

Whitewater Raw Sewage Dumping

June 7, 2021

Carolyn Coulson
Senior Program Advisor
Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change
2430 Don Reid Drive
Ottawa, Ontario
K1H 1E1

Dear Ms. Coulson

Re Site Location: 18-OTT- 25681, 1108 Zion Line, Pappin Road Site - Lots 4 and 5, Concession 3eml, Whitewater Township, Renfrew County, MacGregor Concrete Products

We are a group of concerned citizens of Whitewater Region wishing to take issue with the above application submitted for renewal of Septic Tank dumping of raw sewage on the above dumping site within our community. We have requested documentation from your office so that we may view the required site records. It is our contention that 'full compliance' within the terms and conditions of ECA for the above mentioned license are not being fully met.

Under 'RECORD KEEPING' item 18, We understand that the service provider must maintain a log book documenting how much Hauled Sewage was spread on the Site. Auditing the billing records of the septic Tank Pumping business may be a more accurate way to determine quantities.

Under 'OPERATIONS' Item 14 states that Hauled Sewage shall only be spread at the Site at the lower of fifteen (15) litres per square metre per seven (7) days or such other lower rate which ensures that ponding at, puddling on or runoff from the Site does not occur. Under previous operation in one day alone 20 trucks were counted going to this location. It would seem with this number of trucks in one day the business owner may well have surpassed capacity regulations.

Under 'OPERATIONS' Item 8, Odours from the site have been reported by students from the school that is located on the front portion of the property near the entrance to where the hauled sewage is spread. As stated above 20 septic tank trucks were counted on one day alone also becoming

a safety issue for the school children.

Under 'DEFINITIONS' d (9) which states - commercial, community or institutional use - educational purposes, including a school, college, university, private career college or associated residence. Please review Exhibit A that illustrated the school's location in relation to the dumping

Site. Exhibit A also shows a pond within close proximity. No reference under 'SETBACKS' item 16 is made to ponds in close proximity.

Under 'OPERATIONS' 10c it is stated that no hauled sewage shall be spread at the Site when conditions are such that Hauled Sewage, or water contaminated by Hauled sewage, may runoff or discharge from the Site. Please review Exhibit B. This letter is showing an E Coli incident with a neighbour directly across from the Site. A Father and Son were infected and very ill with gastro intestinal symptoms as a result. The neighbour believes the contamination was a result of ground water contamination for the quantity of raw sewage spread on this site. The MOE determined the E Coli was non animal. No explanation was given for the cause of the E Coli well contamination. When MacGregor ceased dumping as required under the Environmental Compliance in November the well cleared and became healthy once again. The Renfrew County and District Health Unit, Environmental Health Division suggested that due to the E Coli contamination of one well that it would be advisable for houses close to this site test their water frequently and add a UV system to their well when sewage is being spread.

Under 'SETBACKS' there are Site approval conditions to be met. We have received documentation that this Site is in compliance with all of the listed stipulations. Please confirm that the information provided by the applicant is correct.

Under 'OPERATIONS' Item 13 it is stated that prior to spreading of hauled sewage at the site, the operator shall ensure the useable spreading area is clearly flagged, digitally designated in GPS such that the designation is readily available upon the request of a Provincial Officer, or similarly marked so as to clearly identify setbacks from sensitive features and any areas where spreading is prohibited pursuant to Condition 12 of the Approval. There is no signage posted for Raw Sewage Dumping as stated in the Official Plan requirement.

Under Exhibit C we are presenting notations from residents in and around the Site(s) areas that also share our concerns.

As a solution, we have asked that all Septic Tank Pumping Services take raw sewage to the Treatment Plant for Processing. A number of Service providers in our area are already following this

procedure. We are asking that all Service providers do the same. Please note that those service providers that utilize the services of the Treatment plan charge less than the applicant. We have been advised by the Treatment Plant that they have adequate capacity to handle all the sewage from this area.

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

Exhibit D: Map of Watershed Systems in and around the dumping Site(s).

There has been a situation as previously stated of an E Coli in one of our wells. All dumping Sites (4 in total) are within one square mile. This Site is within 1/8th of a mile from the Renfrew County Walking Trail and BORCA (Beachburg Off Road Cycling Association) Trail. Visitors from Ottawa

to Deep River use these Trails. Many people in our Municipality have worked diligently to prepare and promote these trails and as a result they attract many tourists to our Whitewater Region. We are concerned that the number of sewage hauling trucks may well inhibit usage as well as reported odours that rise from the Site.

Neighbours living within this designated area are concerned about the environmental impact of spreading large amounts of raw sewage in a concentrated area over many years and the possible contamination of their wells and environmental safety. Further that due to the small geographical dumping area we are experiencing enhanced truck traffic re;; hauling with four sites (plus the cement truck traffic) and this excessive activity will impact on our children's safety and real estate values.

We would urge MOE to respond to our concerns prior to any action being taken on approving this and other Site applications in our area.

Respectively,
Concerned Whitewater Residents

Karen Caldwell, Lynne Langton, Louise Johnston (supportive resident Emails and Facebook responses)