

Type of Decision									
Meeting Date	Thursday February 21, 2019				Report Date	Tuesday February 12, 2019			
Decision Required		Yes	X	No	Priority	X	High		Low
Direction		Information Only		X	Type of Meeting	X	Open		Closed
Disposal Site Report – Cover Requirements									
Report #21/02/19/1302									

**Subject:** Cover Requirement for Waste Disposal Sites

### RECOMMENDATION:

That Council review this report as information.

### BACKGROUND/EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Each of the waste disposal sites in our municipality operate under an Environmental Compliance Approval (ECA) that is issued by the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) which was formerly known as the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change (MOECC). An ECA is authorization from the MECP for the regulated discharge of contaminants to the natural environment and contains legally binding conditions of operation to ensure that the environment and community are protected from adverse effects of any contaminants that are produced by the municipality's operations.

In the current ECA for the Stonecliffe waste disposal site, it is required that a minimum amount of sand cover be applied to the active cell at least weekly in the summer months and at least monthly in the winter so that vermin and vector do not create a nuisance. Current practise is that cover is applied on an as needed basis at the discretion of our Disposal Site Attendant; typically monthly, year round.

In 2017, the process was started to amend the ECA for the Bissett Creek waste disposal site and in January, 2018 it was approved with conditions allowing the municipality to use alternate materials for cover, such as a tarp, which can be applied by the Disposal Site Attendant. The application for amendment of the ECA for the Stonecliffe/Mackey site has not been started because staff was advised to wait until the lands were acquired through MNRF and make one application for amendment to reduce associated costs and time. We have made our officer at MECP aware of this. The process to acquire lands for the Stonecliffe site has been on-going for years. The latest update from MNRF in an email dated January 14th, 2019 is that "there was a mix-up with the briefing note at main office that unfortunately delayed its way through the approval process. I believe the purpose of the note has now been clarified, so I'm hoping to have the OK to provide survey instructions soon i.e. within the next week or so." Stephanie Reeder from Cambium assured me that process is continuing to acquire the sites, but slowly.

Similar to the past, our inspection in June 2018, and resulting reporting identified non-compliance issues with the cover frequency.

Taken from the notice: *"The review identifies non-compliance with the covering requirements in the Environmental Compliance Approvals (ECAs) for both sites; cover is not being applied at the*

*required frequency. Please be advised that repeated non-compliance with the ECAs is a violation of the Environmental Protection Act. The continuance of non-compliance can result in monetary fines and may be subject to a referral to the ministry's Environmental Enforcement and Compliance Office, formerly known as the Investigations and Enforcement Branch.*

*This email serves as a written warning to the above noted non-compliance. Future inspections and documentation review may result in the above ministry actions."*

It was staff intention to have the ECA amendment made for the Stonecliffe site, and purchase the alternate cover materials and roll the program out for both sites all at once.

In December 2015 we proposed a pilot project to address the cover requirements at the Stonecliffe Disposal Site, however, it was rejected and we were advised to apply for an amendment to the ECA.

This report is for information, because staff wanted Council to know this is where we are at with our landfill sites. We have tried working with the MECP to maintain compliance and also explain the type of effect these cover frequencies will have on our operational costs and overall budget because of the small tax base we collect from. Their biggest concern is that we follow our ECA requirements.

### **Options:**

- 1) Comply with the current ECA requirements and increase our cover frequency, which will increase operational costs by at least three times.
- 2) Continue with current operations; the Township risks facing fines or work orders.
- 3) Purchase alternate cover (tarp) to be used at the Bissett Creek landfill site to begin roll out at that landfill only and choose either of the above options for the Stonecliffe landfill site.

### **Supporting Documentation**

None

### **Financial Considerations/Budget Impact:**

None at this time.

Complying with the current ECA and increasing our cover frequency will increase operational costs by at least three times. Currently we spend approximately \$1200 per month to have both sites covered, increasing to weekly would cost approximately \$4800 unless Continuing with current operations, the Township risks facing fines or work orders.

### **Others Consulted:**

Debbi Grills, Mayor

Stephanie Reeder, Project Manager – Cambium Environmental

#### **Approved and Recommended by the Clerk**

Crystal Fischer,  
Interim Clerk