

Catalyst Landfill Factsheet

The local pulp mill in Powell River BC, operated by Catalyst Paper Co., is seeking to reopen the sealed off landfill directly adjacent to the long-established community of Wildwood. Following are details of the proposed landfill expansion:

- **Height:** a 9 story high mountain of flyash! This would be **the highest man-made structure in the Powell River area!** (aside from the mill itself)

- **Footprint:** 6 hectares, the size of 10 football fields, or 3 city blocks.

- **Location:** The landfill is sitting on a slope above the Powell River dam. The area has been assessed as a “seismic risk”.

- **Weight:** 1.3 MILLION tons on top the old landfill, leading to possible groundwater contamination.

- **Highway 101** passes within 100 meters of the landfill, and for over ½ kilometre is within 300 meters of the landfill.

- The whole community of Wildwood is in extremely close proximity to the landfill.

Dust & Leachate:

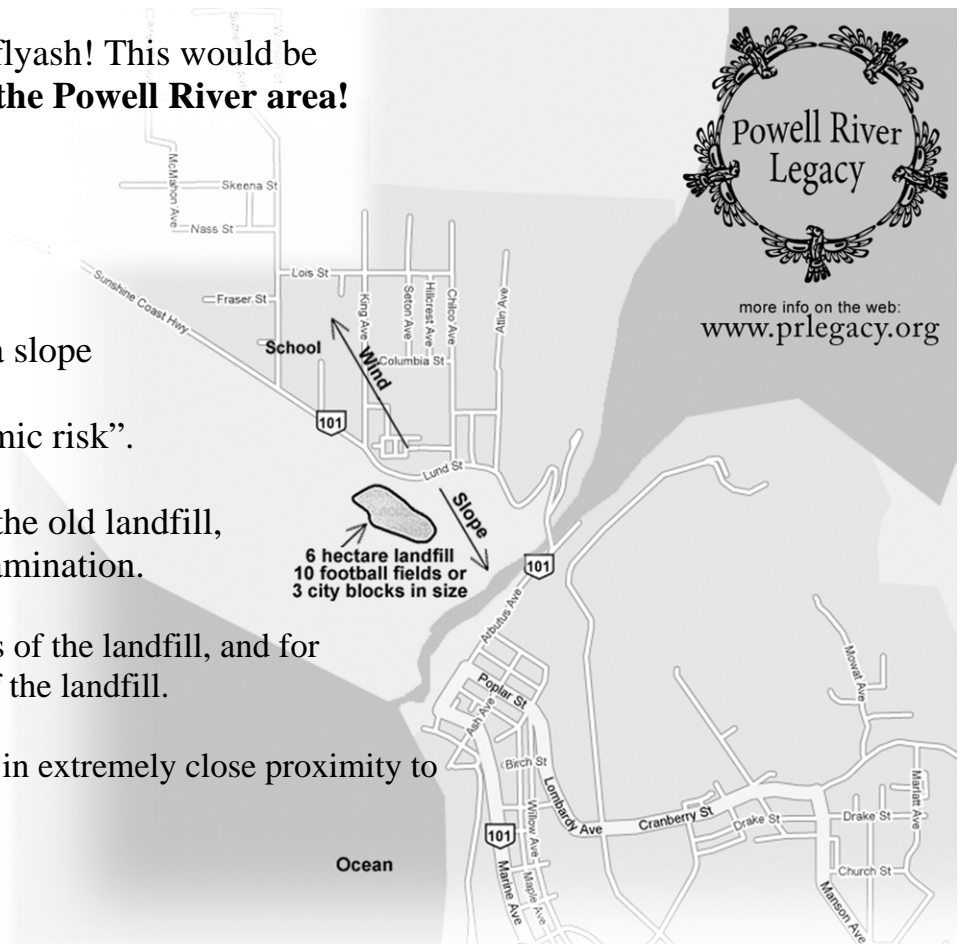
- **Dioxins and furans** are contained in the flyash being dumped. This constitutes more than just a nuisance, but has been determined to be a very real health risk.

