effluent:

Under section 1.1, the CoF is authorized to discharge effluent to the infiltration basins.

During the on-site inspection, the Wastewater Foreperson informed Officer Adebar that the CoF does not have a flow meter to record effluent discharged to the infiltration basins on site (site reference number E210154). Therefore, the CoF is out of compliance with section 2.14.

IR 160560 issued to CoF on December 1, 2020, determined that the CoF was out of compliance with section 2.14 of the Permit for failing to install and maintain a device that measures the rate of discharge to the infiltration basins. The Ministry response for IR 160560 was a Warning.

IR 201155 issued to the CoF on March 8, 2023, determined that the CoF was out of compliance with section 2.14 again for failing to install and maintain a suitable flow measure device to record the effluent discharged over a 24-hour period to the infiltration basins. The Ministry response for IR 201155 was a Warning.

The non-compliance associated with discharge to the infiltration basins (site reference E210154) under section 2.14 of the Permit, specifically the failure to provide and maintain a suitable flow measuring device and to record effluent measurements once per day, has been identified for the continuous period of February 1, 2023, to December 23, 2025.

The non-compliances associated with site reference E210154 of section 2.14 of the Permit are being referred for an Administrative Penalty.

Compliance:

Out

Actions to be taken:

Ensure that a suitable flow meter has been installed to measure and record daily effluent volume discharged over 24-hour period for site reference numbers E210154 and E210155 (Effluent discharged to the Elk River and infiltration basins).

Requirement Description:

3. MONITORING AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS, 3.1. Monitoring Requirements When Discharging to the Infiltration Basins, 3.1.1. Grab Sampling

3.1.1.: The permittee shall install a suitable sampling facility and obtain a grab sample of the effluent once each month. Proper care should be taken in sampling, storing and transporting the samples to adequately control temperature and avoid contamination, breakage, etc.

Details/Findings:

The CoF completed all monthly sampling for effluent discharge to the infiltration basins during the period of February 1, 2023, to December 9, 2025 (Monthly COAs). At the time of the on-site inspection, Officer Adebar observed the location where the grab sample for the effluent is normally collected and confirmed it was taken prior to infiltration. However, Officer Adebar was not present while samples were collected; therefore, compliance with sampling, storage, and transportation of the samples could not be determined for section 3.1.1.

Compliance:

Not Determined

Actions to be taken:

Ensure to follow the current version of the BC Field Sampling Manual:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/research-monitoring-reporting/monitoring/laboratory-standards-quality-assurance/bc-field-sampling-manual>

Requirement Description:

3. MONITORING AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS, 3.2. Groundwater Monitoring

3.2.: The permittee shall undertake a program of groundwater sampling to monitor the quality of the groundwater in the vicinity of the sewage treatment and disposal works. The groundwater monitoring program shall include but is not limited to the following: All sampling well locations, well construction, sampling techniques and equipment are to be approved by the Regional Waste Manager prior to installation or use. The permittee shall obtain a grab sample from each well once every three months. Proper care should be taken in sampling, storing and transporting the samples to adequately control temperature and avoid contamination, breakage, etc. The permittee shall obtain analyses of the samples for the following parameters; - chloride, ammonia nitrogen, nitrate nitrogen, nitrite nitrogen, total dissolved phosphorous, sodium, total coliform MF, and faecal coliform MF.

Details/Findings:

Officer Adebar reviewed internal electronic records and confirmed there is no approval from a Director for the sampling well locations, well construction, sampling techniques and equipment.

The CoF completed groundwater monitoring for three groundwater monitoring wells located on site. Officer Adebar reviewed the groundwater sampling results (2023 Quarterly COAs; 2024 and 2025 Quarterly sample results) and identified the following non-compliances:

- The first quarter sampled in March 2023 did not measure nitrate and nitrite separately and combined the parameter as one result.
- The first and second quarters sampled in 2025, failed to sample total coliform MF and instead sampled for *E. coli* coliform instead.
- The third quarter sample was not completed in 2025; therefore, the CoF failed to sample every three months between June 17, 2025 (second quarter) and December 9, 2025 (fourth quarter).

