




COMMUNICATION UPDATE

TO:	Mayor and Members Board of Health
DATE:	August 22, 2023
SUBJECT:	Request for Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks Air Monitoring at GFL Stoney Creek Regional Facility (Ward 9)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	Ward 9
SUBMITTED BY:	Dr. Elizabeth Richardson, MD, MHSc, FRCPC Medical Officer of Health Public Health Services
SIGNATURE:	

This communication provides the Board of Health with an update concerning the Ontario Ministry of the Environment Conservation and Parks' (the Ministry) actions with respect to public complaints concerning air quality and odours from the GFL Stoney Creek Regional Facility located at 65 Green Mountain Road West in Stoney Creek (Ward 9).

At its meeting on August 18, 2023 City Council ratified the motion the following motion approved at the Public Health Committee on August 16, 2023:

“That the Public Health Committee request that the Public Health Staff write a letter to the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks requesting that air monitoring be conducted to verify what is in the odour emanating from the GFL Environmental landfill site in Ward 9 and the results of the monitoring be shared with the surrounding community.”

Following the Public Health Committee meeting, Public Health Services' staff contacted Ministry of the Environment Conservation and Parks' staff working in the Hamilton District Office to inquire about any current and/or future actions the Ministry has identified specific to the air quality and odour complaints received in relation to the GFL Stoney Creek Regional Facility.

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OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

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Staff were informed that the Ministry has required GFL to submit a detailed action plan to the Hamilton District Office outlining actions that will be taken to address odours from leachate at the site.

The plan submitted by GFL to the Ministry includes the following actions:

- GFL has deployed an odour neutralizing system (misting system) at the site; and,
- The company is now trucking leachate off-site for disposal and the company is treating any exposed leachate.

Longer-term, GFL is proposing that an odour treatment control system be installed at the interim leachate pump station located at the southeast corner of the Stoney Creek Regional Facility. The treatment system being proposed is a wood biofilter to treat the odours from the interim leachate pump station. It is anticipated that the biofilter will commence operating sometime in the upcoming week and the Ministry is working with GFL to ensure appropriate approvals are in place.

Furthermore, the Ministry has initiated air monitoring around the landfill in response to residents' odour complaints and concerns regarding potential contaminants and impacts from odour. Once the monitoring results are received, the data will be reviewed by the Ministry's air quality analysts and compared to regulatory air quality guidelines and limits. The Ministry will determine if further action(s) are necessary based on the results and an update will be provided to the community.

Public Health Services has requested that the Ministry publicly share all the air quality data gathered from the above air monitoring.

As the above Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks' actions have already been initiated, and are ongoing, a letter from Public Health Services to the Ministry requesting such actions be taken is no longer required.

Should you require further information about this Communication Update, please do not hesitate to contact Matthew Lawson, Manager, Health Hazards and Vector Borne Diseases Program at Ext. 5823 or matthew.lawson@hamilton.ca.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

Not Applicable.