

August 18, 2023

Linda MacKay, Chair
Otter Lake Community Monitoring Committee
PO Box 213, Lakeside, NS
B3T 1M6

Dear Linda MacKay:

Thank you for your letter of August 4th, 2023, regarding the Otter Lake Solid Waste Facility. I appreciate your continued oversight of this facility.

As stated in our previous correspondence on March 6 and May 2, 2023, the purpose of establishing a Technical Steering Committee (TSC) is to ensure proper evaluation and input, should new technologies be employed, or significant operational changes be proposed at the facility. In these situations, the department would have the authority to bring together the appropriate technical resources required to adequately assess those changes. The current situation at this facility does not warrant the creation of such a committee.

The Approval Holders have proposed a schedule for achieving the Approval's Performance Target for compostable waste not to exceed 10% of the total amount of municipal solid waste landfilled, by mass. The timelines and maximum percentages proposed are currently under review by our Department. It is important that we continue to work with stakeholders to ensure the schedule is reasonable, achievable and supports the successful implementation of the 10% target.

The effects of Climate Change are of serious concern and currently there is no indication that the continued operations of the facility are at risk of significant impacts. The CMC's ongoing participation in the oversight of the environmental monitoring results is a valued contribution. Solid waste facilities across the province have been handling the disposal of the debris resulting from the recent wildfire destruction. There is no evidence to suggest this will have an impact on this facility's proposed compliance plan to achieve its Performance Target for compostable waste by March 2026.

I have attached the Department's previous responses, March 6, April 25, and May 2, 2023, for your records. I hope this information addresses your concerns. If you have additional concerns or questions please contact District Manager, AJ Connell aj.connell@novascotia.ca, in the Bedford office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Lora MacEachern', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Lora MacEachern, K.C.
Deputy Minister

cc: Adrian Fuller, Executive Director, Inspection, Compliance, and Enforcement (ICE)
Ms. Tanya Farrell, Acting Director Central Region, ICE Division
Ms. A.J. Connell, District Manager, ICE Division

2023-March-06

Linda MacKay, Chair
Otter Lake Community Monitoring Committee
P.O. Box 213
Lakeside, NS B3T 1M6
c/o Email: rankinreginald@gmail.com

Dear Linda MacKay,

I am writing to respond to your recent letters dated January 30, 2023, and February 7, 2023, regarding the Technical Steering Committee (TSC) and the requirement for an updated or enhanced HRM/Mirror Compliance Plan. I appreciate your inquiries and would like to provide you with some information on these matters.

Firstly, the Otter Lake operating Approval references the potential development of a technical steering committee (TSC), whose role would be to ensure appropriate technical resources were available to adequately assess significant proposed changes to operations at the landfill in circumstances where sufficient technical expertise may not be available. To date, the department has not triggered the establishment of a TSC for this facility, and currently does not believe establishment of a committee is warranted at this time. If activated, the composition of this committee would consist of representation from a number of stakeholders, including the CLC.

Regarding the HRM/Mirror Compliance Plan, I can confirm that the plan proposed a minimum of four quarterly performance audits to assess the current state of compliance with the established performance targets. The fourth quarterly audit at the facility was scheduled to occur in February 2023. The compliance plan accepted by the department outlined specific actions and strategies (including timelines) to reach the required performance targets. Based on the outcome of the baseline audits, HRM/Mirror may propose updates to the plan, if deemed necessary. Any updates proposed to the current compliance plan must be acceptable to the department. As per the approval, if the facility is unable to achieve the required performance standards following the implementation of the accepted compliance plan (and any timelines outlined in that plan), then the Approval holder will be required to develop an enhanced compliance plan to achieve those targets.

I hope this information addresses your concerns. If you have any additional questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me at your convenience. Thank you for your continued interest in the operations at the Otter Lake landfill.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of AJ Connell in black ink.

AJ Connell
District Manager

From: Murphy, Andrew (ENV)
Sent: Tuesday, April 25, 2023 5:28 PM
To: Linda MacKay <linda.mackay@gmail.com>; MacDonald, Jonathan E <Jonathan.MacDonald@novascotia.ca>; Fuller, Adrian M <Adrian.Fuller@novascotia.ca>
Cc: Minister, Env <Minister.Environment@novascotia.ca>; MacDonald, Jonathan E <Jonathan.MacDonald@novascotia.ca>; Connell, A J <AJ.Connell@novascotia.ca>; Reg Rankin <rankinreginald@gmail.com>; Elizabeth Chambers <Betsy.Chambers@ns.sympatico.ca>
Subject: RE: Letter, to Andrew Murphy, DOECC from Linda MacKay, CMC Chair

Hi Linda,

Thank you for your correspondence. As this is about a condition of an approval, I have forwarded your correspondence to Jonathan McDonald in our Bedford office for response. Approvals for Otter Lake are dealt with by our Bedford office.

Thanks,

Andrew

From: Linda MacKay <linda.mackay@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2023 9:45 AM
To: Murphy, Andrew (ENV) <Andrew.J.Murphy@novascotia.ca>
Cc: Minister, Env <Minister.Environment@novascotia.ca>; MacDonald, Jonathan E <Jonathan.MacDonald@novascotia.ca>; Connell, A J <AJ.Connell@novascotia.ca>; Reg Rankin <rankinreginald@gmail.com>; Elizabeth Chambers <Betsy.Chambers@ns.sympatico.ca>
Subject: Letter, to Andrew Murphy, DOECC from Linda MacKay, CMC Chair

Good morning,

Please find attached a letter from the Community Monitoring Committee for the Otter Lake Landfill.

Please reach out at your earliest convenience to schedule a meeting.

Thanks,
Linda MacKay, CMC Chair
902-221-1363

May 2, 2023

Linda MacKay, Chair
Otter Lake Community Monitoring Committee
P.O. Box 213
Lakeside, NS B3T 1M6
c/o Email: rankinreginald@gmail.com

Dear Linda MacKay,

Thank you for your letter dated April 24, 2023, concerning the possibility of creating a Technical Steering Committee (TSC) for Otter Lake Solid Waste Facility. I appreciate your interest in this matter and would like to provide you with some additional information.

As mentioned in our department's response to the CMC on March 6, 2023, the establishment of a TSC would be considered if there were significant changes proposed to the facility's operations that required additional technical resources to assess. Currently, this is not the case, so the department's position is that a TSC is not currently required.

It is important to note that the approval for this facility set a performance target for compostable waste not to exceed 10% of the total amount of municipal solid waste landfilled, by mass. For clarity, the Approval for this facility did not require the facility to meet the 10% target upon completion of the initial four quarterly audits. The compliance plan was intended to establish a path to achieve this target, and four quarterly audits were conducted to inform the department of how close to that target the facility was at the time and inform the timeframe of when the performance target will be achieved.

I hope this information answers your questions. If you have any further concerns or queries, please do not hesitate to contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,



Jonathan MacDonald
Regional Director, NSECC

c: Reg Rankin, CMC
Jillanna Brown, NSECC
AJ Connell, NSECC