Compliance:

Out

Actions to be taken:

Ensure to obtain grab sample of the groundwater monitoring wells every three months and complete the analyses of the samples for all the parameters listed in section 3.2.

Ensure to contact a Director to get approval well locations, well construction, sampling techniques and equipment by contacting the Ministry's Authorization Branch:

- Email: envcia@gov.bc.ca
- Online enquiry form: <https://forms.gov.bc.ca/environment/wda-enquiry/>

Ensure to continue discussions and provide the required information associated with job tracking number 415602 with the Ministry's Authorization's Branch, including groundwater monitoring wells to ensure that an approved receiving environment monitoring program is implemented.

Requirement Description:

3. MONITORING AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS, 3.3. Monitoring Requirements When Discharging to the Elk River, 3.3.1. Grab Sampling

3.3.1. : The permittee shall install a suitable sampling facility and obtain a grab sample of the effluent once each week. Proper care should be taken in sampling, storing and transporting the samples to adequately control temperature and avoid contamination, breakage, etc.

Details/Findings:

While discharging effluent to the Elk River, the CoF is required to collect weekly grab samples as specified in this section. Officer Adebar reviewed the Weekly COAs and cross referenced the samples collected with the notifications of discharge to the Elk River provided by the CoF and documented in section 2.3. The CoF failed to complete the required weekly sampling while discharging to the Elk River, during the following weeks:

- February 5, 2023 – February 11, 2023
- October 15, 2023 – October 21, 2023
- June 16, 2024 – June 22, 2024
- December 22, 2024 – December 28, 2024

At the time of the on-site inspection, Officer Adebar observed the location where the grab sample for the effluent is collected in the UV building and confirmed it was taken prior to discharge. However, Officer Adebar was not present while samples were collected; therefore, compliance with sampling, storage, transportation of the samples in compliance with section 3.3.1 could not be determined.

Compliance:

Out

Actions to be taken:

Ensure to complete the required weekly grab sampling of effluent when discharging to the Elk River.

Ensure to follow the current version of the BC Field Sampling Manual:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/research-monitoring-reporting/monitoring/laboratory-standards-quality-assurance/bc-field-sampling-manual>

Requirement Description:

3. MONITORING AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS, 3.3. Monitoring Requirements When Discharging to the Elk River, 3.3.2. Analyses

3.3.2. : Obtain analysis of the sample for the following: i) Total Suspended Solids (Non-Filterable Residue), mg/L ii) 5-day Biochemical Oxygen Demand, mg/L iii) Faecal Coliforms

Details/Findings:

Effluent

As documented in section 3.3.1, weekly effluent samples were not collected on four occasions by the CoF, as required by the Permit. For the samples that were collected, Officer Adebar reviewed the COA's and confirmed that analysis was completed for the required parameters throughout the Inspection Period with the exception of:

- ALS Laboratory Work order #CG2306756 (Weekly COAs) does not include the analysis for BOD5 and states "Not Authorized" in the report and no other BOD5 results were provided for this week of discharge to the Elk river.

Upstream and Downstream River Samples

The CoF failed to obtain an analysis for fecal coliform samples for the following instances:

- The river samples collected on February 22, 2023, were not sampled for fecal coliforms due to the samples being partially frozen upon arrival to the laboratory of Bureau Veritas (Weekly COAs).
- The holding time was exceeded for analysis of fecal coliform at the laboratory due to late arrival by the carrier resulting in samples not being analyzed for fecal coliform for samples taken on December 18, 2023, January 10, 2024, September 18, 2024, November 18, 2024, April 8, 2025, June 3, 2025, and November 18, 2025 (Weekly COAs).

Compliance:

Out

Actions to be taken:

Ensure that the effluent, and Upstream and Downstream river sample locations are sampled for a on weekly basis while discharging effluent to the Elk River. Ensure that the holding time is not exceeded for the fecal coliform parameter and samples are not partially frozen upon arrival at the laboratory.

