



The Regional Municipality of Durham

COUNCIL INFORMATION PACKAGE

April 24, 2020

Information Reports

- 2020-INFO-34 Commissioner of Finance – re: Economic Update – Updated Risks and Uncertainty as of April 22, 2020

Early Release Reports

There are no Early Release Reports

Staff Correspondence

1. Memorandum from Gioseph Anello, Director (Acting), Waste Management Services and Laura McDowell, P.Eng. Director, Environmental Promotion and Protection – re: Durham York Energy Centre, Submission of January 2020 Complaint and Inquiry Logs
2. Memorandum from Gioseph Anello, Director (Acting), Waste Management Services and Laura McDowell, P.Eng. Director, Environmental Promotion and Protection – re: Durham York Energy Centre, Submission of February 2020 Complaint and Inquiry Logs
3. Memorandum from Gioseph Anello, Director (Acting), Waste Management Services and Laura McDowell, P.Eng. Director, Environmental Promotion and Protection – re: Durham York Energy Centre, Submission of March 2020 Complaint and Inquiry Logs

Durham Municipalities Correspondence

There are no Durham Municipalities Correspondence

Other Municipalities Correspondence/Resolutions

1. Township of Perth South – re: Resolution passed at their Council meeting held on April 16, 2020, regarding resolutions received and correspondence received by the Municipality of West Nipissing, the Village of Merrickville-Wolford and Norfolk County regarding Provincially Significant Wetlands Designation

2. **Township of North Dumfries** – re: Resolution passed at their Council meeting held on April 14, 2020, in support of the Town of Grimsby resolution to Suspend Time of Use for Electricity Billing
3. **Township of North Dumfries** – re: Resolution passed at their Council meeting held on April 14, 2020, in support of the County of Haliburton resolution regarding Tourism Oriented Destination Signage Fee Increases
4. **Township of Mapleton** – re: Resolution passed at their Council meeting held on March 10, 2020, to request the Province of Ontario Review the Farm Property Class Tax Rate Programme in Light of Economic Competitiveness Concerns between Rural and Urban Municipalities

Miscellaneous Correspondence

There are no Miscellaneous Correspondence

Advisory Committee Minutes

There are no Advisory Committee Minutes

Members of Council – Please advise the Regional Clerk at clerks@durham.ca, if you wish to pull an item from this CIP and include on the next regular agenda of the appropriate Standing Committee. Items will be added to the agenda if the Regional Clerk is advised by Wednesday noon the week prior to the meeting, otherwise the item will be included on the agenda for the next regularly scheduled meeting of the applicable Committee.

Notice regarding collection, use and disclosure of personal information:

Written information (either paper or electronic) that you send to Durham Regional Council or Committees, including home address, phone numbers and email addresses, will become part of the public record. If you have any questions about the collection of information, please contact the Regional Clerk/Director of Legislative Services.



The Regional Municipality of Durham Information Report

From: Commissioner of Finance
Report: #2020-INFO-34
Date: April 24, 2020

Subject:

Economic Update – Updated Risks and Uncertainty as of April 22nd, 2020

Recommendation:

Receive for information.

Report:

1. Purpose

1.1 The Regional Finance Department monitors economic conditions on an ongoing basis and prepares periodic summary reports to Regional Council. The economy is undergoing a time of significant uncertainty with economic conditions and policies changing on a daily basis. The following summarizes the changes that have occurred over the period of April 16 – April 22, 2020.

2. Federal Government

2.1 On April 15, the federal government announced expanded Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) supports for individuals, including allowing workers to earn up to \$1000 per month while collecting the CERB. The expanded measures also include extending the CERB to workers who have exhausted their EI benefits and the development of a federal-provincial cost-share program to top-up the salaries of essential workers making less than \$2,500 a month.

2.2 According to the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA), the CRA has processed 8 million applications for the CERB to date, which does not include applicants that have applied but do not qualify. Out of a total Canadian labour force of approximately 19 million, the 8 million applications suggest 42 per cent of the Canadian workforce is either currently not working or has their working hours reduced. The total dollar value of processed applications to date is approximately \$20 billion.

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- 2.3 On April 16th, the federal government announced its intention to introduce a Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance (CECRA) program for small businesses. The program will provide loans, including forgivable loans, to commercial property owners who will lower or forgo the rent of small businesses for the months of April (retroactive), May, and June. Details of the program have yet to be announced.
- 2.4 In support of the struggling arts and recreation industry, and in further support of small and medium sized businesses, the federal government announced the following measures:
- \$500 million to establish a COVID-19 Emergency Support Fund for Cultural, Heritage and Sport Organizations to help address the financial needs of affected organizations within these sectors so they can continue to support artists and athletes;
 - \$962 million to provide financing support to small and medium-sized businesses and rural businesses delivered through Canada's Regional Development Agencies and the Community Futures Network;
 - \$270.1 million to support entrepreneurs and innovators unable to access existing COVID-19 business support, through the National Research Council of Canada's Industrial Research Assistance Program and Futurpreneur Canada; and
 - Up to \$306.8 million in funding to help support small and medium-sized Indigenous businesses and the aboriginal financial institutions that offer financing to these businesses. The funding will allow for short-term, interest-free loans and non-repayable contributions.
- 2.5 On April 17th, the federal government announced additional assistance geared toward the energy sector. These assistance measures include:
- Up to \$1.72 billion to clean up orphan and/or inactive oil and gas wells including funding to the governments of Alberta, Saskatchewan, and British Columbia, and the Alberta Orphan Well Association;
 - Up to \$750 million to create a new proposed Emissions Reduction Fund to reduce emissions in Canada's oil and gas sector, with a focus on methane. This fund will provide primarily repayable contributions to conventional and offshore oil and gas firms to support their investments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and
 - Expanded eligibility for the new Business Credit Availability Program announced on March 13, 2020, to help medium-sized businesses with larger financing needs, beginning with companies in Canada's energy sector.

2.6 The federal government is also increasing its social supports by investing \$350 million to support vulnerable Canadians through charities and non-profit organizations that deliver essential services to those in need. Funding will flow through national organizations and will be used for, among other things, providing transportation services, increasing volunteer-based home deliveries, and helping vulnerable Canadians access government benefits.

3. Ontario Government

3.1 On April 15, the Province released its *COVID-19 Action Plan: Long-Term Care Homes* which includes measures to control outbreaks in long-term care homes along with increased testing protocols. The specific measures include redeploying more health care staff to long-term care homes from hospitals and community care centres, as well as working with Public Health units to assemble regional infection prevention teams to support individual homes and enacting an emergency order to limit staff to one location.

3.2 In order to ensure a stable supply of labour in the agricultural and food processing industry, the federal and provincial governments are cost-sharing an additional \$1 million investment to the Place to Grow: Agri-Food Innovation Initiative that matches employers with job seekers.

3.3 The provincial government announced further social supports by enabling insurance companies to provide auto insurance premium rebates to consumers for up to 12 months after the declared emergency has ended. These rebates would be at the discretion of insurance companies.

3.4 The province also expanded the list of front-line workers eligible for emergency childcare to include personnel working in the areas of development services, violence against women support, child welfare services, children's residential settings, emergency shelters, utilities, pharmaceutical and medical supplies, and device manufacturing.

3.5 On April 17, the Ontario government issued new orders under the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act that provide municipalities with the flexibility to offer staff reassignments to childcare, by-law enforcement, and public health services.

3.6 The new orders also provide Local Health Integration Networks with the ability to direct home care service provider organizations to safely reassign frontline staff to home and community care settings, long-term care homes, supportive housing, retirement homes and hospitals.

3.7 On April 20, the Province announced \$11 million in funding to launch a new Ontario Community Support Program to expand existing Meals on Wheels services and develop the capacity of community organizations and others to help deliver medication and other essentials. This includes \$5 million in funding announced as part of the COVID-19 Action Plan.

4. Financial Markets

- 4.1 On April 20th, the oil futures market collapsed to the lowest levels on record. The price of the West Texas Intermediate (WTI) futures contract for May 2020 dropped approximately 300 per cent to close at -US\$37.63 per barrel. This is the first time an oil contract has traded below zero dollars since oil contracts began trading in 1983. The negative price essentially means producers are paying investors to take barrels off their hands.
- 4.2 The unprecedented sell off in oil is due to the downward pressure being applied on both the supply and demand side. The global demand for oil has plummeted on the consumer side due to the social distancing measures keeping people indoors and out of their cars. Global demand on the production side has plummeted due to the depressed production activity associated with the shutdown of many businesses. This collapse in demand has caused a massive over supply which has led to storage capacity issues that are forcing producers to slash prices as an incentive for buyers to purchase the excess inventory.
- 4.3 It is important to note that the negative price for oil is only reflected in the May 2020 futures contract, which expired on April 21st. Another reason for the price volatility is the low trading volume of an expiring contract. Despite the massive sell off on April 20th, the May 2020 contract settled at US\$10.01 on April 21st. The June 2020 contract is currently trading at US\$11.57 as of the market close on April 21st.
- 4.4 In terms of equities, markets in the United States rallied for the week of April 13th – 17th, with the S&P 500 index gaining 3 per cent. According to CNBC, the S&P 500 index has rallied 28 per cent off its most recent lows and is down approximately 14 per cent year to date.
- 4.5 Despite the gains on the S&P 500, the Dow Jones Industrial Average Index remains down approximately 19 per cent year to date. The Nasdaq Composite Index has outperformed both the S&P 500 and Dow Jones with approximate year to date losses of only 7 per cent.
- 4.6 In Canada, the Toronto Stock Exchange (TSX) was up only 1.4 per cent for the week of April 13th – April 17th. Similar to the S&P 500, the TSX has declined approximately 14 per cent year to date.
- 4.7 The Canadian housing market has also seen a decline in activity with the Canadian Real Estate Association reporting a 14.3 per cent drop in sales volume from February to March. New listings in February were down 12.5 per cent with little change in the average month-over-month selling price. According to the Durham Region Association of REALTORS, new listings in Durham increased by 13 per cent with house prices, as measured by the MLS Home Price Index, increasing 10.43 per cent.

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- 4.8 According to the Toronto Real Estate Board, home sales across the Greater Toronto Area fell 69 per cent, year-over-year, over the first 17 days of April. New listings also fell 63.7 per cent year-over-year with the average selling price declining 1.5 per cent.
- 4.9 The reduction in housing activity can likely be partially attributed to consumer uncertainty regarding employment. According to Statistics Canada results from the Canadian Perspectives Survey Series 1: Impacts of COVID-19, which cover the week of March 22nd – 28th, 34.5 per cent of Canadian workers expressed worry that they might lose their job or main source of self-employment income in the next four weeks.

