



Citizens'
Environmental
Stewardship
Association
East of Ottawa

Association
des citoyens
pour la gérance
de l'environnement
Est d'Ottawa



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Former Golder Associates' employee now reviewing Golder landfill proposal at MOECC

TORONTO, Dec., 2015—Opponents of the mega-landfill proposed by Taggart Miller for east of Ottawa have learned Andrew Evers, who worked at Golder Associates on environmental assessments from 2010 to 2014, is coincidentally the Special Project Officer at the MOECC in charge of the review of Taggart Miller's final environmental assessment. Golder Associates is an engineering giant and the engineering consultant for Taggart Miller on this same project.

Isn't this a conflict of interest?

Taggart Miller is seeking permission to take 450,000 tonnes of industrial, commercial and institutional waste from across the province and dump about 85 per cent of it on a 475-ac. site on Boundary Rd. at Ottawa's eastern edge, between Highway 417 and the Village of Russell (www.crrrc.ca). When first proposed in 2010 over 5,000 people signed petitions against it and there have been numerous protests since.

Meanwhile community stakeholders who have anxiously waited nine months (and counting) for the ministry's review (which was supposed to be available last March), have been given no opportunity to see the revisions made in this evolving document, which is not "final" at all. Revisions are being made by Taggart Miller—apparently in consultation with MOECC staff and a Government Review Team. The public needs to know the details of these discussions.

In addition, the environmental assessment document conveniently ignores or dismisses major issues, such as the certain contamination of groundwater and nearby wells, the presence of several species-at-risk on the proposed site, the potential hazard of a landfill constructed on thick Leda clay in the third most seismically active zone in Canada, details of leachate treatment, and the handling of emissions of methane—which is the most potent greenhouse gas contributing to climate change.

“The long, opaque delay further erodes the public confidence in the already skewed, proponent-driven process,” says Roger Pharand, former Russell Township Mayor, former Russell Fire Chief and ethicist. He is also concerned about lack of effective consultation. “Our officially bilingual communities repeatedly requested documents in French so Francophone residents could effectively participate in consultation. Only about 350 pages out of more than 3800 pages of the Environmental Assessment Report (EAR), none of which addressed technical information, were translated. A large part of our population is being denied the basic right to review the assessment.” (2011 census showed that the area just east of Ottawa held a population which identified as 50% bilingual, 33% unilingual English and 17% unilingual French.)

“If the Ministry is doing its job well, it will reject this proposal outright,” says Harry Baker M.Sc., P. Eng., president of one of the opposing groups, an engineering geologist, and a Fellow with the Engineering Institute of Canada. “No amount of engineering will make this site suitable for a landfill. The risks are too great. The ministry should just say no!”

For more information, contact: Harry Baker, 613-445-3233, or harry_baker1949@hotmail.com