



Municipalité d'Alleyn et Cawood Municipality of Alleyn and Cawood

June 2007

Bureau d'audiences publiques sur l'environnement
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Danford Lake Volunteer
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Fire Chief - Jason Emery

Mont O'Brien Association
Interim President - Allen Noel

**Subject : Technical Landfill Site at Danford Lake
in the Municipality of Alleyn and Cawood**

Madam President Journault, Mr. Commissioner Labrie,

The majority of the municipal council of Alleyn and Cawood supports the proposal by LDC to establish and operate an engineered landfill site and related operations as described in their Environmental Impact Study over a period of some thirty years. Our reasons for supporting this project are outlined below.

Looking for Alternatives

Québec's Ministry of Sustainable Development, the Environment and Parks (MDDEP) has advised all Québec municipalities that existing local municipal dumps designated as trench landfills or Dépôts en tranchée with no environmental protection measures have become obsolete and will be required to close by December 31st, 2008.

As elected public officials for one small municipality of Pontiac, we are acutely aware of the consequences of such a decision on our ratepayers and our annual municipal budget. Regionally, we know that other area municipalities are also concerned with the challenges they will be facing in disposing of their garbage, a municipal responsibility. No municipality in the Pontiac can afford to truck its garbage to some distant landfill site located outside the Outaouais, as there is at present no such facility on our territory, Administrative Region No. 7 – Outaouais. The nearest garbage disposal facility – a landfill site – now being used by our largest urban neighbour, the City of Gatineau, is located near Lachute, more than 135 km from Gatineau, and over 200 km from Alleyn and Cawood and other Pontiac municipalities.

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One Viable Alternative

Consequently, our municipality decided to face head-on this very difficult and unpopular issue and to assume a leadership role in the MRC Pontiac by investigating the options and seeking our solutions that would respond to the needs of our small community as well as those of the larger Pontiac community.

The LDC proposal for a LET facility was brought to our attention as a viable one, not only for Alleyn and Cawood, but for the entire Pontiac community, and we decided to support it locally and at the MRC Pontiac table with the overwhelming majority of mayors in support of our position. After prospecting at length several potential sites, LDC is considering a property suitable for establishing an engineered landfill site in the Municipality of Alleyn and Cawood. Our municipal Council voted in favour of LDC pursuing further studies, advancing their planned development by conducting an Environmental Impact Study as required by the MDDEP and seeking the necessary approvals from the proper authorities.

LDC's Environmental Impact Study and further explanations provided to you by the proponent, his consultants and other Québec Government officials at the recent first stage of the BAPE hearings held at Mont Ste-Marie in May demonstrated clearly that the property identified as the proposed location of a new engineered landfill site is the most suitable within the boundaries of our municipality for the purpose of establishing such a LET facility.

The Clock is Ticking

The justification of the proposed landfill rests on solid ground and on unquestionable facts:

- rural municipalities in the Outaouais have been burning and burying their garbage in over 50 trench landfills (DET) in the Outaouais. Burning garbage has been forbidden since January 1st, 2007 and trench landfills will be closing by December 31st, 2008;
- the City of Gatineau has been "exporting" its residual waste by the truckload for the past 15 years to landfill site located some 135 km away in Lachute;
- there is presently no other proposal or option on the table in Pontiac and in the Outaouais for disposing of our residual waste within the boundaries of Region 07.

Finding Solutions for the Future

The elected officials who sit on the municipal Council of Alleyn and Cawood have always been respectful of the laws and regulations governing local municipalities in Québec.

- We took the prescribed steps and followed the proper procedure for the adoption by the MRC Pontiac of the Interim Control By-law (Règlement sur l'enfouissement et l'incinération des matières résiduelles – REIMR), as well as all other requirements of the Act governing the Quality of the Environment. As LDC developed a proposed LET concept that is in total compliance with these requirements, we continue to support this project for which mitigation measures appear largely sufficient to keep residual impacts on the community and on the local environment at a minimum.

- We also endorsed this proposal because after lengthy discussions and negotiation with our municipal officials, LDC agreed to pay the municipality a fee of \$2 per metric tonne of waste transported to the future landfill site. This fee constitutes a significant financial compensation to the municipality that will allow us to undertake several major projects that will benefit our community for the future.

