Re: Your request for access to information under Part II of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act, 2015 [Our File #: MAE/32/2017]

On June 20, 2017, the Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment received your request for access to the following records/information:

"We are requesting any and all records related to the proposed compost facility for the Argentia Road including but not limited to: - Correspondence - emails - reports - Information notes - Video or audio recordings Also including previous proposed site locations of Foxtrap access road and Salmonier line. During the time period of January 2014 to present."

On July 4, 2017, you agreed to the following modified wording:

"We are requesting any and all internal records related to the proposed compost facility for the Argentia Road including but not limited to: - Executive Correspondence - emails - reports - Information notes - Video or audio recordings. Specifically, I am requesting review comments/recommendations/correspondence from the first review (April 5, 2016 - July 15, 2016) and the most recent review comments/recommendations/correspondence related to the EPR addendum review of April 10, 2017 to present."

On July 18, 2017 the Department advised that, with approval from the Information and Privacy Commissioner under Section 24 of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act (the Act), the 20 business day time limit for responding to your request had been extended for an additional 15 business days and that we expected to respond to your request by August 9, 2017.

I am pleased to inform you that a decision has been made by the Deputy Minister to grant access in part to the requested information. Portions of the attached documents have been severed in accordance with the following exceptions to disclosure as specified in the Act:
Section 29(1)(a): The head of a public body may refuse to disclose to an applicant information that would reveal advice, proposals, recommendations, analyses or policy options developed by or for a public body or minister.

Section 30(1)(b): The head of a public body may refuse to disclose to an applicant information that would disclose legal opinions provided to a public body by a law officer of the Crown.

Section 34(1)(a): The head of a public body may refuse to disclose information to an applicant if the disclosure could reasonably be expected to harm the conduct by the government of the province of relations between that government and the following or their agencies:

(i) the government of Canada or a province.

Section 35(1)(b): The head of a public body may refuse to disclose to an applicant information which could reasonably be expected to disclose financial, commercial, scientific or technical information that belongs to a public body or to the government of the province and that has, or is reasonably likely to have, monetary value.

Section 39(1)(a): The head of a public body shall refuse to disclose to an applicant information that would reveal:

(i) trade secrets of a third party, or
(ii) commercial, financial, labour relations, scientific or technical information of a third party.

Section 39(1)(b): The head of a public body shall refuse to disclose to an applicant information that is supplied, implicitly or explicitly, in confidence.

Section 39(1)(c): The head of a public body shall refuse to disclose to an applicant information, the disclosure of which could reasonably be expected to:

(i) harm significantly the competitive position or interfere significantly with the negotiating position of the third party,
(ii) result in similar information no longer being supplied to the public body when it is in the public interest that similar information continue to be supplied, or
(iii) result in undue financial loss or gain to any person.
Section 40(1): The head of a public body shall refuse to disclose personal information to an applicant where the disclosure would be an unreasonable invasion of a third party's personal privacy.

Please note that the following pages have been fully redacted:

- Pages 69, 71-73, 98, 104-106, 226, 265-267, 281-284, 294-298 under Section 29(1)(a) of the Act; and

- Page 226 under Section 30(1)(b) of the Act.

Please note that this project, as initially registered and reviewed, has been significantly refined according to the Environmental Preview Report (EPR) Addendum. Fire services initially proposed to be contracted to local fire departments are now to be provided by the proponent if the project proceeds (see pages 151, 155, 161, 166, 168, 172 and 204 of the responsive package for reference to fire services being contracted out to local fire departments). Similarly, the assessed risk of fire, since the initial registration document, was addressed with changes to the facility design and fire suppression procedures through the EPR Addendum review (see pages 53, 65, 82, 94, 119 and 131 for references to risk of fire at composting facilities).

As required by subsection 8(2) of the Act, we have severed information that is exempted from disclosure and have provided you with as much information as possible.

In accordance with your request, the appropriate copies of records have been enclosed.

Please note that Public Comments, Unedited and Edited Comments, which are listed as attachments throughout the responsive package, are not included in the enclosed records as they were not to be included as part of this request.

Please find below a list of additional documents listed as attachments throughout the responsive package which are already publicly available:

- Project Registration Document
- Minister's Registration Decision Letter
- Minister's EPR Decision Letter
- EPR Guidelines
- Environmental Preview Report
- Addendum/EPR Addendum
The above mentioned records, along with other documents related to Registration #1838 - Argentia Access Road Industrial Composting Facility, can be found on our departmental website:

Section 42 of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act (the Act) provides that you may ask the Information and Privacy Commissioner to review the processing of your access request. A request to the Commissioner must be made in writing within 15 business days of the date of this letter or within a longer period that may be allowed by the Commissioner.

The address and contact information of the Information and Privacy Commissioner is as follows:

Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner
2 Canada Drive
P. O. Box 13004, Str. A
St. John's, NL A1B 3V8
Telephone: (709) 729-6309
Toll-Free: 1-877-729-6309
Facsimile: (709) 729-6500

You may also appeal directly to the Supreme Court Trial Division within 15 business days after you receive the decision of the public body, pursuant to section 52 of the Act.

Please be advised that responsive records will be published following a 72 hour period after the response is sent electronically to you or five business days in the case where records are mailed to you. It is the goal to have the responsive records posted to the Completed Access to Information Requests website within one business day following the applicable period of time. Please note that requests for personal information will not be posted online.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me by telephone at 709-729-3631 or by e-mail at debi Keith@gov.nl.ca.

Sincerely,

DEBI KEITH
ATIPP Coordinator
Policy and Strategic Planning

Endlosures
Keith, Debi L

From: GambinWalsh, Sherry
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2016 12:36 PM
To: Trimper, Perry
Subject: Re: Mink farm

Perry you should check with your staff about the strong opposition received by the PC Minister of Environment around the location proposed in "yesterday's " news release.

That is not a new location proposal to my knowledge but I need a map to confirm such.

What is the contact email information to where comments should be sent?

Sherry

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Bell network.

Original Message
From: Trimper, Perry
Sent: Wednesday, April 6, 2016 12:26 PM
To: GambinWalsh, Sherry
Subject: Re: Mink farm

The previous location proposed by the firm was within Holyrood Watershed - there was strong opposition so they withdrew their registration before I made a decision. They re-submitted the undertaking yesterday with this new location. We just put out a notice on the EA Bulletin a couple hrs ago.

If people have comments they can submit to the Environmental Assessments Division. There will be a 35 day period for public and departmental input, then 10 days before I issue a decision.

PGT

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Bell network.

Original Message
From: GambinWalsh, Sherry
Sent: Wednesday, April 6, 2016 11:34 AM
To: Trimper, Perry
Subject: Fw: Mink farm

Perry,

A past proposal for the Argentia Access Road composting facility received strong opposition from the many cabin owners and residents who live next to the proposed location. They took to Open Line and the media in opposition. Has the location changed? I have started to receive questions already on it. Please see below.

Thank you,
Sherry
Sherry

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Bell network.

Original Message
From: sherrygw@xplornet.com
Sent: Wednesday, April 6, 2016 11:58 AM
To: GambinWalsh, Sherry
Subject: Fw: Mink farm

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Bell network.

Original Message
From: [Redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, April 6, 2016 11:46 AM
To: sherrygw@xplornet.com
Subject: Mink farm

HI Sherry,
Just wondering if you could look into this situation for us again in Placentia Junction Area. It's in today's paper that they are applying for to put a composting facility there the one that was turned down on the Salmonier line to compost all kinds of waste including mink, fish, chickens.

Thanks

Sent from my iPhone
Bas,

I just met with Mr. Ted Penny, proponent for EA Registration #1838, the proposed Argentia Access Road Industrial Composting Facility project. Mr. Penney is convinced that his project will not receive a fair environmental assessment, based on a recent *Telegram* article (attached) which states that the MHA for the area in which he is proposing the facility, the Honourable Sherry Gambin-Walsh, is publically speaking out against the project and has publically stated that she is “very much opposed to the site and has been lobbying the ENVC minister every single day.” Mr. Penney is concerned that he does not have that kind of access to the minister, and that the district MHA has an unfair advantage to promote information to the minister that Mr. Penny believes is unfounded and not factual. Mr. Penney referenced the attached *Telegram* article which indicates that the Mayor of Whitbourne, Hilda Whalen, has spoken with Minister Trimper, and adds that the minister has not returned his telephone call.

Despite my efforts to reassure Mr. Penney that Minister Trimper has turned down many public invitations to discuss the project in order to remain impartial and ensure a fair environmental assessment, Mr. Penney does not seem convinced and indicated his intention to bring his concerns to the media.

Also, I received the email below from Mr. Penney's project consultant. Can we meet this afternoon to discuss?

Joanne

Good morning Joanne,

We are reading the press article from Monday’s *Telegram* and this week’s *Compass* written by Andrew Robinson. Please see attached a copy of the article.

This article is troubling in that it indicates that both the Mayor of Whitbourne – Hilda Whelan – and the local Liberal MHA – Sherry Gambin-Walsh seem to be in direct contact with the DOE minister – Mr. Perry Trimper – over their unfounded opposition to the proposed composting facility implementation on Argentia access road. Placentia-St. Mary MHA Sherry Gambin-Walsh is quoted in the article to say publically: “I am very much opposed to this site, and I have been lobbying Minister Trimper every single day – he’s really tired of me.” And “I just think two kilometers from the proposed business or site like this is absolutely ridiculous.” Also, Mayor Hilda Whelan has reportedly spoken with Mr. Trimper and was told his department is well aware of the town’s concerns.

This situation, as reported, indicates that the environmental assessment process integrity may be compromised to the detriment of the applicant, Metro Environmental Ltd.
has invested already substantial moneys and commitments, and fears its legitimate interests and 
rights to a fair and proper environmental assessment may be compromised by the actions of these 
two elected officials. For example, Metro Environmental officials or their consultant wouldn’t have 
access to the Minister or any member of the committee reviewing the EA during the review period, 
then how and why these two elected officials have access to the minister and/or committee members 
to voice repeatedly opinions that have no scientific, technical, engineering or environmental credibility 
and understanding?

Sincerely,

Hubert

Hubert Alacoque, P. Eng. MBA
President

Innovative Development & Design Engineers Ltd.
Mechanical  I  Electrical  I  3D Modelling
Anderson House,  Tel: (709) 368 8870  Ext. 1
42 Power’s Court,  Cell: (709) 746 0571
St. John’s, NL A1A 1B6  Engineering Services: www.iddel.ca
Canada  3D Modelling & Rendering: www.iddel3d.com

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If you wish to obtain a copy please contact the ATIPP Office at (709) 729-7072 or atippoffice@gov.nl.ca.
Bas,

The revised letter is attached.

Joanne
Dear Mr. Penney:

Re: Environmental Assessment of the Proposed Argentia Access Road Industrial Composting Facility Project

I understand you met with Joanne Sweeney on June 7, 2016, and that she outlined for you the environmental assessment process. Thank you for bringing forward your concerns regarding the environmental assessment (EA) of your proposed industrial composting facility project, and I trust that you found the dialogue with Ms. Sweeney worthwhile.

