

PRESENTATION TO BAPE HEARING JUNE 16, 2007 OTTER LAKE, QUEBEC

TITLE

PROJECT TO ESTABLISH A TECHNICAL LANDFILL SITE AT DANFORD LAKE IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF ALLEYN-ET-CAWOOD

INTRODUCTION

My name is George McCormick, my wife and family have a permanent home on Danford Lake, approximately 9 kilometres from the proposed landfill. My parents have had a cottage on Danford Lake for 60 years and have thoroughly enjoyed the Gatineau countryside.

INTEREST IN THE PROJECT

My interest in the project relates to a number of issues:

1. Concerns about additional truck traffic, resulting in safety issues;
2. Integrity of the liner – other landfills have had liners that have experienced leaks where

leachate has found its way into adjacent drinking water supply and associated waste treatment facilities, which will result in deterioration of the water quality of the Picanoc River;

3. The plans to cover the garbage to ensure that Seagulls do not become more prevalent as a result of the landfill.

I am concerned about these three issues, but am particularly concerned with the Seagulls and the proposed deterrent methods.

PROJECT RELATED CONCERNS

During the hearings at Mont Ste Marie, LDC indicated that there were no populations of Seagulls in Danford Lake itself, and the nearest populations were in the Baskatong area of Quebec to the north.

Although today, there may not be large populations of Seagulls in and around Danford Lake, there are, however, Seagulls which use the lake most days. A recent report concludes that in 1996 there were 6,000 pairs of Ringed-bill Gulls in Ottawa's National Capital Region; there were five nesting pairs in 1974. A number of Seagull populations have been increasing by

approximately 12% annually. From 1993 to 1999, gulls were the most frequently reported species group involved in bird strikes by aircraft in all regions of Canada. There are approximately three aircraft which use Danford Lake regularly; two of which land via pontoons, while the other lands on a nearby land airstrip.

As we know, Seagulls are aggressive and will flock to any area where food of any kind is exposed to the elements, such as dumpsites. Seagulls are predators to songbirds, frogs and baby turtles. They also carry diseases and require water in which to live, thus making Danford Lake an ideal location for their population to flourish. The noise factor alone of populations of Seagulls in Danford Lake would take away the peace and quiet, and potentially replace the peaceful “call of the loon” sounds with the “screech of thousands of Seagulls”. Even today, beaches on the Ottawa River are closed each summer because of Seagulls. We are concerned for the smaller lakes, such as Neil Lake and others along Highway 301, that the Seagull population will increase to the point that they will come and roost on these lakes as well, thereby also polluting them. According to a former President of Little Red Pine Lake, which

is situated about 8 kilometres from the proposed landfill site, Quebec Environment has agreed that Little Red Pine Lake is one of 6 “protected” lakes in Quebec. Seagulls could have a serious impact on this protected lake. As you know, lakes are not capable of “cleaning” themselves like a river is able to do, as lakes do not flow.

Given the other Seagull landfill problems in the area, such as the Trail Road landfill in Ottawa and its large Seagull population, we can only expect that should the Danford Landfill become a reality, we will likely see similar problems. After all, despite the best efforts of many landfill operators, it is now acknowledged that gulls cannot be controlled. Their droppings also corrode paint/metal, ie. roofs, cars. I also understand that the Trail Road landfill is covered with a layer of dirt or similar materiel each day to help deter Seagulls, however, to little avail.

The proponent has indicated that they would cover portions of the landfill area on a daily basis with 15 to 20 centimetres of soil in order to deter Seagulls from frequenting the area. Given the problems with Seagulls at Trail Road and similar landfills where soil is used as backfill over the garbage, a covering of this thickness is

insufficient to adequately deter Seagulls. A thicker covering of soil may not be of much assistance either in deterring Seagulls, as they have the unique ability to be able to dig and scavenge garbage as required. In addition, it is unlikely that there is enough soil material over the life of the 30 year project to adequately cover the garbage material on a daily basis. This may necessitate trucking in additional soil material which will lead to increased truck traffic on Highway 301.

SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVING THE PROJECT

Recommend Against Project Approval

Due to the problems highlighted above with Seagulls and landfill sites, as well as the potential for future health and environmental concerns of water bodies such as Danford Lake, it is recommended that the LDC proposal **not** proceed.

As an alternative to the LDC proposal, BAPE should strongly consider the newer technologies for landfills which are being used with success in Quebec and other provinces, such as the

Plasma Gasification system. In addition, the location of the facility should be closer to the source of the garbage, and not in the Municipality of Alleyn and Cawood. By locating the landfill site closer to the source, this would help reduce the heavy truck traffic and safety problems associated with such landfills.

Thank You

Sincerely

George McCormick

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