



December 17, 2020

JOINT MUNICIPAL
COORDINATING COMMITTEE
FOR OXFORD PEER REVIEW TEAM

Walker Environmental Group Inc.
160 Carnegie Street
Ingersoll, ON
N5C 4A8

Attention: Darren Fry, General Manager, Strategic Growth

RE: Response to Comments on the JMCC Peer Review of the Draft EA

Dear Mr. Fry:

Thank you for your letter of December 1, 2020. The Oxford Joint Municipal Coordinating Committee (JMCC) appreciates the extensive effort Walker Environmental Group has made to provide a response to the JMCC Peer Review Team (PRT) review of the Draft Environmental Assessment for the proposed Southwest Landfill (Draft EA). Our Committee also appreciates WEG's commitment to revise the environmental assessment document in accordance with these responses, and the suggestion to hold meetings of selected disciplines to discuss outstanding technical issues.

To ensure this proposed technical dialogue is complete, efficient, and effective, the JMCC is of the view that the PRT should first carefully review the response document you have provided, identify any significant issues that remain outstanding, and provide a brief disposition setting out their opinion on these issues. This step would serve to scope the issues should you wish to proceed with your suggestion of a virtual round table discussion with the PRT, a step which the JMCC would support. Also, this approach would provide a transparent record of the status of the environmental assessment peer review process.

The PRT's review and dispositioning of your comments would involve the PRT adding a column to the comment/response tables and inserting brief, final PRT comments on the WEG responses provided. I am advised by the Peer Review Manager that this should not be an onerous undertaking and that the PRT would prepare a budget and proposed deadline for its completion of this task prior to proceeding.

While neither the preparation of the proposed PRT disposition document nor additional technical meetings to narrow technical issues were contemplated by the original Memorandum of Understanding between WEG and the JMCC, we do see value in these additional steps. They will better inform the four municipal councils who must make important decisions on whether to support the Final EA and landfill proposal. Please advise if this approach is acceptable to WEG.

Following this, we propose two additional steps to appropriately complete the peer review process. First, the JMCC is requesting that the PRT be given an opportunity to conduct a review of the final EA Documents to confirm that all commitments made by WEG to revise the documents through this process are accurately reflected therein. And finally, as contemplated by the MOU, the JMCC would then finalize the draft peer review report, based on the above steps, and make it available to the public and our constituent municipal councils.

At this stage in the process, we believe it is critically important that interested stakeholders in our community, many of whom have been very engaged in the study process for the landfill, be able to access the technical EA and peer review work completed to date. The PRT's draft report was provided to WEG almost four months ago, and WEG's team has now provided a full technical response. The JMCC therefore proposes that both the draft PRT Report and WEG's response be made available on the JMCC and WEG websites, together with an explanation of the next steps in the process to complete the JMCC peer review.

In summary, we are proposing the following steps going forward:

1. WEG and JMCC publish the DRAFT PRT report and WEG response (your December 1 letter) on our respective websites at the earliest opportunity;
2. PRT disposition WEG responses in expanded table format, which would ultimately be incorporated into the final PRT report;
3. If WEG wishes to hold meetings, WEG and PRT revise comment disposition tables in accordance with any agreed changes as appropriate;
4. WEG finalize EA Report;
5. JMCC/PRT review final EA report for consistency with agreed changes;
6. JMCC issue final PRT report incorporating final comment disposition tables.

If the above process is acceptable, we propose that you work with the Peer Review Manager to finalize steps and a schedule to bring the peer review process to closure.

Thank you for your ongoing constructive engagement in this process. We look forward to hearing from you.

Best wishes and Season's Greetings,



Marcus Ryan
Chair, Joint Municipal Coordinating Committee
Mayor, Township of Zorra | Councillor, Oxford County

cc. All JMCC members