As Ms. Sweeney assured you, your project is receiving a fair and impartial review. That review is based on full consideration of the information provided by you in the registration document and addendum, on the advice provided by federal and provincial government departments and reviewing agencies, and on public comments received during the public review period. In the administration of the EA process, the EA Division evaluates submissions by proponents and reviewers and advises the minister of the potential environmental effects of the project, prior to decisions being made.

During the public review period the minister may receive many comments and concerns from interested individuals and groups, which he forwards to the EA Division to be included in the assessment. The minister does not participate in public meetings to discuss projects that are under registration review, as the process does not provide for public meetings during this review period. Should the minister’s decision at the end of registration review require that a project needs further study, then the proponent may be obliged to hold a public information session as a requirement of further study.

Your project is now 28 days into the registration review period since the addendum was posted on May 11, 2016, and public comments are due by June 15, 2015. The project is receiving a comprehensive review which involves consultation with government departments and agencies both inside the province and with other provinces in Canada. The environmental assessment process will enable the minister to make an informed decision as to whether the project can proceed in an environmentally acceptable manner, and you can expect that decision by June 25, 2016.

If you have further concerns regarding the environmental assessment of your project, please contact me, Bas Cleary, at 709-729-0673.

Sincerely,

Bas Cleary
Director
Environmental Assessment Division
No problem

From: Murphy, Ian  
Sent: Thursday, June 09, 2016 2:54 PM  
To: Janes, Colleen G  
Subject: RE: Industrial Composting - Metro Environmental - EA process

He asked for something in writing and I did speak to him after his conversation with Joanne. I said it would be inappropriate for me to respond in writing and that all correspondence would be through EA division. Maybe revise the letter to reflect that this email has been received, and see if we can simplify?

From: Janes, Colleen G  
Sent: Thursday, June 09, 2016 2:45 PM  
To: Murphy, Ian  
Subject: FW: Industrial Composting - Metro Environmental - EA process

See below. Would you prefer the letter go out anyway?

From: Cleary, Bas  
Sent: Thursday, June 09, 2016 2:36 PM  
To: Janes, Colleen G  
Subject: FW: Industrial Composting - Metro Environmental - EA process

Colleen,

In light of the response from Mr. Penney’s consultant below, I don’t think a response from me is now necessary. It appears that Joanne’s explanation very much satisfied his fears. Do you agree?

Bas

From: Sweeney, Joanne  
Sent: Thursday, June 09, 2016 11:56 AM  
To: Cleary, Bas  
Subject: FW: Industrial Composting - Metro Environmental - EA process

FYI, see email below.

Joanne

From: Hubert Alacoque  
Sent: Thursday, June 09, 2016 10:55 AM  
To: Sweeney, Joanne
Hi Joanne,

Following up on our email relative to the Monday Telegram newspaper reporting and our fears about the integrity of the EA process, we now feel reassured that your diligence and attention to the case will see us through to a fair and hopefully successful outcome. Mr. Penney indicated that he is confident that the EA process remains solidly on the right track.

Thank you for your professionalism and diligence in the circumstances as well as your support in establishing and maintaining a fair and objective process.

Best regards,

Hubert Alacoque, P. Eng. MBA
President

Innovative Development & Design Engineers Ltd.
Mechanical I Electrical I 3D Modelling
Anderson House, 42 Power's Court, St. John's, NL A1A 1B6
Canada
Tel: (709) 368 8870 Ext. 1
Call: (709) 746 0571
Engineering Services: www.iddel.ca
3D Modelling & Rendering: www.iddel3d.com

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Carry on.

Revised letter to Mr. Penney

Bas,

Please see the attached letter.

Regards,

Joanne

Joanne Sweeney
Environmental Scientist
Environmental Assessment Division
Department of Environment and Conservation
PO Box 8700, St. John's, NL A1B 4J6
tel. (709) 729-2822; Fax (709) 729-5518
Dear Mr. Penney:

Re: Environmental Assessment of the Proposed
Argentia Access Road Industrial Composting Facility Project

I understand you met with Joanne Sweeney on June 7, 2016 to discuss the environmental assessment (EA) process. Thank you for bringing forward your concerns regarding the EA of your proposed industrial composting facility project and I'm pleased that you found the dialogue with Ms. Sweeney worthwhile, as noted in an email from your project Consultant on June 9, 2016.

As Ms. Sweeney assured you, your project is receiving a fair and impartial review. That review is based on full consideration of the information provided by you in the registration document and addendum, on the advice provided by federal and provincial government departments and reviewing agencies, and on public comments received during the public review period. In the administration of the EA process, the EA Division evaluates submissions by proponents and reviewers and advises the minister of the potential environmental effects of the project, prior to decisions being made.

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If you have further concerns regarding the environmental assessment of your project, please contact me, Bas Cleary, at 709-729-0673.

Sincerely,

Bas Cleary
Director
Environmental Assessment Division
Good day Mr. Penney,

Please see attached letter.

Best regards,

Bas Cleary, Director
EA Division
Dear Mr. Penney:

Re: Environmental Assessment of the Proposed
Argentia Access Road Industrial Composting Facility Project

I understand you met with Joanne Sweeney on June 7, 2016 to discuss the environmental assessment (EA) process. Thank you for bringing forward your concerns regarding the EA of your proposed industrial composting facility project and I'm pleased that you found the dialogue with Ms. Sweeney worthwhile, as noted in an email from your project consultant on June 9, 2016.

As Ms. Sweeney assured you, your project is receiving a fair and impartial review. That review is based on full consideration of the information provided by you in the registration document and addendum, on the advice provided by federal and provincial government departments and reviewing agencies, and on public comments received during the public review period. In the administration of the EA process, the EA Division evaluates submissions by proponents and reviewers and advises the minister of the potential environmental effects of the project, prior to decisions being made.

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If you have further concerns regarding the environmental assessment of your project, please contact me, Bas Cleary, at 709-729-0673.

Sincerely,

Bas Cleary
Director
Environmental Assessment Division
Keith, Debi L

From: Janes, Colleen G
Sent: Tuesday, June 14, 2016 8:36 AM
To: Dutton, Sean
Subject: FW: Proposed Composting site - Argentia Access Road

See below.

From: Cleary, Bas
Sent: Tuesday, June 14, 2016 7:57 AM
To: Janes, Colleen G
Subject: Re: Proposed Composting site - Argentia Access Road

Yes. Now that we are aware of the issue we will contact FES to discuss.

From: Janes, Colleen G
Sent: Tuesday, June 14, 2016 07:54 AM
To: Cleary, Bas
Cc: Goebel, Martin
Subject: Re: Proposed Composting site - Argentia Access Road

So it will be assessed under our review of the registration and we'd consult FES as one of our referring agencies?

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Bell network.

From: Cleary, Bas
Sent: Tuesday, June 14, 2016 7:40 AM
To: Janes, Colleen G
Cc: Goebel, Martin
Subject: Re: Fwd: Proposed Composting site - Argentia Access Road

Yes. If the potential for fire is increased then this matter needs to be addressed in consultation with appropriate govt agency.

From: Janes, Colleen G
Sent: Monday, June 13, 2016 08:47 PM
To: Cleary, Bas
Cc: Goebel, Martin
Subject: Fwd: Proposed Composting site - Argentia Access Road

See below and please advise.

Thanks

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:
From: "Dutton, Sean" <sdutton@gov.nl.ca>
Date: June 13, 2016 at 8:39:03 PM NDT
To: "Janes, Colleen G" <CJanes@gov.nl.ca>
Subject: Fw: Proposed Composting site - Argentia Access Road

This project has been registered for environmental assessment. Is this question something that would be the subject of that process?

Sean

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Bell network.

Original Message
From: Joyce, Eddie <ejoyce@gov.nl.ca>
Sent: Monday, June 13, 2016 5:30 PM
To: Dutton, Sean
Cc: Dogurga, Sherrie-Lynn
Subject: FW: Proposed Composting site - Argentia Access Road

Please advise and take appropriate action. Thanks, Eddie

-----Original Message-----
From: Town of Whitbourne [mailto:whit.towncouncil@eastlink.ca]
Sent: Friday, June 10, 2016 11:56 AM
To: Joyce, Eddie
Cc: Simmons, Derek; GambinWalsh, Sherry
Subject: Proposed Composting site - Argentia Access Road

Please see attached letter from Mayor Hilda Whelan.

Thanks,
Crystal Peddle
Town Clerk

Town of Whitbourne
P O Box 119
Whitbourne, NL
A0B-3K0
Tel: 709-759-2780
Fax: 709-759-2016
Web: www.whitbournenl.com
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June 2, 2016

Minister of Fire and Emergency Services - NL
Honourable Minister Eddy Joyce
Confederation Building
P O Box 8700
St. John’s, NL
A1B-4J6

Dear Minister Eddy Joyce;

I am writing to you today to ask that you the minister of Fire and Emergency services of NL and your fire emergency team to please investigate the proposed composting site located on Argentia Access road just 2.3 kms from the town of Whitbourne.

Please find out if the reintroduction of the leaching matter from a previous compost pile being reintroduced to a new pile will increase the probability of fire due the concentration of the matter, if so this may increase the probability of a fire hazard to our community.

Could you please assure us that the Province has a Fire Department is in place that is properly trained in the proper procedures of fighting a composting fire.

If in your assessment there is probable fire danger please forward your concerns to the environment assessment division by June 15, 2016.

Thank you for your consideration to this matter.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Hilda Whelan
Mayor

Cc: Fire Commissioner - Mr. Derek Simmons
Dan:
From a waste management perspective can you or Vicki make us aware of any increased fire hazards due to composting materials and the issue of spontaneous combustion when the compost becomes too hot?

Regards, Martin

From: Janes, Colleen G
Sent: Tuesday, June 14, 2016 7:55 AM
To: Cleary, Bas
Cc: Goebel, Martin
Subject: Re: Proposed Composting site - Argentia Access Road

So it will be assessed under our review of the registration and we'd consult FES as one of our referring agencies?

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Bell network.

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To: Janes, Colleen G
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Yes. If the potential for fire is increased then this matter needs to be addressed in consultation with appropriate gov't agency.

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Subject: Proposed Composting site - Argentia Access Road

Please see attached letter from Mayor Hilda Whelan.

Thanks,
Crystal Peddle
Town Clerk

Town of Whitbourne
PO Box 119
Whitbourne, NL
A0B-3K0
Tel: 709-759-2780
Fax: 709-759-2016
Web: www.whitbournenl.com

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From: Kent, Debi L
To: Cleary, Bas
Sent: Tuesday, June 14, 2016 8:47 AM
Subject: FW: Proposed Composting site - Argentia Access Road
Attachments: letter from June 14, 2016 8:36am e-mail

Has this been an issue? Drop by

From: Janes, Colleen G
Sent: Tuesday, June 14, 2016 8:36 AM
To: Cleary, Bas
Subject: RE: Proposed Composting site - Argentia Access Road

Thanks. I will advise Sean.

