

November 2022

5.0 Phase 3: Redefine the Purpose and Rationale for the Undertaking

In the early stages of this Study the description of the Undertaking was broad to allow for the variety of solutions under investigation. In Section 3.3, the Undertaking was defined as, “the proposed changes that are made to address the Town’s future municipal waste disposal needs.”

As it has been determined that expanding the St. Marys Landfill is the preferred solution, the Problem Statement and the rationale for the Undertaking can be redefined to:

The expansion of the St. Marys Landfill in order to provide the necessary capacity to fulfill the Town’s post-diversion solid waste disposal needs for the next 40 years.

The rationale for the Undertaking was also reviewed. It was determined that the rationale and justification for the Undertaking, provided in Section 3.1, remains valid. Please note that the above Problem Statement supersedes the Preliminary Problem Statement noted under Section 3.2.

The existing St. Marys Landfill reached its originally approved capacity in January 2016. To maintain operations during preparation of this EA, the Town applied for and received ECA Notices (amendments) allowing continued use. The current Notice allows operation through September 30, 2022. As required by the ECA, the Town will apply to the Ministry for further operation by July 31, 2022.

MECP is not expected to extend the site’s ECA indefinitely without a long-term plan to manage the Town’s waste. The Town is responsible for the management of solid waste generated by the Town, its residents and local industry, businesses, and institutions. Wastes generated from other communities or entities are not managed by the Town and there is no intent to accept waste from other communities in the future, as noted in a Town letter, dated December 18, 2019 provided in Volume IV, Appendix A. Therefore, the Town is responsible for developing a long-term management plan and is doing so through the Environmental Assessment Act planning process. Through an evaluation of Alternatives To the Undertaking, it was determined that expanding the existing St. Marys Landfill is the preferred means to address the Town’s waste disposal needs.

Based on the calculations provided in Section 3.1.3, the expanded landfill must have a capacity of 708,000 m³ (as noted in Section 3.1.3.8, this includes 73,050 m³ of capacity that has already been approved and filled through various interim ECA amendments) and a future waste density of 550 kg/m³, results in 389,400 tonnes of waste capacity. The Town is requesting the remaining, unapproved volume of 634,950 m³ (708,000 m³ capacity minus the approved capacity of 73,050 m³ as of the January 10, 2022 interim ECA), via the EA process.