

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

REPORT  
RAPPORT

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DATE	7 November 1996
TO/DEST.	Coordinator Planning and Environment Committee
FROM/EXP.	Director, Solid Waste Division Environment and Transportation Department
SUBJECT/OBJET	<b>CONSENTS TO OPERATE WASTE FACILITIES</b>

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### **DEPARTMENTAL RECOMMENDATION**

**That the Planning and Environment Committee recommend Council approve that waste management facilities in Ottawa-Carleton no longer be granted consents without conditions, and staff review those situations where such consents already exist.**

### **BACKGROUND**

On 14 April 1993, Regional Council approved a report that outlined the current consent process. Consents to operate waste facilities are issued by the Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton (RMOC) pursuant to Part X of the *Regional Municipalities Act*. The Region's goals in granting consents for waste facilities are to ensure genuine material diversion from landfill takes place and to ensure that each facility's development is consistent with Regional Council's 3Rs Plan.

Two types of consents have been issued by the RMOC, consents with conditions and consents without conditions. The first type is negotiated to require conditions such as data reporting, restriction on the amount of residual waste generated from a facility, requirement for an annual review that provides the RMOC the ability to impose new conditions or to revoke the consent. This type of consent historically has been granted to waste facilities dealing with solid non-hazardous wastes that can have an impact on Ottawa-Carleton's landfill capacity.

Consents without conditions have been granted to facilities where it has been determined that the operations will not have an impact on local landfill capacity. These consents have not required any negotiation.

## DISCUSSION

The RMOC began granting consents in 1993, based on the authority provided under Section 53 of the *Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton Act*. At that time, staff developed and implemented a simple procedure to follow, refer to Annex A. The process is normally initiated after Council has provided comments on Ministry of Environment and Energy (MOEE) circulations for a new Certificate of Approval (C of A). A consent without conditions is the simplest consent that can be granted to a waste facility. The principle of keeping the consent process simple is a goal to be maintained, however, consents without conditions no longer serve the RMOC's needs. A consent without conditions does not provide the RMOC the ability to track a waste facility's changing operations and, as a result, we cannot ensure it will divert material from landfill.

Consents without conditions have been issued to four waste facilities. Based on information provided to the RMOC, it was understood that the facilities were dealing with wastes that would not have an impact on local landfill capacity, e.g., liquid waste. As such, these facilities were not of concern to the RMOC and were granted consents without conditions.

Provincial policy allows waste facilities to directly apply to the MOEE to have their C of A amended to include solid non-hazardous waste. Although this may benefit the waste industry and the clients it serves, a C of A amendment such as this can impact on Ottawa-Carleton's landfill capacity. In addition, this can create an unlevel playing field where private sector competitors have different waste diversion obligations in their Regional consents.

With the implementation of this new policy, there exists the issue of the previously granted consents without conditions. It is further recommended, therefore, that staff review those situations where consents without conditions have been granted in order to have such consents updated in a fair and equitable manner. To do this, staff will attempt to negotiate new consents with conditions with each company. The outcome of these negotiations will be the subject of future reports.

## CONSULTATION

Public consultation is not required with respect to RMOC consents.

## FINANCIAL IMPACT

This policy will have no financial impact on the RMOC.

## CONCLUSION

The RMOC's consent process ensures that waste facilities operate in accordance with the 3Rs Plan and genuinely divert material from landfill. Two types of consents have existed, consents with conditions and consents without conditions. The past practice of granting consents without conditions no longer meets the needs of the RMOC. Therefore, it is recommended that waste management facilities in Ottawa-Carleton no longer be granted consents without conditions and staff review those situations where such consents already exist.

*Approved by  
P. McNally, P.Eng.*

JH/

**RMOC Consent Process**