



**DILLON**  
CONSULTING

WASTE CONNECTIONS OF CANADA

**July 11, 2019 EA Open House #3**

**Draft Report**

Ridge Landfill Expansion Environmental Assessment

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## 1.0 Open House #3 Overview

This summary report documents the discussion that took place at the Ridge Landfill EA Open House #3 that was held on July 11, 2019 at St. Mary's Hall in Blenheim, Ontario. The Open House was attended by 22 members of the community including Chatham-Kent Ward 2 elected officials and staff from the Municipality of Chatham-Kent. One written comment sheet was submitted at the meeting for consideration. *This memo will be updated to include comment sheets that are received after publication of the Draft EA documents on July 23, 2019.*

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. Email invitations were sent to the local MPP and elected councillors, Indigenous Communities and Organizations, regulatory agencies, the Landfill Liaison Committee and Community Trust, stakeholders and adjacent Municipalities. The Open House was advertised in four (4) local newspapers for two (2) consecutive weeks.

The event used a drop-in style format which allowed attendees to review material at their own pace and time. Material consisted of a series of 23 presentation panels, providing the following information:

- Need and opportunity for the Environmental Assessment;
- Overview of EA consultation plan;
- Key elements of the proposed expansion;
- Overview of the preferred alternative;
- Overview of the following impact assessments:
  - Biology
  - Groundwater
  - Surface water
  - Atmospheric and Climate Change
  - Social (including visual, noise, odour and litter)
  - Economic
  - Transportation
  - Aviation safety and bird hazard
  - Land use
  - Cultural heritage and archaeology

- Preliminary Engineering drawings showing landfill expansion phasing (sequence of cell development),
- Waste Connections' commitment to waste diversion; and,
- Next steps.

The purpose of the Open House was to provide an update on the proposed Ridge Landfill expansion; an overview of the potential impacts of the proposed expansion on the natural, socio-economic, and built environment; an overview of the proposed mitigation and monitoring measures; waste diversion options being proposed; and, information on the draft EA public review period and overall EA process. Members of the EA team were available for one-on-one discussions with attendees.

## 2.0 Overview of Feedback Received

General feedback from attendees indicated that they appreciated being included in continued discussions during the EA process, and appreciated what Waste Connections gives back to the community. A focus for many attending was to understand the proposed phasing of the landfill expansion.

An overview of the potential impacts of the proposed expansion on the natural, socio-economic, and built environment, and proposed mitigation and monitoring measures were illustrated on presentation panels. Attendees indicated that the information presented at the Open House was very helpful and well presented.

## 3.0 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
How long would the current Ridge Landfill last if Waste Connections stopped taking any waste outside of Chatham-Kent.	The Ridge landfill does not take any residential waste from outside of Chatham-Kent. The service area for the proposed expansion is the Municipality of Chatham-Kent only for residential waste. The proposed service area for industrial, commercial and institutional waste is southern and central Ontario.

Comment	Response
Interested in information on the phasing of the landfill so that it is clear when it will come closer to local homes.	Maps showing landfill sequencing were available at the Open House. Generally, landfilling activity will start at the Old Landfill; move to the South Landfill footprint expansion in approximately year 7; and move the West Landfill footprint expansion in approximately year 12.
There was interest from some attendees on whether they would be able to see the landfill from their homes.	The display panels included maps demonstrating the results of the visual impact assessment.
Interest from one participant in having Waste Connections test their private water well.	This information was provided to Waste Connections for appropriate action.
How do you know that you are not discharging contaminants in the storm water? Is the storm water tested and are the results available?	The stormwater ponds are tested prior to the water being released. Monitoring results are included in the Annual Report provided to the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change. This document is available on request.
Some attendees expressed appreciation for what Waste Connections gives back to the community.	Comment noted.
What is meant by industrial waste? Is there hazardous waste going into the landfill.	The Ridge is only permitted to take solid non-hazardous waste from industrial facilities. Hazardous waste from industry is not accepted.
What would it cost for Chatham-Kent to dispose of its waste if the Ridge did not expand?	<p>Without the Ridge Landfill, the Municipality of Chatham-Kent would need to find additional money to cover the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construction of a transfer station;</li> <li>• Additional transportation costs to haul waste to another landfill; and</li> <li>• Significant increases in the cost per tonne for disposal.</li> </ul> <p>It is also noted that once the Ridge Landfill closes, the ongoing community support provided through the current Host Community Agreement would no longer be available.</p>
Comments and questions were received about property value protection and compensation.	Waste Connections is committed to maintaining compensation for affected residential parties if the landfill expansion is approved and proceeds. Waste Connections will notify those residents who will continue to receive compensation as well as residents who will be newly compensated of their compensation level as the process continues.

Comment	Response
Why have replacement members of the Ridge Landfill Trust not been identified? There is a need to make the Trust more transparent in the way it operates.	A new agreement for the Ridge Landfill Trust would be required if the expansion is approved therefore a decision was made to defer adding new members until there was a decision on the EA. Should the expansion be approved, we will consider membership and the comment about increasing transparency in the preparation of a new Ridge Landfill Trust agreement.
What happens if the Municipality of Chatham-Kent does not approve the Official Plan and Zoning By-law Amendments?	An expansion of the Ridge Landfill requires EA approval by the Minister of the Environment and Official Plan and Zoning By-law approval from the Municipality of Chatham Kent.