



**DILLON**  
CONSULTING

WASTE CONNECTIONS OF CANADA

December 6, 2018 EA Open House #2

Final Report

Ridge Landfill Expansion Environmental Assessment

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## 1.0 Open House #2 Overview

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The purpose of this report is to summarize the results of the Ridge Landfill Environmental Assessment (EA) Open House #2 which was held on December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Close to one hundred invitations were sent to neighbours of the landfill within 1 km and along the designated haul route. The updated project contact list included the local MPP and elected councillors, Indigenous Communities, regulatory agencies, the Landfill Liaison Committee and Community Trust, stakeholders and adjacent Municipalities. As well, advertisements were placed in four (4) local newspapers for two (2) consecutive weeks. A total of 38 people attended. Six (6) written comment sheets were submitted for consideration.

The Open House event used a drop-in style format which permitted attendees to review material at their own pace. Material consisted of a series of 25 presentation panels, including background information; highlights of the Chatham-Kent municipal planning process as it relates to the EA; illustrations of the alternative methods for future development of the site as well as future leachate management and landfill gas management options and their evaluations; identification of the preferred alternatives; existing conditions by discipline; and waste diversion options being studied. Attendees were able to view the panels, ask questions of Waste Connections staff and the EA Team and discuss their concerns. Large satellite photos of the site and surrounding areas including the haul route were available on tables for discussion purposes.

## 2.0 Overview of Feedback on the Preferred Alternatives

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General feedback from site neighbours indicated that they appreciated being included in continued discussions during the EA process, and valued the willingness to consider their suggestions. There were discussions on odour, blowing litter impacts, and groundwater with participants expressing that these need to be considered in the EA studies associated with the preferred site development alternative. Positive feedback was received by some area residents who were generally *“pleased with the efforts the Ridge Landfill has been making with the collection of leachate, methane and litter collection.”*

An overview of the alternative site development options, alternative leachate treatment methods, and alternative landfill gas management methods were illustrated on presentation

panels. Residents voiced their approval and support for the preferred alternatives selected, and were glad to see that landfill mining was no longer being considered, i.e. that their voice had been heard regarding their concerns about the potential of increased odour, dust and noise by landfill mining.

As in previous consultation sessions, continued management of odour, blowing litter, and truck traffic impacts were heard as concerns by the EA Team and Waste Connections staff. Various ideas on how to vegetate existing berms were also discussed.

Residential groundwater well issues were raised by some residents on Middle Line who indicated potential future concerns with water quality. Residents also indicated a desire for a municipal water line to be installed along Middle Line. Waste Connections indicated they would contact the Chatham-Kent Public Utilities Commission to determine the municipality's plans for servicing this area.

Participating neighbours indicated that air quality (odour in particular), groundwater and traffic were of greatest importance with respect to future operation of the Ridge Landfill; similar to the results from the previous open house and workshop.

## 3.0 Overview of Feedback on the Diversion of Waste

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As part of the Open House on December 6<sup>th</sup>, feedback was sought from participating neighbours about potential diversion opportunities that Waste Connections could consider at the Ridge. Participants noted that the existing depots located at eight (8) transfer stations in Chatham-Kent should be considered as a location for additional materials and times, as people are accustomed to using these locations to drop things off.

As part of consideration of opportunities to enhance waste diversion, Waste Connections will be looking at ways to partner with the Municipality of Chatham-Kent. To this end, participants were asked what they like or dislike about the current diversion programs in Chatham-Kent. Support for increased recycling and organics collection in Chatham-Kent community was voiced by attendees.

Attendees were generally not supportive of an on-site processing facility or drop-off depot at Ridge Landfill, as it had potential to bring more traffic to the site, and cause additional odour, dust and noise.

## 4.0 Comments and Questions

Throughout the open house, the project team heard a number of questions and comments about the activities and project in general. These questions and comments were noted through both verbal discussions, and submitted comment forms. Additional written submissions may be forthcoming, as some attendees chose to take home blank feedback forms to mail-in their comments at a later time.

