



MARCH 18, 2016

STATEMENT

JOINT MUNICIPAL PEER REVIEW
COORDINATING COMMITTEE

JMCC responds to Province's decision on Walker Southwestern Landfill proposal

"The JMCC is disappointed in the decision by the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change to accept with amendments the Terms of Reference for Walker Environmental Group's Southwestern Landfill Proposal.

"We believe Oxford's municipalities put forward, through the Peer Review Team submissions, convincing evidence and information regarding the ecological, economic, social and health implications of a mega-landfill for this location in our community. Our citizens have voiced their concerns loudly and clearly to the provincial government. To learn that the Southwestern Landfill proposal will now move to an Environmental Assessment process is devastating news to our community.

"We are further disappointed to learn the Minister did not grant our requests for a full Health Impact Assessment, but has left Walker to determine whether or not to expand the scope of the Health Risk Assessment: a far less comprehensive review than what would be required by a Health Impact Assessment.

"This community is not a willing host and will continue to oppose Walker's landfill proposal. We share the profound disappointment of our citizens in this failure to protect our people from the impacts of Walker's mega-landfill. The only outcome we can support is the outright rejection of the Terms of Reference and the denial of this project.

"At the same time, the JMCC remains committed to continuing to oversee an independent multi-disciplinary peer review process to ensure the objective, scientific information about the impacts of the proposal will be available to Oxford residents and all other stakeholders.

"To that end, we will also work to ensure Walker Environmental Group commits to a full Health Impact Assessment, as submitted to the Ministry by the Oxford County Medical Officer of Health and endorsed by the four Oxford County JMCC municipalities."

Margaret Lupton
Chair, Joint Municipal Coordinating Committee
Mayor, Township of Zorra

BACKGROUND

The Joint Municipal Coordinating Committee is made up of the heads of Council and CAOs from [Zorra Township](#), the [Town of Ingersoll](#), [Township of South-West Oxford](#) and the [County of Oxford](#), the municipalities most directly affected by the proposal to build a large-scale landfill in Zorra Township. The group's main purpose is to oversee a sound professional peer review of the information and research contained in the Southwestern Landfill proposal.

The Peer Review team is currently made up of some 20 experts covering 15 discipline areas that will be considered in the landfill proposal's Environmental Assessment, including air, noise, hydrogeology, land use, legal, traffic, agriculture, groundwater, social impact and other issues that have the potential to affect quality of life for residents and the area's ecosystem.

For more information visit www.oxfordreviewteam.ca.

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