



## **W2RO Submission:**

Proposed designation under the Environmental Assessment Act of the landfill site and waste transfer and processing expansion, located in the former Town of Dresden, Municipality of Chatham Kent

**ERO 019-8417**

Environmental Assessment Branch  
135 St. Clair Ave W, 4th Floor  
Toronto, ON M4V 1P5  
Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

May 10, 2023

**Re: Proposed Regulation under the Environmental Assessment Act for York1 Environmental Waste Solutions Ltd.**

Waste to Resource Ontario (W2RO) and its members appreciate the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed regulation that is included under the Environmental Assessment Act posting concerning the project by York1 Environmental Waste Solutions Ltd. to re-establish landfill operations and expand waste transfer and processing capabilities.

We acknowledge the context and issue of the posting, however clarity and precision in added regulation language is important to review to prevent unintended consequences that could impact the broader industry. Is there is wide-spread industry confusion and concern that this regulation change will apply to all landfill operators.

Any broadbase province-wide regulation changes should require intricate full-scope consultation with the entire industry & stakeholders.

**Other Concerns:**

The requirement for a comprehensive environmental assessment for this project could set a precedent for future similar projects. Other operators may subsequently face increased scrutiny and potentially more stringent requirements for re-establishing or expanding operations, even if their environmental impacts are considerably less significant.

The inclusion of "any enterprise or activity ancillary to the project" in the regulation could significantly broaden the scope of required assessments beyond the primary operations. This expansion of language could impose additional regulatory burdens on landfill and waste management operators, compelling them to assess and report on a broader range of activities, some of which might have minimal environmental impact.

**Specific Recommendations regarding Regulatory Language:**

W2RO recommends that the language of the regulation clearly specify its application solely to York1 Environmental Waste Solutions Ltd.'s project. This precision is crucial to avoid implications for other operators who might engage under different circumstances, such as temporary re-establishment during facility upgrades or closures due to strikes. The regulation should not inadvertently cover such scenarios, which could impose undue burdens and ultimately cause economic impact upon the sector.

We suggest defining "re-establishment" within the context of this regulation to explicitly cover activities related to the reopening previously closed or downscaled operations, strictly limited to this

project. It is important that this definition excludes operational adjustments made by other facilities for maintenance, upgrades, or temporary closures, ensuring that routine operational modifications are not subjected to the comprehensive assessment processes envisioned for major projects like that of York1.

To prevent a broad application that could negatively impact the entire industry, it is vital that the regulation include language that limits its scope to the specific environmental and community impact considerations relevant to the Dresden site. This focused approach will ensure that other sites are not unnecessarily burdened by requirements that are not directly applicable to their operations.

W2RO encourages the Ministry to engage with waste management industry stakeholders, including our organization and its members, to discuss the potential implications of the proposed regulatory language.

### **Conclusion**

As the ministry looks into the feedback, we ask the ministry to engage with W2RO and its members directly to discuss the potential implications of the proposed regulatory language.

We thank you for considering our feedback and remain committed to supporting sustainable waste management practices in Ontario.

For further discussions or clarifications, please feel free to contact:

#### **Ravneet Gill**

Waste to Resource Ontario

Manager - Policy & Stakeholder Relations

[rgill@w2ro.org](mailto:rgill@w2ro.org)

Tel: (416) 674-1542 Ext. 25 | Fax: (416) 674-1559

Cell: (905) 460-6611