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ALBERTA
ENVIRONMENT AND PARKS

*Office of the Minister
Government House Leader
MLA, Rimbey-Rocky Mountain House-Sundre*

JUN 17 2021

Corey Beck, Chair
c/o Jane Fulton, Secretary
Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee
PO Bag 100
Didsbury AB T0M 0W0
asbprovcommittee@gmail.com

Dear Corey Beck:

Thank you for your follow-up letter regarding Resolution 2-21 Pesticide Container Collection Program. I welcome the opportunity to provide the following information.

Environment and Parks' role in pesticide container management is only regulatory in nature. Pesticide container collection sites are subject to regular inspections by Environment and Parks staff to ensure compliance with the *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act* (all acts and regulations mentioned can be found at www.qp.alberta.ca). For more information regarding pesticide policy, please contact Mr. Nasir Shaikh, Pesticide Policy Specialist, in Edmonton, at 780-718-3490 or at nasir.shaikh@gov.ab.ca.

Further to my previous letter, section 28 of the Pesticide Sales Handling Use and Application Regulation requires that no person shall dispose of a non-refillable plastic or metal container that held a pesticide listed in Schedule 1 or 2 except at a container collection site, or in a manner authorized by the director. Section 29 of the regulation requires that empty containers, which contained pesticides (listed in Schedule 3 or 4 or pesticide-treated grains/seeds) should be disposed of in accordance with the Waste Control Regulation (AR 192/96), unless otherwise authorized by the director. Section 33 of the regulation clarifies a person who contravenes the above sections is guilty of an offence and liable.

Municipalities are responsible for waste management, which may include garbage and other items such as pesticide containers. Under the *Municipal Government Act*, waste management is set by the discretion of the municipality; therefore, waste can be landfilled or recycled as the municipality sees fit. A municipality may choose to no longer collect pesticide containers and may close a pesticide container collection site at any time. The municipality may also use the site for other purposes, or they may choose to divest it. Should a municipality choose to close a pesticide container collection site, the municipality would remain responsible for the disposal of containers already collected.

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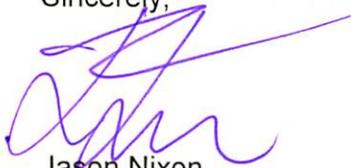
As regional landfills already accept plastic and rinsed out pesticide containers, any future pesticide containers would go to a regional landfill in a respective area and would be handled as regular municipal waste. As described in my previous letter, municipalities and agricultural retailers are integral components, and important supporters, of pesticide container collection.

Since the implementation of CropLife Canada and CleanFARMS, there have been no provincial funding or Alberta government role in the administration of the pesticide container program. Pesticide container collection sites have always been operated by municipalities and funded by CleanFARMS, an industry-based program. Local municipalities are responsible for building collection sites for waste or hazardous waste storage as a service for agricultural producers. As the Alberta government has no oversight over CleanFarms, I cannot comment on how fees are collected or how they are used.

You indicate your membership feels that the Alberta government has some responsibility to facilitate the development of a new system. Environment and Parks is actively engaging with stakeholders to develop and implement a new extended producer responsibility policy framework. For more information about this engagement, please contact Ms. Jennifer Chapelsky, Senior Waste Policy Advisor, in Edmonton, at 780-638-3070 (dial 310-0000 for a toll-free connection) or at jennifer.chapelsky@gov.ab.ca.

Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,



Jason Nixon
Minister

cc: Nasir Shaikh
Environment and Parks

Jennifer Chapelsky
Environment and Parks