

**Ministry of the Environment
and Climate Change**

Environmental Approvals
Branch

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**Ministère de l'Environnement et
de l'Action en matière de
changement climatique**

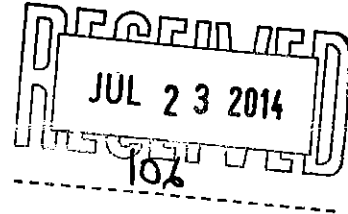
Direction des autorisations
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July 18, 2014

His Worship David Mayberry
Mayor
Township of South-West Oxford
312915 Dereham Line
Mt. Elgin, ON N0J 1N0



Dear Mayor Mayberry,

As you are aware, Walker Environmental Group (Walker) has submitted to the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change its final amended Terms of Reference (ToR) for its proposed landfill in Oxford County in Southwestern Ontario. The Ministry is now considering the content of the ToR and proposed amendments, and all comments received. The Ministry has been made aware of the concerns regarding a Health Impact Assessment (HIA) that have been raised by the members of the Joint Municipal Coordinating Committee (JMCC). As a member of the JMCC, I am sending you this letter to follow-up on this concern, and the Ministry would like to give the JMCC collectively the opportunity to provide more information on this issue.

With regards to the request that Walker be required to conduct an In-Depth HIA, it has been noted that the MOH 2014-01 Report authored by Dr. Douglas Neal, Acting Medical Officer of Health, proposes that Walker conduct "a comprehensive assessment of the cumulative and synergistic impacts of all factors (determinants of health and health equity) that may impact the overall health and well-being..." during the environmental assessment of the proposed project. The Ministry recognizes that this position has been supported by each of the local governing bodies of the JMCC through resolutions of support from the respective councils.

Furthermore, the MOH 2014-01 Report highlights that Walker's proposal does not capture the scoping step regarding the content of the HIA, and the report noted that the proposal lacks the reporting stages that describe the potential health impacts of the

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proposed project, the impacts on health determinants, identification of health inequities and assessment of their potential nature and magnitude.

The purpose of this letter is to request further details regarding the content of the framework of an In-Depth HIA so that the Ministry can better understand how this concept would be carried out by Walker should the Minister choose to amend the ToR to require it. A similar request has been sent to other municipal members of the JMCC. Accordingly, the Ministry requests that, if possible, the municipalities, through the JMCC, identify the specific gaps in the proposed ToR, and provide more detail on the study framework you would like to see applied to the proposed project. In particular, the Ministry requires more detail on the expectations regarding:

- The scoping step that considers the content of the HIA;
- Assessment and reporting stages; and,
- Any other missing steps that should be included.

In the correspondence the Ministry has received on this issue, reference is made to the HIA Framework developed by Toronto Public Health, which includes a framework for an In-Depth HIA. The Ministry would like confirmation on whether members of the JMCC are requesting Walker to use this specific framework. If not, please provide the Ministry with a detailed description of the steps and assessment methodology that is being requested, or a reference to a guide that the JMCC members recommend Walker follow for an In-Depth HIA. Please provide a coordinated JMCC response with this information by **August 15, 2014** so that the Ministry may consider any additional information you may provide during its review of the proposed Terms of Reference.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Ms. Michelle Whitmore, Special Project Officer at the Environmental Approvals Branch. Ms. Whitmore may be contacted by phone at 416-314-7225 and/or e-mail at SWLandfillProposal.MOE@ontario.ca.

Yours sincerely,



Agatha Garcia-Wright
Director
Environmental Approvals Branch