



Richardson Corridor
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

OttawaLandfillWatch.org

MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Coalition of Citizen Groups Seek Ministerial Review and Investigation of Carp Rd. Landfill Water Contamination

Thursday, September 28, 2006 (Ottawa) – In a letter sent today to the Ontario Minister of the Environment, a Coalition of Citizen Groups has requested that a thorough review of the Carp Landfill be conducted to ensure that the operation is consistent with current law and policy. The group's request echoes a similar request made by the City of Ottawa in August 2006.

In addition, the Coalition announced that it will file an application under Part V of the Ontario Environmental Bill of Rights for a formal investigation of the Carp Landfill.

The request comes after the Coalition obtained copies of a report by Water and Earth Sciences Associates Ltd. (WESA); a consulting firm retained by Waste Management (WM), the operator of the Carp Landfill. The Coalition obtained a copy of the WESA report from the Ministry of the Environment through the Ontario Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

The WESA report revealed that contaminants typically associated with landfill runoff, or leachate, have been found at significantly elevated levels over a wide area around the Carp Landfill. The report is based on data collected in 2004.

“Our analysis of the data raises some significant questions regarding the extent of the leachate plume coming from the dump on Carp Rd.,” says Dr. Carla Miner, a Coalition volunteer. “It also calls into question the choice of the Carp Rd. as a location for a dump of any size. The limestone-based geology around the Carp Landfill, with its network of interconnecting fissures, makes the surrounding area extremely vulnerable to groundwater contamination. Built on highly permeable, fractured limestone bedrock, the Carp Landfill only has groundwater protection barriers under less than one-half of the currently active landfill zone, and none under the older closed sections.”

According to the Coalition's analysis of the test well data, contamination levels in the majority of off-site monitoring wells exceed the Ministry's reasonable use guideline (RUG) limits, in violation of Ontario Regulation 347. In some instances the levels exceed Ontario Drinking Water Standards. These contaminants include ammonia, calcium, chloride, iron, magnesium, manganese, potassium and sodium. In addition, the report highlights the presence of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in the groundwater northeast, east and southeast of the landfill. VOCs are not naturally occurring substances and are characteristic leachate contaminants that include known and suspected carcinogens.

"We're very concerned about the findings," says Vincent Lavoie, President of the Richardson Corridor Community Association. "There are many homes on well water near the dump and we must be assured that our community's drinking water is safe. There is an urgent need for a comprehensive, independent and up-to-date groundwater study and well testing program in the area surrounding the dump."

WM has announced that it will seek to triple the size, and extend by approximately 25 years, its existing landfill operation at Carp Rd. Many residents living in West Carleton, Stittsville and Kanata oppose the expansion and have expressed concerns that the landfill is contaminating Ottawa area water and air. WM has denied the allegations.

The Coalition's letter to the Minister, the WESA report and the Coalition's analysis of the WESA groundwater report is available at www.ottawalandfillwatch.org.

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For more information contact:

Colin Mackenzie

613 831 6472 – Home Office

613 866 6472 – Cell

Olivia Nixon

613 831 0196 – Home Office

613 724 1767 – Cell

About the coalition members:

NoDump.ca

NoDump.ca (www.nodump.ca) is a grassroots organization founded by local residents as a direct result of WM's move to expand the dump. NoDump.ca opposes the idea of a "dump" at the present site and generally believes the concept of landfill for waste disposal in Ontario is a bad idea and that other waste disposal methods must now be implemented.

Richardson Corridor Community Association

The RCCA was formed as a community association in response to WM's proposal, but will continue into the future to represent its residents on community issues, similar to the SVA. Members of the RCCA live in West Carleton, on the opposite side of the Landfill from Stittsville.

OttawaLandfillWatch.org

OttawaLandfillWatch.org was founded by long-time Ottawa residents to establish the true picture of the waste management requirements for the City of Ottawa and what alternatives might be available in the short, medium and long terms. Working from a variety of sources including contacts at the City of Ottawa, OttawaLandfillWatch.org has developed a long-term, sustainable, waste management plan. For more information go to www.ottawalandfillwatch.org

Stittsville Village Association

The Stittsville Village Association (www.stittsvilleva.com) was founded in 2001 in response to municipal amalgamation to give a voice to the community as it was merged into the new City of Ottawa. It focuses its considerable energies on actively preserving and enhancing the lifestyle, identity and village character of Stittsville. It is a recognized and capable collective voice for the 23,000 people who live in Stittsville, all of whom are members of the association. The SVA is actively taking part in opposing the application by WM to expand its dump, given the direct effects of this proposal on the lives of people in the community.

The community response to the Draft ToR is available online at www.nodump.ca and www.ottawalandfillwatch.org;