- The flyash is now being transported and deposited as a semi-liquid slurry which dries to a “clay-like” state. However, once dried, the flyash waste becomes easily abradable, thus allowing dust to be picked up by passing winds. Due to prevailing wind patterns, any dust from the landfill goes directly to the local neighbourhood. (This is already happening with the current operation of the landfill.)

- **The proposed increase in height of 20 meters** would have the effect of **greatly increasing** the airborne dust factor, due to added vertical surface area, thereby affecting many more areas including Townsite. The elementary school in Wildwood is about 575 meters from the landfill — directly downwind.

- The bottom of the old landfill is **unlined** and no one really knows the full extent of contaminants originally deposited there. PCB contamination is highly suspected. Such waste is likely to shift do to internal "pressure pockets", thus allowing seepage as old containers corrode and leak. Catalyst is now proposing to add 1.3 MILLION tons of flyash on top the old landfill, thus deforming and further pressurizing the toxic laden industrial waste previously buried. The contaminants will inevitably seep into the groundwater.

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Catalyst Landfill Factsheet continued

- There have been spills in Townsite, on Wildwood Hill and at the road that turns into the landfill. These are washed away with hoses. The slurry laden water drains into the river and lake.
- There is nothing to prevent Catalyst from burning contaminated fuel and dumping the toxic residue on the landfill.
- **The most logical and economic solution would be to close this landfill and cover it with an impervious layer of asphalt.**

Catalyst's "Draft" Technical Report:

- The seriously flawed technical assessment released to the public is a "draft" report. This is the only version of the report available for public scrutiny prior to the application date, and forms the basis (besides our letters) upon which the landfill expansion decision will be made.
- Their assessment never takes into account the social and economic impact on the community.
- The landfill has Section 21 M3 zoning even though it is not Section 21 land, so the city cannot protect us. The mill intends to apply for zoning change to expand even further. Part of the existing site has "R-2 Rural" zoning and is being used as a landfill. This non-compliance with local zoning has been known to the company since at least May 1994, yet nothing has been done to correct this.

Provincial guidelines call for a 300 meter setback from homes and restaurants. That requirement can be made more or less stringent where there is "*justification*". Catalyst feels that saving money is justification enough for creating a mountain of toxic waste in the front-yard of the long-established Wildwood community, directly upwind of the local elementary school, and in close proximity to local organic farms. This would will allow dioxins to bioaccumulate in the soil and farm animals, potentially making our food unsafe for consumption.

Besides the flawed and biased technical report commissioned by Catalyst, the main tool the Ministry of the Environment will use to decide this case, is your letters. Your silence is presumed to be an approval of the landfill super-expansion! Please write letters to the recipients listed on the right.

And don't forget to attend the Landfill Legacy Rally on May 26th!

See www.prlegacy.org for more information and news.

Write letters to:

Catalyst Office:

Dr. Sarah Barkowski,
Environment & Quality Systems
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Powell River BC V8A 4K1

Ministry of Environment:

Steffanie Warriner, (P. Eng.)
Head, Environmental
Management, Business &
Standards Unit
2nd fl
10470 152nd St
Surrey BC V3R0Y3

**MLA Powell River-Sunshine
Coast:**

Nicholas Simons:
Room 201
Parliament Buildings
Victoria. BC V8V 1X4

Ministry of the Environment:

Lower Mainland Regional
Manager
Environmental Manager
Environmental Protection
10470 152nd St
Surrey BC V3R0Y3

Minister of Environment:

Honourable Barry Penner
PO Box 9047
STN PROV GOVT
Victoria BC V8W 9E2

**Powell River Mayor and
Council**

6910 Duncan St
Powell River BC
V8A 1V4

There are more recipients listed
at www.prlegacy.org