5. United States

- 5.1 The impacts of COVID-19 continue to batter the U.S economy as retail sales for March 2020 fell 8.7 per cent, which represents the worst monthly decline since comparable data collection began in 1992. This could have major implications on the U.S economy as consumer spending accounts for roughly two-thirds of economic activity.
- 5.2 In New York state, the epicenter of the COVID-19 outbreak in the United States, business conditions have deteriorated significantly. According to data from the April 2020 Empire States Manufacturing Survey, released on April 16th, the New York manufacturing industry reported a significant decline in business activity with the business activity index falling by fifty-seven points to its lowest level on record. Only 7 per cent of respondents said business conditions had improved in March, while 85 per cent said conditions had worsened.
- 5.3 In New York City, the retail real estate market is taking a considerable hit with retail rent falling over 15 per cent in Times Square and over 30 per cent along Broadway. New York City is also estimating a US\$7.4 billion loss in tax revenue over the current and next fiscal year.
- 5.4 In response to the continued economic fallout associated with COVID-19, the U.S Senate passed another US\$484 billion relief package on April 21st. The funding includes US\$75 billion for hospitals, US\$25 billion for COVID-19 testing, US\$50 billion more in small business loans, and US\$310 billion for the Paycheck Protection Program, of which US\$60 billion is set aside for smaller institutions.
- 5.5 In another attempt to stem the decline in economic activity, President Trump announced, on April 16th, a set of guidelines identifying the circumstances necessary for relaxing social distancing measures and reopening the economy. The guidelines follow a phased approach with each phase lasting approximately two weeks. Although the guidelines are federal, the decision to lift economic restrictions ultimately lies at the individual state level.

5.6 On April 20th, President Trump announced his intention to sign an executive order to suspend immigration into the United States to curb the COVID-19 pandemic. The order includes an initial 60-day halt on the issuance of green cards with the possibility of extension. The order will not apply to the guest worker program, which provides special visas for temporary foreign workers, such as farm labour.

6. Global Economy

6.1 On Friday April 17th, China released its first quarter GDP numbers for 2020 which showed an economic contraction of 6.8 per cent. This is the first time since China began reporting quarterly data in 1992 that the Chinese economy has been in contraction.

6.2 China also saw a major contraction in a number of other economic statistics over the first quarter of 2020. Chinese industrial production fell 8.4 per cent, investments in fixed assets fell 16.1 per cent, and retail sales fell 19 per cent.

6.3 On April 20th, Germany began slowly reopening its economy by allowing small shops (retail space below 800 square meters), as well as larger car dealerships, bookstores, and bike shops, to reopen as long as hygiene and social distancing measures are in place. Germany also plans to reopen schools on May 4th, beginning with students in their final years of primary or secondary education.

6.4 Other European countries, such as Denmark, Norway, and the Czech Republic, also began to slowly reopen their economies on April 20th.

6.5 While European countries begin scaling back social distancing measures, the United Kingdom announced it will be extending its lockdown for another three weeks. The U.K also announced a £1.25 billion (US\$1.6 billion) support package to help innovative firms in areas such as tech and life sciences survive the coronavirus pandemic. The package consists of £500 million in convertible loans and an additional £750 million in loans and grants for research and development.

7. Conclusions

7.1 The economy is experiencing increasing volatility with uncertainty around the spread of COVID-19. Economic conditions are changing on a daily basis as policy makers continue to navigate this uncharted territory.

7.2 The Regional Finance Department will continue to monitor economic conditions and provide timely updates as required.

Respectfully submitted,

Original Signed by Nancy Taylor

Nancy Taylor, BBA, CPA, CA
Commissioner of Finance and Treasurer

If you require this information in an accessible format, please contact The Regional Municipality of Durham at 1-800-372-1102 ext. 3560.



April 16, 2020

Celeste Dugas, Manager, York Durham District Office
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
230 Westney Road South, Floor 5
Ajax, Ontario L1S 7J5

Dear Ms. Dugas:

RE: Durham York Energy Centre
Submission of January 2020 Complaint and Inquiry Logs
MECP File #: EA-08-02

The Regional Municipality of Durham, the Regional Municipality of York, and Covanta continue to monitor complaints and inquiries for the Durham York Energy Centre and provide monthly reports to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks' (MECP) York Durham District Office. The next reporting period will cover the month of February 2020.

We trust that this meets the MECP's expectation. If you require additional information, please contact the undersigned.

Sincerely,

Original signed by:

Gioseph Anello, M.Eng., P.Eng., PMP
Director (Acting), Waste Management Services

The Regional Municipality of Durham
905-668-7711 extension 3445
Giospeh.Anello@durham.ca

Original signed by:

Laura McDowell, P.Eng.
Director, Environmental Promotion
and Protection
The Regional Municipality of York
905-830-4444 extension 75077
Laura.McDowell@york.ca

- c. P. Dunn, Senior Environmental Officer, York Durham District Office, MECP
J. Butchart, Issues Project Coordinator (Acting), York Durham District Office, MECP
P. Martin, Supervisor, Air, Pesticides and Environmental Planning, MECP
T. Bell, Environmental Resource Planner and EA Coordinator, Air, Pesticides and
Environmental Planning, MECP
G. Battarino, Special Project Officer, Project Coordination, Environmental Assessment
Services, MECP
A. Huxter, Environmental Specialist, Covanta
Energy from Waste Advisory Committee (EFWAC)
C. Raynor, Regional Clerk, The Regional Municipality of York
R. Walton, Regional Clerk, The Regional Municipality of Durham

Enclosure

Inquiries – January 2020

#	Date Received	Method Received	Comment Details / Description	Response / Remedial Action	Date Responded	Staff Initials
-	-	-	The Regional Municipalities of Durham and York released a Notice of Commencement on July 3, 2019 for the Environmental Screening Process to increase the waste capacity from 140,000 tonnes of waste to 160,000 tonnes of waste per year at the Durham York Energy Centre.	Inquires received through the Environmental Screening Process will be addressed and reported to the MECP through the Record of Consultation for the Project.	-	-
1	January 9, 2020	DYEC Project Email	I have boxes of old paperwork that needs to be disposed of - will you burn it?	<p>Good Afternoon,</p> <p>This email is in response to your inquiry sent on January 9, 2019 regarding the disposal of old paperwork at the Durham York Energy Centre.</p> <p>The Durham York Energy Centre is Durham Region's primary long-term disposal option for waste and only processes the household waste remaining after Durham and York Regions' aggressive composting, recycling and reuse programs. Our Certificate of Approval does not allow us to accept waste from any additional outside sources.</p> <p>Please let us know if you have any additional questions.</p> <p>Regards,</p> <p>DYEC Project Team</p>	January 13, 2020	D/L
2	January 21, 2020	DYEC Project Email	<p>Hello there,</p> <p>I was curious as to what chemical agents are used in the aerosol that is sprayed to mask the garbage smell. I live in Bowmanville and have noticed a strange perfume smell, I was told that it was coming from the incinerator station. That said, I have been very curious as to what the smell is coming from. Any information about this would be fantastic. I'm just a curious person and I couldn't find anything despite my internet searching efforts. Thanks again.</p>	<p>This email is in response to your emailed dated Tuesday January 21, 2020 in regards to odour management procedures at the Durham York Energy Centre.</p> <p>Under normal operations, no chemicals are applied to the waste for odour control. However, the facility does have a micro-nutrient odour control spray that can be applied to manage odours from the waste in the pit under abnormal conditions. The spray itself has a lemongrass smell. In 2019, the odour control spray was only applied as a precautionary measure during plant</p>	January 24, 2020	D/L

#	Date Received	Method Received	Comment Details / Description	Response / Remedial Action	Date Responded	Staff Initials
				<p>maintenance outages (Mar 27-29 and Sept 23-30), and no usage has occurred in 2020.</p> <p>Waste at the facility is unloaded and stored indoors. Air in the tipping hall is drawn through large fans and used in the combustion process during normal operations. This ensures the tipping hall remains under negative air pressure to contain any dust and odours generated during the delivery and storage process. By using the air from the tipping floor during combustion, the odour causing compounds are destroyed through the combustion process prior to reaching the stack. In addition, regular odour inspections are completed by both Regional and Operator staff to ensure there are no offsite impacts due to odour from operations as part of the facilities environmental monitoring program.</p> <p>Please note that all odour complaints received by the DYEC are reported to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) as per the facilities Environmental Compliance Approval. If there is a specific day and time when you are experiencing a garbage odour, you are encouraged to notify us so we can further investigate your concern. Given the perfume like odour identified – it is not something that would be associated with the DYEC. However, I have copied Phil Dunn the provincial environmental officer for the DYEC on this email – should you have concerns regarding odours within the area, he can direct you to the appropriate point of contact within the Ministry.</p> <p>Should you have any further questions regarding the facility, please don't hesitate to contact us.</p> <p>Regards, DYEC Project Team</p>		

Total Inquiries – January 2020

Inquiry Type	Total by Inquiry Type
Total Project Team Inquiries received this month by project web email / telephone:	2
Total Covanta Inquiries received this month:	0
Total Durham Region Council / Committee Inquiries received this month:	0
Total Durham Region Call Centre Inquiries received this month:	0
Total Inquiries received from York Region this month:	0
Total Inquiries received from previous months in 2020 to-date:	0
Total Inquiries received in 2020 to-date:	2

Complaints – January 2020

#	Date Received	Method Received	Comment Details / Description	Response / Remedial Action	Date Responded	Staff Initials
-	-	-	The Regional Municipalities of Durham and York released a Notice of Commencement on July 3, 2019 for the Environmental Screening Process to increase the waste capacity from 140,000 tonnes of waste to 160,000 tonnes of waste per year at the Durham York Energy Centre.	Complaints received through the Environmental Screening Process will be addressed and reported to the MECP through the Record of Consultation for the Project.	-	-
1	January 31, 2020	DYEC telephone	Staff received an odour complaint from a resident at around 11:25 AM. He said the odour is strong and smells like garbage and he can smell it from his home on Huntington Crescent and north to Highway 2.	Staff completed a full odour investigation in conjunction with the MECP. It was concluded that the odour was not related to the DYEC. Staff called the resident back to discuss further. The resident was satisfied that the odour was not related to the DYEC.	January 31, 2020	O/W, A/H

Total Complaints – January 2020

Complaint Type	Total by Complaint Type
Total Project Team Complaints received this month by project web email / telephone:	1
Total Covanta Complaints received this month:	0
Total Durham Region Council / Committee Complaints received this month:	0
Total Durham Region Call Centre Complaints received this month:	0
Total Complaints received from York Region this month:	0
Total Complaints received from previous months in 2020 to-date:	0
Total Complaints received in 2020 to-date:	1

If you require this information in an accessible format, please contact The Regional Municipality of Durham at 1-800-372-1102 ext. 3560.



April 16, 2020

Celeste Dugas, Manager, York Durham District Office
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
230 Westney Road South, Floor 5
Ajax, Ontario L1S 7J5

Dear Ms. Dugas:

RE: Durham York Energy Centre
Submission of February 2020 Complaint and Inquiry Logs
MECP File #: EA-08-02

The Regional Municipality of Durham, the Regional Municipality of York, and Covanta continue to monitor complaints and inquiries for the Durham York Energy Centre and provide monthly reports to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks' (MECP) York Durham District Office. The next reporting period will cover the month of March 2020.

We trust that this meets the MECP's expectation. If you require additional information, please contact the undersigned.