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Crystal Peddle
Town Clerk

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P O Box 119
Whitbourne, NL
A0B-3K0
Tel: 709-759-2780
Fax: 709-759-2016
Web: www.whitbournenl.com

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Good with me. I just received the proposal from the Environmental Assessment Division this morning.

Derek Simmons
Director of Fire Services/Fire Commissioner Fire & Emergency Services - NL Phone (709) 729-1608 Fax (709) 729-2524

-----Original Message-----
From: Dutton, Sean
Sent: Tuesday, June 14, 2016 11:32 AM
To: Walsh, Susan; Simmons, Derek; Janes, Colleen G
Subject: FW: Proposed Composting site - Argentia Access Road

Please see attached draft response? Is this sufficient for now? Or Derek would you want to say more?

Sean

-----Original Message-----
From: Joyce, Eddie
Sent: Monday, June 13, 2016 5:31 PM
To: Dutton, Sean
Cc: Dogurga, Sherrie-Lynn
Subject: FW: Proposed Composting site - Argentia Access Road

Please advise and take appropriate action. Thanks, Eddie

-----Original Message-----
From: Town of Whitbourne [mailto:whit.towncouncil@eastlink.ca]
Sent: Friday, June 10, 2016 11:56 AM
To: Joyce, Eddie
Cc: Simmons, Derek; GambinWalsh, Sherry
Subject: Proposed Composting site - Argentia Access Road

Please see attached letter from Mayor Hilda Whelan.

Thanks,
Crystal Peddle
Town Clerk

Town of Whitbourne
P O Box 119
Whitbourne, NL
A0B-3K0
Tel: 709-759-2780
Fax: 709-759-2016
Web: www.whitbournenl.com

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Dear Mayor Whalen:

Thank you for your letter dated June 2, 2016, regarding the Argentia Access Road Industrial Composting Facility.

As you are aware, this Undertaking has been registered with the Environmental Assessment Division of the Department of Environment and Conservation. Your questions have been shared with that Department, which will discuss this with my staff at Fire and Emergency Services – Newfoundland and Labrador.

I appreciate your bringing this matter to my attention.

Sincerely,

EDDIE JOYCE, MHA
District of Humber-Bay of Islands
Minister of Municipal Affairs
Minister Responsible for Fire and Emergency Services – NL

cc. The Honourable Perry Trimper
    The Honourable Sherry Gambin-Walsh, MHA
Look fine

-----Original Message-----
From: Sweeney, Joanne
Sent: Tuesday, June 14, 2016 1:45 PM
To: Cleary, Bas
Subject: RE: Proposed Composting site - Argentia Access Road

That's good. As I indicated this morning, Derek Simmons (Fire Commissioner's Office) is reviewing the project registration document and addendum and will forward comments to me.

Joanne

-----Original Message-----
From: Cleary, Bas
Sent: Tuesday, June 14, 2016 1:34 PM
To: Sweeney, Joanne
Subject: FW: Proposed Composting site - Argentia Access Road

Look fine with me - you?

-----Original Message-----
From: Janes, Colleen G
Sent: Tuesday, June 14, 2016 1:32 PM
To: Cleary, Bas; Michielsen, Dan; Goebel, Martin
Subject: FW: Proposed Composting site - Argentia Access Road

Any comments?

-----Original Message-----
From: Dutton, Sean
Sent: Tuesday, June 14, 2016 11:32 AM
To: Walsh, Susan; Simmons, Derek; Janes, Colleen G
Subject: FW: Proposed Composting site - Argentia Access Road

Please see attached draft response? Is this sufficient for now? Or Derek would you want to say more?

Sean

-----Original Message-----
From: Joyce, Eddie
Sent: Monday, June 13, 2016 5:31 PM
To: Dutton, Sean
Cc: Dogurga, Sherrie-Lynn
Subject: FW: Proposed Composting site - Argentia Access Road

Please advise and take appropriate action. Thanks, Eddie

-----Original Message-----
From: Town of Whitbourne [mailto:whit.towncouncil@eastlink.ca]
Sent: Friday, June 10, 2016 11:56 AM
To: Joyce, Eddie
Cc: Simmons, Derek; GambinWalsh, Sherry
Subject: Proposed Composting site - Argentia Access Road

Please see attached letter from Mayor Hilda Whelan.

Thanks,
Crystal Peddle
Town Clerk

Town of Whitbourne
P O Box 119
Whitbourne, NL
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One more email to follow wherein Dan suggests you consider adding something to your draft letter, based on this below.

From: Michielsen, Dan  
Sent: Tuesday, June 14, 2016 8:45AM  
To: Goebel, Martin  
Cc: Cleary, Bas; Janes, Colleen G  
Subject: Fw: Proposed Composting site - Argentia Access Road

Please see the comments below from Vicki.

Dan

From: Ficzere, Vicki <vickificzere@gov.nl.ca>  
Sent: Tuesday, June 14, 2016 11:38 AM  
To: Michielsen, Dan  
Subject: RE: Proposed Composting site - Argentia Access Road

Proper windrow composting requires the temperatures of the windrows to hit a minimum of 55 degrees C for 15 days. During this time the windrow need to be turned at least 5 times. This helps to cool the windrow to prevent it from getting to hot. It also need to have the proper moisture content, if the windrow becomes to dry then it need to have water added. This should prevent any fires in the windrows.

That being said, if the windrow isn't being properly composted and water isn't added to the pile when the temperatures are getting high there is a potential for the windrows to combust. Fires in compost piles more so normally occurs when the compost has finished actively breaking down and is undergoing the curing process. This is when the active composting of the organics has ceased and the windrow is left to sit for at least 21 days, to allow it to cool down. At this time, the piles aren't usually monitored as closely and the temperature is still high and the moisture content is lower. So, yes, there is a chance of fire with composting.

The letter from the Town of Whitbourne indicated that they were worried that the leachate collected from older compost piles and added to the active compost piles would potentially increase the potential for a fire. This is not the case. The leachate would be added to the active compost piles to increase the moisture content, and therefore reduce the chance of a fire.

Vicki Ficzere  
Environmental Scientist

From: Michielsen, Dan  
Sent: Tuesday, June 14, 2016 8:45 AM
To: Ficzere, Vicki  
**Subject:** FW: Proposed Composting site - Argentia Access Road

Vicki,

Can you comment on this?

Dan

Dan Michielsen, M.A.Sc.  
Director, Pollution Prevention Division  
729-5782

---

**From:** Goebel, Martin  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 14, 2016 8:44 AM  
**To:** Michielsen, Dan  
**Cc:** Janes, Colleen G; Cleary, Bas  
**Subject:** RE: Proposed Composting site - Argentia Access Road

Dan:

From a waste management perspective can you or Vicki make us aware of any increased fire hazards due to composting materials and the issue of spontaneous combustion when the compost becomes too hot?

*Regards, Martin*

---

**From:** Janes, Colleen G  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 14, 2016 7:55 AM  
**To:** Cleary, Bas  
**Cc:** Goebel, Martin  
**Subject:** Re: Proposed Composting site - Argentia Access Road

So it will be assessed under our review of the registration and we'd consult FES as one of our referring agencies?

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Bell network.

---

**From:** Cleary, Bas  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 14, 2016 7:40 AM  
**To:** Janes, Colleen G  
**Cc:** Goebel, Martin  
**Subject:** Re: Fwd: Proposed Composting site - Argentia Access Road

Yes. If the potential for fire is increased then this matter needs to be addressed in consultation with appropriate gov't agency.

---

**From:** Janes, Colleen G  
**Sent:** Monday, June 13, 2016 08:47 PM  
**To:** Cleary, Bas  
**Cc:** Goebel, Martin  
**Subject:** Fwd: Proposed Composting site - Argentia Access Road

See below and please advise.
Thanks

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Dutton, Sean" <sdutton@gov.nl.ca>
Date: June 13, 2016 at 8:39:03 PM NDT
To: "Janes, Colleen G" <CJanes@gov.nl.ca>
Subject: Fw: Proposed Composting site - Argentia Access Road

This project has been registered for environmental assessment. Is this question something that would be the subject of that process?

Sean

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Bell network.

Original Message
From: Joyce, Eddie <ejoyce@gov.nl.ca>
Sent: Monday, June 13, 2016 5:30 PM
To: Dutton, Sean
Cc: Dogurga, Sherrie-Lynn
Subject: FW: Proposed Composting site - Argentia Access Road

Please advise and take appropriate action. Thanks, Eddie

-----Original Message-----
From: Town of Whitbourne [mailto:whit.towncouncil@eastlink.ca]
Sent: Friday, June 10, 2016 11:56 AM
To: Joyce, Eddie
Cc: Simmons, Derek; GambinWalsh, Sherry
Subject: Proposed Composting site - Argentia Access Road

Please see attached letter from Mayor Hilda Whelan.

Thanks,
Crystal Peddle
Town Clerk

Town of Whitbourne
P O Box 119
Whitbourne, NL
A0B-3K0
Tel: 709-759-2780
Fax: 709-759-2016
Web: www.whitbournenl.com
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Keith, Debi L

From: Janes, Colleen G
Sent: Tuesday, June 14, 2016 2:49 PM
To: Dutton, Sean
Subject: FW: Proposed Composting site - Argentia Access Road

-----Original Message-----
From: Michielsen, Dan
Sent: Tuesday, June 14, 2016 1:52 PM
To: Janes, Colleen G; Cleary, Bas; Goebel, Martin
Subject: RE: Proposed Composting site - Argentia Access Road

If they want to give a full response at this time, I sent an analysis up earlier that could be used. It would save a step if they provided that analysis now in their response. If this is desirable would suggest something like:

As you are aware, this Undertaking has been registered with the Environmental Assessment Division of the Department of Environment and Conservation. Your questions have been shared with that Department, and they have indicated that the reintroduction of leachate into new compost will actually further reduce the chance of fire by increasing the moisture content of the new compost pile.

Dan Michielsen, M.A.Sc.
Director, Pollution Prevention Division
729-5782

-----Original Message-----
From: Janes, Colleen G
Sent: Tuesday, June 14, 2016 1:32 PM
To: Cleary, Bas; Michielsen, Dan; Goebel, Martin
Subject: FW: Proposed Composting site - Argentia Access Road

Any comments?

-----Original Message-----
From: Dutton, Sean
Sent: Tuesday, June 14, 2016 11:32 AM
To: Walsh, Susan; Simmons, Derek; Janes, Colleen G
Subject: FW: Proposed Composting site - Argentia Access Road

Please see attached draft response? Is this sufficient for now? Or Derek would you want to say more?

