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Monitoring Committee Report
CMEI AGM, April 2011

At our AGM last year, we presented an outline of the recommendations from the 2009 Update, Independent External Review of the Crane Mountain Landfill by ADI. During the past year, the Monitoring Committee has focused on bringing these recommendations to the Waste Commission and the Department of the Environment to ensure that they are carefully considered and acted upon.

In May, 2010, Monitoring Committee members and the CMEI Executive traveled to Fredericton and met with the two Environment Department engineers who are especially assigned to overseeing the Crane Mountain Landfill. We pointed out that CMEI is an independent community organization reporting to the Department of the Environment, and we expressed the hope that that meeting would be the beginning of a cordial and cooperative relationship between CMEI and the Department of the Environment. We also requested that some of the recommendations provided by the two ADI Reviews be incorporated into the next Approval to Operate for the landfill. We then presented each of ADI's recommendations, referenced by pertinent documents. We plan to meet with the Department of the Environment again in May this year.

The Fundy Region Solid Waste Commission responded to ADI's recommendations through a document from the General Manager called an "Action Plan"--that provides target dates when the Waste Commission would consider whether or not to act on each of the recommendations. After the Monitoring Committee carefully studied this Plan, CMEI responded to the Waste Commission with a document outlining our priorities. Understanding the flow system of the groundwater downgradient of the landfill and protecting the domestic wells downgradient of the landfill are our top priorities. Setting "trigger concentrations," concentrations of particular chemicals that will be an alarm bell for possible leakage, is another priority.

Following investigation and questions by CMEI Board members, it was discovered that the 24-hour Monitoring System for the Underdrain was not operating effectively, as initially expected. As a result, the General Manager is working on upgrading the system.

CMEI has recently voted to proceed with a project drawn up for us by ADI Hydrogeologist John Sims. The goal of this project is to provide a better geological understanding of the flow system downgradient of the landfill and to create a system whereby independent experts engaged by CMEI can regularly assess and scrutinize data from both Monitoring Wells and Domestic Wells downgradient of the landfill.

We are convinced that CMEI is providing an important service to the Fundy Region by sponsoring scrutiny of landfill operations by independent experts, by continually reminding the Waste Commission of environmental concerns, and by representing the local residents living downgradient of the landfill who are most affected by the location of the landfill in their aquifer.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta Lee
Chair, Monitoring Committee