Sincerely,

Original signed by:

Gioseph Anello, M.Eng., P.Eng., PMP
Director (Acting), Waste Management Services

The Regional Municipality of Durham
905-668-7711 extension 3445
Gioseph.Anello@durham.ca

Original signed by:

Laura McDowell, P.Eng.
Director, Environmental Promotion
and Protection

The Regional Municipality of York
905-830-4444 extension 75077
Laura.McDowell@york.ca

- c. P. Dunn, Senior Environmental Officer, York Durham District Office, MECP
J. Butchart, Issues Project Coordinator (Acting), York Durham District Office, MECP
P. Martin, Supervisor, Air, Pesticides and Environmental Planning, MECP
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Environmental Planning, MECP
G. Battarino, Special Project Officer, Project Coordination, Environmental Assessment
Services, MECP
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Energy from Waste Advisory Committee (EFWAC)
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R. Walton, Regional Clerk, The Regional Municipality of Durham

Enclosure

Inquiries – February 2020

#	Date Received	Method Received	Comment Details / Description	Response / Remedial Action	Date Responded	Staff Initials
-	-	-	The Regional Municipalities of Durham and York released a Notice of Commencement on July 3, 2019 for the Environmental Screening Process to increase the waste capacity from 140,000 tonnes of waste to 160,000 tonnes of waste per year at the Durham York Energy Centre.	Inquires received through the Environmental Screening Process will be addressed and reported to the MECP through the Record of Consultation for the Project.	-	-
1	February 4, 2020	DYEC Project Email	I have lived in Durham Region(Whitby/Oshawa) since 1998. At question is why, since the incinerator has been built, there is a noticeable pungent smell in the air which affects what used to be a fresher smell in the neighborhood. I have found quite often, that I can clearly smell this terrible scent as far as Simcoe Av., in Oshawa. How is this acceptable, and with all the issues around the lack of passing the required testing since it was built, how safe is this to breath in. I believe we have over spent on a faulty design.As I see it, we are paying to basically poison ourselves through the air we breath. Please supply air samples air point of exhaust as well as surrounding are radius, proving that this is safe because as far as I'm concerned, if we are breathing in something that smelles toxic then it probably is.	<p>Good Morning,</p> <p>This email is in response to your emailed dated Tuesday February 4, 2020 in regards to odour concerns and air monitoring in relation to the Durham York Energy Centre (DYEC).</p> <p>The protection of the environment is a key aspect of the DYEC operations. The DYEC uses pollution control systems and proven, reliable Energy from Waste technology. As part of the facilities development, air modelling identifying the intensity, and expected distribution of emissions was required to demonstrate the potential impacts of the facility. Furthermore, as part of the permitting process, the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) has imposed strict limits on the air emissions for the DYEC. Emissions at the stack are monitored continuously through a real time emissions monitoring system and periodically through annual spring and fall stack testing. Local air quality is also monitoring via two ambient air sampling stations located in the vicinity of the facility. The results of these monitoring programs are posted as reports that are available on the DYEC website (www.durhamyorkwaste.ca), where hourly stack conditions are also posted.</p> <p>You reference a concern regarding odour. The potential for odours is closely monitored at the Durham York Energy Centre (DYEC). Regular odour inspections are completed by both Regional and Operator staff to ensure there are no offsite impacts occurring due to odour from DYEC operations. All trucks delivering waste to the DYCE are covered. The</p>	February 5, 2020	D/L

				<p>facility was designed to prevent the release of odours into the community. The tipping hall, where municipal solid waste is received and unloaded is located indoors. The air in the tipping hall is drawn through large fans and used in the combustion process. This ensures the tipping hall remains under negative air pressure to contain any dust and odours generated during the delivery and storage process. Additionally, the odour causing compounds are destroyed through the combustion process prior to reaching the stack. All odour complaints received by the DYEC are reported to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) as per the facilities Environmental Compliance Approval. Once a concern has been reported, an investigation of the available data, including wind direction from meteorological data, conditions of operations, and a review of our odour inspections, is completed to determine conditions at the time of the reported incident. If there is a specific day and time when you are experiencing a garbage odour, you are encouraged to notify us so we can further investigate your concern. Please note that I have copied Phil Dunn (the provincial environmental officer for the DYEC) on this email.</p> <p>The DYEC has experienced three CO exceedances and one Dioxin/Furan exceedance at the facility since operations commenced. CO is monitored as an operational parameter indicating combustion performance and is not expected to adversely impact health or environment. Dioxins and furans are tested during stack tests, and the exceedance resulted in the Regions and Covanta worked diligently with the MECP on an abatement plan to investigate and remediate any problems. All exceedances at the facility are reported to both the MECP and to the public. Following these events a review of the conditions leading to the exceedance is undertaken, and measures are put in place to reduce the risk of reoccurrence. Six additional stack tests have been completed since the dioxin/furan exceedance in 2016, all demonstrating the facilities compliance with permit limits.</p>		
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#	Date Received	Method Received	Comment Details / Description	Response / Remedial Action	Date Responded	Staff Initials
				Should you have any further questions regarding the facility, please don't hesitate to contact us. Regards, DYEC Project Team		
2	February 7, 2020	DYEC Project Email	I am wondering if you accept food waste from restaurant grease traps at your facility? If not, do you know of a local facility in Durham region that does? Thanks in advance for your help.	Good Morning, This email is in response to your inquiry sent on February 7, 2020 regarding disposal of food waste from restaurant grease traps at the Durham York Energy Centre (DYEC). The DYEC is Durham Region's primary long-term disposal option for waste and only processes the household waste remaining after Durham and York Regions' aggressive composting, recycling and reuse programs. Our Certificate of Approval only permits us to take waste from residential collection programs within Durham and York Regions and delivered via approved waste haulers. We do not accept commercial, industrial or institutional waste at the facility; therefore, we do not accept any waste from commercial restaurants. There are several grease trap cleaning service companies within the Region of Durham that may be able to provide some disposal options of your waste material. Regards, DYEC Project Team	February 10, 2020	DL
3	February 9, 2020	DYEC Project Email	I'd like to know the minimum MSW tonnage per year that would be required for a WTE company, such as Covanta to consider to build a new facility. Do you think that Covanta has any plans to build more WTE plants in Ontario? How could I learn if the population of the region of Waterloo would qualify as a region of interest to build a WTE plant there? The population of the region of Waterloo for 2018 is estimated to be 601,000.	This email is in response to your inquiry dated February 9, 2020 regarding additional energy from waste questions. The minimum MSW tonnage per year required for a WTE facility is specific to design requirements and the energy content of the waste stream. Whether or not a facility is feasible depends on many factors including the quantity of waste generated per capita, what's in	February 11, 2020	DL/AE

#	Date Received	Method Received	Comment Details / Description	Response / Remedial Action	Date Responded	Staff Initials
				<p>the waste stream in terms of energy content, as well as future growth rates or new programs.</p> <p>The DYEC is owned by the Regions of Durham and York and operated under a long term (20 year) Design, Build, Operate and Maintenance Contract between the Regions and our operator, Covanta. The DYEC, with two 70,000 tonne per year boilers, is currently the smallest facility which Covanta operates.</p> <p>Unfortunately we are not able to speak on Covanta's behalf regarding plans to build more WTE plants in Ontario, however, as landfill capacity within Ontario is decreasing, and new landfills are becoming more difficult to site, there may be an increased demand for alternative disposal options. Many municipalities have assessed EFW as part of long-term waste management master plans and you may want to speak to your local/regional staff to determine if they have considered it in the past, and the outcome of any assessment.</p> <p>Regards, DYEC Project Team</p>		
4	February 20, 2020	DYEC Project Website	<p>Has consideration been given to build a biogas plant adjacent to the present energy centre. The biogas plant could then dispose of extraneous materials in the organic wastes (ie plastic bags) in the energy plant. Perhaps the residuals from the two plants could be combined to give planting medium that could be used in specific applications ie planting trees and golf courses.</p>	<p>Thank you for your email dated February 20, 2020 regarding the potential to build a biogas plant adjacent to the Durham York Energy Centre.</p> <p>The Region has approved the implementation of a project for a mixed waste transfer/pre-sort with Anaerobic Digestion (AD) facilities which will divert up to 30,000 tonnes per year of organics material from the Durham York Energy Centre. The Waste Pre-Sort facility will sort out recyclables from multi-residential garbage as well as organics that the Green Bin did not capture. The organics will then be sent to the AD facility for processing into energy and natural fertilizer products.</p> <p>A Public Information Centre regarding the siting of the project is being held on Thursday, February 27, from 5 to 8 p.m. at Durham Regional Headquarters, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby – Room LL-C (located on</p>	February 21, 2020	DL

#	Date Received	Method Received	Comment Details / Description	Response / Remedial Action	Date Responded	Staff Initials
				<p>the lower level). The Works Department is inviting residents to learn about six potential site locations for the new AD and waste pre-sorting facility in Durham Region.</p> <p>The potential site locations are listed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • West Scugog – #10 Regional Road No. 21, Scugog • East Scugog – 1623 Reach Street, Port Perry • North Clarington – 9293 Woodley Road, Clarington • South Clarington – 339 Courtice Road, Clarington • Oshawa – 1640 Ritson Road • Whitby – 4600 Garrard Road <p>At the open house, representatives from the project team will provide information and answer questions. If you are unable to attend, all information including the six potential locations will be available online at durham.ca/ADproject and questions can be submitted to ADproject@durham.ca.</p> <p>Residents are encouraged to subscribe to be notified when the project page (durham.ca/ADproject) is updated with new information.</p> <p>Regards, DYEC Project Team</p>		
5	February 25, 2020	DYEC Project Website	<p>We were wondering what is currently happening to the ash/residual waste that is left after processing. The website says it is encapsulated in cement, but does not say if it stays on site or is landfilled somewhere else?</p> <p>(February 25, 2020) Where is it currently landfilled? What municipality? Please be specific because I want to know where our garbage goes.</p>	<p>Thank you for your emailed dated February 25, 2020 regarding ash/residual waste that remains after processing.</p> <p>After combustion, metal and a non-hazardous ash residue remain. The residue is about 10 per cent of the original volume of the garbage delivered to the facility. Bottom ash and metal is conveyed to a building where large pieces of metal are first removed. The remaining material is then conveyed to a large rotating drum magnet where ferrous metals (magnetic iron-based metals) are separated and collected. Next, an eddy current separator works to propel and collect non-ferrous metals (such as aluminum and copper).</p>	February 25, 2020	DL/AH

#	Date Received	Method Received	Comment Details / Description	Response / Remedial Action	Date Responded	Staff Initials
				<p>Remaining ash is collected, fly-ash is encapsulated in cement, and safely landfilled as non-hazardous waste - or in the future, may be beneficially reused.</p> <p>If you would like to learn more about how residential garbage is processed the Durham York Energy Centre, we invite you to view our process overview video and virtual tour which can be accessed through the DYEC homepage (www.durhamyorkwaste.ca).</p> <p>Please let us know if you have any additional questions.</p> <p>Regards,</p> <p>DYEC Project Team</p> <p>(February 25, 2020) Bottom and fly ash from the Durham York Energy Centre (DYEC) is currently being sent to Walker Environmental in Thorold, Ontario for use as daily cover. Ferrous and non-ferrous metals are currently being sent to Triple M Metals in Hamilton, Ontario for recycling, and DYEC bypass waste is currently being sent to Twin Creeks Landfill in Watford, Ontario for final disposal.</p> <p>Regards,</p> <p>DYEC Project Team</p>		

Total Inquiries – February 2020

Inquiry Type	Total by Inquiry Type
Total Project Team Inquiries received this month by project web email / telephone:	5
Total Covanta Inquiries received this month:	0
Total Durham Region Council / Committee Inquiries received this month:	0
Total Durham Region Call Centre Inquiries received this month:	0
Total Inquiries received from York Region this month:	0
Total Inquiries received from previous months in 2020 to-date:	2
Total Inquiries received in 2020 to-date:	7