Sean

-----Original Message-----
From: Joyce, Eddie
Sent: Monday, June 13, 2016 5:31 PM
To: Dutton, Sean  
Cc: Dogurga, Sherrie-Lynn  
Subject: FW: Proposed Composting site - Argentia Access Road  

Please advise and take appropriate action. Thanks, Eddie  

-----Original Message-----  
From: Town of Whitbourne [mailto:whit.towncouncil@eastlink.ca]  
Sent: Friday, June 10, 2016 11:56 AM  
To: Joyce, Eddie  
Cc: Simmons, Derek; GambinWalsh, Sherry  
Subject: Proposed Composting site - Argentia Access Road  

Please see attached letter from Mayor Hilda Whelan.  

Thanks,  
Crystal Peddle  
Town Clerk  

Town of Whitbourne  
P O Box 119  
Whitbourne, NL  
A0B-3K0  
Tel: 709-759-2780  
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I recommend forwarding this to Vicki Ficzere for her comments regarding the reference to "proper windrow composting requirements" in the second last paragraph.

Joanne

Any comment?

Thoughts?

Revised draft – is this okay?
Mayor Hilda Whalen  
Town of Whitbourne  
P.O. Box 119  
Whitbourne, NL  
A0B 3K0

Dear Mayor Whalen:

Thank you for your letter dated June 2, 2016, regarding the Argentia Access Road Industrial Composting Facility.

As you are aware, this Undertaking has been registered with the Environmental Assessment Division of the Department of Environment and Conservation. Your questions have been shared with that Department, which will discuss this with my staff at Fire and Emergency Services – Newfoundland and Labrador.

You asked if the reintroduction of the leaching matter from a previous compost pile to a new pile will increase the probability of fire due to the concentration of this matter. I have been advised that the leachate would be added to the active compost piles to increase the moisture content, and would therefore reduce the chance of a fire.

Proper windrow composting requires the temperatures of the windrows to hit a minimum of 55 degrees C for 15 days. During this time the windrow needs to be turned at least five times, to prevent it from getting too hot. If the windrow becomes too dry then water should be added to prevent any fires in the windrows.

I appreciate your bringing this matter to my attention.

Sincerely,

EDDIE JOYCE, MHA  
District of Humber-Bay of Islands  
Minister of Municipal Affairs  
Minister Responsible for Fire and Emergency Services – NL

cc. The Honourable Perry Trimper  
The Honourable Sherry Gambin-Walsh, MHA
Keith, Debi L

From: Cleary, Bas
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 2:19 PM
To: Michielsen, Dan; Janes, Colleen G
Cc: Goebel, Martin
Subject: RE: Whalen Argentia Access Road Industrial Composting Facility.doc

Ok also

From: Michielsen, Dan
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 1:06 PM
To: Janes, Colleen G; Cleary, Bas
Cc: Goebel, Martin
Subject: RE: Whalen Argentia Access Road Industrial Composting Facility.doc

We are fine with this in PPD

Dan Michielsen, M.A.Sc.
Director, Pollution Prevention Division
729-5782

From: Janes, Colleen G
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 12:22 PM
To: Michielsen, Dan; Cleary, Bas
Cc: Goebel, Martin
Subject: FW: Whalen Argentia Access Road Industrial Composting Facility.doc

Thoughts?

From: Dutton, Sean
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 9:23 AM
To: Janes, Colleen G; Simmons, Derek; Walsh, Susan
Subject: Whalen Argentia Access Road Industrial Composting Facility.doc

Revised draft – is this okay?

Sean
Keith, Debi L

From: Janes, Colleen G
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 2:35 PM
To: Dutton, Sean; Simmons, Derek; Walsh, Susan
Subject: RE: Whalen Argentia Access Road Industrial Composting Facility.doc

Fine from ENVC perspective.

---

From: Dutton, Sean
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 9:23 AM
To: Janes, Colleen G; Simmons, Derek; Walsh, Susan
Subject: Whalen Argentia Access Road Industrial Composting Facility.doc

Revised draft – is this okay?

Sean
Dear Mayor Whalen:

Thank you for your letter dated June 2, 2016, regarding the Argentia Access Road Industrial Composting Facility.

As you are aware, this Undertaking has been registered with the Environmental Assessment Division of the Department of Environment and Conservation. Your questions have been shared with that Department, whose staff will discuss this with my staff at Fire and Emergency Services – Newfoundland and Labrador. The proponent has identified the need to address fire protection capacity, and my staff at FES-NL will work with the proponent to ensure a suitable fire and emergency plan is developed.

I appreciate your bringing this matter to my attention.

Sincerely,

EDDIE JOYCE, MHA
District of Humber-Bay of Islands
Minister of Municipal Affairs
Minister Responsible for Fire and Emergency Services – NL

cc. The Honourable Perry Trimper
The Honourable Sherry Gambin-Walsh, MHA
From: Cleary, Bas  
Sent: Tuesday, June 21, 2016 4:52 PM  
To: Janes, Colleen G  
Subject: Re: Composting facility

No.

From: Janes, Colleen G  
Sent: Tuesday, June 21, 2016 04:22 PM  
To: Cleary, Bas  
Subject: Composting facility

Is this within a municipal boundary?

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Bell network.
From: Sweeney, Joanne  
Sent: Wednesday, June 22, 2016 9:10 AM  
To: Cleary, Bas 
Subject: FW: Proposed Argentia Access Road Industrial Composting Facility Project 

Bas, 

Please see the email trail below regarding additional comments from Agrifoods regarding the proposed industrial composting facility project.

Joanne 

From: Sweeney, Joanne  
Sent: Tuesday, June 21, 2016 8:48 AM  
To: Hillyard, Rod 
Cc: Morgan, Tara; Carey, Richard 
Subject: RE: Proposed Argentia Access Road Industrial Composting Facility Project 

Thanks Rod. I received FAA’s comments on April 27, as you indicated and I’m in close contact/consultation with PPD on this project. I was interested in learning whether there would be additional oversight/support available to the proponent from Agrifoods, if the decision was to release this project from environmental assessment. 

Thanks again for your comments, 

Joanne 

Joanne Sweeney  
Environmental Scientist  
Environmental Assessment Division  
Department of Environment and Conservation  
PO Box 8700, St. John’s NL A1B 4J6  
Tel. (709) 729-2822; Fax (709)729-5518 

From: Hillyard, Rod  
Sent: Monday, June 20, 2016 10:46 AM  
To: Sweeney, Joanne
Hi Joanne, FAA's comments regarding this project were submitted on April 27th. Both Forestry and Agrifoods staff have reviewed this proposal. This composting system will be a multi-sector waste receptacle and not specific to agriculture. The type of system that they are proposing (windrow based) is an accepted composting system. The Agrifoods Branch has been in contact with the proponent, but at this stage with the information submitted, the technical questions you raise may be more suited to pollution and prevention division of the Department of Environment.

If you have any other questions feel free to contact me directly,

Thanks,

Rod

FAA Comments as submitted:

It is recommended that a buffer zone be established around the facility to restrict future conflicting development.

A commercial cutting permit must be obtained from the local forestry services office prior to any harvesting and or timber removal activities. During the declared Fire Season (May 1-Sept 30), the proponent must also obtain and adhere to the conditions of an operating permit.

For more information please call or visit the local Forestry Office in Whitbourne.

Cutting of Timber Regulations: http://www.assembly.nl.ca/Legislation/sr/Regulations/rc961108.htm
Hi Carol Anne,

The Environmental Assessment (EA) Division is well into the assessment of a new project registration document for the proposed Argentia Access Road Industrial Composting Facility project, EA Registration # 1838. During the original review period, the proponent revised the project and submitted an addendum describing the proposed revisions. The registration document and addendum have been circulated to the government screening committee. The minister’s decision on the environmental acceptability of this project is due by June 25, 2016.

The FAA representative on the EA government screening committee is Rod Hillyard. Rod has provided EA Division with project review comments from the Forestry branch, but comments have not been provided from the Agrifoods branch. I believe Agrifoods may have expertise in the area of composting, including technical support and advice that is available to proponents of composting projects. In that light, would you review/circulate the attached documents for appropriate review within the Agrifoods branch, and provide comments to EA Division? Ultimately, the EA process is designed to determine whether or not projects can proceed in an environmentally acceptable manner. The assessment of this project will benefit from any insight Agrifoods can provide in relation to this project proposal, with regards to completeness of information; adequacy of separation distances from existing residential, commercial and recreational areas; training requirements for proponent/staff; anticipated dispersion of odour, attraction of insects, rodents, birds and animals; building design including ventilation requirements; support available to composting facilities from Agrifoods, and any other relevant information.

As noted above, the minister’s decision is due by June 25, 2016 and any recommendation made from EA Division would have to be provided 3-4 days in advance, so time is of the essence. Any advice Agrifoods can provide will be greatly appreciated.

Regards,

Joanne

Joanne Sweeney
Environmental Scientist
Environmental Assessment Division
Department of Environment and Conservation
PO Box 8700, St. John’s NL A1B 4J6
Tel. (709) 729-2822; Fax (709) 729-5518
Bas,

As discussed yesterday, to provide screening agency comments to EA to indicate any potential benefits to agriculture/the province/the region that may be associated with the establishment of an industrial composting facility (in reference to EA Project #1838 – the Argentia Access Road Industrial Composting Facility project). The benefits of this type of facility and project support that will be provided by Agriculture have been communicated to the proponent. I've been in touch with Rod Hillyard (FAA screening agency rep) and Tara Morgan (FAA Manager of Environmental Land Use Services) who both have indicated that to provide such comments. Is there anyone within FAA to whom you can provide direction?

Joanne
Thanks Barry. Very helpful.

Based on the limited information provided in the documentation I ran a simple screening model using the dome as a volume source with dimensions of 12 m x 25 m x 120 m (dome is cited as 80 ft wide x 400 ft long). I assumed flat terrain and that the land was cultivated, which is likely an underestimation of actual land use and hence would give an overestimation of emissions. Based on these inputs, below is a graphic on how the concentration would drop off over distance from the source. The levels are the worst-case meteorological scenarios. The red square is the approximate distance of the nearest house from the proposed facility, and as can be seen, the concentration would be about 1/10th of that at the source. The problem, of course, is that we don’t know what the levels will be like at the source.

I’ll note in the registration that: “The proponent is clearly committed to a completely controlled operating system, which will provide a better control on any environmental impact that the facility may have on the surrounds”, and “with engineered controls on ventilation, any odor problems will be totally eliminated.”

In looking at the Dartmouth reference, I’ll note that Dartmouth Crossing – the major shopping area in the region, is about 2.6 km away – the same distance as the nearest house from the proposed facility. Additionally, the Digby reference indicates houses within 1 km of the facility, so the proposed facility is certainly comparable to other facilities on a spatial basis.

Assuming the proposed facility is operated appropriately and in conformance to the notes by Marie,
From: Ryan, Marie
Sent: Tuesday, June 28, 2016 12:55 PM
To: Sweeney, Joanne
Cc: Lawrence, Barrie; Ficzere, Vicki; Cleary, Bas
Subject: RE: PPD comments re proposed composting facility (#1838)

Joanne,
As discussed, Barrie is off this week and can provide some comment when he is back in the office next week. Other than identifying predominant wind direction and potential odour receptors,

Given the nature of the composting process and the controls that can be put in place to reduce odour,

Thank you,
Marie

s. 29(1)(a)
Thanks Marie. Looking forward to Barrie's comments.

