



For Immediate Release

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***Construction of Leachate Treatment System Begins in Preparation for
OVWRC Long-Term Landfill Expansion***

Pembroke, ON: Construction of a leachate treatment system has started at the Ottawa Valley Waste Recovery Centre. The system will capture and treat all surface and ground water impacted by landfill operations; a requirement of Ottawa Valley Waste Recovery Centre's recently approved long-term Landfill Expansion. The Ottawa Valley Waste Management Board was notified in April that a landfill expansion for the site was approved by the Minister of Environment.

“It has been a multi-year process for landfill expansion approval.” States Steve Bennett, Chairman of the Ottawa Valley Waste Management Board. **“Along with the landfill expansion the Ministry of the Environment has approved the wetland treatment system technology. This is just an additional step the Board is taking to ensure we have as little impact on the environment as possible.”**

The original application to the Ministry of Environment for a landfill expansion was submitted in late 2001. Various approval processes and reviews resulted in a revised final application being submitted on June 23rd, 2006. Final approval was given on March 31st, 2008 by Minister of the Environment, John Gerretsen.

To coincide with the expansion, an engineered wetland biofilter treatment system is being constructed that will collect and treat ground and surface water impacted by landfill operations. Construction of the Aqua Wetland Systems technology began in July and is expected to be fully operational by December of this year.

The treatment system will allow both ground and surface water to be captured and then treated using a four cell treatment process. Each cell contains a sand/gravel mix and cat tail plants which will filter and absorb those contaminants which might be present and impact negatively on the environment.

“We will be the first landfill site in Ontario to use this technology to treat Leachate impacted water.” Comments Sue Campbell, General Manager of the Ottawa Valley Waste Recovery Centre. **“Once again, this community is leaders in environmental protection in Ontario.”**

While this process has resulted in a positive outcome, Ottawa Valley Waste Management Board Vice-Chair Tom Mohns, reminds the community that waste diversion is still a number one priority. **“Even though the Ministry is allowing us to continue landfilling for up to 40 years, there are volume restrictions on the expansion. We can only expand the landfill so wide and so high; if the communities are recycling and composting we will make sure we are fully utilizing the 40 year expansion.”**

The landfill expansion and leachate treatment system will complement the OVWRC's current diversion operations which include a Material Recycling Facility, Centralized Compost Facility, Outdoor Composting Area, Construction and Demolition Recovery Area, and Permanent Household Hazardous or Special Waste Depot.