Complaints – February 2020

#	Date Received	Method Received	Comment Details / Description	Response / Remedial Action	Date Responded	Staff Initials
-	-	-	The Regional Municipalities of Durham and York released a Notice of Commencement on July 3, 2019 for the Environmental Screening Process to increase the waste capacity from 140,000 tonnes of waste to 160,000 tonnes of waste per year at the Durham York Energy Centre.	Complaints received through the Environmental Screening Process will be addressed and reported to the MECP through the Record of Consultation for the Project.	-	-
1	February 4, 2020	DYEC Project Email	I have lived in Durham Region (Whitby/Oshawa) since 1998. At question is why, since the incinerator has been built, there is a noticeable pungent smell in the air which affects what used to be a fresher smell in the neighborhood. I have found quite often, that I can clearly smell this terrible scent as far as Simcoe Av., in Oshawa. How is this acceptable, and with all the issues around the lack of passing the required testing since it was built, how safe is this to breath in. I believe we have over spent on a faulty design. As I see it, we are paying to basically poison ourselves through the air we breath. Please supply air samples air point of exhaust as well as surrounding are radius, proving that this is safe because as far as I'm concerned, if we are breathing in something that smelles toxic then it probably is.	<p>Good Morning,</p> <p>This email is in response to your emailed dated Tuesday February 4, 2020 in regards to odour concerns and air monitoring in relation to the Durham York Energy Centre (DYEC).</p> <p>The protection of the environment is a key aspect of the DYEC operations. The DYEC uses pollution control systems and proven, reliable Energy from Waste technology. As part of the facilities development, air modelling identifying the intensity, and expected distribution of emissions was required to demonstrate the potential impacts of the facility. Furthermore, as part of the permitting process, the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) has imposed strict limits on the air emissions for the DYEC. Emissions at the stack are monitored continuously through a real time emissions monitoring system and periodically through annual spring and fall stack testing. Local air quality is also monitoring via two ambient air sampling stations located in the vicinity of the facility. The results of these monitoring programs are posted as reports that are available on the DYEC website (www.durhamyorkwaste.ca), where hourly stack conditions are also posted.</p> <p>You reference a concern regarding odour. The potential for odours is closely monitored at the Durham York Energy Centre (DYEC). Regular odour inspections are completed by both Regional and Operator staff to ensure there are no offsite impacts occurring due to odour from DYEC operations. All trucks delivering waste to the DYCE are covered. The facility was designed to prevent the release of odours into the community. The tipping hall, where municipal solid waste is received and unloaded is located indoors. The air in the tipping hall is drawn through large</p>	February 5, 2020	DL/AE/GA

#	Date Received	Method Received	Comment Details / Description	Response / Remedial Action	Date Responded	Staff Initials
				<p>fans and used in the combustion process. This ensures the tipping hall remains under negative air pressure to contain any dust and odours generated during the delivery and storage process. Additionally, the odour causing compounds are destroyed through the combustion process prior to reaching the stack. All odour complaints received by the DYEC are reported to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) as per the facilities Environmental Compliance Approval. Once a concern has been reported, an investigation of the available data, including wind direction from meteorological data, conditions of operations, and a review of our odour inspections, is completed to determine conditions at the time of the reported incident. If there is a specific day and time when you are experiencing a garbage odour, you are encouraged to notify us so we can further investigate your concern. Please note that I have copied Phil Dunn (the provincial environmental officer for the DYEC) on this email.</p> <p>The DYEC has experienced three CO exceedances and one Dioxin/Furan exceedance at the facility since operations commenced. CO is monitored as an operational parameter indicating combustion performance and is not expected to adversely impact health or environment. Dioxins and furans are tested during stack tests, and the exceedance resulted in the Regions and Covanta worked diligently with the MECP on an abatement plan to investigate and remediate any problems. All exceedances at the facility are reported to both the MECP and to the public. Following these events, a review of the conditions leading to the exceedance is undertaken, and measures are put in place to reduce the risk of reoccurrence. Six additional stack tests have been completed since the dioxin/furan exceedance in 2016, all demonstrating the facilities compliance with permit limits.</p> <p>Should you have any further questions regarding the facility, please don't hesitate to contact us.</p> <p>Regards, DYEC Project Team</p>		
2	February 21, 2020	DYEC telephone	Staff have received an odour complaint to the facility through a phone call. The resident called at approx. 1:45 pm. and noted that there is an	Staff completed a full odour investigation in conjunction with the MECP. It was concluded that the odour was not related	February 21 & 24, 2019	LW/DL

#	Date Received	Method Received	Comment Details / Description	Response / Remedial Action	Date Responded	Staff Initials
			ongoing conversation Original Bowmanville Community Group Facebook page (which is a private page) which is speaking to odours they are claiming to be from our facility and speak to today's date (February 21, 2020).	to the DYEC. Staff called the resident back to discuss further. The resident noted that they also did their own investigation and that they were able to locate the local odour source. The resident was satisfied that the odour was not related to the DYEC.		
3	February 23, 2020	DYEC Project Website	Greetings, I am uncertain as to whether I am contacting the correct department (if not, please let me know who I might try), however, I am writing to express a serious concern about public health. Specifically, the incineration plant, south of the 401 in between Bowmanville and Courtice, has been emitting constantly a very noxious odor for several months. This smell not only makes it intolerable to be outside or open a window, but I'm guessing is poisonous to humans and animals. Can you please help me understand how the Region can allow this to continue? Is there nothing that can be done to protect the public and our environment? I look forward to any support you can provide.	<p>Thank you for your emailed dated February 23, 2020 in regard to public health and odour concerns in relation to the Durham York Energy Centre (DYEC).</p> <p>Human health and the environment are primary concerns for both Durham and York Regions. As such, the Regions have undertaken a series of detailed studies on air emissions, health, traffic, noise, ground and surface water to assess any potential effects from the DYEC to ensure that residents and the environment are protected. Results of the Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessment studies in the Environmental Assessment concluded that the DYEC would not lead to any adverse health risks to the public or environment.</p> <p>The protection of human health and the environment is a key aspect of the DYEC operations. The DYEC uses pollution control systems and proven, reliable Energy from Waste technology. As part of the facilities development, air modelling identifying the intensity and expected distribution of emissions was required to demonstrate the potential impacts of the facility. As part of the permitting process, the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) has imposed strict limits on the air emissions for the DYEC. Emissions at the stack are monitored continuously through a real time emissions monitoring system and periodically through annual spring and fall stack testing. Local air quality is also monitoring via two ambient air sampling stations located in the vicinity of the facility. The results of these monitoring programs are posted as reports that are available on the DYEC website (www.durhamyorkwaste.ca), where hourly stack conditions are also posted.</p> <p>You reference a concern regarding odour. The potential for odours is closely monitored at the Durham York Energy</p>	February 24, 2020	DL/AE/GA

#	Date Received	Method Received	Comment Details / Description	Response / Remedial Action	Date Responded	Staff Initials
				<p>Centre (DYEC). Regular odour inspections are completed by both Regional and Operator staff to ensure there are no offsite impacts occurring due to odour from DYEC operations. All trucks delivering waste to the DYCE are covered. The facility was designed to prevent the release of odours into the community. The tipping hall, where municipal solid waste is received and unloaded is located indoors. The air in the tipping hall is drawn through large fans and used in the combustion process. This ensures the tipping hall remains under negative air pressure to contain any dust and odours generated during the delivery and storage process. Additionally, the odour causing compounds are destroyed through the combustion process prior to reaching the stack. All odour complaints received by the DYEC are reported to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) as per the facilities Environmental Compliance Approval. Once a concern has been reported, an investigation of the available data, including wind direction from meteorological data, conditions of operations, and a review of our odour inspections, is completed to determine conditions at the time of the reported incident. Since DYEC operations commenced in 2016, all of the odour investigations completed by the DYEC, in conjunction with the MECP, have concluded that the reported odour events have not been as a result of operations at the facility. If there is a specific day and time when you are experiencing a garbage odour, you are encouraged to notify us so we can further investigate your concern. Please note that I have copied Phil Dunn (the provincial environmental officer for the DYEC) on this email.</p> <p>Please let us know if you have any additional questions or concerns regarding the facility, or if you would like to schedule a tour of the DYEC.</p> <p>Regards, DYEC Project Team</p>		

#	Date Received	Method Received	Comment Details / Description	Response / Remedial Action	Date Responded	Staff Initials
4	February 24, 2020	DYEC Project Website	<p>I have noticed a very strong odour in the air coming from the incinerator today and has been very noticeable for the past few days now. The smell of whatever you are burning stinks. It's making me sick and dizzy and has gave me headaches when I am outside. Right now I'm at the Home Depot and everyone outside are complaining of the very strong smell. Two days ago I was near the Ontario Power and it was just as strong. This can't be good to breathe in and would like to know why you are burning and allowing the public to breath in your waste production. Please get back to me ASAP.</p> <p>(February 24, 2020) Thank you for your prompt response. What investigations have ocured in the past do not curb my concerns about the continual and ongoing stentch that my community has been experiencing. The sickening odour is typically present day and night every day. Perhaps they have found a way around the monitoring system?? What ever the case, a lengthy email is not what is needed....I encourage you or a representative to visit Bowmanville to experience this smell personally. You would be hard pressed to find a day or time that it isn't present.</p> <p>I look forward to the MECP putting a stop to this. Please contact me when you plan to visit.</p>	<p>Thank you for your email dated February 24, 2020 in regards to odour concerns in relation to the Durham York Energy Centre (DYEC).</p> <p>I understand that residents have been experiencing odours in the Clarington community as we have received a number of concerns from area residents. The potential for odours is closely monitored at the Durham York Energy Centre (DYEC). Regular odour inspections are completed by both Regional and Operator staff to ensure there are no offsite impacts occurring due to odour from DYEC operations. All trucks delivering waste to the DYCE are covered.</p> <p>The facility was designed to prevent the release of odours into the community. The tipping hall, where municipal solid waste is received and unloaded is located indoors. The air in the tipping hall is drawn through large fans and used in the combustion process. This ensures the tipping hall remains under negative air pressure to contain any dust and odours generated during the delivery and storage process. Additionally, the odour causing compounds are destroyed through the combustion process prior to reaching the stack.</p> <p>When an odour complaint is received at the DYEC, it is reported to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) as per the facilities Environmental Compliance Approval. This triggers an investigation of the available data, including wind direction from meteorological data, conditions of operations, and a review of our odour inspections, is completed to determine conditions at the time of the reported incident. Once the investigation is complete, and the Provincial environmental officer for the DYEC is satisfied that we are not the source of the odour in question, the complaint is then provided to the local Clarington Provincial environmental officer. This has been the case for all odour complaints received to date by the DYEC, including the investigation completed yesterday in regards to your email. This does not mean that an odour is not present</p>	February 24 & 26, 2020	DL/AE/GA

				<p>within the community, but that the odour is not associated with our facility.</p> <p>If residents experience an offensive odour in their community that is causing them concern, we encourage them to contact their local district office of the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change. Please note that I have copied Phil Dunn (the provincial environmental officer for the DYEC) on this email.</p> <p>Please let us know if you have any additional questions or concerns regarding the facility, or if you would like to schedule a tour of the DYEC.</p> <p>Regards, DYEC Project Team</p> <p>(February 26, 2020) I understand that residents have been experiencing odours in the Clarington community as we have received several concerns from area residents. Once a complaint is received, our staff go out into community as part of the investigation to determine if the odour, in question, is as a result of operations at the Durham York Energy Centre (DYEC).</p> <p>We investigate the operating conditions at the DYEC, the meteorological data including wind direction and review the data from our regular inspections and odour monitoring. The results of our investigations to date indicate that the DYEC is not the source of the odours.</p> <p>Once our investigation is complete, and the Provincial environmental officer for the DYEC is satisfied that we are not the source of the odour in question, the complaint is then passed to the local Clarington Provincial environmental officer. This has been the case for all odour complaints received to date by the DYEC, including complaints received within last week. This does not mean that an odour is not present within the community, but that the odour is not associated with our facility.</p> <p>If residents experience an offensive odour in their community that is causing them concern, we encourage them to contact their local district office of the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change.</p> <p>Please do not hesitate to call me directly if you would like to discuss your odour concerns further.</p>		
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Total Complaints – February 2020

Complaint Type	Total by Complaint Type
Total Project Team Complaints received this month by project web email / telephone:	4
Total Covanta Complaints received this month:	0
Total Durham Region Council / Committee Complaints received this month:	0
Total Durham Region Call Centre Complaints received this month:	0
Total Complaints received from York Region this month:	0
Total Complaints received from previous months in 2020 to-date:	1
Total Complaints received in 2020 to-date:	5

If you require this information in an accessible format, please contact The Regional Municipality of Durham at 1-800-372-1102 ext. 3560.