Joanne

Joanne,

I am copying Barrie Lawrence for his opinion with respect to air dispersion modelling and compost facilities, and what we may require prior to issuance of a Certificate of Approval. Essentially, the predominant wind direction and location of the facility with respect to potential receptors of malodours are key determinants. If the location is relatively sheltered and operated in a manner to reduce odour issues, there should be less of a problem. The potential for increased odour would occur when organic material is delivered to the facility.

Construction and operation of the facility to manage odour include designing the facility to contain air within the building i.e., negative air pressure, and the appropriate use of ventilation and a biofilter to remove noxious odours. Odour would also be substantially less if fresh organic material is incorporated directly into the compost pile with a carbon source before it becomes putrescible; and maintaining good aeration of the compost pile so the process remains aerobic as opposed to anaerobic. An adequate carbon source and control/monitoring of moisture conditions and temperature of the piles all contribute to promoting the composting process and reducing odour issues. Training and experience in the composting process is essentially key to conducting the process in an environmentally sound manner.

There will be some local odour associated with the organic materials and the composting process that may be contained to the building and immediate area. The extent to which these odours will carry will depend on the strength of the odour and the wind strength and direction.

Let's discuss once we hear back from Barrie.

Thank you,

Marie

Good Morning,
The comments provided by PPD for the EA of the proposed Argentia Access Road Industrial Composting Facility did not indicate a requirement for the proponent to provide baseline atmospheric dispersion modelling under a CoA. Section 13.3 of the Guidance Document of Environmental Standards for Municipal Solid Waste Composting Facilities indicates that “the Department may require the proponent to submit results of air dispersion modelling to determine the likelihood of problem odours at the property boundary and near the facility. The initial aim of air dispersion modelling is to provide baseline information for air quality at the proposed facility and at the property boundary and to identify parameters and limitations for future air quality testing.” The guidance document further states that “An odour management program shall be submitted to the Department prior to approval and shall include the following information:

• the sensitivities and location of facility users and occupants of adjacent and nearby properties;
• population density;
• planned development in the immediate area;
• climatic features such as prevailing wind direction and speed, annual rainfall, average seasonal temperatures, humidity and pressure conditions;
• description of the local air shed (the geographic area of potential impact from odours); and,
• geographic features of the proposed site.”

primarily based on perceived impacts of putrid odours and the effect this will have on residents of nearby communities, recreational cottage owners, and food establishment and business owners on the TCH near the turn-off for the Argentia Access Road.

Are air dispersion modelling and an approved odour management program realistic conditions that can/will be included in the proponent’s CoA, should the project be released from environmental assessment? Please advise.

Regards,

Joanne

Joanne Sweeney
Environmental Scientist
Environmental Assessment Division
Department of Environment and Conservation
PO Box 8700, St. John’s NL A1B 4J6
Tel. (709) 729-2822; Fax (709) 729-5518
Bas,

The memo and letter are attached, as requested. Let me know if you need pdf versions.

Joanne
Registation 1838

MEMO TO: Honourable Perry Trimper, Minister Environment and Conservation
THROUGH: Colleen Janes, Deputy Minister
Martin Goebel, Assistant Deputy Minister
Bas Cleary, Director, Environmental Assessment Division
FROM: Joanne Sweeney, Environmental Scientist, EA Division
DATE: July 6, 2016
SUBJECT: Registration and Review of the Argentia Access Road Industrial Composting Facility Project (the Project)

BACKGROUND
The proponent submitted a proposal to establish an industrial composting facility to process a variety of organic waste from commercial and industrial sources in Newfoundland, and to produce a marketable organic fertilizer product. Organic waste to be composted will include mink farm offal, spent hens, dead birds, poultry feathers, slaughterhouse offal and carcasses, and fish processing wastes. The organic waste will be mixed on-site with wood chips, sawdust and shredded plants and the mixture will be distributed in long parallel windrows, sufficiently spaced to be mechanically turned for aeration. The entire operation, including receiving, mixing, composting and curing will take place inside an 80ft wide x 400ft long enclosed building which will be equipped with mechanical ventilation. The undertaking is proposed to be located on the west side of the Argentia Access Road (Route 100), approximately 3.5 kilometres south of the intersection of the TCH and Route 100.

The undertaking was initially registered for environmental assessment on April 15, 2016; the deadline for public comments was May 10, 2016; and the minister’s decision was due by May 20, 2016. The proponent revised the project during the review period and submitted an addendum describing the proposed changes which will facilitate increased operational climate control and will enable the proponent to operate the composting facility year-round. The addendum was posted on the ENVC web page and announced in the EA bulletin on May 12, 2016, and the review period was restarted. Public comments on the addendum and registration document were due by June 15, 2016 and the minister’s decision was due by June 25, 2016. On June 22, 2016, EA Division informed the proponent that additional time was needed for the environmental assessment of the project. The proponent agreed to extend the deadline, and the minister’s decision is due on July 15, 2016. The proponent’s email agreeing to the extension is attached.
RESULTS OF PUBLIC AND INTER-DEPARTMENTAL REVIEW
The registration document and addendum for the Project have been reviewed by the government environmental assessment screening committee.

Of the 25 screening agencies that received the registration, 16 advised that further assessment is not required and recommended release of the project. The Tourism and Culture Division and the Rural Economic Development Division of the Department of Business, Tourism, Culture and Rural Development recommended that an environmental preview report (EPR) be completed for the project. Three agencies indicated that they have no concerns with the project but did not provide an opinion as to whether or the project should be released, rejected or whether further study is needed. Four screening agencies did not respond to the request for review and comments.

Agencies not responding are:
1. Health and Community Services
2. Occupational Health and Safety Division
3. Health Canada
4. Natural Resources Canada

Public Consultation
Copies of the registration document and addendum were mailed to the Towns of Whitbourne and Placentia, and the Towns were requested to review the documents and submit comments to the Environmental Assessment Division within 35 days.

An Environmental Assessment (EA) News Bulletin was published on the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador’s website (http://www.releases.gov.nl.ca/releases/2016/env/0203n03.aspx) as well as on the Department of Environment and Conservation’s (ENVC) EA Project Listing website (http://www.env.gov.nl.ca/env/env_assessment/projects/Y2016/1832/index.html) on April 5, 2016, advising of the Project registration and requesting for public comments to be submitted to EA Division within 35 days (by May 10, 2016). The Project addendum was published on the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador’s website as well as on the Department of Environment and Conservation’s (ENVC) EA Project Listing website on May 12, 2016, advising of changes to the proposed Project and requesting for public comments to be submitted to EA Division by June 15, 2016. The extension to the minister’s decision was announced on the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador’s website as well as on the Department of Environment and Conservation’s (ENVC) EA Project Listing website on June 24, 2016. Notification of the Project registration document, addendum and extension to the minister’s decision was sent to subscribers of the EA News Bulletin, which includes environmental groups, media, government agencies, municipal organizations and interested members of the public.

PUBLIC COMMENTS
The proposed Project has generated substantial public opposition from home and business owners located within a 35km radius of the proposed Project site. Petitions containing in excess of 500 signatures, and more than 200 personal emails and letters have been submitted to ENVC from people who support the concept and practice of composting in general, but oppose the location of this Project. In addition to personal submissions from residents of nearby communities, emails and letters have been
received from the Town of Whitbourne, the Town of Placentia, the Town of Norman's Cove-Long Cove, the Honourable Sherry Gambin-Walsh, MHA for the District of Placentia-St. Mary's, business owners along the TCH near the intersection of the TCH and Route 100 (Argentia Access Road), business owners in Whitbourne and Markland including the owners of the Rodrigues Wine Distillery, and a subdivision developer in Whitbourne who plans to construct a business park on Route 100 at the intersection of the TCH and Route 100. The primary concern expressed by the public is the perceived negative impact to quality of life as a result of putrid odours emanating from the composting facility. Below is a summarized list of concerns that were identified during the public review of the Project, and the perceived effects these concerns will have:

1. Constant, putrid odours:
   - Decrease residential property values and slow future growth of nearby communities;
   - Discourage local developers in the Whitbourne area from carrying out plans to build a hotel, RV Park, senior's residence, a 65-home Adult Community, 146-lot residential subdivision, 103 lot residential subdivision, and a small businesses park;
   - Discourage a Markland developer from carrying out plans to construct a brewery and large distillery that will bring 30 jobs to the province and will be a tourist attraction;
   - Deter customers from using nearby business establishments and restaurants including Mary Browns, Tim Horton's, Circle K, Ultramar, Subway, Monty's Restaurant, Smith's Furniture and Foodex;
   - Deter tourists and residents from visiting nearby tourist attractions, including the Rodrigues Winery and the Sedna Nutraceutical Plant in Markland, the Whitbourne Museum and the T'Railway;
   - Decrease the quality of life for nearby cottage owners in Placentia Junction, Peak Pond, Reid's Pond, Ocean Pond and Holiday Hill, and recreational users of Little Goose Pond;
   - Influence residents of the newly developed Goose Pond subdivision to put their homes up for sale and re-locate;
   - Take several years for an inexperienced operator to learn how to manage the composting process to minimize and eliminate putrid odours;
   - Prevent residents of Whitbourne from enjoying backyard, country living in a pristine area which was deliberately selected as their home.

2. Increased fly, insect, rodent, animal and gull populations:
   - Create negative impressions on tourists who use Route 100 to travel to and from the province via the Argentia ferry;
   - Deter tourists from using Route 100 to travel to the scenic Cape Shore and Cape St. Mary's Ecological Bird Sanctuary;
   - Deter tourists from using Norman's Cove-Long Cove as a “service centre” based on its close proximity (20 km) to the proposed facility;
   - Increase risks to human health caused by rodents, parasites and flies that may carry bacterial and viral microorganisms from the composting facility;
   - Create safety risks to nearby families by attracting black bears, coyotes and scavengers to the facility.
3. Visibility of the facility from Route 100:
   - Create negative impressions for tourists who use Route 100 for the Argentia ferry service or to travel to the Cape Shore and Cape St. Mary's;
   - May result in an abandoned building and equipment remaining on-site as an eyesore should the project fail within the early years of operation.

4. Risk of airborne pathogens:
   - Increase risks to human health caused by micro aerosols in the exhaust dispersed from the composting facility, particularly for people with compromised respiratory systems and allergies;
   - Emit gases containing carbon dioxide, methane, volatile organic compounds, bacteria, fungi and heavy metals.

5. Risk of fire from spontaneous combustion:
   - Require costs for specialized training and equipment for nearby volunteer fire departments to be borne by residents of nearby towns;
   - Increase the risk of spontaneous combustion by reintroducing leachates from a mature composting batch to a new composting batch;
   - Increase the risk of a forest fire due to insufficient equipment on-site to contain a fire at the composting facility.

