

**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PROCESS**  
**TERRAPURE LANDFILL, STONEY CREEK**

Submitted by:

**Dave Strecker**

**Stoney Creek, Ontario**

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**Note:** Since Terrapure has elected to re-open the Certificate of Approval for the size of the landfill, then all of the terms of the Certificate are also open to change.

## AIR QUALITY

### 1.

35000 trucks were diverted directly to dump and their associated emissions.(135 tonnes) Why is it ok to clean up Burlington street where there is little or no housing and yet its ok to pollute the Heritage Green neighborhood. Within the last year, the Burlington Street at Sherman site has been cited twice by the Ministry for gases escaping the site affecting its neighbors. Diatomaceous earth was used to get the situations under control. Is this the same material being transported to the East quarry landfill. This would account for those days when odors from the site create havoc in the neighborhood.

\*ROTEK ENVIRONMENTAL 2012 - fugitive dust is a frequent problem at the landfill when wind exceeds 30 kph.(18mph) Dust blowing events occur.

\* Dr. Douglas Bryant recommends fine dust particles of pm 2.5 be monitored. Presently pm 10 only. This was recommended back 1996 only to be turned down several times. Why?

In light of the increased population and associated traffic, pm 2.5 monitors are to be installed on all 4 sides of the landfill. The construction of the elementary school slated for construction in the next few years at the corner of First Rd. West and Green Mt. Rd. is to have an air filtration system installed to accommodate any particles in the realm of 2.5 .at the air intakes of the new school. Costs for this system will be absorbed by Terrapure and the city of Hamilton for the maintenance and operation of until the East landfill has been closed and capped. I have no idea what the school board will do for the students during recess.

In 1996 there were only several homes surrounding the landfill and several hundred people within 1500 meters of the landfill. Presently there are **several thousand** homes and **several thousand** people within 1500 meters of the same site. 6000 flyers were distributed by Terrapure asking for the input from these residents with regards to this proposed change to the certificate of approval. The flyer was placed amongst other advertising flyers(junk mail) that people tend to ignore and toss out. Again this is not a viable way of reaching the neighbors. I only found one neighbor who had spotted the flyer. I myself had missed it.

There is a huge difference in who the stakeholders are since 1996. Since the city of Hamilton has decided to issue the building permits to the new surveys, they will also be responsible for some of the costs needed to ensure the safety of the residents. All city costs will be covered by their royalties that they receive from the landfill.

The higher the mound, the larger the fallout imprint of fugitive dust particles. This takes the fugitive particles directly onto the new sub-divisions, north and south of the landfill.

The following is requested for the residents to see:

Want air model diagrams for **worst case scenarios** for the site. I.e: full capacity in the number of trucks on site and every company vehicle and or type and piece of equipment in operation at the landfill is to be included in the statistics. It is imperative that PM 2.5 calculations be calculated by an approved Ministry protocols.

There is to be a pro-active action plan for:

**2.**

- \* days when air quality exceeds limits

- \* keeping dust from exiting the site.

Want cameras installed at all exits for trucks who fail to go through truck wash station. Personally seen by myself and neighbor. This is to ensure that fugitive truck contamination from the tires and undercarriage is negligible. Trucks who skip and or avoid the truck wash to be heavily fined by the ministry.

All streets within 1500 m of the landfill to have their street swept and washed weekly to keep down re-cycled, fugitive dust. Cost to be shared by builders, Terrapure and city. The dust created contains re-cycled fugitive dust from the west and east quarries over the past 40 plus years. The lands under construction are disturbing the accumulation of fugitive dust that had settled over time.

## **Leachate**

City to inspect sewers carrying leachate, under residential neighborhoods (starting at Mistywood Dr.) regularly for breakage and leakage of leachate odors into basements along route to waste treatment plant. City to ensure that leachate is entering a sanitary sewer and not storm sewers or combined sewers. According to city officials at the waste treatment plant, not all phenols can be treated or tested for them by the plant. IF this is the case then dangerous phenols are being put into the sewers in residential neighborhoods and then being eventually dumped into the bay for a discharge fee paid to the city. There are several documented events of fumes entering homes at the foot of the escarpment from leachate discharge into the sewer system. Why and how did this happen?

City to place test wells along Hwy 20 and the foot of the escarpment to ensure that the new sewer line from Binbrook to the corner of King St. and Hwy 20/Centennial Parkway has not created a lower path of least resistance to ground water flow because their sewer line has burrowed its way through rock parallel to the landfill. This path is now lower than the lowest point of the east quarry which captures the leachate produced by the non-engineered west quarry. If this leachate escapes the east quarry pump then it may already be following the sewer cavity surrounding the pipe. The homes being built at the foot of the escarpment along Hwy 20/ Centennial Parkway must be ensured that they will not be impacted by potential failure of the two landfills leachate collection system..

Ground water was personally seen in the newly constructed sewer line trench that was created for the new homes north of the current landfills. There was absolutely no rainfall to account for this water as it has been one of the driest and hottest summers to date. If the east quarry pump is supposed to control the movement of groundwater surrounding the 2 landfills, how is this water accounted for? Was this water tested as to its chemical composition to see if there was any contamination from the

### 3.

Un-engineered west landfill. If so what were the results? Has the dynamiting/hammering of the trenches north and south of the landfills disturbed the underground bedrock to create new plumes?

