

REGION OF OTTAWA CARLETON
RÉGION D'OTTAWA CARLETON

REPORT
RAPPORT

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Your File/V/Réf.

DATE 3 September 1998

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

FROM/EXP. Director, Water Environment Protection Division

SUBJECT/OBJET **EASTERN ONTARIO WASTE HANDLING FACILITY
REQUEST TO RECEIVE LEACHATE**

DEPARTMENTAL RECOMMENDATION

That the Planning and Environment Committee recommend that Council deny the request from Lafleche Environmental Inc. located in the Township of Roxborough, County of Stormont, to identify the Robert O. Pickard Environmental Centre as a leachate management option for their proposed Eastern Ontario Waste Handling Facility.

BACKGROUND

Lafleche Environmental Inc. (Lafleche) is undertaking an environmental assessment for the development of the landfill site located outside the Region of Ottawa-Carleton, in the Township of Roxborough, County of Stormont. Their proposed undertaking would consist of a non-hazardous solid waste disposal facility with a conceptually designed landfill capacity of 4,600,000 tonnes.

The service area would primarily be Eastern Ontario, defined as the Counties of Renfrew, Frontenac, Leeds, Grenville, Lanark, Stormont, Dundas, Glengarry, Prescott and Russell, and the Region of Ottawa-Carleton. The secondary service area would be the remainder of Ontario.

It is anticipated that the annual waste received at the site would be between 70,000 and 200,000 tonnes, with approximately 155 cubic metres of leachate produced each day.

Lafleche expects to receive approval for the environmental assessment by the end of 1998 so that they can then proceed through the *Environmental Protection Act* Certificate of Approval process before construction occurs. Their plan contemplates the proposed site to be in operation in the summer/fall of 1999 and production of leachate requiring treatment to be in the year 2000 at the earliest.

DISCUSSION

Included in Lafleche's application to the Ministry of Environment for the landfill site is a proposal that in the short term (2-3 years) leachate produced would be disposed of at an existing municipal wastewater treatment facility. It is our understanding that their intention in the long term is to treat leachate on site if a municipal wastewater treatment plant is no longer an option for disposal.

Lafleche has contracted with SENES Consultants Limited to undertake the assessment of local municipal sewage treatment plants to handle leachate. In a letter dated 21 April 1998 to the Region, SENES indicates that it has determined that the Robert O. Pickard Environmental Centre could handle untreated leachate and that they would like to enter into discussions related to the requirements for obtaining a leachate agreement with the Region. Accordingly, Lafleche is requesting that the Region agree to being identified as a leachate management option for their application.

Pursuant to the Regional Regulatory Code, the disposal of leachate requires Council approval (Section 5.2.2{9}) and is subject to specific requirements and controls which are identified in the form of an agreement. Prior to establishing the terms and conditions of such an agreement, a technical review of the discharge request is conducted. The technical review process involves accurately determining the quality of leachate to be received and assessing the treatability of the leachate to determine if it is acceptable for disposal. Typically, five years of leachate quality data is requested for the assessment. If applicable, fees for treatable parameters are determined and set out in the agreement. As well, a comprehensive leachate monitoring program, including regular sampling, is established to verify compliance.

An estimate of daily leachate volumes produced during the operating period of the landfill site and after the site closure is requested as part of the technical review process. Maximum daily discharge volumes are set and an assessment occurs to ensure the R. O. Pickard Centre's hauled waste disposal facilities can accommodate the additional truck traffic. The staff recommendations would then be submitted to the Committee and to Council for approval, as required by Part 5.2 of the Regional Regulatory Code.

CONSULTATION

No public consultation process on this request to import leachate into Ottawa-Carleton has been conducted since no technical information is available.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

While the receipt of landfill leachate could have the potential of generating substantial revenues for the Region of Ottawa-Carleton, the lack of technical information on the quality of the leachate prevents a sound evaluation of the costs that would be incurred by the Region as a receiver.

CONCLUSION

The Department has considered Lafleche's request for a commitment from the Region to identify the Robert O. Pickard Environmental Centre as its leachate management option. In the absence of any actual technical information on the quality of their leachate, the potential impact it may have on the receiving water, the likely requirement for additional infrastructure modifications for hauled waste receiving facilities and increased treatment costs, the Department recommends that Lafleche's request be denied.

The Department also considers that, consistent with the objective of the Industrial Waste Program, it is important to encourage pollution control at the source. Accordingly, the Department recommends that Lafleche fully exhaust all potential on-site treatment alternatives prior to considering the wastewater treatment plant for the disposal of leachate.

*Approved by
Nancy B. Schepers, P. Eng.*

FJ/ls