6. Contamination of groundwater, surface water, wetland, soil and surrounding environment:
   - Nitrogen, sulfur and heavy metals may leach out of compost and contaminate surface and groundwater, soil and streams including tributaries to salmon rivers;
   - Pathogenic viruses, bacteria, protozoa and parasites present in decomposed material may spread disease to soil, plants, animals and people;
   - Leachate from compost will encourage blue-green algae blooms in nearby waterways;
   - Composting will involve the use of toxic chemicals which will spread into the surrounding environment, since animal carcasses cannot be broken down into compost using conventional means;
   - Pathogens present in feedstock used in the initial composting stages, will also be present in organic fertilizers sold as an end-product of composting, and will be spread to other environments where the fertilizer is used.

7. Transportation of feedstock to the facility will cause widespread odours and flies:
   - Fish offal and animal manure and carcasses will be brought to the site in uncovered, open vehicles which will cause widespread odours and increased flies along the transportation route.

8. Unproven technology in Newfoundland and Labrador:
   - A composting facility of this scale should be first operated on a trial basis in a remote area of the province until it can be demonstrated that it will have no adverse impacts on nearby communities;
   - Inadequate experience on the part of the operator and inadequate oversight by the government will lead to significant negative environmental impacts on nearby communities.
9. Limit development potential for adjacent land area within Whitbourne’s municipal boundary.

- The Town of Whitbourne is concerned that potential developers of land to the east of Route 100, across from the proposed Project area and within Whitbourne’s municipal boundary, will be dissuaded from utilizing this land due to putrid odours and increased vectors surrounding the Project area.
- The Town of Whitbourne indicates that the Project is an incompatible land use with potential development inside Whitbourne’s municipal boundary along the east side of Route 100.

Suggestions for alternate sites were provided in several of the public submissions, including Robin Hood Bay, Heart’s Content Barrens, Holyrood, Sunnyside, and on the Isthmus between Arnold’s Cove and Come by Chance turn-offs. A copy of comments received during the public review period is attached.

INTERDEPARTMENTAL REVIEW

Below is a summarized list of comments received from the EA Screening Committee. The full list of comments will be provided to the proponent if/when the project is released from further assessment.

Environment and Conservation

Pollution Prevention Division (PPD)

- Recommends release of the Project from environmental assessment.
- Notes that all activities associated with this project are subject to the Environmental Protection Act (EPA) and the Water Resources Act (WRA) and their regulations.
- Offered advice relative waste disposal and litter, air quality management, pesticides, storage and handling of gasoline and associated products, used oil control regulations, halocarbon regulations and environmental control water and sewer regulations.
- Indicates that a Certificate of Approval from the Pollution Prevention Division is required for construction and operation of the proposed facility. The Certificate of Approval will require/address (among other things) the following:
  - An impermeable surface under all areas in contact with organics or compost (including the receiving area and under windrows).
  - Adequate leachate collection system – septic system may not be able to handle the BOD of the leachate.
  - Testing of the finished product to ensure that CCME Compost quality guidelines have been met.
  - Staff with training in running an industrial composting operation.
  - Engineering designs for the in-vessel structure, taking into account the requirement for proper ventilation and negative air pressure when doors are open, as well as equipment and space requirements to operate.
  - Consideration of the design and maintenance aspects for an appropriately-sized biofilter.
  - The proposed composting technology is to be provided in detail, with assurances of adequate feedstock supply to maintain and manage the composting process.
- Set the volume of feedstock that can be received on-site on a monthly basis, with renewal of the permit contingent on performance, i.e. producing a quality compost product in an environmentally sound manner.
- Monthly inspections by Pollution Prevention Divisional staff to ensure that the process is appropriately managed and to address any outstanding issues.
- Staff should be certified by the Composting Council of Canada, Solid Waste Association of North America, or equivalent.
- Occupational health and safety of workers will need to be addressed, e.g. among other things there will need to be separate areas, away from the composting site, for staff to eat and shower; respiratory protection may also be required.

An email from PPD on July 5, 2016 illustrates a screening model of potential exhaust emissions from the facility and how the concentration of emissions would drop off over distance from the source. The model indicates that emission concentrations approximately 2.6 km from the facility are estimated to be 1/10 the concentration at the source. The concentration of emissions at the source is not known in this scenario. The model used worst case meteorological scenarios including atmospheric pressure, humidity, precipitation, wind speed and wind direction. The email adds that, assuming the proposed facility is operated appropriately and in conformance to the previous notes provided by PPD, the delivery of waste may provide a greater potential for odour than the facility itself and that such deliveries need to be made in a controlled environment. A copy of the email is included with the Unedited Comments.

Water Resources Management Division (WRMD)
- Recommends release of the Project from environmental assessment.
- Informs that the proponent must apply for and obtain a water use licence under the Water Resources Act, 2002 http://assembly.nl.ca/Legislation/sr/statutes/w04-01.htm for the use of water from any water source for any purpose prior to the start of construction.
- Informs that the proponent must apply for and obtain a permit under the Water Resources Act, 2002, specifically Section 48 http://assembly.nl.ca/Legislation/sr/statutes/w04-01.htm for any work that may take place in any body of water (including wetland) with a possible need for a site drainage plan prior to the start of construction.
- Advises that any effluent or runoff leaving the site will be required to conform to the requirements of the Environmental Control Water and Sewage Regulations, 2003 http://assembly.nl.ca/Legislation/sr/regulations/rc030065.htm.

Wildlife Division (WD) / Parks and Natural Areas Division (PNAD)
- Recommends release of the Project from environmental assessment.
- Advises applicant to operate under established regulations and guidelines with respect to wildlife and their habitats (e.g. nesting birds, caribou, waterfowl, wetlands, inland fish, rare plants, riparian species) to minimize adverse impacts (Section 106 of the Wild Life Regulations under the Wild Life Act (O.C. 96-809)).
- Recommends a minimum 30m naturally vegetated buffer to be maintained along all waterbodies and wetlands to protect sensitive riparian and aquatic species, and their habitat;
- Informs that habitat disturbance impacts wildlife (birds, small mammals etc) negatively and should be kept to a minimum. To help reduce any negative impacts on any species, the Wildlife Division recommends that any necessary vegetation clearing or excessive noise be undertaken outside of the
nesting, breeding and brood rearing period (May to mid-July), when disturbance would be most critical. Where vegetation clearing is not avoidable and a nest is found:
  o The nest and neighbouring vegetation should be left undisturbed until nesting is completed;
  o Construction activities should be minimized in the immediate area until nesting is complete.

Advanced Education and Skills
• Recommends release of the Project from environmental assessment.
• Informs that no regulatory requirements of the Department of Advanced Education and Skills apply to this project; however, the information indicated below should be provided by the proponent prior to the Ministerial decision, or be conditions of the project’s release from further environmental assessment:
  o National Occupation Classification (NOC 2011) codes at the 4-digit level associated with each position for the construction phase of the project, including the number of positions associated with each NOC code.
  o The approximate time lines for each of the positions during the construction phase of the project. This would include the number of positions for each 4-digit NOC 2011 code throughout the project at specified time intervals (monthly or at least quarterly) which would show levels of employment throughout the project timeline.
  o An indication as to whether the positions associated with the construction phase are full-time equivalent or if they are the actual number of positions; if they are indeed the actual number of positions, how many are full-time vs. part-time.
  o Clarification on when the operations phase of the project is anticipated to begin and whether the operations phase will be year-round.
  o Clarification on which positions would be direct hires, and which would be from companies contracted to carry out project work. This information should be supplied for all positions associated with the project (i.e., both construction and operations phases).

Business, Tourism, Culture and Rural Development (BTCRD)

Provincial Archaeology Office
• Recommends release of the project from environmental assessment with no further comments.

Tourism and Culture Division
BTCRD provided the following comments on April 26, 2016, specific to review of the registration document:
• Recommends further study is needed in the form of an EPR to provide additional information that will:
  o Demonstrate that the composting facility doesn’t negatively impact tourism stakeholders and the driving experience along Route 100, a gateway for visitors to the province;
  o Address odour problems that may be associated with this type of operation;
  o Ensure that all tourism operators in the area are aware of the proposed development.

Note: BTRCD provided a letter on June 14, 2016 acknowledging that the proponent’s addendum to change the project to a covered year round facility may address some of the comments submitted on
April 26, 2016, but BTCRD is unsure if the addendum addresses all the concerns previously raised. The letter added that the comments provided are to be used only for the assessment and are not to be shared with the proponent without their (BTCRD) concurrence. The June 14, 2016 letter from BTCRD is included with the Unedited Comments.

**Regional Economic Development Division**

- Recommends further study is needed in the form of an EPR to provide additional information that will:
  - Address odour concerns for the commercial food establishments and accommodation facilities located near the intersection of the TCH and Route 100, as well as for residents of Blaketown who are directly upwind from the project, as the prevailing winds are from the SW;
  - Describe on-going measures that will be undertaken to control black flies and rodents that may be attracted to the composting operation.

**Executive Council**

**Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs Office**

- The Labrador Affairs Branch and the Aboriginal Affairs Branch both indicated that they have reviewed the registration and addendum documents and have no comments on the Project.

**Office of Climate Change & Energy Efficiency**

- Recommends release of the project from environmental assessment;
- Suggests that the proponent consider the provincial climate change projections for Argentia (the nearest regional site) in the planning for this undertaking, with specific reference to the grading of the site to control anticipated drainage runoff, and provides a web link and contact information for climate data;
- Advises that all land clearing activities must be undertaken with appropriate permits through the Forestry Division.
- Notes that all heavy equipment should be operated in a manner to maximize fuel efficiency, thereby reducing greenhouse gas emissions that could contribute to climate change.

**Women's Policy Office**

- Does not provide an opinion on whether the project should be released, rejected or requires further study, and advises that WPO does not have any comments concerning this EA as employment opportunities are very low.

**Fire and Emergency Services-NL**

- Informs that there is an increased risk of fire at composting facilities, and advises that the proponent should be required to provide an emergency plan to deal with fires, and to identify fire protection features on-site.
Provided a follow-up email on June 17, 2016 indicating that FES-NL would work with the proponent to ensure that an acceptable emergency plan is developed for the facility, prior to construction taking place. A copy of the email is included with the Unedited Comments.

**Fisheries and Aquaculture**
- Recommends release of the project from environmental assessment and does not provide further comment.

**Forestry and Agrifoods Agency (FAA)**
- Recommends release of the project from environmental assessment;
- Recommends that a buffer zone be established around the facility to restrict future conflicting development;
- Advises that a commercial cutting permit must be obtained from the local forestry services office prior to any harvesting and or timber removal activities.
- Notes that during the declared Fire Season (May 1-Sept 30) the proponent must also obtain and adhere to the conditions of an operating permit.

A follow-up email from FAA on June 24, 2016 indicates that having a composting facility that can handle organic waste streams from farming operations via composting could be an option for farms that wish to contract out some aspects of farm waste management. Other benefits would include the diversion of organics from landfills, reduction in GHG’s, and improved soil fertility and health. A copy of the email is included with the Unedited Comments.

