



**VILLAGE OF BEISEKER
PUBLIC HEARING - OCT 15, 2019
LAND USE REDESIGNATION# LUA – 2019-01
DIRECT CONTROL BYLAW 2019-12**

WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS

	NAME OF SPEAKER
1	Doug and Linda Skuce
2	Cody Clarkson
3	Corwin and Tracy Skuce
4	GM Pearson

September 30, 2019

CEO, Village of Beiseker
BEISEKER, AB
TOM OGO

RE: BIOMEDICAL WASTE INCINERATOR PROPOSED IN VILLAGE OF BEISEKER

We have attended the information seminar at the Beiseker Hall. We were very interested in listening to what information we could gather. The staff of G-M Pearson were very welcoming to us, and tried to answer all our questions.

However, after hearing all their comments, we are NOT in favor of the proposal. Of course, it will be advantageous to the Village of Beiseker, which I understand is having financial problems, as a lot of small towns are today.

We are close neighbors to the proposed project, and cannot believe that there will be no toxins emitted from the incinerator. I think this should be built somewhere far away from where anyone lives. Who knows what "long term" health consequences will show up further down the road? Why not use the Swan Hills facility???

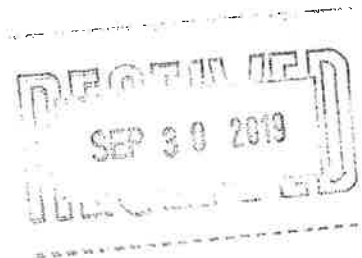
We are concerned about their septic field. All the wastewater will be put in the ground through the use of a septic field. That land already has a very high water table that could be an issue – nowhere for the wastewater to go.

Our residence and our neighbors use ground water or our household water supply, as do the cattle in our nearby pasture that is adjacent to the proposed location. It's NOT a good idea to put that kind of wash water back into the ground.

This company does not have an unblemished record in the past, so how can we trust what they are telling us now. Please reconsider this proposal and protect the health of everyone in the community and others nearby.

Yours truly,

Doug & Linda Skuce



From: Cody Clarkson [mailto:Cody.Clarkson@cnrl.com]
Sent: October-06-19 11:29 AM
To: beiseker@beiseker.com
Cc: wwise@telus.net; Victorlemky@snapon.com; mhenuset@telusplanet.net; Nd_king@hotmail.com
Subject: public hearing

Greetings All,

For those that don't know me let me introduce myself and reason for writing. My name is Cody Clarkson, my wife is Tanya and we live with our 3 kids at 211 7 Street. We have owned this property since 2008. This letter is to inform council that we are opposed to this proposal and reasons why. Keep in mind that we understand that a business such as this will bring in tax revenue and possibly a few local jobs, however.

The first and most important question is obviously the health concern. What kind of toxins are being released from burning bio-medical waste? Who is responsible for monitoring this? Does council really believe that this will contribute to a healthy environment to live in? What about the "treated waste water" going back into the ground? Will this pose a risk to livestock/crops in the area? Do you really just take GM Pearson's word for it? They don't seem to have the greatest track record.

Second, Real estate is already very challenging in Beiseker. What kind of effect do you think this will have on the housing market in the village? The first thing people will see when they come around the corner on highway 9 is this plant. Is this what we want Beiseker to be known for? Not only that but potential buyers are going to have to look out their windows and look at this plant knowing what they are burning and it is in our opinion that this will drive people out of town. Lount crescent basically backs directly on to the proposed site and something like this will devastate housing prices.

It is in our opinion that a plant such as this will also bring criminal activity due to the fact that they burn pharmaceuticals/narcotics as this was the case in the community of Wainwright. Is this something we want more of seeing as crime in rural areas is already on the rise?

In conclusion the only benefit to going any further with this proposal would in fact be the tax dollars and possibly a few jobs. Questionable how healthy it would be to work at a place like this but none the less. There are plenty of good ways to bring in tax revenue folks and this is just not one of them. A Bio-Medical Waste incinerator belongs somewhere away from a community and not in people's backyards. So I ask guys, restore everyone's faith in council and in Beiseker and stop this train wreck in its tracks!

