



County of Simcoe
Solid Waste Management
1110 Highway 26,
Midhurst, Ontario L9X 1N6

Main Line (705) 726-9300
Toll Free 1-866-893-9300
Fax (705) 726-9832
simcoe.ca



March 26, 2021

Allison Deng
Resource Recovery Policy Branch
40 St. Clair Ave W, 8th Floor
Toronto ON
M4V 1M2

Dear Ms. Deng,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Proposed Regulation for Hazardous and Special Products under the Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act, 2016 (ERO 019-2836). Please accept the following comments on behalf of the County of Simcoe, please note the following comments have not yet received Council endorsement. Information, including this response, will be provided to our Council.

The County currently collects materials listed in the Draft Hazardous and Special Products Regulation at five Household Hazardous Waste depots located at County Waste Management Facilities. The program is quite successful with the County collecting over 700 tonnes of designated and non-designated hazardous material in 2020. In total approximately \$600,000 was spent in processing fees with approximately \$300,000 funded by the stewardship programs. The County also has significant capital investment in infrastructure for each of the depots as well as necessary staffing with specialized training on how to handle hazardous wastes.

County of Simcoe Solid Waste Management staff agrees with and re-iterates the comments brought forth by the collective submission provided by The Association of Municipalities of Ontario ("AMO"), the City of Toronto, the Regional Public Works Commissioners of Ontario ("RPWCO") and the Municipal Waste Association ("MWA"). Rather than repeat their individual comments, please consider them as our own. We have provided the below additional feedback to our specific concerns, where appropriate:

- We request that the implementation date of July 1, 2021 be delayed to January 1, 2022 in order to have adequate time to set up agreements with registered haulers and processors as well as to properly train staff on any changes required under the new regulation.
- Considering that the County collects additional hazardous wastes above those supported through the current stewardship program we are disappointed that the designated materials were not expanded other than the addition of mercury containing barometers, thermometers and thermostats. We note that County staff will recommend to County Council to continue to collect non-designated materials and that the disposal of these materials will be borne by the local taxpayer.
- The County disagrees with the removal of refillable pressurized propane cylinders. The County will continue to collect these materials because if we do not provide a safe disposal option for

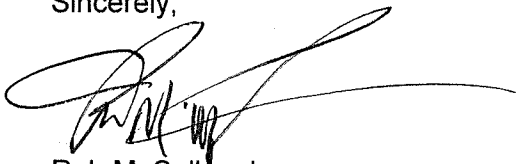
residents this material would end up in landfill. Considering much of our material goes through a shredder prior to being landfilled, propane cylinders would cause an extreme danger to the operators if removed from hazardous waste collection and placed in the landfill.

- The County is disappointed in the management options for fertilizers. The regulation states that a promotion and education program is to “encourage consumers to use up, share or otherwise dispose of unused fertilizer” and that “consumers are encouraged to refrain from dropping off or delivering any fertilizers to municipal depots”. It is unrealistic to assume that municipalities will not receive any of this material as the majority of consumers will not know how to “otherwise dispose of unused fertilizer” and they will bring it to our depots. The general direction that producers “shall take reasonable steps to assist municipalities with managing fertilizers received from consumers” is vague and unclear. Considering in 2020 the County collected 5.6 tonnes of fertilizer, it would be beneficial to understand how specifically the producers of this product would assist municipalities in the management of fertilizers.
- The requirement for the name and contact information to be recorded for any person disposing of more than 25 kilograms of HSP per day will be difficult to implement. The County's Waste Management Facilities have scales for incoming/outgoing traffic but do not have a scale at each Household Hazardous Waste depot. Considering we will be accepting HSP designated through the regulation as well as materials not designated staff would be required to separate designated materials and weigh them in order to know if a person has exceeded the 25 kilograms. Many residents bring multiple paint cans for disposal at one time which would easily exceed the 25 kilograms. At times, the sites can be very busy and this is an unrealistic process that will cause significant delays at our sites.

If the purpose of this condition is to restrict large quantities of out of province HSP from being managed through this program then this condition should not apply to municipalities. All of our sites are regulated through an Environmental Compliance Approval and as such are restricted as to the type and quantity accepted and to only accept material within the County of Simcoe boundaries. Based on this we ask that municipalities be exempt from this requirement.

The County of Simcoe is in support of the draft Hazardous and Special Product regulation and the move to full producer responsibility for many items. Including additional materials in the regulation would make producers of materials not designated in this draft regulation responsible for the end of life for products they produce and ease the financial burden on local taxpayers. Staff will be recommending to Simcoe County Council that we continue to take all materials, whether designated or not designated, at our Household Hazardous Waste depots as the alternative would be placement into a landfill which is not an environmentally responsible way of handling this material.

Sincerely,



Rob McCullough
Director, Solid Waste Management