

Staff Report

Presented By: Colin Saunders, Project Manager, Capital Projects

Meeting Date: October 28, 2024

Subject: Landfill Optimization Environmental Assessment Terms of Reference

Attachment(s): GEI Consultant PowerPoint Presentation

Recommendation

That Council receive the Landfill Optimization Environmental Assessment Terms of Reference report for information.

Report Summary

Draft Terms of Reference (ToR) [Draft Proposed Terms of Reference](#) for the Landfill Optimization Environmental Assessment (EA) are being presented to Council and for the public to view and comment on during this Public Meeting.

Background/Analysis

The Town has initiated an EA under the Environmental Assessment Act to address the problem of diminishing capacity at the Town's existing Southampton Landfill Site. It is proposed that an EA be undertaken to address the Town's future waste management needs for a 40-year planning period. A web page for this project was created on Engage Saugeen Shores at: [Waste Management Project | Engage Saugeen Shores](#)

Multiple alternatives were required to be investigated to determine the alternatives that will be moved to the detailed EA.

- Alternative 1: Do Nothing (Serves as a baseline against which the other alternatives can be compared)
- Alternative 2: Optimization of Landfill Capacity at the Town's Existing Southampton Landfill Site (moving forward to the detailed EA)
- Alternative 3: Establish a New Landfill Site within the Town of Saugeen Shores (Not recommended to move forward to the detailed EA)
- Alternative 4: Alternative Waste Management Technologies (Not recommended to move forward to the detailed EA)
- Alternative 5: Third Party - Export of Waste (Moving forward to the detailed EA)

Under the requirements of the Environmental Assessment Act, the first step of the process is the preparation of a Terms of Reference (ToR) which sets out the framework and work plan for addressing the requirements when preparing the EA, including such things as alternatives (or options) to be considered and public consultation activities to be completed. The Draft Proposed ToR has been posted to the project website at: [Draft Proposed Terms of Reference](#).

The ToR is supported by the following supporting documents which are Appendices to the ToR, linked below for convenience, and have also been made available for review by the public, the government review team, and Indigenous Communities.

- [Long Term Waste Management Plan \(August 2020\)](#)
- [Consultation Plan and Record of Consultation \(October 2024\)](#)
- [Residual Waste Projection Analysis: 40-Year Planning Horizon \(September 2024\)](#)
- [Screening Report: Siting of Potential Alternate Landfill Locations and Assessment of Landfill Alternatives \(October 2024\)](#)
- [Technical Memo: Applicability of Alternative Waste Management Technologies \(October 2024\)](#)

During this Public Meeting, members of the public and Council will have the opportunity to comment on the reports. Comments can also be received after the meeting until November 22, 2024. After this date, the comments will be reviewed and the reports will be updated to address comments received and will be submitted to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP). The Minister may approve, approve with amendments, or reject the ToR.

Building upon the recommendations of the Town's Long-Term Waste Management Plan completed in 2020, preliminary screening of various alternatives in more detail was completed as part of an overall screening process advanced to support the EA. Background studies were initiated in 2021 to confirm the feasibility of using the existing landfill site to accommodate additional residual waste (waste that is left after diversion/recycling). Based on the findings, landfill optimization has been confirmed to be a viable waste management strategy.

In addition, a detailed screening assessment of the alternative to establishing a new landfill site and reviews of the applicability of Alternative Waste Management Technologies have been completed and are provided as supporting documentation to the ToR. **Based on the findings of these assessments, it is recommended that these two alternatives be eliminated and not advanced into the next stage of the EA.**

Accordingly, the ToR recommends that the following alternatives be advanced into the EA:

- Do Nothing (a standard alternative that serves as a baseline against which other alternatives can be compared)
- Optimization of landfill capacity at the Town's existing Southampton Landfill site
- Third Party – export of waste

The Proposed ToR, once updated to address comments received, will be submitted to the MECP. If the ToR is approved, the alternative to Establish a New Landfill Site and Alternative

Waste Management Technologies would be removed from the list of alternatives and would not be further considered through the EA process.

Next Steps:

After the November comment period, staff and the consultants will review the comments and recommendations. The consultants will update the reports to address any new comments. The final ToR will be brought to Council in the first quarter of 2025 for review and approval. After this meeting the final ToR will be forwarded to the MECP for review.

It is anticipated the MECP will take up to six months to review the ToR. The Minister may either approve, approve the with amendments, or reject the ToR. If the ToR is approved, consultants will move into the detailed EA.

Linkages

- Strategic Plan Alignment: Pillar 1: Meeting the Needs of a Growing Community
- Business Plan Alignment: Operations Division Highlight

Financial Impacts/Source of Funding

No costs or revenue is associated with this report.

Prepared By: Colin Sanders, Project Manager, Capital Projects

Reviewed By: Mark Paoli, Director, Development Services
Matt Prentice, Director, Operations

Approved By: Kara Van Myall, Chief Administrative Officer