April 16, 2020

Celeste Dugas, Manager, York Durham District Office
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
230 Westney Road South, Floor 5
Ajax, Ontario L1S 7J5

Dear Ms. Dugas:

RE: Durham York Energy Centre
Submission of March 2020 Complaint and Inquiry Logs
MECP File #: EA-08-02

The Regional Municipality of Durham, the Regional Municipality of York, and Covanta continue to monitor complaints and inquiries for the Durham York Energy Centre and provide monthly reports to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks' (MECP) York Durham District Office. The next reporting period will cover the month of April 2020.

We trust that this meets the MECP's expectation. If you require additional information, please contact the undersigned.

Sincerely,

Original signed by:

Gioseph Anello, M.Eng., P.Eng., PMP
Director (Acting), Waste Management Services

The Regional Municipality of Durham
905-668-7711 extension 3445
Gioseph.Anello@durham.ca

Original signed by:

Laura McDowell, P.Eng.
Director, Environmental Promotion
and Protection

The Regional Municipality of York
905-830-4444 extension 75077
Laura.McDowell@york.ca

- c. P. Dunn, Senior Environmental Officer, York Durham District Office, MECP
J. Butchart, Issues Project Coordinator (Acting), York Durham District Office, MECP
P. Martin, Supervisor, Air, Pesticides and Environmental Planning, MECP
T. Bell, Environmental Resource Planner and EA Coordinator, Air, Pesticides and
Environmental Planning, MECP
G. Battarino, Special Project Officer, Project Coordination, Environmental Assessment
Services, MECP
A. Huxter, Environmental Specialist, Covanta
Energy from Waste Advisory Committee (EFWAC)
C. Raynor, Regional Clerk, The Regional Municipality of York
R. Walton, Regional Clerk, The Regional Municipality of Durham

Enclosure

Inquiries – March 2020

#	Date Received	Method Received	Comment Details / Description	Response / Remedial Action	Date Responded	Staff Initials
-	-	-	The Regional Municipalities of Durham and York released a Notice of Commencement on July 3, 2019 for the Environmental Screening Process to increase the waste capacity from 140,000 tonnes of waste to 160,000 tonnes of waste per year at the Durham York Energy Centre.	Inquires received through the Environmental Screening Process will be addressed and reported to the MECP through the Record of Consultation for the Project.	-	-
1	March 10, 2020	DYEC Project Telephone	A resident living in the Boswell Hwy 2 area called to let staff know that he has noticed a very offensive odour for the last while as the wind was blowing from the southwest and as recent as the morning of March 10. He said the odour had a sweet but offensive smell and was curious if the odour could be related to operation at the DYEC.	Staff explained that there could be several contributors to odour in the area. Staff explained how waste is received and manage on site to minimize odours. It was also noted that the DYEC was currently in an outage. The resident was satisfied that DYEC was not likely the cause and noted that they would do their own independent investigation into potential odour sources in the local area. The resident was provided contact information for Phil Dunn (MECP).	March 10, 2020	L/W
2	March 19, 2020	DYEC Project Email	We are looking at potential options for biosolids disposal during this period of time. I am hoping to provide your contact information to a couple of my team members, does that work for you, and if so, what is the best contact option?	The DYEC is Durham Region’s primary long-term disposal option for waste and only processes the household waste remaining after Durham and York Regions’ aggressive composting, recycling and reuse programs. We cannot accept any biosolid wastes at the facility. Our Certificate of Approval only permits us to take waste from residential collection programs within Durham and York Regions and delivered via approved waste haulers. We do not accept commercial, industrial or institutional waste at the facility. Please let me know if you have any additional questions.	March 19, 2020	D/L
3	March 13, 2020	DYEC Project Telephone	Staff received a phone call regarding the ability for the DYEC to take biosolids. The caller was looking for contingency options due to the uncertainty of border issues in relation to COVID-19.	Staff noted that the DYEC is Durham Region’s primary long-term disposal option for waste and only processes the household waste remaining after Durham and York Regions’ aggressive composting, recycling and reuse programs. We cannot accept any biosolid wastes at the facility. Our Certificate of Approval only permits us to take waste from residential collection programs within Durham and York Regions and delivered via	March 13, 2020	D/L

#	Date Received	Method Received	Comment Details / Description	Response / Remedial Action	Date Responded	Staff Initials
				approved waste haulers. We do not accept commercial, industrial or institutional waste at the facility.		

Total Inquiries – March 2020

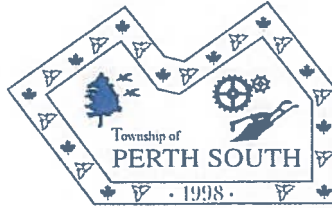
Inquiry Type	Total by Inquiry Type
Total Project Team Inquiries received this month by project web email / telephone:	3
Total Covanta Inquiries received this month:	0
Total Durham Region Council / Committee Inquiries received this month:	0
Total Durham Region Call Centre Inquiries received this month:	0
Total Inquiries received from York Region this month:	0
Total Inquiries received from previous months in 2020 to-date:	7
Total Inquiries received in 2020 to-date:	10

Complaints – March 2020

#	Date Received	Method Received	Comment Details / Description	Response / Remedial Action	Date Responded	Staff Initials
-	-	-	The Regional Municipalities of Durham and York released a Notice of Commencement on July 3, 2019 for the Environmental Screening Process to increase the waste capacity from 140,000 tonnes of waste to 160,000 tonnes of waste per year at the Durham York Energy Centre.	Complaints received through the Environmental Screening Process will be addressed and reported to the MECP through the Record of Consultation for the Project.	-	-

Total Complaints – March 2020

Complaint Type	Total by Complaint Type
Total Project Team Complaints received this month by project web email / telephone:	0
Total Covanta Complaints received this month:	0
Total Durham Region Council / Committee Complaints received this month:	0
Total Durham Region Call Centre Complaints received this month:	0
Total Complaints received from York Region this month:	0
Total Complaints received from previous months in 2020 to-date:	5
Total Complaints received in 2020 to-date:	5



Corporation of the Township of Perth South

3191 Road 122
St. Pauls, ON N0K 1V0
Telephone 519-271-0619
Fax 519-271-0647
lscott@perthsouth.ca

April 16, 2020

Sent by Email

Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Premier's Office, Room 281
Legislative Building, Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7Z 1A1

Honourable Premier Ford;

Re: Provincially Significant Wetlands Designation

At the regular meeting of Perth South Council held on March 17, 2020 correspondence was received from the Municipality of West Nipissing, the Village of Merrickville-Wolford and Norfolk County (attached hereto) regarding the above noted issue. As a rural municipality, we share the same concerns raised and thoroughly support the resolutions passed and information provided by these municipalities.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter and please contact our office if you require any further information.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Lizet Scott', is written over a horizontal line.

Lizet Scott
Clerk

Attachments



West Nipissing Ovest

Joie de vivre

The Corporation of the Municipality of West Nipissing
La Corporation de la Municipalité de Nipissing Ovest
101-225, rue Holditch Street, Sturgeon Falls, ON P2B 1T1

P/T (705) 753-2250 (1-800-263-5359)
F/TC (705) 753-3950

March 3, 2020

SENT VIA E-MAIL

Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
Premier's Office, Room 281
Legislative Building, Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

Honourable Premier Ford:

SUBJECT: PROVINCIALY SIGNIFICANT WETLANDS DESIGNATION

At its regular meeting held on February 25, 2020, Council for the Municipality of West Nipissing passed resolution **2020/080**, attached hereto. The resolution supports a request circulated by the Village of Merrickville-Wolford, asking the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry to respectfully review its practices and procedures to include a requirement to provide supporting evidence, to impacted municipalities, when designating Provincially Significant Wetlands within their boundaries.

We trust the enclosed is self-explanatory.

Respectfully,

Deputy Clerk / Assistant to the
Chief Administrative Officer

\Encl.

cc: Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA)
Ontario Municipalities



The Corporation of the Municipality of West Nipissing / La Corporation de la Municipalité de Nipissing Ouest

Resolution No.

2020 / 0 8 0

FEBRUARY 25, 2020

Moved by / Proposé par : [Signature]

Seconded by / Appuyé par : [Signature]

WHEREAS the Municipality of West Nipissing received resolution no. R-029-20 from the Village of Merrickville-Wolford, attached hereto; pertaining to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry's practices and procedures when designating of Provincially Significant Wetlands;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council for the Municipality of West Nipissing supports the Village of Merrickville-Wolford requesting that the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry to respectfully provide supporting evidence with respect to the expansion of wetlands designations within their boundaries;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Council for the Municipality of West Nipissing calls upon the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry to respectfully review its practices and procedures to include a requirement to provide supporting evidence, to impacted municipalities, when designating Provincially Significant Wetlands within their boundaries;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) and all Ontario municipalities.

	YEAS	NAYS
DUHAIME, Yvon		
FISHER, Christopher		
LARABIE, Roland		
MALETTE, Léo		
ROVEDA, Dan		
SÉGUIN, Jeremy		
SÉNÉCAL, Denis		
SÉNÉCAL, Lise		
SAVAGE, Joanne (MAYOR)		

CARRIED: [Signature]
DEFEATED:
DEFERRED OR TABLED:

Established 1793
Incorporated
Wolford 1850
Merrickville 1860
Amalgamated 1998



Telephone (613) 269-4791
Facsimile (613) 269-3095

VILLAGE OF MERRICKVILLE-WOLFORD

February 5, 2020

The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
Premier's Office, Room 281
Legislative Building, Queen's Park
Toronto, ON, M7A 1A1

Dear Premier Ford:

Re: Provincially Significant Wetlands Designation

Please find attached the Council of the Corporation of the Village of Merrickville-Wolford's Resolution No. R-029-20, with respect to the Village's concerns surrounding the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry's practices and procedures while implementing designations of Provincially Significant Wetlands.