Thank you for your time and look forward to seeing you all at the hearing on the 15th

Sincerely

Cody Clarkson

Rec'd OCT 7 119

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October 7, 2019

CEO Village of Beiseker and Village council,

Just a letter to let you know we are **STRONGLY OPPOSED** to the proposal of the G-M Pearson incinerator plant in the Village of Beiseker.

We attended the information session and after talking to the G-M Pearson people involved we felt like we were dealing with a used car salesman. They were good at trying to say what they think people want to hear.

We would possibly be the closest residence to the proposed site but no consideration for us has been shown by G-M Pearson. They explained how they would like to keep the fan that will be making the most noise at the South East corner of the site to keep the noise level down for the Village residents, seeing as this would be the first plant of this kind set up they couldn't even tell us what kind of noise levels could be expected. They back tracked a bit when we explained it would be pointing right to our house. They then explained planting trees all the way around the location would be a reasonable cure for the noise issue (we highly doubt it). They also explained they want to put the waste water into a septic field, anyone who has lived in or near town knows the water table is extremely high (and getting higher with the towns not using ground water anymore) we don't believe this is going to work for them without risking it backing up and potentially threatening our ground water we use for our household and cattle in our family's adjacent pasture as well as our rural neighbors.

We could go on and on but to put it simply why risk the health of the town people, rural farm and ranch people with possible pollution issues? Why disturb the peace with noise pollution and light pollution?

The village already has an inoperable incinerator plant that has turned into an eyesore. Do we need another one 20 years from now?

As local business owners we are all for economic growth, but feel this proposed incinerator will have a negative effect on growth of the community, and the few tax dollars generated is not enough to help out the village in a positive manner.

Let's please try to keep this community a safe place for not only the town's people but also the rural residents.

Thanks for your consideration,

Corwin and Tracy Skuce



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Edmonton, Alberta T6S 1A9
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1-800-563-2466

October 9, 2019

DELIVERED VIA EMAIL

Village of Beiseker
Box 349
700, 1st Ave
Beiseker, AB T0M 0G0

Attention: Heather Leslie, Chief Administrative Officer for Distribution to Council

Dear Ms. Leslie:

Re: Land Use Re-Districting Amendment

G-M Pearson is a family-owned, Alberta company that has provided clean, safe solutions to treat a variety of waste streams in Alberta for over 30 years. 2092513 Alberta Ltd., the applicant for the redistricting, is an affiliate of G-M Pearson and I will refer to both as G-M Pearson in this letter.

G-M Pearson has operated waste treatment facilities in Alberta for many years. It currently operates an Alberta Environment and Parks approved autoclave facility in Rocky View County to treat bio-medical waste.

G-M Pearson purchased a 43-acre parcel located on the outskirts of the Village of Beiseker. G-M Pearson is proposing to build an incinerator in the south east corner of the parcel. A new incinerator is needed in Alberta to treat non-hazardous waste.

We would like to speak first at the public hearing, and to have a right of reply.

To make it easier for Council to refer to these submissions at the public hearing, I have numbered the paragraphs in this letter.

A) Why GM Pearson has Requested Re-Districting

1. G-M Pearson is applying to re-district the parcel to allow for an incinerator which treats not only bio-medical waste but also other non-hazardous waste, such as pharmaceutical waste. The parcel is currently zoned S-URB Urban Reserve District and incineration is not currently allowed in this district.
2. The Village of Beiseker's Land Use Bylaw lists Bio-Medical Waste Incinerator as a discretionary use in the I-GEN Industrial District. The parcels directly to the north and east of the parcel are zoned I-GEN Industrial District.
3. The definition of Bio-Medical Waste Incinerator in the Land Use Bylaw does not allow G-M Pearson to provide necessary waste treatment services – including pharmaceutical

waste, police uniforms or confidential data. As such, G-M Pearson has applied to rezone the parcel to Direct Control. The Direct Control Bylaw contains the same regulations and uses as the I-GEN General Industrial Direct except that it allows for an incinerator that treats non-hazardous waste.