**Municipal Affairs**

*Land Management Division*
- Recommends release of the project from environmental assessment;
- Informs that an application for Crown lands has been submitted for the proposal and that a decision will be made pending the outcome of the EA and a review of all referrals from the processing of the Crown lands application;
- Advises that no activity or land clearing is to take place until the Lands Branch has issued the Crown lands title, and that any Crown title issued will be subject to those terms and conditions as prescribed by the Minister of Municipal Affairs;
- Notes that the proposal appears to encompass at least one waterbody and any occupation of the 15m shoreline reservation will be subject to Section 7 of the *Lands Act*;
- Informs that the proposed undertaking is located in an unincorporated area that is subject to the Protected Road Zoning Regulations;
- Advises that Section 6(1) of the Protected Road Zoning Regulations outlines permitted uses of land in the area, and informs that the proposed undertaking is classified as a waste disposal site and is permitted.
Land Management Division provided additional information in an email on June 29, 2016 informing of the setback distance from Route 100 that would be required for the proposed composting facility, as indicated below:

"The use would be permitted under Section 6 of the Protected Road Zoning Regulations and we would consider it to most match the Rural Industrial Use. Rural Industrial uses are required to be setback 100m from the centerline of the highway and also require a 50m tree screen."

**Rural industrial uses**

7. (1) Only industrial developments which, because of their nature, would be considered hazardous and incompatible to urban uses will be permitted in this zone.

(2) Developments of a rural industrial nature shall be set back a minimum of 100 metres from the centre line of the highway with a tree screen of not less than 50 metres, and shall be separated from adjacent incompatible developments by a minimum of 150 metres with a tree screen of not less than 100 metres.

A copy of the email is included with the Unedited Comments.

**Natural Resources**

*Mines Branch*
- Recommends release of the project from environmental assessment;
- Provides permitting advice to the proponent relative to the sourcing of any quarry materials required for the project and the removal of quarry materials from the project site.

*Energy Branch*
- Recommended release of the project from environmental assessment;
- Advises the proponent that the proposed project area appears to intersect a Newfoundland Power distribution line and recommends that the proponent consult with Newfoundland Power regarding potential land use conflicts.

*Strategic Planning and Policy Coordination*

SPPC offers no comment related to the proposed undertaking.

**Service NL**

*Government Service Centre*
- Recommends release of the project from environmental assessment;
- Provides regulatory, permitting and mitigative advice relative to waste management, gasoline and associated products, water and sewer, fire and life safety, development control, and electrical plans;
- Advises that a 30 metre undisturbed buffer should be maintained between the site and any surrounding watercourse or water body;
- Requires that any existing tree screen concealing the operation from public view is to be maintained;
- Advises that the site is located within 400 metres off the Argentia Access Road and falls within the jurisdiction of the Protected Road Zoning Regulations, therefore, a Preliminary Application to Develop land must be submitted to the Government Service Centre and a “Permit To Develop” issued before any construction takes place.

**Transportation & Works**
- Recommends release of the project from environmental assessment;
- Informs that intersection sight distance can be achieved at this location and provides direction on the location of the access road;
- Advises that Route 100 is a protected roadway and that no development will be permitted within 45m of the centerline of Route 100;
- Indicates that the access will be deemed commercial and as such will require a 10m wide top surface;
- Advises that a 600mm diameter culvert (minimum) will have to be installed across the access;
- Informs that traffic volume to be generated by the site should be provided to TW for further assessment of turning lane requirements.

**FEDERAL DEPARTMENTS**

**Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEAA)**
- Advises that the proposed project is not a designated project under CEAA 2012, and does not provide an opinion as to whether the project should be released, rejected or requires further study.

**Environment Canada (EC)**
- Recommends release of the project from environmental assessment;
- Offers advice regarding the *Fisheries Act (FA)*; *Migratory Birds Convention Act (MBCA and Regulations)*; the *Species at Risk Act (SARA)*, and the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act (CEPA)*.
- Recommends beneficial management practices specific to composting facilities, including:
  - Animal waste byproducts, food scraps and other garbage near the facility should be minimized and/or be made inaccessible to wildlife, because these can artificially enhance the populations of avian and mammalian predators of eggs and chicks.
  - Project staff should not approach concentrations of seabirds, sea ducks or shorebirds.
  - Project staff should undertake any measures that may minimize or eliminate discharge of oily waste into the marine environment.
- Recommends that the proponent should avoid vegetation clearing and field burning during the most critical period of the migratory bird breeding season, typically between April 15 and August 15, to avoid the risk of nest destruction;
• Advises the proponent to develop and implement a management plan that includes appropriate preventive measures to minimize the risk of impacts on migratory birds;
• Provides advice relative to unattended soil stockpiles, gull attraction, scare techniques, revegetation efforts, minimizing invasive species and avoiding species at risk;
• Recommends mitigative measures to be undertaken to avoid the attraction of migratory birds to human-induced light at the facility;
• Provides mitigative information relative to fuel leaks, refueling, spill response, and the management of hazardous materials (i.e., petroleum products), and advises that refuelling and maintenance activities should be undertaken on level impervious surface at least 30m from environmentally sensitive areas, including wetlands;
• Advises that a minimum vegetation buffer zone of 30m should be maintained between existing wetland areas and development activities;
• Provides advice on erosion and drainage control, wetland conservation, acid rock drainage, construction materials, management of hazardous materials, waste and dust suppression, and monitoring and adaptive management;
• Informs that mitigative measures should be factored into the design of the facility to ensure that the risk of environmental damage due to extreme climate and weather events is minimized.

Fisheries and Oceans (DFO)
• Recommends release of the project from environmental assessment;
• Informs that an environmental assessment based upon the habitat provisions of the Fisheries Act is not required;
• Provides guidance and reference information to the proponent relative to self-assessment.

Transport Canada
• Recommends release of the project from environmental assessment;
• Informs that the project does not require any regulatory approvals from Transport Canada to proceed.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT REVIEW

In 2002, the Newfoundland and Labrador government released a Waste Management Strategy with the aim of province-wide modern waste management to be implemented by 2025. One of the goals of this strategy is to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill by 50 per cent. According to a report on potential solutions for organics/composting for the province of Newfoundland and Labrador, prepared by Dillon Consulting in 2014 (Dillon study), organic waste constitutes approximately 30 per cent of the total waste going to landfill. The waste diversion rate in Newfoundland and Labrador increased from seven per cent in 1992 to 28 per cent in 2012. The diversion of organic materials is essential to reaching the 50 per cent diversion target.

Pollution Prevention Division (PPD) of the Department of Environment and Conservation (ENVC) has developed a series of guidance documents which outline environmental standards to support the provincial Waste Management Strategy, including the Environmental Standards for Municipal Solid
Waste Compost Facilities (MSWCF guidance document). PPD informs that all of the standards for the design, construction and operation of composting facilities that are contained in the MSWCF guidance document can be applied to this Project and potentially captured under a Certificate of Approval, should the Project be released from environmental assessment. A copy of the MSWCF guidance document is attached.

During the environmental assessment of this Project, most government screening agencies recommended releasing the project from environmental assessment, and two screening agencies recommended further assessment of the Project in the form of an EPR. The Tourism and Culture Division and the Regional Economic Development Division of the Department of Business, Tourism, Culture, and Rural Development recommended an EPR based on the rationale below.

Tourism and Culture Division requests further information to demonstrate that the composting facility will not negatively impact the driving experience along Route 100, a gateway for visitors entering and leaving the province via the Argentia ferry. Tourism and Culture provides the following statistics for passengers using the Argentia ferry service from 2013-2015, which operates between June and September:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Marine Atlantic</th>
<th>Argentia to North Sydney</th>
<th>North Sydney to Argentia</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Passengers</td>
<td>18,506</td>
<td>24,994</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vehicels</td>
<td>8,303</td>
<td>11,011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crossings</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Tourism and Culture Division advises that further information on the project is needed to describe how potential odour problems that may be associated with this type of operation will be addressed, and to ensure that all tourism operators in the area are aware of the proposed development.

Regional Economic Development (RED) Division notes that the proposed project will be located approximately 3km from food establishments and accommodation facilities that are operating along the TCH near the intersection of the TCH and Route 100. RED is concerned that the raw materials identified for composting, including mink farm offal, spent hens, dead birds, poultry feathers, slaughterhouse offal and carcasses, and fish processing wastes will generate foul odours and attract black flies and pests that will impact business operators on the nearby TCH and residents of Blaketown, which lies upwind of the project.

With reference to Tourism and Culture’s concern regarding awareness of the Project by tourism operators, there are no established tourism operators within 10km south and west of the proposed Project. Tourism operators north and east of the Project area, near the junction of the TCH and Route 100 and within the communities of Whitbourne and Markland, have provided comments and petitions to EA Division and have been informed of the Project via Whitbourne town meetings and government and media announcements. EA Division is confident that all tourism operators within a 10 km radius of the Project are aware of the Project proposal.

Other concerns noted by Tourism and Culture Division and RED Division are reiterated in the concerns identified in the public comments, which include:
These nine concerns are discussed in the ensuing paragraphs.

1. Constant, putrid odours
Odour is the primary public and BTCRD concern associated with the composting facility. The specific areas that will potentially be impacted by odour emanating from the project, as identified by Tourism and Culture and RED Divisions and the public are:

- Residential/commercial properties in the Town of Whitbourne and the Whitbourne Museum;
- Food establishments/accommodations facility near the intersection of Route 100 and the TCH;
- Residential and commercial properties in Markland, including Rodrigues Winery and the Sedna Nutraceutical Plant;
- Phase I and II Goose Pond residential subdivision developments in Whitbourne;
- Residential/commercial properties in Blaketown;
- Holiday Hill, Placentia Junction, Peak Pond, Reid’s Pond and Ocean Pond cabin areas;
- Recreational users of the nearby T’Railway and of Little Goose Pond in Whitbourne;
- Area at the intersection of Route 60 and the TCH for proposed development of a hotel, RV Park and a small businesses park;
- Area in Whitbourne for proposed development of a senior’s residence, a 65-home Adult Community, a 146-lot residential subdivision, and a 103-lot residential subdivision;
- Area in Markland for proposed development of a brewery and large distillery.