While the attached resolution is tailored to a Village-specific issue, it is Council's position that the concerns expressed therein are being experienced by municipalities Province-wide.

Thank you in advance for the consideration that you give this matter.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Doug Robertson".

Doug Robertson
CAO/Clerk/Director, Economic Development

c. Honourable John Yakabuski, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry
Honourable Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Andy Brown, CAO of the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville
Association of Municipalities of Ontario
Rural Ontario Municipal Association
All Ontario municipalities

Established 1793
Incorporated
Wolford 1850
Merrickville 1860
Amalgamated 1998



Telephone (813) 269-4791
Facsimile (813) 269-3095

VILLAGE OF MERRICKVILLE-WOLFORD

For Clerk's use only, if
required:
**Recorded Vote Requested
By:**

Cameron	Y	N
Foster	Y	N
Halpenny	Y	N
Molloy	Y	N
Struthers	Y	N

Resolution Number: R - 029 - 20

Date: January 27, 2020

Moved by: Cameron Foster Halpenny Molloy

Seconded by: Cameron Foster Halpenny Molloy

WHEREAS the Village of Merrickville-Wolford is endeavouring to adopt a new Official Plan as required per Section 17 of the *Planning Act* and the Village is required to incorporate the Provincial Policy Statements of the Act;

AND WHEREAS the Provincial Policy Statements require the Village to provide in its Official Plan the updated provisions of new and expanded Provincially Significant Wetlands designations;

AND WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the Village of Merrickville-Wolford is concerned that the expansion of these wetlands is detrimentally affecting certain landowners and the Village's assessment base;

AND WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the Village of Merrickville-Wolford is concerned that designations of Provincially Significant Wetlands have occurred throughout the Province of Ontario without the provision of supporting evidence;

Established 1793
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Telephone (613) 269-4791
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VILLAGE OF MERRICKVILLE-WOLFORD

AND WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the Village of Merrickville-Wolford is concerned about the expansion of the Provincially Significant Wetlands in the Northeast quadrant of the Village;

AND WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the Village of Merrickville-Wolford is concerned that these wetlands designations have been expanded without the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry having provided to the Village supporting evidence to justify said expansion;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Village of Merrickville-Wolford does hereby respectfully request that the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry provide the Village with supporting evidence with respect to the expansion of these wetlands designations;

AND THAT the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry re-evaluate the subject properties without delay;

AND THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the Honourable Premier Doug Ford, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and the Rural Ontario Municipal Association and all Ontario municipalities.

Carried / Defeated


J. Douglas Struthers, Mayor



Norfolk County Office of the Mayor

March 1, 2020

Ontario Municipalities

Dear Heads of Council and Councillors:

Re: Issues regarding the mapping of Provincially Significant Wetlands (PSWs)

Norfolk County Council is working to address significant issues that have come to our attention regarding the mapping of Provincially Significant Wetlands (PSWs).

Following the Ministry's updated mapping related to PSWs, the County updated its Official Plan to bring its policies in line with the new mapping. Following that, the County planning staff introduced a Zoning By-Law amendment to update the zoning to reflect the new mapping and to provide consistency between the Zoning By-Law and the Official Plan. Though the mapping is wholly outside the County's process and control, the zoning by-law amendment was not approved by Council, flowing from significant public concern about the updated mapping affecting people's properties. In some cases, some of these changes were very significant.

The County submitted comments to the province as part of the review of the Provincial Policy statement requesting that the process for PSW mapping be significantly improved to allow for transparency and better land owner engagement, including, for example, a right of appeal or formal dispute resolution process. This will allow for land owners to be properly informed and engaged where land use designations that affect their property may result. The current process appears to be severely underfunded and without any meaningful way for affected residents to engage.

The County is seeking support from other rural municipalities who may be affected by this to address this issue with the province.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Yours Truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kristal Chopp".

Mayor Kristal Chopp
Norfolk County

cc. The Honourable Steve Clark,
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing



The TOWNSHIP of
NORTH DUMFRIES

2958 Greenfield Road
PO Box 1060
Ayr, ON N0B 1E0

April 17, 2020

RE: Suspend Time of Use Electricity Billing

This letter is to advise that at its meeting of April 14, 2020, the Council of the Township of North Dumfries received a copy of the Town of Grimsby resolution (as attached) specific to suspending the time of use for electricity billing. Please be advised that the Council of the Township of North Dumfries hereby supports the resolution as presented.

Sincerely,

Ashley Sage
Clerk

cc. all Ontario municipalities



**Town of Grimsby
Administration**

Office of the Town Clerk

160 Livingston Avenue, P.O. Box 159, Grimsby, ON L3M 4G3

Phone: 905-945-9634 Ext. 2015 | **Fax:** 905-945-5010

Email: skim@grimsby.ca

SENT VIA EMAIL

RE: Suspend Time-of-Use Electricity Billing

Please be advised that at the Special Council Meeting of March 18th, 2020, The Council of the Town of Grimsby passed the following resolution:

Moved by Councillor Sharpe; Seconded by Councillor Dunstall;

Resolve that during the circumstances of the COVID-19 outbreak, that the Council of the Town of Grimsby supports the Premier's recommendation to suspend time-of-use electricity billing; and,

That the Council of the Town of Grimsby request that the Ontario Energy Board suspend time-of-use electricity billing to support lower electricity bills for residents who may be isolating at home during the day, and to support businesses who continue to operate, via lower power rates during the day-time peak period; and,

That this time-of-use billing suspension take effect immediately until such time that the COVID-19 outbreak has been contained; and,

That this resolution be forwarded to:

- *Premier Doug Ford*
- *MPP Sam Oosterhoff*
- *Ontario Energy Board OEB*
- *Ontario Municipalities*
- *Grimsby Energy Inc.*

If you have any questions with regard to the foregoing, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours truly,

Sarah Kim
Town Clerk



The TOWNSHIP of
NORTH DUMFRIES

2958 Greenfield Road
PO Box 1060
Ayr, ON N0B 1E0

April 17, 2020

RE: Tourism Orientated Destination Signage Fee Increases

This letter is to advise that at its meeting of April 14, 2020, the Council of the Township of North Dumfries received a copy of the County of Haliburton resolution (as attached) specific to the Tourism Orientated Destination Signage Fee Increases.

Please be advised that Council of the Township of North Dumfries hereby supports the resolution as presented.

Sincerely,

Ashley Sage
Clerk

cc. all Ontario municipalities



County of Haliburton

P.O. Box 399 – 11 Newcastle Street
Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0

705-286-1333 phone 705-286-4829 fax

Warden Liz Danielsen

Michael Rutter, CAO
mrutter@county.haliburton.on.ca

February 3, 2020

All Ontario Municipalities

Dear Sir/Madame:

Re: Tourism Oriented Destination Signage Fee Increases

Haliburton County and our local municipalities recently became aware of a significant increase in fees being charged to businesses by Canadian Tourism Oriented Destination Signage Limited. In a time when every effort is being made to remove barriers to prosperity, this change will take money directly from the “bottom line” of small and medium sized businesses and not-for-profits across the Province.

At their most recent meeting, Haliburton County Council passed the following resolution:

Whereas the Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism, and Culture and the Ministry of Transportation supervise the delivery and maintenance of tourism oriented destination signage through a third party – Canadian TODS Limited;
And Whereas our tourism stakeholders and other enterprises rely heavily on this signage to direct customers to their businesses;
And Whereas Canadian TODS Limited recently advised their customers that fees will be doubling, beginning in 2020;
And Whereas this will result in significant financial hardship for those business owners:
Now therefore, be it resolved that the Haliburton County Tourism Committee and Haliburton County Council request that the Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport and the Minister of Transportation reconsider or phase in this fee increase, allowing an appropriate amount of time for businesses to adjust;
And finally that those municipalities that support the resolution be requested to advise the Ministers noted above and their local MPP of their support.

All of the municipalities in the County of Haliburton recognize the value of this signage and the need for cost increases to meet inflation; however, we are asking that this fee increase be reconsidered and phased in to ease the burden on our stakeholders.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Yours truly,

Liz Danielsen
Warden



April 21, 2020

To: Municipalities of Ontario – by email

Re: A Resolution to Request the Province of Ontario Review the Farm Property Class Tax Rate Programme in Light of Economic Competitiveness Concerns between Rural and Urban Municipalities

Please be advised that at its March 10, 2020 meeting, the Council of the Township of Mapleton carried the following Resolution 2020-04-14:

WHEREAS the Province of Ontario implemented changes to property assessment and introduced taxation reform which came into effect in 1998;
AND WHEREAS prior to 1998 farm properties were subject to taxation at the base residential tax rate and qualified farmers applied annually to the province to be reimbursed 75% of the farm portion of the taxes paid to the local municipality;
AND WHEREAS the province changed the method of delivering farmer's rebates by creating the Farm Property Class Tax Rate Programme under the jurisdiction of the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA);
AND WHEREAS rather than apply annually and wait for property tax rebates, the delivery of the programme shifted to local municipal governments and onto the property tax system;
AND WHEREAS eligible farmland assessment values are now locally subsidized by 75% of their full current value assessment (CVA) to produce a lower weighted assessment base which is used for tax rate setting purposes;
AND WHEREAS the effect of the locally subsidized weighted assessment shifts an increased burden of tax onto all other property classes within the municipality;
AND WHEREAS these taxation reforms were originally supposed to be revenue neutral and offset by funding from the Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF) and its predecessor the Community Reinvestment Fund (CRF);
AND WHEREAS the province has been reducing support from the Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund while the cost of the farm tax rebate programme is continuously increasing;
AND WHEREAS an economically competitive agricultural industry provides affordable food and agricultural products to all Ontarians and is a provincial objective that should be cost shared amongst all of its citizens;
AND WHEREAS the cost of this programme disproportionately falls upon property taxpayers in rural municipalities;
AND WHEREAS higher property taxes in rural municipalities is creating economic competitiveness issues between rural and urban municipalities;

(over for page two)



Page 2 of 2, Mapleton Resolution
Re: Prov. Review of Farm Property Class Tax Rate Programme

AND WHEREAS the province hasn't undertaken a review of this programme since it was implemented in 1998;

NOW THEREFORE the Council of the Township of Mapleton requests that:

1. The Province of Ontario undertake a review of the Farm Property Tax Class Rate Programme to determine:
 - a. The appropriateness of the cost of the Farm Property Tax Class Rate Programme falling disproportionately amongst rural residential and business property owners when the benefit of an economically competitive agricultural industry and affordable food and agricultural products is a provincial objective that should be shared amongst all taxpayers in Ontario;
 - b. The adequacy of funding being provided to rural municipalities to offset the cost of the Farm Property Tax Class Rate Programme;
 - c. The differences between the amount of property taxes paid in rural and urban municipalities and the root causes of those differences;
 - d. Economic competitiveness concerns with disproportionately higher average property taxes being paid in rural municipalities;
 - e. Other methods of delivering the farm tax rebate programme to farmland owners where the cost can be shared province-wide.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this motion be sent to Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, Hon. Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Hon. Rod Phillips, Minister of Finance, Hon. Ernie Hardeman, Minister of Agriculture, Food & Rural Affairs, MPP Randy Pettapiece, Hon. Ted Arnott, all Ontario Municipalities, Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) and Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO).