A listing of comments and questions received is presented in the table below:

	Comments	Response
1	Thank you for doing the Open Houses. We live close by, good to know this. We learn something each time we come! (written)	Waste Connections acknowledges the positive response to the open house and the material presented.
2	Water is a major concern in our lives. We live within 2 km of the dump (no municipal water) and always have a worry that our groundwater is/will be affected. Please revisit the idea of finishing the waterline between Charing Cross and Blenheim. Let's be proactive. (written)	The Municipality of Chatham-Kent has been informed of the interest by some residents for water line on Middle Road.  The horizontal flow of groundwater in the aquifer below the landfill has been determined to be predominantly south-southeast toward Lake Erie and not north-northeast in the direction of Middle Line.
3	a) I'd like to see an expanded compensation package for neighbours not on the truck route. I still smell dump occasionally and see/hear truck traffic. b) I also think the landfill could contribute to the waterline on Middle Line for peace of mind. (written)	Waste Connections will be reviewing compensation packages in parallel to the EA process.  The Municipality of Chatham-Kent has been informed of the interest by some residents for a water line on Middle Road.
4	Concern of water in future, we are on well water and see a lot of gases in sample. It will light on fire in glass. I live on Middle Line. My neighbour would also like to see the water line extended someday. (written)	The decomposition process at the Ridge landfill produces methane gas which is collected through a series of gas wells and then flared. Landfill gas within a waste mound will seek the easiest path of release which is through the gas wells. As such, landfill gas migrates vertically through the mound not horizontally off-site.

		<p>The flammable gas that the resident reported in his well may be naturally occurring as natural gas deposits are known to occur throughout southwestern Ontario.</p> <p>The Municipality of Chatham-Kent has been informed of the issues and the interest by some residents for a water line on Middle Road.</p>
5	A drop-off depot is good but would be better elsewhere (not at the Ridge Landfill). (verbal)	Waste Connection acknowledges the input from its neighbour.
6	Would the weight of the expansion on the old landfill push chemicals into the groundwater? (verbal)	<p>The weight of the waste was one of the factors used in the calculation that determined that the expansion would not impact groundwater under the landfill.</p> <p>Calculations and modelling have confirmed that contaminants will not have an effect on the groundwater table below the landfill for any of the design options.</p>
7	Oppose an on-site leachate treatment plant; don't want discharge to water. (verbal)	Waste Connections acknowledges the input of residents.
8	Support Site Development Alternative 1 and saving the woodlot. Don't want landfill mining. (verbal)	Waste Connections acknowledges the residents' support for the preferred alternative.
9	Would like more opportunity for HHW in Chatham-Kent. (verbal)	The desire for more opportunity for HHW has been passed on to the Municipality of Chatham-Kent.
10	Landfill is run well. Waste Connections does a good job. (verbal)	Waste Connections acknowledges the positive comment and is appreciative of community support.
11	Odours are not common and if they happen, they are gone by mid-day. (verbal)	Waste Connections acknowledges the residents' comments with respect to odours.
12	There has been lots of buying and selling of property in the area which suggests that property values are not impacted by the landfill. (verbal)	Waste Connections acknowledges the comments offered by residents.
13	Odour is a concern for many residents. (verbal)	Odour is recognized by Waste Connections as an occasional nuisance effect. Odour control is addressed following detection.
14	Berms – would like to see lots of trees and let grass grow. (verbal)	Waste Connection acknowledges the input of residents regarding the landfill development plan and will consider it during the design of the expansion.

15	Is well on empty property still being monitored? (verbal)	Waste Connections monitors a number of private wells. Residents should contact Waste Connections staff directly to inquire about specific monitoring.
16	Would like to see more diversion. (verbal)	Waste Connections acknowledges the comment regarding diversion of waste.
17	We've been pleased with the efforts the Ridge Landfill has been making with the collection of leachate, methane and litter collection. CK needs more recycling provided especially <u>wet</u> waste collection. (written)	The interest in more recycling and wet waste collection has been discussed with the Municipality of Chatham-Kent.
18	Why can't Allison Line be upgraded with tar and chip?	The means by which Allison Line can be upgraded can be found in the link to Chatham-Kent's Road Upgrade Policy at <a href="https://www.chatham-kent.ca/residents/maintenance/road-upgrade-policy">https://www.chatham-kent.ca/residents/maintenance/road-upgrade-policy</a>