June 30, 2025

Municipality of Five Rivers
82 Main Street, Rexton, New Brunswick, E4W 5N4

NICOLAS CORMIER
CHAIRPERSON OF THE GREATER MONCTON WASTEWATER COMMISSION
355 HILLSBOROUGH ROAD, RIVERVIEW, NEW BRUNSWICK E1B 1S5

Dear Nicolas Cormier:

The residents of Five Rivers continue to have serious concerns about TransAqua operations in their community. Since 2023, they have expressed these concerns through emails and letters, at open houses, and through presentations to Council, including a ten-minute presentation at our last regular meeting on June 10. Council shares these concerns and asks TransAqua to be more socially responsible by investing in our community and by giving Five Rivers representation on your board.

While we appreciate the efforts that TransAqua has made to share information and sponsor local events, we also recognize that TransAqua has benefitted greatly from its operations in Five Rivers. In turn, our community has been left to confront the problems of offensive odor, infrastructure degradation, and long-term environmental risk, while having no say in TransAqua plans and decisions.

For two years, we have seen residents in Moncton complain about TransAqua operations and we have seen Moncton Council pass motions directing TransAqua to upgrade or replace its facilities at a cost of $50 to $75 million. In the face of this public pressure, TransAqua found a better option: transport the offending biosolids to a remote site in rural South Branch with no zoning regulations and low property taxes. Relative to the other options, this was a convenient and economical solution that transferred the associated risks and burdens from the cities and towns of Moncton, Riverview, and Dieppe to a regional neighbor, the village of Five Rivers.

From our perspective, our community receives no significant benefit from this arrangement, notwithstanding $200 in property taxes, basic maintenance of the Brown Road, and a supply of free compost. On the other hand, we do face major challenges. Our rural roads are damaged by heavy truck traffic. Our nearby residents experience offensive odor and a decline in property values. And our natural soils and rivers suffer the risk of contamination from the forever-chemicals that are the by-products of biosolid processing.

In our view, TransAqua can take two positive steps to be more socially responsible. First, because our community has saved the taxpayers of Moncton, Riverview, and Dieppe millions of dollars by taking their waste, we believe that TransAqua should distribute a portion of these savings to Five Rivers in the form of an Environmental Trust fund.

Second, we ask TransAqua to add a seventh seat to your board for a representative of Five Rivers. By moving a major element of your operations to Five Rivers, you have made us a rightful interest group in your organization. In our view, fair and responsible governance says that Five Rivers should have a seat on the board that is making serious decisions about the future of our community.

In 2023, when the South Branch facility began its operations, Five Rivers began a partnership with TransAqua, one that did not involve our participation or our consent. Looking forward, if TransAqua intends to continue to use land in our municipality, we believe that our partnership should be reestablished. We have suggested two ways to do this. We are open to other options that you might propose.

We trust that you recognize and value the role that our community plays in the future of your organization and the communities that you serve, and we hope that you decide to engage us in a partnership that meaningfully benefits all of our communities.

SINCERELY,

ROB WEBBER,
CAO | FIVE RIVERS