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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Houston government changes course on Otter Lake landfill

In an about face, the Houston government has approved an application that will have devastating environmental implications for the surrounding communities of the Otter Lake landfill.

Since opening in 1999, the Otter Lake landfill has operated with a front-end processor and waste stabilization facility (FEP/WSF) — allowing for the removal of hazardous materials and organic waste before it is buried in the landfill.

For several years, HRM has been looking to scrap the system because of its \$2 million price tag. But, due to its proven environmental benefits, all provincial parties — including the Conservatives — supported the continuation of the FEP/WSF system in 2013.

“It’s a betrayal to see this government have such disregard for the environment, and eliminate these protections within months of being elected,” says Liberal Leader Iain Rankin. “This will result in unsorted waste flowing directly into the landfill and organics will no longer be stabilized before they are buried.”

A public consultation process in the winter of 2021 revealed that 95 per cent of the community had concerns about potential changes to the system.

“A resounding number of residents spoke out about this change, but the Houston government has turned a blind eye,” says Rankin. “The residents of Timberlea-Prospect need to know — why is this government not on their side?”

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Media Contact

Caitie Clark
Communications Officer
902-943-8454
caitie.clark@novascotia.ca