Requirement Description:

3. MONITORING AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS, 3.3. Monitoring Requirements When Discharging to the Elk River, 3.3.3. Ambient Monitoring

3.3.3. : The permittee shall establish suitable monitoring sites upstream and downstream of the outfall to the Elk River and obtain grab samples of river water once each week. The samples shall be analyzed for faecal coliforms.

Details/Findings:

While discharging effluent to the Elk River, the CoF is required to collect weekly grab samples from the river as specified in this section. Officer Adebar reviewed the Weekly COAs and cross referenced the samples collected with the notifications of discharge to the Elk River provided by the CoF and documented in section 2.3.

The CoF failed to complete the required weekly sampling during the following weeks:

- February 5, 2023 – February 11, 2023
- October 15, 2023 – October 21, 2023
- June 16, 2024, June – 22, 2024
- December 22, 2024 – December 28, 2024

Therefore, the CoF are out of compliance with section 3.3.3.

The CoF did not complete the required weekly sampling due to ice conditions during the following dates:

- The CoF did not sample at the upstream or downstream sampling locations on the Elk River on January 17, 2024, February 11, 2025, and February 18, 2025.
- The COF did not sample at the Downstream Sampling location on March 1, 2023, January 21, 2025, January 28, 2025, and February 4, 2025.

The CoF did not to obtain fecal coliform analysis for samples collected during the following dates:

- The river samples collected on February 22, 2023, were not sampled for fecal coliforms due to the samples being partially frozen upon arrival to the laboratory of Bureau Veritas.
- The holding time was exceeded for analysis of fecal coliform at the laboratory due to late arrival by the carrier resulting in samples not being analyzed for fecal coliform for samples taken on December 18, 2023, January 10, 2024, September 18, 2024, November 18, 2024, April 8, 2025, June 3, 2025, and November 18, 2025.

Compliance:

Out

Actions to be taken:

Ensure that the upstream and downstream Elk River sample locations are sampled a on weekly basis while effluent is discharged to the Elk River. Ensure that the holding time and temperature parameters do not compromise the fecal coliform sample prior to arrival at the laboratory.

Requirement Description:

3. MONITORING AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS, 3.4. Reporting Requirements

3.4.: Maintain data of analyses and flow measurements for inspection and submit the data, suitably tabulated, to the Regional Waste Manager for the previous month.

Details/Findings:

No data of analyses and flow measurements were submitted to the Ministry for the previous month, within the Inspection Period except for November and December 2025 (2025 Monthly Reporting). The December 2025 data was submitted on January 16, 2026, as required by this section. However, the November 2025 data was submitted on January 7, 2026, and November is not the month preceding January; therefore, this does not meet the requirement of section 3.4.

Compliance:

Out

Actions to be taken:

Ensure to submit a monthly report with required data of analyses and flow measurements for the previous month to the Ministry's Reporting Submission Mailbox:

EnvAuthorizationsReporting@gov.bc.ca

Requirement Description:**4. ANALYTICAL PROCEDURES, 4.1. Analyses**

4.1.: Analyses are to be carried out in accordance with procedures described in the "British Columbia Environmental Laboratory Manual for the Analysis of Water, Wastewater, Sediment and Biological Materials (March 1994 Permittee Edition)" or by suitable alternative procedures as authorized by the Regional Waste Manager. A copy of the above manual may be purchased from Queen's Printer Publications Centre, 2nd Floor, 563 Superior Street, Victoria, B.C., m 4R6, (1-800-663-6105). The manual is also available for review at any Environmental Protection Program Office.

Details/Findings:

Ministry Staff were not present during sampling, transportation or analysis of the samples; therefore, compliance with section 4.1 could not be determined.

