



Monitoring Committee Report 2024 Annual General Meeting

The Monitoring Committee was not reconstituted until early in 2024, following the 2023 AGM when Neil Jacobsen stepped down from the CMEI Board, leaving myself as the only member. Up to that time the complete CMEI Board was focussed on opposing the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) to prolong the life of the landfill by adding 27.5 metres (90 feet) to the planned height.

In January, John Adams and JP Casey agreed to join the Committee and a couple of meetings have been held this spring. This action was triggered when John Adams and I met with exp personnel and Dr. Kerry Rowe to discuss the implications of the height increase. Dr. Rowe is the Barrington Batchelor Distinguished University Professor at Queens University with expertise in many relevant areas including contaminant migration, landfill design, tailing storage facilities, and geosynthetics. Dr. Rowe raised several issues related to landfill liners and how they are affected by pollutants that are currently not included in standard testing of leachate groundwater around the landfill.

The Committee also performed detailed reviews of Landfill Monitoring reports from Gemtec including the 2023 Annual Report and the Landfill Gas Master Plan from TetraTech and identified many concerns with wide impact on the operation of the Landfill. As a result of these reviews, the Committee decided that a meeting should be requested with the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change and sent letters and emails to that effect. At the time of writing, a response from Minister Savoie has been received and the committee is waiting for the meeting to be scheduled.

Some issues of concern are:

- Issues identified with Methane wells;
- Recent articles regarding landfill methane as a significant Greenhouse Gas (GHG) contributor (CNN – general problems; CBC – NS monitoring program);
- Membrane leakage and landfill leakage generally (Studies by Dr. Rowe);
- Leachate treatment and Lancaster sedimentation pond;
- Contaminants not monitored in leachate or groundwater;
- ADI (exp) reports and recommendations not acted on (hydrogeological analysis of bedrock under landfill);
- Scientific advancements in landfill operation and monitoring not included in Approval to Operate;
- Issues with height increase minimized in EIA (odour – methane; impact of extra weight on liner – leakage); and
- Several serious concerns with monitoring processes and their compliance with the Approval to Operate.

The monitoring committee is preparing a presentation for the Minister.

Respectfully submitted,

John Doubt
Chair, Monitoring Committee