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2.0 Environmental Assessment Framework

2.1 Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference (TOR) for the EA was approved on December 29, 2014 and outlines how the EA will be conducted.

The EA is being conducted in accordance with Section 6.1(3) of the Environmental Assessment Act (EA Act). This Section allows for an EA with a narrow scope, commonly referred to as a “focused EA”. The TOR outlined why this was deemed appropriate. In summary, the Town of St. Marys undertook some initial planning work prior to commencement of the EA. Work included a pre-screening of the Alternatives to the Undertaking.

The EA is scoped to focus on the Alternatives to the Undertaking which were remaining after the pre-screening exercise. These Alternatives include:

- Do Nothing (required by EA Act);
- Expansion of the Existing Landfill Site in St. Marys; and
- Exporting Waste to Another Jurisdiction.

2.2 Environmental Assessment Process

The Terms of Reference outlined a multi-phase process for completing the EA. This process is summarized in Table 2-1. This Table also indicates the location of each step of the process in this report. The remainder of this report follows this outline.

Table 2-1: EA Process

EA Process	Location in Report
Phase 1: Evaluation of Alternatives to the Undertaking	
Development of a framework for the Evaluation of Alternatives to the Undertaking, including a description of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The rationale for the proposed Undertaking; • The purpose of the Undertaking; and • The preliminary description of the Undertaking. 	Sections 3.1, 3.2, 3.3
Screening of various options to export waste to another jurisdiction.	Section 3.4
A description of Alternatives to the Undertaking.	Section 3.5
A description of the environment that will be affected or that might reasonably be expected to be affected, directly or indirectly using publicly available data and a landfill operators’ survey.	Section 3.7
An evaluation of the Alternatives to the Undertaking, including:	Section 3.8

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EA Process	Location in Report
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Qualitative identification of potential impacts, including their magnitude, frequency, duration and reversibility; and • An evaluation of the advantages and disadvantages to the environment as a result of the Undertaking and the Alternatives to the Undertaking. 	
Phase 2: Re-Assess the Environmental Assessment Requirements	
Review of EA Requirements and need to complete the Evaluation of Alternative Methods.	Section 4.0
Phase 3: Re-Define the Purpose and Rationale for the Undertaking	
Review and redefine the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The description of the Undertaking; and • The purpose and rationale for the Undertaking. 	Section 5.0
Phase 4: Define the Parameters of the Study	
Define the parameters of the study including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Study Area; • The timeframe of the Study; • The components of the environment to be studied; • The Alternative Methods to be assessed; and • The evaluation criteria. 	Section 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 7.1, 7.2
A description of the environment that will be affected or that might reasonably be expected to be affected, directly or indirectly using existing data and information collected through field surveys, modeling and data analysis, in accordance with various Technical Work Plans.	Section 6.4
Phase 5: Assess Alternative Methods for Carrying Out the Undertaking	
A description of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The positive and negative environmental effects that could potentially arise from each Alternative Method; • Measures for mitigating potential negative environmental effects; • Any residual impacts that cannot be fully mitigated; and • The selection of the Preferred Alternative based on the potential impacts of each Alternative, including their magnitude, frequency, duration and reversibility. 	Section 7.0
Detailed Description of the Undertaking	
A detailed description of the Undertaking.	Section 8.0
An assessment of impacts, mitigation, net effects and monitoring requirements.	Section 9.0

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EA Process	Location in Report
Consultation Approach	
A description of the consultation undertaken by the proponent and the results of the consultation.	Section 10.0
Future Commitments	
All future commitments including requirements for future studies, permits and approvals, monitoring and additional consultation.	Section 11.0
A framework for a Compliance Monitoring Plan.	Section 11.2. and 11.3
Compliance with Terms of Reference	
Confirmation that the EA has been completed in accordance with the approved TOR.	Section 12.0