



DILLON
CONSULTING

WASTE CONNECTIONS OF CANADA

July 25, 2018 EA Open House #1

Final Report

Ridge Landfill Expansion Environmental Assessment

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1.0 Open House #1 Overview

This summary report documents the discussion that took place at the Ridge Landfill EA Open House #1 that was held on July 25, 2018. Letters inviting residents and businesses were mailed to neighbours of the landfill within 1 km and along the designated haul route, as well as through a mail-drop in the communities of Blenheim, Charing Cross and Cedar Springs. The Open House was also advertised in the *Chatham Voice*, *Chatham Daily News* and *Chatham This Week* on June 21 and July 12, 2018 and in the *Blenheim News* on June 20 and July 11, 2018.

The event used a drop-in style format which allowed attendees to review material at their own pace and time. Members of the project team were available for one-on-one discussions with attendees. The Open House was held on Wednesday, July 25, 2018 at St. Mary's Hall in Blenheim, and was attended by 18 members of the community. Attendees included neighbours, and representatives from the Municipality of Chatham-Kent and the Chippewas of the Thames First Nation.

The purpose of the Open House was to provide an update on the project, and to seek feedback on evaluation criteria for alternative methods, technical discipline study areas, proposed site development alternatives, and ways in which Waste Connections could enhance diversion activities either at the Ridge or within their integrated system.

Display boards at the event provided information on the following topics:

- Waste Connections' history at the Ridge Landfill and relationship with the community;
- Waste Connections' socio-economic contributions to the community;
- Need and opportunity for the Environmental Assessment;
- Key elements of the proposed expansion;
- Overview of EA consultation plan;
- Proposed criteria for the evaluation of alternatives;
- Overview of feedback from the Criteria Workshop (held July 11, 2018);
- Proposed EA technical study areas;
- Proposed site development alternatives;
- Overview of landfill gas and leachate management alternatives;
- Waste Connections' commitment to waste diversion;
- Overview of different ways to participate in waste diversion at Ridge; and
- Next steps.

EA work plans were available for viewing at the Open House, along with a copy of the Approved Amended Terms of Reference, and a sign-up sheet to participate in interviews for the socio-economic impact assessment, anticipated to be completed in fall of 2018. Four individuals at the Open House

signed up to participate in the interviews. It is noted, that letters will be sent to neighbours of the site and haul route at a later point to invite them to participate in the socio-economic interviews.

2.0 Comments and Questions

Throughout the Open House, the project team heard a number of questions and comments. These included both verbal discussions, and submitted comment forms. A summary of comments and questions is presented in the table below:

Comment	Response
Comments were received about odour nuisance. It was suggested that the odour suppressing/misting system does not seem to be operating.	Waste Connections has contacted its odour contractor to relocate/add odour misting lines to the South Landfill area as needed.
Residents were not supportive of landfill mining due to odour and uncovering of historic material (concerns related to unknown material landfilled in the 1960s and 1970s).	It was noted that this comment would be taken into considerations as part of the evaluation of site development alternative methods.
Does the existing landfill have a liner system?	The existing landfill has a natural clay liner that is approximately 30 m deep. There is a perimeter cut-off wall that is constructed of clay and restricts lateral movement of groundwater into or leachate out of the landfill through the weathered zone of the clay till. It is anticipated that a similar liner system would be constructed for an expanded landfill.
Where does the leachate go?	Leachate is collected at the site and sent by pipe to the Blenheim Water Pollution Control Plant. As part of the EA, Waste Connections is considering leachate treatment alternatives, which include continued piping of leachate to the Blenheim facility, as well as other options, such as partial treatment on-site, or transport of leachate to another facility (e.g., Chatham Water Pollution Control Plant).
Groundwater is a concern and some residents wish to be included in the residential well monitoring program.	The EA will investigate potential impact on groundwater from the proposed expansion. The names of those who would like to participate in the residential well monitoring program have been passed on to Waste Connections of Canada.
Where does surface water get discharged to?	Surface water at the existing landfill is collected in stormwater management ponds that discharge to local drains.
Is landfill gas being used at the existing site? (It was noted that landfill gas utilization would be supported).	Landfill gas is currently being flared at the site and does not have a beneficial end use. Waste Connections is looking at ways to utilize landfill gas from the existing site, and landfill gas from an expanded site would also be incorporated into this system.
How would a removed woodlot be compensated?	It is anticipated that woodlot compensation will occur on a

	<p>property close to the Ridge. Exact details of compensation (e.g., tree species, 2-1 compensation ratio, location) will need to be confirmed through consultation with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) and the Municipality of Chatham-Kent.</p>
<p>The landfill can be seen from homes and businesses in the area. People visiting/using businesses in the area can see the landfill and become concerned that the farm product quality is impacted.</p> <p>Visual impacts are a significant concern and the berm should have been planted to minimize visual impacts a long time ago.</p> <p>Comments and questions were received about property value protection and compensation.</p>	<p>The impact assessment for the preferred site development alternative will include an assessment of visual impact. This work will also identify mitigation measures to reduce the visual impact. It is noted that Waste Connections is currently investigating the opportunities to plant on some of the existing berms.</p> <p>It was noted that consideration of compensation and property value protection will occur when the preferred site development alternative is chosen and the impact assessment has been completed. This will be a separate process to the EA and Waste Connections will discuss this with landowners on a case-by-case basis.</p>
<p>Maintenance of the site is very important. People have noticed litter in ditches nearby, and berm landscape maintenance needs such as mowing, etc.</p> <p>Litter blows across fields and is a concern to neighbours.</p> <p>It was noted that people in the area want to protect their property and the enjoyment of it for future generations.</p>	<p>Waste Connections has taken this feedback to their operations staff to ensure that site maintenance including retrieval of litter and grass mowing is being completed appropriately.</p> <p>Anyone who identifies areas of improvement is encouraged to contact the landfill site manager.</p>
<p>The site seems to be operating earlier and later than in the past and noise is impacting the enjoyment of personal time on neighbouring properties.</p>	<p>The impact assessment for the preferred site development alternative will include an assessment of noise. This work will also identify mitigation measures to minimize noise impacts.</p> <p>It is noted that the hours of site operations have not changed.</p>
<p>Some concern was raised regarding trucks on Erieau Road.</p>	<p>Waste Connections has met with Chatham-Kent regarding road and traffic issues raised during recent EA consultation events. Signs are being considered to discourage truck drivers from travelling on Erieau Road between the site entrance/exit and Talbot Trail.</p>