



Ottawa Valley Waste Recovery Centre

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OVWRC Receives \$1.7 Million in Funding Landfill Gas Collection System to be Constructed in 2010

Pembroke, ON: Recently, the Ottawa Valley Waste Management Board was pleased to receive notification of approval for \$1.7 million in funding from the Provincial Government for construction of a landfill gas collection system at the Ottawa Valley Waste Recovery Centre's landfill site. The Centre has been approved for up to two-thirds of the project costs to a maximum of \$1.7 million.

In June 2008, the Provincial Government announced new regulations that all landfill sites with an approved capacity larger than 1.5 million cubic meters have landfill gas collection systems in place by 2010. Methane produced at landfill sites is a greenhouse gas with a global warming potential 21 times that of carbon dioxide. Collecting and flaring landfill gas reduces its global warming potential by 95%.

The overall project is expected to cost over \$3.7 Million and this follows a Ministry of the Environment order which required the construction of an Engineered Leachate Treatment System last year at a cost to the taxpayer of \$2.1 Million.

Mayor Bob Sweet of Petawawa states **“The Board and Heads of Council for each of the Partner Municipalities certainly support the efforts of the Ministry to protect the environment. However, the financial reality is that taxpayers in our Community could be faced with significant tax increases as a result of these new Provincial Legislative requirements.”**

In 1998 Petawawa, Pembroke, Laurentian Valley, North Algona Wilberforce and Bonnechere Valley Councils joined together and jointly financed the construction of the Waste Recovery Centre at a cost of \$13 Million. **“The Partners are still paying on the loan which financed initial construction of the Centre. We do not understand why this new legislation could not be phased in over a number of years in order to allow Municipalities time to plan and save for yet another large capital investment.”** Comments Mayor Wilson of Laurentian Valley.

Heads of Council for each of the Partner Municipalities; Mayors Sweet, Jacyno, Wilson, Mintha, and Councillor Kelo representing Mayor Weckworth met with Ottawa Valley Waste Management Board Chairman, Councillor Bennett and General Manager, Sue Campbell this week and will be working together to seek additional funding and possibly an extension to the deadline for Ministry compliance. They noted that in addition to the initial capital expenditures; annual operating costs to maintain and manage these systems will significantly impact the Centre's operating budget.



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To offset some of the costs the Centre will be investigating the feasibility of using the gas to generate energy as a possible revenue source. Sue Campbell, OVWRC General Manager, explains that **“Methane gas production at the landfill site was estimated using standard computer gas modeling and taking into account annual tonnage disposed of in the landfill. Based on these calculations it was recommended that the Centre collect and flares the gas rather than electricity generation. Flaring of the methane gas was considered the most viable option at this stage of the process but will be further investigated as the project progresses.”**

Councillor Steve Bennett comments **“The Ottawa Valley Waste Recovery Centre provides excellent service and good value to our community. The Board is concerned however that the Ministry needs to take into account the local economic situation and provide additional funding for large infrastructure projects. We will continue to work with the Ministry to protect our environment and manage our waste responsibly and is hopeful that the Minister of the Environment will agree to meet with us shortly to discuss our financial concerns relating to this new legislation.”**

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This document was produced by Communication Department staff at the Ottawa Valley Waste Recovery Centre.