4. G-M Pearson's request is for the rezoning of the parcel. Once the rezoning is complete, we will be making an application for a development permit, which will provide further details. However, we anticipate that Council may have questions now about the use for the parcel. G-M Pearson will use world-class technology to ensure that the incinerator is energy efficient and clean burning. The incinerator is a "smart" incinerator with fail-safe safety features built in. Further, the incinerator will have a dedicated operations manager and staff with the experience and training to safely operate the incinerator. They will monitor the incinerator to ensure it is operating within the regulated parameters.

5. The parcel is in a centralized location with highway access for our transportation network. Our deliveries in semi-trailers will be able to enter from the highway without going through the Village of Beiseker.

6. GM Pearson is committed to the communities that we work in. It is a priority for us that we work in a safe environment and that our neighbours live in a safe environment. We believe in hiring people from the local community and working with the community.

B) Community Consultation

7. As part of its commitment to transparency and openness, G-M Pearson employed a number of approaches to provide residents of the Village of Beiseker and surrounding area access to information about the project and to enable residents to provide their perspectives and pose questions including:

- A comprehensive website (www.gmpearson-facts.ca) which included an overview of the project; a detailed FAQ; an invitation to the planned Drop-In's; a contact list for people wanting additional information including the phone number of an information line for those wanting to speak with someone about the project.
- Two Drop-In sessions, held on September 19 and September 21 at the Beiseker Community Centre;
- Advertisements in the Rocky View Weekly promoting the Drop-In sessions;
- Promotion of the Drop-In sessions on the Village of Beiseker Facebook page;
- A survey form for questions at the Drop-In sessions. (All questions posed either in written form or verbally were captured and added to the FAQ section of our website.); and
- An advertisement in the Rocky View Weekly (October 7) thanking residents for their participation at the Drop In's and which promoted the www.gmpearson-facts.ca.

Names and contact information were voluntarily collected at the Drop-In's. We followed up with these people with emails that included both a copy of the presentation boards used at the Drop-In's plus an updated list of questions and answers.

8. We attempted to join the "Beiseker Brags" Facebook page but access was denied. Our intention in attempting to join the page was to provide factual information in response to some of the posted comments.

9. Approximately 80 people attended the Drop-In sessions (50 people on September 19 and 30 people on September 21). Most of the attendees were residents of Beiseker, although a number of participants also resided in Irricana.

10. Many people came to the session seeking clarification on:

- Environment impact, particularly air quality
- Site visibility and impact on nearby land values
- Noise from the development (vehicle, incinerator)
- Risk of biowaste products
- Past reputation of the G-M Pearson
- Connections to the existing incinerator

11. On the whole, many people appeared satisfied with the information. Many people indicated that they appreciated the efforts being made by G-M Pearson to provide information as clearly as possible. Some people talked about the added value of employment opportunities that the facility would bring and its contribution to Beiseker's tax base.

12. The Drop-In's brought mixed reactions—from "very much" in support to "very opposed" to the project with a larger number of people falling in between. Many people with whom we spoke appeared open to the idea of the incinerator as long as G-M Pearson was able to provide assurances around safety and environmental impact.

13. We have attempted to address the questions raised through posting information on our webpage. G-M Pearson has continued to update the website www.gmpearson-facts.ca with responses to questions received from residents and to provide further information in regard to this project.

C) The Environmental and Human Health Impact

14. We are working with Addfield Environmental Systems Ltd, the global leader in thermal treatment technology, to build the facility. We are committed to ensuring that our facility is safe for the environment and the residents of the Village of Beiseker and beyond.

15. Any incinerator built on the parcel requires a development permit and approval from Alberta Environment and Parks. Alberta Environment and Parks undertakes a review of the construction, operation and reclamation of the facility to ensure the environment and public health are protected. We cannot receive a permit from Alberta Environment and Parks without demonstrating that the facility will be safe.

16. Addfield Environmental Systems Ltd. has experience building thermal treatment plants in a variety of settings worldwide. These include recently approved facilities in populated settings, e.g:

- a thermal treatment plant located within Wolverhampton in the United Kingdom. This facility is located within the New Cross Hospital which is within 40 m of housing.
- an incinerator in Moredun, Scotland was upgraded in the early 2000s to meet the regulatory requirements in Scotland. This facility has a compliance rating of "excellent" from the regulator and has operated for approximately 20 years in full compliance with strict air emissions performance requirements.

