

Tuesday, March 12, 2024

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing this letter to express my concerns about the potential reopening and expansion of the dump outside the town of Dresden.

I live in this wonderful community of approximately 2500 people and I can not understand why York 1 is being permitted to use loopholes and outdated laws to ram through a project that will likely cause irreparable damage to our community. The Ministry of the Environment must do its due diligence and properly assess the environmental impact on this area. The area that has been purchased lies within a floodplain area and with such close proximity to Molly's Creek that connects with the Sydenham River, then on to the St. Clair River and then to Lake Erie, the results could be devastating if harsh materials breach the safety measures that York 1 claims to be putting in place. There are at least 33 different species at risk, such as the spiny softshell turtle and Eastern foxsnake, that risk further endangerment with a new inhospitable environment with noise, movement, and toxins threatening their homes.

Even if this site remains as only a construction recycling facility, how are we to be sure that the residents of Dresden are safe considering it would be less than 1km from the town. York 1's website explains that "exposure to airborne friable asbestos may result in a potential health risk by breathing in asbestos fibres. Continued exposure can increase the amount of fibers that remain in the lung and fibers embedded in lung tissue over time may cause serious lung diseases." Is the Ministry of the Environment sure that dumping 700 truckloads of construction material per day, 24/7 for 365 days of the year will not cause an outbreak of lung issues from the construction dust that will settle over our area?

The Government of Ontario needs to ensure it is following its own rules and regulations and if a landfill is not allowed to be placed within 1 km of a residential area, an old property under old regulations should not allow current more stringent rules to be overlooked. With the amount of property the company has purchased around the existing landfill will most certainly make it a "megadump" if they are to use all of the property, which they most certainly will since they have purchased it.

I implore you to do the right thing and to ensure you are prioritizing the health and well-being of people and animals instead of the almighty dollar.

Concerned citizen,

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