Attached you will find the County of Wellington Committee Report dated January 16, 2020 regarding the 'Farm Property Class Tax Rate Programme' for review and consideration.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact the undersigned.

Sincerely

Larry Wheeler
Deputy Clerk

Attach. (1)



COUNTY OF WELLINGTON

COMMITTEE REPORT

To: Chair and Members of the Administration, Finance and Human Resources Committee
From: Ken DeHart, County Treasurer
Date: Thursday, January 16, 2020
Subject: **Farm Property Class Tax Rate Programme**

Background:

The Province of Ontario implemented changes to property assessment and introduced taxation reform which came into effect in 1998. Prior to this, farm properties were subject to taxation at the base residential tax rate and farmers applied annually to the Minister of Finance to be reimbursed 75% of the farm portion of taxes paid to the local municipality.

As part of assessment reform, the Province changed the method of delivering farmer's rebates by creating the Farm Property Class Tax Rate Programme under the jurisdiction of the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA). Under the new programme, rather than apply annually and wait for property tax rebates, delivery of the programme shifted to local municipal governments and onto the property tax system. Eligible farmland assessment values are now discounted by -75% of their full current value assessment (CVA) to produce a lower weighted assessment base which is used for tax rate setting purposes. With residential tax rates being the benchmark ratio of 1.0, farmlands have been set in legislation to have a 0.25 ratio or lower. The effect of the discounted weighted assessment shifts an increased burden of tax onto all other property classes in the County by way of increasing the benchmark tax rate. Doing so has a pronounced effect on the residential sector which comprises 78% of the County's levy base. By comparison, farmland taxes comprise 7% of the total levy base.

	2019 CVA	% raw CVA	WTD CVA	% Wtd CVA	2019 Levy	% of Levy
Residential	12,584,607,345	68.02%	12,584,474,157	77.91%	77,709,877	77.91%
Multi Residential	86,932,592	0.47%	165,171,925	1.02%	1,019,946	1.02%
Farmland	4,499,862,369	24.32%	1,124,965,592	6.96%	6,946,730	6.96%
Commercial	863,761,038	4.67%	1,287,867,708	7.97%	7,952,660	7.97%
Industrial	368,081,028	1.99%	882,959,280	5.47%	5,452,326	5.47%
Pipeline	41,303,954	0.22%	92,933,897	0.58%	573,872	0.58%
Managed Forest	55,959,714	0.30%	13,989,929	0.09%	86,389	0.09%
County Total	18,500,508,040	100.00%	16,152,362,486	100.00%	99,741,800	100.00%

Challenges facing Rural Municipalities

Shifting of farmland discounted assessment onto residential taxpayers is specific to rural municipalities. Schedule A shows the difference between raw (unweighted) assessment roll values and resulting weighted assessment in Wellington County as compared to a typical urban municipality. In 2019 the residential tax class comprised 68.02% of Wellington County's assessment base, but the residential class pays 77.91% of property taxes once tax ratios are factored in. The farmland ratio of 0.25 has the effect of increasing the residential tax burden by approximately 10% across the County.

Conversely, in an urban municipality with very little farm tax class, the residential assessment base of 78.50% is reduced to 66.27% of total weighted assessment used for tax rate setting purposes. A reduction of more than 12% off the residential tax burden. This causes Wellington County economic competitiveness issues for the County's southern municipalities that border a number of urban municipal centres. Tax policy treatment greatly favours urban municipalities in Ontario.

Since the cost of providing the Farm Property Class Tax Rate Programme was downloaded by the province in 1998; provincial funds have been allocated annually to rural municipalities to offset the tax loss. This was supposed to be a revenue neutral allocation. However, each year transfer amounts from the Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF) continue to decline. The Table below shows that a total tax levy of \$34,669,691 was necessary in order to provide the farmland tax incentive rebate benefiting 5,807 farm property owners in Wellington. The OMPF allocation county-wide in 2019 was \$7,065,800 leaving a shortfall of more than \$27 million in levy which is shifted onto every other property owner in Wellington County. This translates to \$754 per property in the County or 15.7% of total taxes for the typical homeowner. This is a significant amount of additional property tax burden that our residents continue to bear annually and which are subject to increase depending on market value of farmlands.

In essence, County residents are providing the -75% rebate instead of the Province for the Farm Property Class Tax Rate Programme, creating significant financial hardship amongst our ratepayers and limiting the County's economic competitiveness with neighbouring jurisdictions.

**WELLINGTON COUNTY - 2019 FARMLAND PROPERTIES
OMPF FUNDING TO MITIGATE COST OF FARM PROPERTY CLASS TAX REBATE**

Municipality	Municipal Rebates	Municipal OMPF Grant	Municipal Levy Impact	County Rebate* Distribution	Total Additional Levy Required
Puslinch	\$ 232,040	\$ 415,700	\$ (183,660)	\$ 2,846,353	\$ 2,662,693
Guelph/Eramosa	\$ 1,137,235	\$ 490,300	\$ 646,935	\$ 3,120,713	\$ 3,767,649
Erin	\$ 890,468	\$ 593,300	\$ 297,168	\$ 2,852,697	\$ 3,149,866
Centre Wellington	\$ 1,987,127	\$ 319,600	\$ 1,667,527	\$ 5,553,231	\$ 7,220,758
Mapleton	\$ 5,235,570	\$ 837,400	\$ 4,398,170	\$ 1,961,338	\$ 6,359,507
Minto	\$ 1,446,483	\$ 1,604,600	\$ (158,117)	\$ 1,153,001	\$ 994,884
Wellington North	\$ 2,900,554	\$ 1,296,800	\$ 1,603,754	\$ 1,844,780	\$ 3,448,534
Wellington County	\$ 20,840,213	\$ 1,508,100	\$ 19,332,113		
Total	\$ 34,669,691	\$ 7,065,800	\$ 27,603,891	\$ 19,332,113	\$ 27,603,891

Additional levy required to provide farm rebate after OMPF grant

Total Properties **	36,607	Tax per property	\$754
Less # of Farms	5,807		
	30,800	Excluding farms	\$896
Population	97,610	Tax per resident	\$283

* County farm rebate distribution based on local municipal levy % share

** excludes special/exempt properties

Farm Application Deadline Requirements

Another challenge faced by rural municipalities is how the farm application and deadline requirements are administered by OMAFRA (now by AgriCorp). In any given year, many farm owners do not submit their applications within the specified deadline. The result is that many bona fide farm properties end up ‘flipping’ out of the discounted farm class and into the full residential tax class upon the next roll return. The assessment of these farm values are no longer discounted when calculating total weighted assessment, which is used for tax rate setting purposes.

This creates two distinct ongoing problems for rural municipalities. One is that the benchmark residential tax rate is lower than it otherwise would be; and two, upon approval of the late applications by OMAFRA, municipalities must refund the -75% difference in farm taxes retroactive to January of the current or sometimes even the preceding taxation year. There is no administrative or monetary penalty for late applications. Each year Wellington County finds approximately \$20,000,000 of farmland valuation excluded from the farmland discount programme due to late applications.

This year staff identified a major anomaly with farmland assessment loss of close to \$90,000,000. Upon enquiry, it was reasoned that the extremely high change in farm CVA was due to administrative changes as programme delivery shifted from OMAFRA to AgriCorp. County staff expect that most of the outstanding farm applications will be approved and revert back to the farm tax rate during 2020. Staff have included an additional \$300,000 in estimated property tax write-offs into the 2020 budget to set aside additional funds in preparation for the County’s share of potential write-offs as tabled below:

2019 FARMLAND CVA CHANGE OVER TO RESIDENTIAL RT CLASS

(Between September 25 in-year growth and final November 2019 growth)

Possible write-off amounts IF all properties revert back to AGRICORP approved FTIP

	PUSLINCH	GET	ERIN	CTR WELL	MPLTN	MINTO	WN	COUNTY
Est Prop Count	-20	-24	-26	-18	-22	-19	-28	-157
Farm CVA Loss	8,500,000	17,500,000	13,000,000	10,000,000	19,000,000	5,000,000	16,500,000	89,500,000
Res Tax Rate	0.00167135	0.00260652	0.00295749	0.00321969	0.00476387	0.00544891	0.00481749	0.00617506
Res Taxes	14,206	45,614	38,447	32,197	90,514	27,245	79,489	552,668
Farm Tax Rate	0.00041784	0.00065163	0.00073938	0.00080492	0.00119097	0.00136223	0.00120437	0.00154376
Farm Taxes	3,552	11,404	9,612	8,049	22,628	6,811	19,872	138,167
Potential w/o *	(\$10,655)	(\$34,211)	(\$28,835)	(\$24,148)	(\$67,885)	(\$20,433)	(\$59,616)	(\$414,501)
							Grand Total*	(\$660,285)

* excludes Education Tax Component

Farmland Property Assessment Valuation

The Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) is responsible for placing current market value assessment (CVA) on all properties in Ontario. The most recent province-wide reassessment updating the base year to January 1, 2016 was returned for the 2017 tax year. As mandated by the Province, any assessment increases are phased-in over a 4-year cycle. MPAC reported the average farmland increase province-wide was 64% and residential CVA increased by 18%. By comparison, Wellington County CVA has increased by 68% and 13% respectively.

In the 2016 Assessment Update Summary, MPAC reports they have strengthened the accuracy and equity of farm valuations by improved sales verification processes of bona fide farmer-to-farmer sales along with undertaking a comprehensive review of vacant farmland sales as far back as January 2008. They report that upward trends continue to increase provincially as demand for farmland outweighs the supply and non-agricultural buyers continue to purchase farmlands creating competition. Agri-Food Canada reported the net worth of an average farm was expected to reach \$2.8 million in 2017.

Staff conducted a preliminary review of open market farm sales in Wellington County during 2018 and 2019. The data reveals that the current 2016 base year CVA of farm properties sold continue to be under-assessed by 27.43%. Sale prices ranged from \$26,000 to \$4,200,000.

Wellington County	2019 Farm Sales	2018 Farm Sales	Total Sales
Number of valid farm sales	97	108	205
Total CVA of farm sales	90,515,500	89,366,400	179,881,900
Combined sale prices	130,333,790	117,533,356	247,867,146
Difference sales to assessment	39,818,290	28,166,956	67,985,246
As a percentage	30.55%	23.97%	27.43%

* source MPAC Municipal Connect

Assessment Act Considerations

Current value assessment is defined as “the amount of money the fee simple, if unencumbered, would realize if sold at arm’s length by a willing seller to a willing buyer.” For farm properties, the province has clearly indicated that farm properties are to be treated different from the concept of current value. Section 19(5) of the Assessment Act requires that current value of the land and buildings should only be used when sales are for farm-purposes only and reflect the productivity of the land for farming purposes.

MPAC assessment methods must only consider farmer-to-farmer sales. In this case, the Assessment Act requires MPAC to exclude any sales to persons whose principal occupation is other than farming. This has the effect of excluding any other type of buyer and highest and best-use considerations from current value assessment.

From a land productivity perspective, land classes are adjusted for their productivity. For example, Class 1 farmlands are the most productive for crops, while on the other end of the scale, Class 6 is for swamp and scrublands that are the least productive. Lands in Wellington County and in particular, the southern portion of the County sell for far more per acre than what farms are assessed at for farm purposes. Analysis undertaken with regard to current assessment appeals shows that the best lands (Class 1) are currently being assessed in the \$14,000 to \$16,000 per acre range for farms. Sales of larger land holdings are selling in the range of \$20,000 to \$25,000 per acre range.