Some of these projects are:

- To provide the municipality with new and improved firefighting equipment;
- To initiate and implement 3R's (reduce, reuse & recycle) projects in order to achieve the goals of the MRC Pontiac's PGMR (Residual Waste Management Program);
- To launch and establish local social economy self-sustaining small and medium-sized businesses in residual waste recycling, home-care services, child-care facilities, a drop-in-centre for teenagers and other not-for-profit business initiatives for the purpose of creating jobs in social economy;
- To set up and establish a permanent scholarship fund to encourage our young people to stay in school and pursue higher education opportunities rather than to drop out before completing their high school, and to return and contribute to their community after graduating;
- To implement local improvement projects for our municipal infrastructures such as the construction of new sidewalks in the village to improve safety, the renovation and refurbishing of our community centre and other worthwhile community projects.
- To maintain our level of taxation at a minimum, to develop our outstanding recreational potential as an increasingly popular ecotourism destination and generally to improve our financial situation.

The NIMBT Syndrome

We wish to convey to the Commissioners of the Bureau des audiences publiques sur l'Environnement (BAPE) that we are extremely disappointed that the Not-In-My-Back-Yard syndrome lives on to this day in 2007 as it did so strongly in the early eighties. We believe that such selfish behaviour is no longer acceptable in today's modern society when it comes to placing the common good of a community before the interests of a minority. We now need to manage the disposal of our residual waste on our own turf, and stop shovelling our responsibilities over the neighbour's fence.

Why Danford Lake and the Pontiac?

But why Danford Lake and the Pontiac? Why not Gatineau or Otter Lake or Wakefield or any other municipality in the Outaouais for that matter? Is it justifiable for Danford Lake to become the Outaouais' landfill site?

Our answer to these questions obviously is that there are no ideal solutions yet in the field of residual waste disposal. Landfill remains one of the few viable options at reasonable cost until more efficient and more affordable technologies are discovered and implemented. For the time being, it is still a matter of "the lesser impact".

Whether LDC or another operator and their consultants propose to establish an engineered landfill site anywhere else in the Outaouais, there will always be someone to challenge the need, the purpose, the location and the technology of such a facility. This opposition will always find legitimacy in the fact that there is some negative impact on the local population and the local environment.

Ensuring that the Community Benefits

For the host municipality – in this case, Allevyn and Cawood – our challenge is to ensure that our local citizens will not suffer from the consequences of such a decision and that they will only benefit from the major economic fallout of such a facility in the form of new jobs created, more money flowing into the local economy in the purchasing of goods and services, a better quality of life for everyone and lower property taxes.

For the members of our municipal council, the \$2 per metric tonne compensation fee to be paid to the municipality in addition to another compensation fee of \$2 per metric tonne to be paid to the MRC Pontiac, if it chooses to use the proposed facility, appear to constitute a more than reasonable price to pay to offset the minimal negative effects to the local environment. To this day, no other private LET or LES operator has come such a long way to compensate a local community for the presence of such a facility within its boundaries.

Placing the Common Good First

Taking action on such highly sensitive issues as the disposal of residual waste while protecting our environment is not a popular decision. What is most troubling and heartbreaking for local elected officials is to see a community misinformed and influenced by a small number of people with personal agendas that are not in the best interests of the community as a whole. We are determined to do what is best for the entire community of Allevyn and Cawood, for it is the responsibility of elected officials to place the common good ahead of self-serving private interests.

In this case, we strongly believe that the common good is being served by the LDC proposal and that the safeguards and mitigation measures built into the engineered landfill proposal by LDC, the stringent regulations and requirements of the MDDEP and the technical expertise, the experience and the advanced scientific knowledge that the Québec Government and its agencies bring to the table will ensure that private and public interests will not be jeopardized, that public health will remain the ultimate priority, the environment will continue to be protected and enhanced and the future self sustainability of our community will remain.

Thank you Madam President and Commissioners for the opportunity to present this brief and your time to read same.

Mayor and Councillors
Municipality of Alleyn and Cawood
MRC Pontiac