

REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF OTTAWA-CARLETON
MUNICIPALITÉ RÉGIONALE D'OTTAWA-CARLETON

REPORT
RAPPORT

Our File/N/Réf. **50 16-97-0010-H**
Your File/V/Réf.

DATE 17 July 1998

TO/DEST. Co-ordinator, Planning and Environment Committee

FROM/EXP. Environment and Transportation Commissioner

SUBJECT/OBJET **IMPORTATION OF WASTE -
RESPONSE TO OUTSTANDING INQUIRY - NO. P&E 5(98)**

DEPARTMENTAL RECOMMENDATION

That the Planning and Environment Committee receive this report for information.

BACKGROUND

At the Planning and Environment Committee meeting of 26 May 1998, the following inquiry was put forward:

Councillor Legendre, in discussing the issue of importing waste from outside Regional boundaries, inquired if staff could investigate developing a policy prohibiting this and report back to Committee.

DISCUSSION

The importation of waste for disposal occurs when a landfill's service area extends beyond our regional boundaries and waste from that service area is brought into landfill in Ottawa-Carleton. Past practice forms the basis for the current policy of limiting the outside Ottawa-Carleton waste to 10 percent or less. The rationale for a 10 percent maximum allows the landfill operators to offer service and address the needs surrounding Ottawa-Carleton, while attempting to ensure that huge quantities of waste do not enter landfills within Ottawa-Carleton.

The responsibility for defining a landfill's service area belongs to the Ontario Ministry of the Environment (MOE). Although the Region considers existing landfill space a resource for the Ottawa-Carleton community, it has limited authority to prohibit the importation of waste or alter a landfill's service area.

The Region does have the opportunity, however, to comment on a landfill's service area through the Certificate of Approval (C of A) consultation process.

In addition, the *Regional Municipality of Ottawa Carleton Act* establishes the Regional jurisdiction for the provision of facilities for the "receiving, dumping and disposing of waste". According to the legislation, no such facilities shall be provided in the Region without the consent of Regional Council. The RMOC presently has agreements with two landfill operators in Ottawa-Carleton: (1) In one case, the landfill operator has a C of A with a service area for all of Ontario and has an agreement with the Region to limit outside waste to 10 percent; (2) and in the other case, the service area is restricted to the Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton.

Without the co-operation of the MOE in the C of A process, the RMOC has no assured vehicle for limiting this waste quantity.

CONCLUSION

The Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton has limited authority to prohibit the importation of waste to the landfills in Ottawa-Carleton. In order to limit importation of waste, the Region should continue its policy to comment on C of A applications and support those comments with the appropriate Consent agreements.

Approved by
M. J. E. Sheflin, P.Eng.

JH/mm