17. The proposed Direct Control Bylaw only allows for the operation of a facility which treats non-hazardous waste, including:

- biomedical waste;
- cytotoxic waste;
- pharmaceutical waste;
- municipal solid waste;
- non-hazardous industrial waste;
- oilfield waste which is not dangerous oilfield waste; and
- items requiring incineration as requested by a law enforcement agency.

18. G-M Pearson's operation of the facility will be regulated on an ongoing basis by Alberta Environment and Parks. G-M Pearson must meet strict requirements for the emissions. We have experience operating incinerators and the proposed incinerator will be built to meet not only the current emission standards but also future standards.

19. While detailed and location-specific human health risk assessment studies will be completed to support an application for approval under the Alberta *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act*, G-M Pearson fully expects that these studies will confirm the safety of the facility for the following reasons:

- rotary kiln combustion technology and advanced air emission controls will deliver a high level of burn-out and air emission performance by design;
- independent assessment of similar technology and controls on a project proposed by G-M Pearson in Ryley, Alberta in 2015 (which did not proceed) indicated that emissions would be below Air Quality Objective levels set out in Alberta Ambient Air Quality Objectives and Guideline; and
- computer modelling conducted for the Ryley project by independent specialists retained by G-M Pearson was used to estimate how much the local population would be exposed to emissions from the facility. Heavy metals were analysed at expected emission levels. Dioxin and furan emissions were analyzed at maximum allowable emission levels under current regulations in order to understand sensitivity to design deviation. In both cases the result was exposure of less than 0.2% of levels deemed safe for public health and environment. Facilities are designed to operate at a fraction of the maximum emission limits, making the expected exposure to dioxins and furans to be an even smaller fraction of the safe levels.

D) The Process for Approval of an Incinerator

20. The re-districting application is only the first step in the approval of an incinerator on the parcel. The re-districting does not approve development of the incinerator. If the parcel is re-districted, G-M Pearson will then apply for a development permit.

21. The Direct Control Bylaw provides that the Parcel may be used for the permitted and discretionary uses in the I-GEN General Industrial District. If G-M Pearson does not receive a development permit or approval from Alberta Environment and Parks, the parcel can still be used for any of the uses in the I-GEN General Industrial District.

22. At the development permit stage, G-M Pearson will be required to show details of the proposed buildings, the utilities servicing the parcel and any other pertinent information required by the Development Authority respecting the development.

23. We anticipate that a condition of the development permit is likely to be that G-M Pearson receive approval from Alberta Environment and Parks to build and operate the incinerator. G-M Pearson would have no objection to such a condition. We recognize that if we do not receive approval from Alberta Environment and Parks to build an incinerator, we cannot build an incinerator on the Parcel.

24. Alberta Environment and Parks will conduct a review of the construction, operation and reclamation of the proposed incinerator to ensure it is safe for the community and the environment. Alberta Environment and Parks will review the design and studies conducted on the environmental and human health risks of the proposed incinerator. Only once Alberta Environment and Parks determines that the proposed facility is safe for the community and the environment, can G-M Pearson commence construction of the incinerator.

25. G-M Pearson's operation of the incinerator will be subject to monitoring and reporting to Alberta Environment and Parks to ensure it meets or exceeds the emission standards set by the Alberta government. G-M Pearson is excited to work with the Village of Beiseker to develop this necessary service for the province of Alberta.

26. We believe that approval of the Direct Control Bylaw provides a path to further evaluating the development of the project in a manner that ensures public consultation, the engagement of and access to subject matter experts who can address community questions and concerns and demonstrate that this plant is safe and that it represents an overall benefit to the community.

27. We have endeavored to provide information to questions beyond those relevant to the redistricting bylaw itself, recognizing that people want perspective and points of reference before all the field work and analysis can be completed and that they can have confidence that significant rigor is required to satisfy subsequent steps in the permitting process. We have shown transparency throughout this initial process and will continue to be accessible and open to receiving input as we move forward.

We look forward to the upcoming public hearing and ask that Council approve the proposed Direct Control Bylaw.

Yours truly,

G-M Pearson Biomedical Waste Specialists Ltd.

Per:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JK' followed by a horizontal line.

Joe Kress, Owner