The intent of Section 19(5) of the Assessment Act is to limit and protect farm property from current value considerations outside of farming. This means that generally speaking, farms are naturally under-assessed from general market considerations – providing favourable assessments to the farming community in comparison to true market value.

Other Assessment Considerations

- Farm owners who reside on the property do pay a residential tax component for their home plus one acre of land at the farmland rate. However, the valuation is based on a replacement cost method that produces a much lower value (\$223,125) than non-farm residences (\$424,187) as shown here on the average (County) property value and tax comparison.

Average 2019 Farm and Residential Value and Taxes

2019 farm house CVA	223,125	2019 Average Residential Property CVA	\$424,187
2019 Farmland CVA	901,900		
Average 2019 total farm CVA	\$1,125,025		
2019 farm house taxes	\$2,526		
2019 farmland taxes	\$2,553		
2019 total farm taxes	\$5,079	2019 Average residential taxes	\$4,803

- As seen above, while the average farm value is assessed at over 2.6x the value of the average residential property, overall taxes are comparable.
- According to MPAC’s 2019 Market Change Profile report, of the 6,465 properties classified as farms, 1,892 are owned and/or occupied by non-farmers. Although the property owners are not engaged in farm activity or business, their properties are valued as if they are. These non-farmers benefit from lower residential structure values and lower land values, which translate to lower taxes simply by nature of leasing their land to a bona fide local farmer. This treatment can be perceived as rather unfair to typical residential property owners in Wellington County.
- Many owners of farmland also enjoy other property tax discounts if they are eligible to enter into either the Managed Forest Tax Incentive Programme (0.25 ratio) or the Conservation Land Programme which is fully exempt from property taxes.
- In order to receive the farm class tax discount, the owner must have a Farm License and be in the business of farming. Municipal taxes paid are then able to be written off as a business expense on annual income tax returns. Whereas residential property owners are not able to do so.

Impacts of Assessment Increases on the Farming Community

Being predominantly a rural community with strong roots planted in farm trades, Wellington County farmers observed significant increases in their farmland valuation. It is acknowledged that farmland values have increased significantly in the County of Wellington. In the 2012 base year valuation, farmland made up 19.8% of the County’s assessment base and 5.4% of the taxable assessment base. For the 2016 base year valuation, farmland now makes up 25.1% of the Wellington County assessment base and 7.2% of the taxable assessment base.

Recently, groups such as the Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario (see correspondence received on this agenda) and the Ontario Federation of Agriculture began approaching local Councils to lower the farmland ratio below 0.25 in order to help offset property tax increases. Their efforts have been successful in some municipalities. Schedule B lists the municipalities that have implemented farmland ratio reductions in Ontario as reported to BMA Consultants in the 2019 Municipal Study Report.

When reviewing the list of municipalities on Schedule B, the majority of those municipalities have very little farmland valuation. Many of the urban municipalities that have granted farm ratio reductions have a much higher commercial and industrial base and farmland makes up a much lower percentage of their assessment base than Wellington County.

Many of the other Counties and rural municipalities that have granted ratio reductions (Brant, Chatham-Kent, Dufferin, Grey, Lambton and Oxford) are located further away from the GTA. These municipalities generally have lower residential assessment values and are not competing with GTA municipalities for business to the same extent as Wellington County.

Property Taxes as a Percentage of Income

- OMAFRA reported that in 2018, Wellington County farmers generated \$804,000,000 of revenue at the farm gate. The table below shows farm property taxes as a percentage of farm income to be 1.49%. Average household income in Wellington County for the same period was \$118,474. Average property tax as a percentage of residential income was significantly higher at 4.02%.

<u>Average Farm and Residential Assessment and Taxation</u>	<u>2018</u>
County average residential value	409,368
Total average property taxes *	4,764
Average income	118,474
Portion of residential income devoted to property taxes	4.02%
Total farm taxes paid in Wellington County *	11,971,488
County farmers income **	804,000,000
Portion of farm income devoted to property taxes	1.49%

* total taxes include County, local and Education

Closing Comments

Farmland values have been increasing significantly in the County of Wellington, much like other areas of the province. However, there does not appear to be an imbalance in the level of property tax burden shared by the local farming community in comparison to the average residential taxpayer in Wellington County. Under current legislation, farmland benefits from favourable property tax and assessment treatment.

The County’s current assessment base cannot bear a further shift from farmland taxes onto other property types and maintain its economic competitiveness. Wellington County does not have a comparable commercial and industrial assessment base to neighbouring urban municipalities that would support such a shift without significantly burdening our residential and business class owners. Provincial grants such as the Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund, which were originally setup to compensate rural municipalities for the loss in farm taxes has been declining, leaving Wellington County taxpayers to support the industry without adequate province-wide cost sharing.

Wellington County is supportive of its local farming community. We recognize the importance of the agricultural industry on the County and in the Province of Ontario. Wellington supports the farming communities’ interests in remaining economically competitive. The County is supportive of returning

the responsibility of funding the farm property class tax rebate programme back to the Province where it could be shared province-wide. Residents in urban municipalities, while retaining the benefits of cheap food and agricultural products, are not contributing financially to the economic competitiveness of the industry.

Recommendation:

That the Farm Property Class Tax Rate Programme report be received for information; and

That Wellington County support agricultural industry efforts in lobbying the Province to provide adequate funding to rural municipalities; and

That County Council pass a resolution in support of returning the responsibility of administering the Farm Property Class Tax Rate Programme back to the Province.

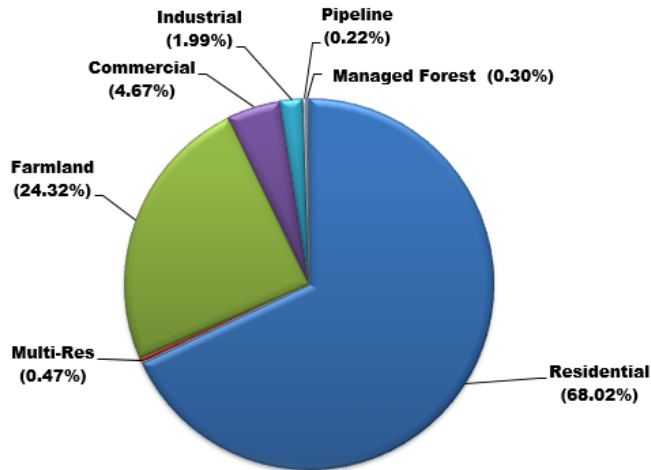
Respectfully submitted,



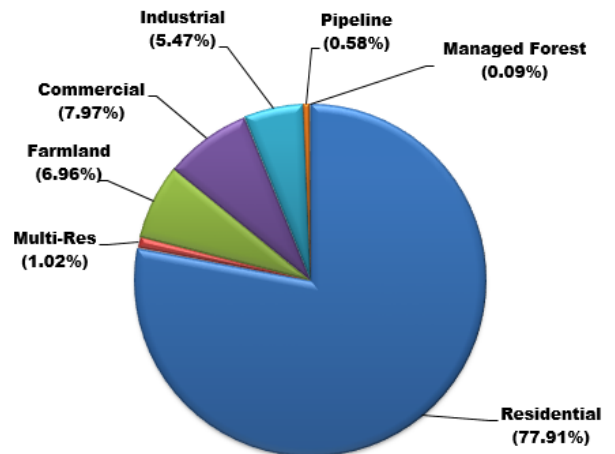
Ken DeHart, CPA, CGA
County Treasurer

SCHEDULE A Farm Property Class Tax Rate Programme

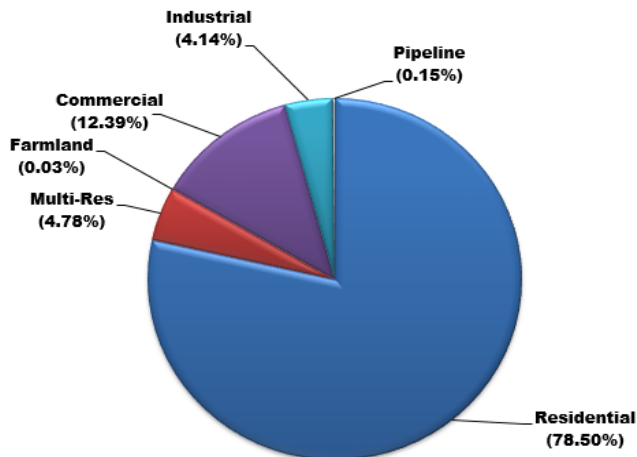
**Unweighted Assessment by Property Tax Class 2019
(Share of Property Value - Wellington - Rural)**



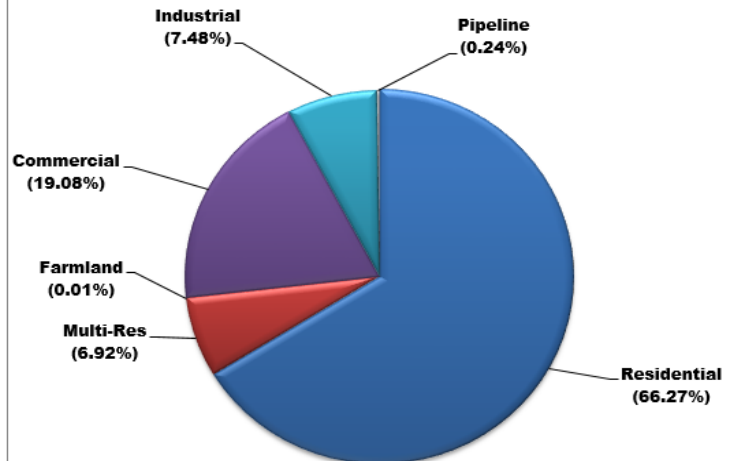
**Weighted Assessment by Property Tax Class 2019
(Share of Property Taxes - Wellington - Rural)**



**Unweighted Assessment by Property Tax Class 2019
(Share of Property Value - Urban)**



**Weighted Assessment by Property Tax Class 2019
(Share of Property Taxes - Urban)**



SCHEDULE B

Farm Property Class Tax Rate Programme

Municipalities with Farmland Ratio Reductions Implemented - 2019

Municipality *	Ratio	Farmland CVA **
Brant County	0.2400	1,319,886,818
Caledon	0.1708	998,099,123
Chatham-Kent	0.2200	5,281,633,220
Dufferin County	0.2300	1,174,945,084
Durham Region	0.2000	2,416,491,305
Greater Sudbury	0.2000	30,618,833
Grey County	0.2400	2,659,127,624
Halton Region	0.2000	971,078,709
Hamilton	0.1767	1,390,781,027
Kingston	0.2125	81,575,403
Lambton County	0.2260	4,794,630,528
London	0.1028	425,488,846
North Bay	0.1500	605,465
Ottawa	0.2000	1,561,813,865
Oxford County	0.2350	5,665,102,027
Prince Edward County	0.2319	401,646,726
Sarnia	0.2260	181,579,114
<hr/>		
Average Ratio & CVA	0.2036	1,726,770,807
<hr/>		
Wellington County	0.2500	4,464,961,956

* 2019 BMA Study Report - participating municipalities

** from MPAC Provincial Market Change Profile Report