Compliance:

Not Determined

Actions to be taken:

Ensure to follow the current BC Environmental Laboratory Manual during sampling, storing, transportation, and analysis of the effluent samples: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/research-monitoring-reporting/monitoring/laboratory-standards-quality-assurance/bc-environmental-laboratory-manual>

Compliance History:

2023-03-16 IR 201155 Warning 120(7) Level 2, Category B: AUTHORIZED DISCHARGE 1.1.3, Discharge to Elk River 2.3, Flow Measurement 2.14, Groundwater Monitoring Wells 2.9, Standby Facilities 2.10, Grab Sampling 3.1.1; 3.3.1, Ambient Monitoring 3.3.3, Analyses 3.1.2; 3.3.2, Reporting Requirements 3.4;

2020-12-01 IR 160560 Warning 120(6) Level 2, Category A: AUTHORIZED DISCHARGE 1.1.1, Maintenance of Works and Emergency Procedures 2.1, Bypasses 2.2, Fencing 2.13, Flow Measurement 2.14, Groundwater Monitoring Wells 2.9, Standby Facilities 2.10, Grab Sampling 3.1.1; 3.3.1, Ambient Monitoring 3.3.3, Analyses 3.1.2; 3.3.2, Groundwater Monitoring 3.2, Reporting Requirements 3.4.

The Ministry of Environment Compliance and Enforcement Policy and Procedure (C&E Policy) prescribes common requirements and procedures for all Ministry staff to ensure consistent and risk-based assessment and response to non-compliance. Using the Non-Compliance Decision Matrix, the compliance determination for this inspection has been assessed as **Level 3, Category B, Administrative Penalty Referral**.

More information about Environmental Compliance, the Non-Compliance Decision Matrix, and reporting and data submission requirements can be found at the links below:

General compliance information:

www.gov.bc.ca/environmentalcompliance

Non-Compliance Decision Matrix information:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/natural-resource-stewardship/natural-resource-law-enforcement/environmental-compliance/consequences-of-non-compliance#non-compliance-decision-matrix>

Reporting and data submission requirements (to be sent to EnvAuthorizationsReporting@gov.bc.ca):

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/waste-management/waste-discharge-authorization/comply>

Please be advised that this inspection report may be published on the provincial government website within 7 days.

Below are attachments related to this inspection.

If you have any questions about this letter, please contact the undersigned.

Yours truly,

Kylie Adebar
Environmental Protection Officer

cc:

Attachments:

- 1) Photo Record IR252743.pdf Photo Record
- 2) Maps of Discharge Locations_Edited for Clarity by Officer Adebar.pdf Map of Discharge Locations

Deliver via:

Email: Fax: Mail:
Registered Mail: Hand Delivery:

**Ministry of Environment
and Climate Change
Strategy**

Compliance and
Environmental
Enforcement Branch

Mailing Address:
205 Industrial Rd G
Cranbrook BC V1C 7G5

Telephone: 250 489 8540
Facsimile: 250 489 8506
Website: www.gov.bc.ca/env

DISCLAIMER:

Please note that sections of the permit, regulation or code of practice referenced in this inspection record are for guidance and are not the official version. Please refer to the original permit, regulation or code of practice.

To see the most up to date version of the regulations and codes of practices please visit
<http://www.bclaws.ca>

If you require a copy of the original permit, please contact the inspector noted on this inspection record.

It is also important to note that this inspection record does not necessarily reflect each requirement or condition of the authorization therefore compliance is noted only for the requirements or conditions listed in the inspection record.

Authorization: 8182	Ministry of Environment and Parks
NRIS IR #: IR252743	March 5, 2026

Photo 1:
A view south-west of the Infiltration Basin #1 and the storage basin in the background at the City of Fernie's wastewater Facility.



Photo 2:
A view north of the UV Outfall Sign.

