

## Capital Region Citizens Coalition for the Protection of the Environment (CRCCPE)



### Taggart-Miller's Proposed Boundary Road CRRRC Landfill Project

#### **2010 to present**

Taggart-Miller (T-M) announced the CRRRC project in November 2010 (with an initial proposed site in Russell Township and a second site, the Boundary Road site, announced in May of 2012). A draft Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared in June 2014.

#### **Location**

Taggart Construction, an Ottawa based company, and Miller Waste Systems Inc., of Markham ON, propose to use 450+ acres beside Highway 417 at Boundary Road for landfill and other waste processing. Although T-M indicates that their project is primarily a "recycling and diversion" facility, the landfill **IS** the largest component of the proposed CRRRC project. This would be Ottawa's largest landfill and waste processing facility by far (four times the size of the current CARP Road facility).

#### **350,000 to 450,000 tonnes per year of...**

The project would accept Institutional, Commercial and Industrial waste (IC&I), a wet waste which is classed as more hazardous than regular municipal waste, and would also accept Construction & Demolition (C&D) waste. Based on current provincial average, less than 15% of IC&I waste is recycled (85% is simply dumped).

Although the proposed catchment area for the CRRRC is "**Eastern Ontario**" – extending down to Belleville - there is no guarantee this will be defined in the "Certificate of Approval" sought by T-M from the Province of Ontario. In fact, almost all IC&I landfills approved by the Ministry of Environment (MOE) are allowed to take waste from across the province. Interestingly enough, Toronto does not have landfill disposal space!

The Ottawa region in Eastern Ontario already has sufficient waste disposal capacity - four large landfills already provide sufficient capacity for our long term needs - making this project unnecessary! Furthermore, Ottawa does NOT produce enough garbage to meet the expected volume required by T-M; hence, one can easily deduce that the garbage will be coming from elsewhere in Ontario.

#### **Latest development**

A new waste transfer station and recycling facility is being established **5 kilometers** from the proposed site (Corduoy & Burton Road). It will accept the same IC&I waste stream and volume **WITHOUT** adding the huge new landfill T-M is proposing. The recycling center is fully operational and work is completed on the waste transfer facility.

#### **The site isn't right:**

##### **Terrain**

The forested, boggy site is surrounded by ecologically sensitive and protected areas, including the Cumberland Forest, the Greenbelt, and the Bearbrook headwaters. The site itself was assessed for protection status (1994, "site 81").

## **Zoning**

Most of the site is zoned "RURAL" and would require major rezoning from the City of Ottawa in order to proceed.

## **History**

This same location was deemed NOT adequate for a similar waste project when proposed by the municipality in the 1985-1990 timeframe, mainly because the poor soil conditions were not adequately addressed in the site selection process.

A geologically twin site was used for a landfill in the 1970s, 8kms to the west. The "Ridge Road" landfill completely failed to contain waste and leachate, was closed pre-maturely, and continues to be an expensive and environmentally dangerous mistake plaguing the City of Ottawa.

## **Unquantified gas**

The presence of natural gas on the site was previously found trapped under the clay and represents an unexplored and serious risk for the functioning of the landfill system.

## **"THREE "S" FACTS:"**

**SAND** LAYERS in the soil of the site make the risk of "off-site migration" of contaminants unacceptably high. Ground water pollution from this project could travel RAPIDLY through the sand layers all the way to the Bear Brook and to private wells within several kilometers of the site (especially to the North).

**SOFTNESS** of the soil at the site (Leda clay) is identified as the weakest type of soil, most prone to amplified shaking and even liquefaction in areas where earthquakes are known to occur. The Ministry of Northern Development and Mines' recent aerial magnetic survey (2013-14) highlights a possible fault at the site – this risk is ignored by Taggart-Miller.

**SURFACE WATER** exists all over the site due to the high water table. The site habitat is a peat bog and forest, therefore raising the risk of polluted off-site migration especially during heavy rain or seasonal flooding events (frequent).

## **Provincial Ministry of the Environment (MOE)**

The provincial EA process is not effective at stopping landfills. It does not take factors such as seismic activity or "need" in consideration. Landfills that fail and leak have been approved and given permission to expand (e.g. CARP landfill).

The province of Ontario has to look at methods, other than the use of landfills, as a primary waste disposal method. The Ministry of the Environment needs to embrace a proactive approach to Waste Management and explore alternative technologies and actively pursue waste diversion initiatives in order to produce a sustainable long-term solution for waste disposal! We cannot simply continue to build more dumps!

## **THE CAPITAL REGION CITIZENS COALITION FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT**

**(CRCCPE)** is a non-profit community group dedicated to protecting our environment and opposed to the Taggart-Miller waste project. "Dump This Dump 2" is our current campaign against the proposed waste project. CRCCPE is committed to pursuing scientific and legal means of protecting the site as well as engaging in community awareness activities.

Now is the time for evolution and new regulations. Ottawa should set an example. We cannot continue to simply dump our waste!

For more information, visit our website at [www.dumpthisdump2.ca](http://www.dumpthisdump2.ca) or email us at [dumpthisdump2@gmail.com](mailto:dumpthisdump2@gmail.com)