

Province approves sewage delay

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The provincial government has granted a request by local politicians to delay a progress report on sewage treatment by one year.

The Capital Regional District was required to submit a detailed business case for sewage treatment plants by Dec. 31.

However, it recently asked the province for another 12 months, saying staff needed more time to look at locations, consult with First Nations and study a recently-released provincial report on resource recovery - which calls on a vastly decentralized network of small treatment plants.

The CRD announced today the B.C. Environment Ministry granted the extension request. The CRD said it will release a "progress report" by the end of 2008 and submit its plans to the government by Dec. 31, 2009.

Despite the delay, the CRD has said it could still complete the project - the biggest in regional history - by 2016.

The provincial government ordered the CRD to start planning for treatment plants in 2006. Depending on the technology decided, the project is expected to cost hundreds of millions, or more than one billion, to build.