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Dear Bralorne Sewer Service Participant:

### **RE: Bralorne Sewer System – Status Update**

On September 11, 2014, the SLRD learned that the outfall pipe from the septic tank that services Townsite #1 in Bralorne had ruptured. Following an onsite inspection, SLRD staff determined that the pipe was beyond repair at the location of the break, and access to what remained of the pipe was restricted by mine activities. The Ministry of Environment was contacted and permission was granted to install a new outfall pipe in a different alignment that minimizes impacts from mining activities. The new line was in service on October 1 and the install complete on October 3, 2014.

The SLRD has known for some time that the Bralorne sewer system requires upgrading. Parts of the system are over 90 years old; the collection pipes run through private yards and abut against a number of foundations. As well, the septic tanks flow directly into Cadwallader Creek, meaning there is minimal treatment of the effluent. SLRD staff has been working to secure grant funding to upgrade the sewer infrastructure; unfortunately our efforts thus far have been unsuccessful.

The Ministry of Environment (MOE), spurred on by this latest failure in the sewer system, has advised the SLRD that it plans to update the SLRD's operating permit in order to bring the system into compliance with the current Wastewater System Effluent Regulations which came into effect in 2012. The new regulations require all sewer systems to provide, at minimum, secondary treatment. This means that it will be necessary to install a process to substantially degrade the organic content of the sewage prior to dispersion in the creek. MOE has inferred that a new operating permit will be forthcoming in 2015, but will have a grace period to allow time to upgrade the system.

The SLRD will continue to seek grant funding to cover as much of the cost as possible. However, should grant funding not be made available in time, the SLRD may be required to borrow funds to complete the upgrades. There are two options for consideration:

- 1) Upgrade the entire sewer system which would include all new collection piping aligned in the roadway, connection between Townsites 1 and 2, new service lines and connections to houses, procurement of land and a treatment plant. The estimated cost for this option is approximately \$2 Million, which corresponds to approximately \$1,030 per lot per year for 30 years, assuming no grant funding is available.
- 2) Install a treatment plant only which would include procurement of land, the treatment plant and the connection of Townsites 1 and 2. The estimated cost for this option is

approximately \$300,000 to \$500,000, depending on the level of treatment required by the new permit. This corresponds to \$154 - \$260 per lot per year for 30 years, assuming no grant funding is available.

It is important to note that the above costs would be in addition to the taxation required to operate the system. Following the construction of a treatment plant, a corresponding increase in taxation for additional operating budget is expected, as a treatment plant is more expensive to operate than a septic system. The amount of this increase is not yet known.

The SLRD recognizes that this infrastructure upgrade could have significant financial impacts for participants in the Bralorne sewer service, particularly if we are not successful in our efforts to secure grant funding. The SLRD will conduct community consultation throughout the process in order to provide information, answer questions and gather feedback regarding the options. More details regarding community engagement opportunities will be announced as the process unfolds.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we work to resolve this issue. Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have.

Regards,



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