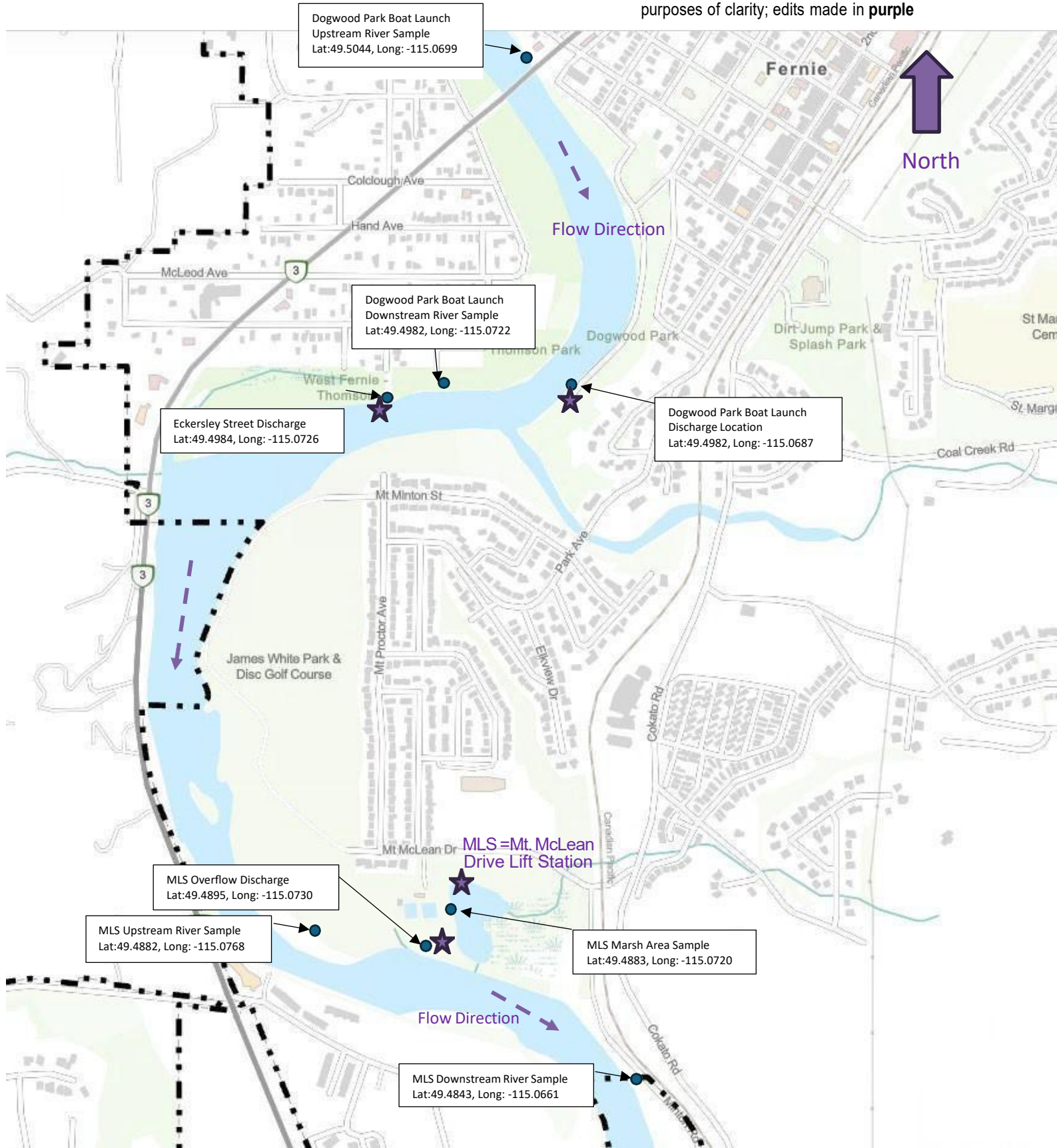


Sampling Locations Map

Sampling conducted in 2023 and 2025 for DGIR 234803, DGIR 254778, DGIR 254890

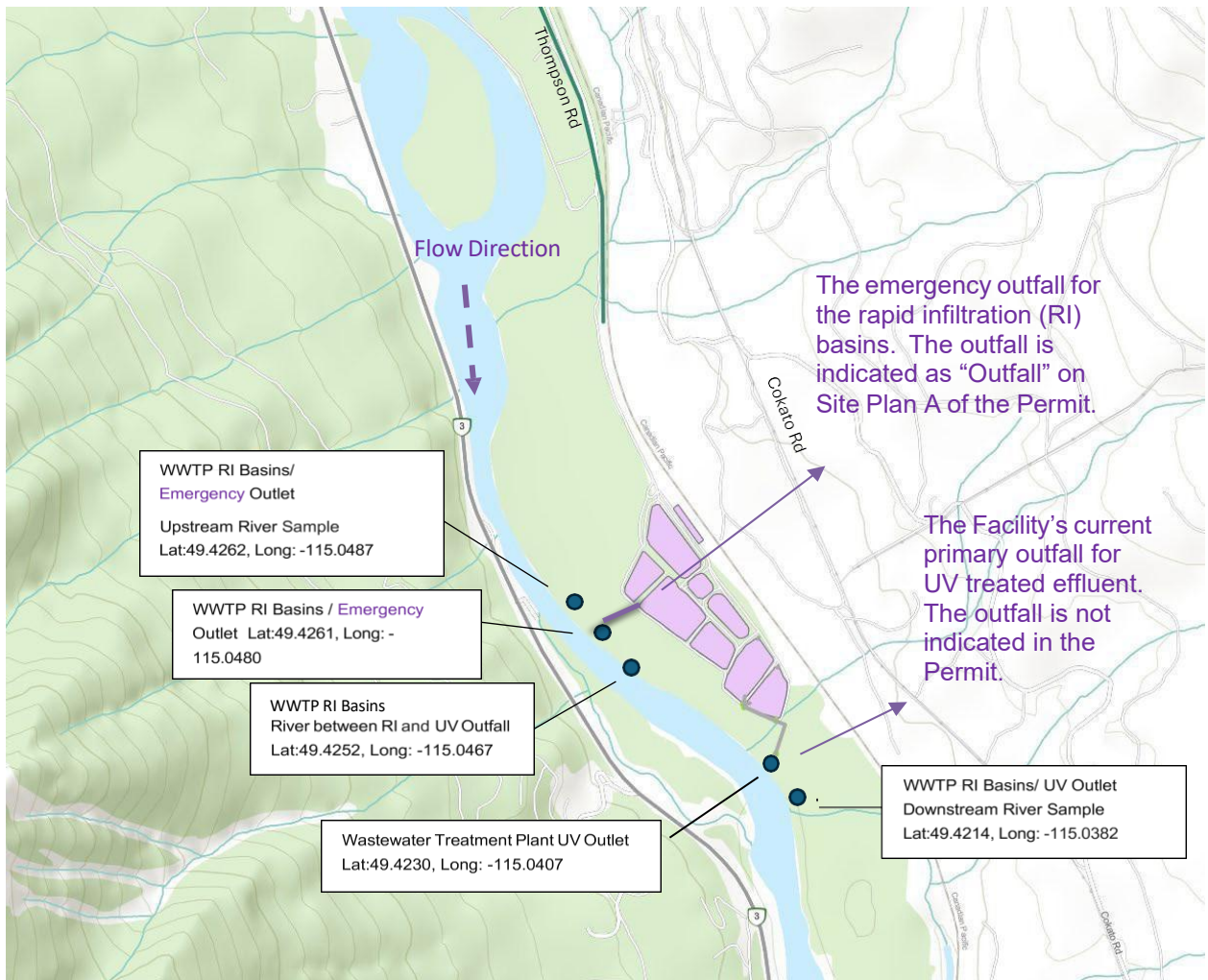
Map Created by the City of Fernie, sent to the Ministry on January 8, 2026

Edited by Officer Adebar on February 27, 2026, for purposes of clarity; edits made in **purple**



★ = discharge locations

There is approximately 6,950 m between the Mt. McLean Lift Station and the Lagoon Wastewater Treatment Plant Facility on Thompson Road (IMapBC). Note: This is not a continuous map between page 1 and 2.



★ = discharge locations