What studies to date has the Ministry ordered to check the status of the ground water with all this new construction that has and will take place in the very near future?

What is the status of the west quarry plume? Is it being controlled? What proof do you have that it has not settled beneath the homes of the new-subdivisions to the north, south and west of the landfills?

Why was a clay base ordered by the city to be placed beneath the homes being built north of the landfill? The Ontario Building Code calls for all footings to be placed on bedrock or undisturbed earth. Putting footings on this clay cap (ie. backfill) is against the code and all of these homes could have potential structural damage in the very near future from uneven settling of the house.

Was the clay cap ordered to keep the residents from being exposed to potentially contaminated ground water not captured by the east land fill pumping station? Is percolation a problem?

The new imprint will produce, at least by Terrapure statistics, 25% more leachate. 18 hectares of clay fill is to be brought in to bring the lowest part of the landfill up to grade. A separate liner is to be built around the pumping station. There is a chance of liner performance failure when this clay is compacted by the mound of waste to be placed upon it. Would like to see evidence that this will not happen. ie detailed engineers report. Why is Terrapure all of a sudden willing to absorb all of these costs now when they made such a big deal of these savings in 2012-13?

## Royalties

**The cost of doing business in Hamilton has just gone up.** Since Terrapure is seeking a position of increased revenue for the operation of this site for the next 15 years or so, it is only logical to revisit the royalties paid to the city and Heritage Green Trust. The \$1.00 dumping fee is to be doubled for the remaining life of the landfill.

## CHANGES TO THE HERITAGE GREEN TRUST

4.

- End the CITY OF HAMILTON and any associated/affiliated agencies from double dipping into the residents trust fund for CAPITAL PROJECTS. They receive their own royalties to use in the community. The Trust will only add accessories to the newly built structures put up by the city.
- EXAMPLE; library –the city builds , the contents of the building are eligible for grants—books, computers, white boards etc.
- TERRAPURE will no longer receive grants due to a conflict of interest. The administrator of the fund is a Terrapure employee. Receiving 960,000 dollars to finish a dog park on land they own should have never been granted. The park should have been finished with funds from their own profits.
- Set a maximum amount for a grant. .Anything higher than the set maximum must have public input from the residents within 3 km of the landfill. All substantial requests must be accompanied by 3 quotes for public scrutiny.
- Before any grant is finalized, a public notice will be place into the local newspapers for scrutiny, stating who applied and how much the approved grant will be and for what purpose. Grants to schools and bursaries would be exempt.
- Vacancies on the trust will be advertised as in the past in the local newspaper and a flyer will be handdelivered to the residents within 1500 meters of both the west and east quarries. All costs for the flyer will be paid for by the trust.
- Vacancies on the trust will be filled without delay. If candidates have come forward and are available, then the vacancy will be filled before the next scheduled meeting.

## CHANGES TO THE LIAISON COMMITTEE

- The liaison committee minutes show that there is a continuous problem filling vacant community seats even when residents have come forward. Advertisements placed in the local newspapers are geared to a half a million people. The ad misses the target audience. Flyers seeking replacement volunteers will also be placed at the doorsteps of all residents who live within 1500 meters of the landfill. All costs will be covered by Terrapure. Comments such as “Beggars can’t be choosers” by liaison members will be obsolete.
- All applications for vacancies will be sent to the chair of the liaison committee for dispersal to the resident members. Terrapure will no longer collect or scrutinize the applications.
- All replacement vacancies will be selected by the four resident members. Terrapure, the Ministry and the city of Hamilton will not have input on the selection of the candidate. They occupy appointed positons. The residents have no say on their selection to the committee. They will not select who will represent the community.
- All selections to the committee shall be done before the next scheduled meeting if a candidate(s) is available. There will be no delays as in the past.le. Hoping for a more suitable candidate to come forward or have time to go find one because they don’t want that person on board.
- Monthly flyers will be sent out to the general public , keeping the residents informed of the committees work and issues at hand. Terrapure will cover all costs.

## Conclusion

5.

The damage to the natural surroundings has already been done. There is no going back. If Terrapure wants to continue to do business in the area then they must, along with the City of Hamilton, take PRO-ACTIVE steps to keep the residential community safe. Taking action after the fact is too late and totally unacceptable. We do not want the makings of another "Love Canal" on the horizon. I have asked a multitude of questions directed at Terrapure, the City of Hamilton and the Ministry of the Environment that I expect complete answers to. Terrapure spends thousands of dollars on daily ads in the local newspapers patting themselves on the back, telling the city what outstanding corporate citizens they are. What a waste of money. This money could be put to pro-active and constructive plans in giving the residents peace of mind.

**If the parties listed above are not willing to accommodate my questions and spend money to ensure the safety of the residents, then I want the landfill closed and capped as soon as possible. I will not put the residents and their hard earned investments at risk for the capital gains of a corporation or needs of the province. There are other quarries several minutes away that can assume the needs of industry.**