

Ministry of the Environment
and Climate Change

Office of the Minister

77 Wellesley Street West
11th Floor, Ferguson Block
Toronto ON M7A 2T5
Tel.: 416-314-6790
Fax: 416-314-6748

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

Bureau du ministre

77, rue Wellesley Ouest
11^e étage, édifice Ferguson
Toronto ON M7A 2T5
Tél.: 416-314-6790
Télééc.: 416-314-6748

COUNTY OF OXFORD
RECEIVED

AUG 24 2015



Ontario

REFER TO _____

FILE/DOCS: _____

AUG 19 2015

ENV1283MC-2015-1074C

Mr. David Mayberry
Warden
County of Oxford
21 Reeve Street
Woodstock ON N4S 7Y3

Dear Warden Mayberry:

Thank you for your letter of April 23, 2015 in support of the Chippewas of the Thames First Nation's April 13th letter to me regarding the proposed Southwestern Landfill (the project) located in the Township of Zorra, Ontario. I apologize for the delay in responding.

While I appreciate being advised of the broader concerns the Chippewas of the Thames First Nation have with the proposed project and recognize that these are important issues, this response focuses on matters related to the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the proposed Southwestern Landfill.

With regard to the Southwestern Landfill ToR, it is the first step in the environmental assessment (EA) process, and it sets out how Walker Environmental Group (the proponent) will carry out its EA, if the ToR is approved. The ToR does not make any final conclusions about the extent of potential impacts that will be assessed in the EA.

If the ToR is approved, potential impacts to the environment are expected to be clearly identified and assessed through the EA technical studies. Although the Chippewas of the Thames First Nation's concerns about addressing potential impacts, such as the expected effects of the landfill expansion on the Thames River, are not answered in the ToR, the proponent would be responsible for addressing these types of concerns as part of the EA, if the ToR is approved.

The proponent has made the following commitments for completion during the preparation of the EA, if the ToR is approved:

- The proponent will revise the draft technical work plans for consultation with Aboriginal communities, government agencies, the public and other interested stakeholders prior to their finalization.
- Ongoing consultation with Aboriginal communities throughout the EA process by creating opportunities to provide information and receive input from Aboriginal communities with the objective of identifying potential impacts to Aboriginal treaty rights and how to prevent and/or mitigate these impacts.
- The completion of a cumulative effects assessment.

Mr. David Mayberry
Page 2.

During the EA phase, the proponent has committed to undertake a consultation program with Aboriginal communities, as well as interested members of the public and government agencies outlined in Section 10.2 and 10.3 of the ToR. Communications with Aboriginal communities will allow the proponent to seek feedback on the evaluation and selection of alternatives, the selection of the preferred alternative and the analysis of potential environmental effects, among other key milestone steps.

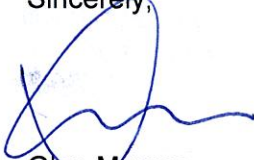
We understand that a meeting was held between the proponent and the Chippewas of the Thames First Nation on May 5, 2015 to provide an update on the status of the project and to continue discussions about capacity funding. We also understand from the proponent that the Chippewas of the Thames First Nation is in the process of finalizing a consultation protocol that it would like the proponent to use.

Should a decision be made to approve the proposed ToR for the Southwestern Landfill EA, the ministry would encourage the Chippewas of the Thames First Nation to stay involved during the ensuing EA process in order to alert the proponent to any concerns about the proposed project's potential impacts on water quality, fisheries, the Thames River, or other matters covered by the EA.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mr. Andrew Evers, Special Project Officer, Environmental Approvals Branch, by email at SWLandfillProposal.MOE@ontario.ca or at 416-314-1181.

Again, thank you for sharing Oxford County's concerns with me.

Sincerely,



Glen Murray
Minister

c: The Honourable Kathleen Wynne, Premier (WSU 2087852)
The Honourable David Zimmer, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs