

Project to establish a technical landfill site at Danford Lake in the Municipality of Alleyn-et-Cawood

File: 6212-03-112

Report of the public information and consultation period held from February 6 to March 23, 2007

The public information and consultation period concerning the *Project to establish a technical landfill site at Danford Lake in the Municipality of Alleyn-et-Cawood proposed by LDC – Gestion et services environnementaux* ended on March 23, 2007. In accordance with the mandate that it was given on January 25, 2007 and pursuant to sections 11 and 12 of the *Regulation respecting environmental impact and assessment review*, the Bureau d'audiences publiques sur l'environnement (BAPE) made available to the public for a 45-day period, namely from February 6 to March 23, 2007, the complete file of the application for the certificate of authorization pertaining to the project.

The project

Justification and description

The firm of LDC – Gestion et services environnementaux proposes to establish a technical landfill site (TLS) at Danford Lake in the Municipality of Alleyn-et-Cawood on the territory of the RCM of Pontiac in the Outaouais region. The TLS would be situated on the edge of Route 301 about 8 km west of the village. The landfill area would be 38.5 ha in size. The capacity of the TLS would be on the order of 8 million metric tons of waste. Its useful life would depend on the actual quantity of waste received but would make it possible to meet the territory's waste disposal needs for a minimum period of 30 years, namely about 250 000 metric tons annually. The waste would come from the Outaouais region. The proponent plans notably to put in place systems to make the site impermeable and to collect and treat leach water. Biogases would be collected and valorized, and the run-off water would be intercepted. The cost of creating the TLS was evaluated at \$63 million in 2003. The proponent also plans for various waste reclamation and recycling infrastructures.

(Excerpt from the press release issued on February 6, 2007)

The concerns raised

The concerns recorded during the public information and consultation period come from information gathered during the information session, from telephone conversations, letters and e-mails addressed to the BAPE as well as from the registers available in the consultation centres. A particularly noteworthy fact: close to 90% of the verbal or written questions and concerns were expressed in English.

The project

- The identification of the holders of the property rights to the lands in question;
- the proponent's expertise in the residual material management field;
- the accuracy of the impact study;
- the information presented in Appendix F of the impact study concerning watercourses, wetlands and wooded environments;
- the choice of a site near vacationing spots;
- the verification of the absence of homes within a 2 km radius of the site;
- the land area needed to set up the site and for a possible expansion;
- the burial methods employed;
- the impermeability of the sealing materials that would surround the residual materials;
- the means to prevent the dispersion of volatile or light materials outside the site;
- the percentage of methane that will be recovered and burned;
- the means of intervention prior to the transformation of waste into methane in light of its harmful effects from a greenhouse gas emission standpoint;
- the post-closure replanting methods;
- the origin of the residual materials;

- the risk that residual materials will come from outside the four RCMs of the Outaouais region stipulated in the project;
- the daily frequency of trips by trucks transporting residual materials;
- the weight of each of the trucks transporting residual materials;
- the planned measures to ensure that the maximum number of trips by trucks transporting residual materials is respected;
- the daily number of truck unloadings at the site;
- the use of Route 105 within the context of the project;
- the capacity of the roads to support the truck traffic generated by the project;
- the measures to pick up and dispose of residual materials that fall from trucks during transport;
- the responsibilities related to the spill of hazardous residual materials on the road during their transport;
- the profits generated during the first ten years of operation;
- the fees that the surrounding municipalities will collect;
- the compensation measures for individuals in the case where their health is adversely affected;
- the compensation measures for home owners in the case where their property values go down;
- the compensation measures for real estate developers in the case of financial losses;
- the activities carried out to date by the environmental monitoring committee;
- the proponent's intention of honouring its commitments;
- bilingualism as an employability criterion for workers on the site;
- the possibility of having a sidewalk built along Route 301 to improve the safety of pedestrians.

Project's impacts

- The impacts on wetlands and wooded areas;
- the risks of contamination of soil, groundwater, surface water and watercourses;
- the risks of contamination of drinking water;
- the risks for human health;
- the risks of eating fish caught during fishing activities;
- the risks for wildlife and plant life;
- the risks of failure of the post-closure replanting;
- the increase in traffic congestion;
- the impacts on the capacity of the roads to support the truck traffic generated by the project;
- the impacts on road safety;
- the impacts of the vibrations caused by truck traffic on the structure of ancestral houses located along the road;
- the impacts caused by noise;
- the impacts caused by odours;
- the impacts on recreational-tourism activities (kayaking, fishing, outdoor activities, etc.);
- the impacts on the up-and-coming and future generations;
- the greenhouse gases produced by road traffic;
- the greenhouse gases produced by methane and other emanations from the site.

Alternative solutions

- What will become of the management of residual materials if the project is not authorized;
- the other possible sites (soil conditions, free flow of traffic, proximity of the sources of waste);
- the other proponents considered to meet residual the material management needs;
- the request to resort to technologies permitting the incineration of residual materials at very high temperatures (plasma technologies);
- exploiting the energy associated with residual materials through the use of plasma technologies;
- job creation associated with plasma technologies.

Decision-making authorities

- The roles of government and municipal authorities in the management of residual materials at the regional level;
- the roles of municipal authorities and the proponent in the RCM's decision to consider the project;
- the call-for-tender and tendering processes that led to an agreement between the proponent and municipal authorities;
- the nature of the agreements and commitments between the proponent and municipal authorities;
- the verification that no financial incentive was paid to members of the municipal council;
- the absence of signatures on the document attesting to the absence of conflicts of interests on the part of municipal councillors;
- the decision of municipal authorities to reduce the hours of operation of the library used as a consultation centre in the community concerned prior to the start of the information period;
- the project's feasibility if the City of Gatineau reconsiders its decision to dispose of its residual materials on the site in question;
- the legal framework controlling the origin of residual materials;
- the project's legality within the context of the new legislation on the management of residual materials;
- the identification of the authority that can ensure the project's integrity;
- the identification of the authority that can ensure the consultation of citizens during all of the project's completion stages;
- the request for an independent impact study carried out by the government;
- the concern that the decision as to whether to authorize the project is political in nature;
- the request for responsible environmental management before satisfying private interests;
- the request for environmental leadership at the government level;
- leadership in the at-source processing of residual materials (sorting, re-use, recycling).

Public consultation prior to the BAPE's public information and consultation period

- The means used by the proponent to evaluate the project's acceptability;
- the importance that the proponent places on supporting the population and the holding of a referendum;
- the percentage of permanent residents who support the project;

- the reasons why taxpayers have been unable to receive answers from their municipal council and the RCM;
- the reasons that have prevented the holding of a referendum to determine the project's acceptability;
- the absence of a satisfactory consultation process prior to the BAPE's public information and consultation period;
- The means at the public's disposal to ensure that the opinions on the project are taken into account;
- The means at the public's disposal to find out and control the origin of the residual materials.

The BAPE's public information and consultation period

- The procedure for recording comments at the consultation centres;
- the request to keep confidential the names of those persons who record comments in the registers;
- the inability of a consultation centre in the community concerned to provide a citizen with the register to record comments;
- the feeling of intimidation felt by those persons who went to consult the documents at the consultation centre in the community in question;
- the request for additional consultation centres;
- the difficulty for Anglophones to consult the documentation in French;
- the chronology of the tabled documents;
- the request that the information session be recorded to make sure that the comments are reported adequately;
- the difficulty for citizens to understand the proponent's presentation during the information session (French language and type face);
- the request that the presentation given during the information session be put on the BAPE web site and in the consultation centres.

Public hearings

- The procedure for requesting the holding of a public hearing;
- the rules concerning participation in a public hearing;
- the rules governing the holding of a public hearing;
- the scope and the nature of the BAPE's public hearing mandate (on the project and on the search for the best solutions);
- the taking into account at the public hearing of the alternative solutions proposed by participants;
- the requests that the public hearing be held at city hall;
- the requests that the public hearing be held in different municipalities;
- the requests that the commissioners be Anglophones or bilingual, and that it be possible to hold the discussions in English;
- the credibility of the BAPE;
- the credibility of the experts invited by the commission;
- the request that a Ministry of Sustainable Development, Environment and Parks' representative be present at the public hearing.

Information and communication activities

Consultation centres

All the documents on the project were made available at the BAPE documentation centres as well as at the following consultation centres:

Centre	Address
Municipality of Alleyn-et-Cawood	10, chemin Jondee - Danford Lake Alleyn-et-Cawood (Québec) J0X 1P0
Bowater Library	855, boulevard de la Gappe Gatineau (Québec) J8X 3Y9
Municipal Office of Kazabazua	30, chemin Begley Kazabazua (Québec) J0X 1X0

N.B. The documents that were presented at the February 28, 2007 information session were subsequently added at the consultation centres, namely the English version of Chapters 5 and 6 of the summary of the impact study as well as the French and English versions of the PowerPoint presentation. A large number of citizens asked that the full documentation be made available in English.

Web site

All documents received in electronic version, including the impact study and its summary, were put on the BAPE web site.

N.B. *idem*

Publication of the public notices by the proponent

Date	Daily newspaper	Regional weekly
February 8, 2007	<i>Le Droit</i>	
February 9, 2007	<i>Le Devoir</i>	
February 12, 2007	<i>Le Soleil</i>	
February 14, 2007		<i>Le Journal du Pontiac</i>
February 14, 2007		<i>The Equity</i>
February 21, 2007		<i>The Equity</i>

Press releases disseminated by the BAPE

Date	Number of send-outs		Dissemination on the Internet
	Media	Groups, municipalities or citizens	
February 6, 2007 Start of the public information and consultation period	Dailies, weeklies and electronic media of the Outaouais region	179	BAPE site
March 1, 2007 Press reminder	Dailies, weeklies and electronic media of the Outaouais region	Does not apply	Does not apply

Information session

Date	March 1, 2007
BAPE : Hosting	Danielle Hawey
Welcome and taking of notes	Jean-Sébastien Fillion
Proponent	Denis Rouleau, LDC – Gestion et services environnementaux André Poulin, Teknika – HBA
Number of persons present	240
Length	3 hours

Press relations

A television interview was given on Radio-Canada within the context of a report on the March 1st information session.

Press review

The public information and consultation period including the information session was the subject of press coverage on both the radio and on television (Radio-Canada), in a daily newspaper (*Le Droit*) as well as in several weeklies (*Journal du Pontiac*, *West Quebec Post* and *The Equity*). The holding of the information session, the description of the project, the anticipated impacts and the mitigation measures, the address and telephone number of the consultation centres opened in the community for the duration of the mandate, the possibility of requesting a public hearing as well as the deadline for doing so are among the elements that were covered by these media.

Québec, April 4, 2007

Danielle Hawey, communications advisor, person in charge of the file
In collaboration with Jean-Sébastien Fillion, communications advisor