The Project addendum document indicates that engineered ventilation controls will be implemented to eliminate odours, however, there is no detail provided to describe the ventilation system and/or engineering controls. In order for the Project to proceed in a manner that minimizes and eliminates nuisance odours, rigorous odour management is essential during the design and operational phases. The MSWCF guidance document specifies the following criteria for the management of odour:

- Design the building to provide adequate ventilation in composting areas, organic feedstock storage areas and any other areas on site that contain readily putrescible materials;
- Manage the delivery, mixing and turning of feedstock to minimize odour potential;
- Monitor, manage and optimize the composting process to maintain aerobic conditions;
- Maintain a biofilter of adequate size;
- Maintain negative air pressure inside buildings to prevent the escape of odours;
- Install air scrubbers if necessary and practical;
- Track, appropriately respond to and learn from complaints;
- Provide baseline atmospheric dispersion modelling to the department prior to approval;
- Provide an Odour Management Program to the department prior to approval.
PPD indicates that all above-noted MSWCF guidance document criteria can be included in the terms and conditions of a Certificate of Approval (CoA), should the project be released from environmental assessment. PPD informs that the following additional measures may be required by the CoA:

- Restrict volumes of feedstock that can be received on-site on a monthly basis, with renewal of the permit contingent on performance, i.e. producing a quality compost product in an environmentally sound manner;
- Monthly inspections by PPD staff to ensure that the process is appropriately managed and to address any outstanding issues;
- Staff certification by the Composting Council of Canada, Solid Waste Association of North America, or equivalent.

EA Division examined separation distances between the proposed Project and existing and future land use, as a means of odour control. These separation distances were compared to the minimum separation distances required by the MSWCF guidance document and by legislation from other provincial jurisdictions.

Separation distances between the proposed Project and existing land use were measured using 2016 Google Earth imagery and the Google Earth distance measuring tool. The distance measurements indicate that the areas for which odour is a potential concern, as identified by BTCRD and the public, range from 2.2km to 7.5km from the proposed project location. The closest existing land use is sparse residential/commercial development located 2.2km east northeast of the Project area, within the town of Whitbourne. Separation distances between the proposed Project site and aforementioned areas of concern are noted in the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Separation Distance from Proposed Composting Facility</th>
<th>Distance (km)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>T'Railway</td>
<td>1.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Closest Residential/Commercial Development</td>
<td>2.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business Establishments at TCH and Route 100</td>
<td>3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peak Pond Cabins</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unidentified Development</td>
<td>4.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phase I Goose Pond Subdivision</td>
<td>4.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phase II Goose Pond Subdivision</td>
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<td>Markland</td>
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<td>Holiday Hill Cabins</td>
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<td>Reid's Pond Cabins</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rodrigues Winery/Neutraceutical Plant</td>
<td>6.7</td>
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<td>Blaketown</td>
<td>6.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Placentia Junction Cabins</td>
<td>7.5</td>
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A map illustrating separation distances between the proposed Project location and the areas of concern is attached.

Legislative requirements for separation distances between composting facilities and residential developments does not exist in all provincial jurisdictions, as controlled composting does not result in land use conflicts. The following recommended separation distances were noted:
Environmental Standards for MSWCF Guidance Document:
- 1600m from residential, institutional, commercial and industrial properties

Nova Scotia Composting Facility Guidelines:
- 500m between the active composting area and the nearest residential or institutional building

Alberta Code of Practice for Compost Facilities:
- No separation distances are specified, but the document acknowledges that the greater the separation distance between the composting facility and adjacent land use, the less likely are complaints regarding non-compatible land use.

Separation distances between the Project and existing land use exceed the minimum recommended separation distances in the MSWCF guidance document and the Nova Scotia composting facility guidelines by 600m and 1700m respectively.

Under a CoA, PPD indicates that the volume of feedstock received at the facility can be restricted on a monthly basis, to enable the proponent to demonstrate that the facility can be operated in an environmentally acceptable manner. The volume of feedstock permitted at the facility may initially be quite low, and will increase incrementally as the operator demonstrates the ability to compost with minimal impacts to the surrounding environment. The CoA can also limit the type of organic waste permitted to be composted at the facility, should some waste streams prove to be problematic. The operator will be required to maintain records of all feedstock received at the facility, including the type and volume, and to make those records available to the department. Periodic air testing and monitoring may be required to ensure that compost emissions are at safe levels for facility workers.

Statistics obtained from Windfinder, a weather service with over 18,000 weather stations worldwide, indicate that the prevailing winds at the Argentia weather station are from the SSW direction, based on observations taken between August 2010 and May 2016. (Note: Wind direction data was not available from Environment Canada for this area).

Based on the prevailing wind, existing development along the most northerly stretch of Route 81 will be the most likely receptor for odours dispersed from the proposed Project. Zoning in this region as per Whitbourne’s municipal plane is a combination of rural, agriculture, and mixed development and encompasses land uses such as all residential, recreational open spaces, agriculture, animal, child care and home office. The nearest existing development to the Project site, in the direction of the prevailing wind is 2.2km from the site.

PPD provided a simple screening model of emissions from the proposed composting facility using assumptions of flat terrain, cultivated land and worst case scenario meteorological scenarios to yield an overestimation of dispersed emission concentrations. The model predicts that emission concentrations approximately 2.6km from the source will be 1/10 the concentration of emissions at the source, as illustrated below:
The addendum indicates that engineered ventilation controls will be installed to eliminate odours, however, there is no further detail provided in the addendum or the registration document to describe the ventilation system and/or engineering controls. PPD indicates that a potential CoA will address the requirement for proper ventilation and negative air pressure in the building, as well as equipment and space requirements to operate. The CoA would require consideration of an adequately-sized biofilter, based on anticipated throughput, to be included in the facility design. Biofilters consist of a filtration media such as finished compost, soil, wood chips or sand densely populated with microorganisms, through which the gases from the composting process are distributed via a perforated piping system. The biofilter medium acts as the nutrient supply for the microorganisms which adsorb and absorb micro aerosols and odorous gases such as carbon, nitrogen, and sulfur, to form non-odourous compounds. Design considerations must include maintaining the functionality of the biofilter during the winter months, as biofilters are often located outside buildings due to space requirements. Additional mitigative measures, such as the installation of mechanical ventilation with air scrubbers, could also be required should odour problems be encountered/persist at this facility.

Provided the facility is operated in conformance with the above-noted controls and restrictions, and based on the air emissions model, increased fly, insect, rodent, animal and gull populations could be expected.

2. Increased fly, insect, rodent, animal and gull populations
There is public concern that the Project will result in increased numbers of flies, insects, rodents, animals and gulls in the area which will impact negatively on tourists using Route 100, will deter tourists from using Norman’s Cove-Long Cove as a “service centre,” will cause health risks to people living nearby from vectors carrying pathogens, and will create safety risks to nearby families by...
attracting black bears, coyotes and scavengers. These concerns were echoed in comments from Tourism and Culture Division and RED Division. RED requested additional information to describe on-going measures that will be undertaken to control vectors that may be attracted to the site.

The project addendum informs that all activities, including receiving raw materials, mixing, composting, curing and processing the final organic fertilizer product, will take place inside an enclosed building(s). The proponent asserts that confining these activities within an enclosed building will provide control over vectors, vermin and other nuisances and adds that bird deterrents will be placed on building roofs and super structures, if needed. The MSWCF guidelines document indicates that a program to control insects, rodents, animals, birds and other vectors shall be approved by the ENVC and shall be in place for the lifespan of the facility. This requirement can be included as a condition of the CoA.

Enclosing all project related activities inside a building and implementing an on-going vector management program should address most of the concerns about vectors that were expressed by Tourism and Culture Division, RED Division and the public.

The public in nearby Whitbourne and Markland expressed additional concern that the Project will negatively impact human health from vectors carrying pathogens from the composting facility to surrounding areas. High temperatures achieved during the active composting phase inactivate pathogens and weed seeds. Section 3.5 of the CCME Guidelines for Compost Quality informs that any pathogenic organisms present in the compost feedstock, may potentially be present in the compost itself. To adequately reduce risks to human health, the CCME Guidelines direct that compost shall conform to the following criteria:

When compost contains other feedstock (other than yard waste), the following criteria shall be met:

1. Using the windrow composting method, the material shall attain a temperature of 55°C or greater for at least 15 days during the composting period. Also, during the high temperature period, the windrow shall be turned at least five times.

AND

2. Organism content shall meet the following:
   - Fecal coliforms <1000 most probable number (MPN)/g of total solids calculated on a dry weight basis,
   - OR (where the feedstock does not include materials that may include high levels of human pathogens)
     - No Salmonella sp. with a detection level <3 MPN/4g total solids calculated on a dry weight basis.

PPD indicates in the registration review comments that the proponent will be required by the terms and conditions of a CoA to test the finished product to ensure that the CCME Compost Quality Guidelines have been met. The requirements of the CCME Guidelines and regulatory controls imposed by PPD should address public concerns regarding risks to human health.
3. Visibility of the facility from Route 100:
There is public concern that visibility of the Project will create negative impressions for tourists who use Route 100 for the Argentia ferry service or to travel to the Cape Shore and Cape St. Mary’s. There is additional concern that if the Project fails, an abandoned building and equipment will remain on the site indefinitely as an eyesore.

Land Management Division advises that a minimum of 150m setback distance will be required from Route 100 for the proposed facility, and that a minimum 100m tree screen must be contained within the setback distance. This requirement will be included in the Crown Lands permitting procedure.

The MSWCF guidance document advises that the owner/operator of the facility shall submit a preliminary decommissioning plan to the Department when applying for a CoA. Factors to be considered in the plan include site clean-up, repair and rehabilitation, and removal or securing of infrastructure, equipment and access. A detailed decommissioning plan shall be submitted prior to the closure of the site. PPD indicates that all recommendations in the MSWCF guidance document can be included as terms and conditions of a CoA.

The proponent indicates in the registration document and addendum that the facility will be set back a minimum of 300 metres from Route 100 and the existing tree screen will be maintained, such that the facility will not be visible from Route 100. This should address any concerns regarding visibility from Route 100.

4. Risk of airborne pathogens:
The public raised concerns about risks to human health caused by airborne particulates such as bacteria, fungi, heavy metals, volatile organic compounds (VOCs), carbon dioxide and methane gas that may be dispersed in air emissions from the composting facility, particularly for people with compromised respiratory systems and allergies.

Pathogenic bacteria and fungi are effectively inactivated by operational procedures, such as attaining a temperature of 55°C or greater for at least 15 days during the composting period. This operational procedure is a requirement of the CCME Composting Quality Guidelines and would be imposed by the terms and conditions of a CoA from PPD.

Heavy metals may be found in compost leachate and in the final compost product, but do not appear to be a concern in compost air emissions. Composition of feedstock determines the level of heavy metals found in leachate and compost products. Sewage sludge may contain high concentrations of heavy metals, however, the proponent has indicated in the addendum that sewage sludge will not be accepted or composted at this facility.

VOCs are carbon-based chemicals that evaporate at room temperature and are emitted by a wide array of products used in homes, including paints and lacquers, paint strippers, varnishes, cleaning supplies, air fresheners, pesticides, building materials and furnishings. VOCs are emitted as organic waste decomposes and are typically highest at the beginning of composting when feedstocks arrive, and may also be emitted during grinding, mixing and decomposing stages. The presence of VOCs in gaseous emissions from composting facilities has been widely investigated and documented, and the concern surrounding the VOCs appears to be both ozone and odour related, rather than health related. Some
studies indicate that VOCs may be a precursor for ozone formation. The United States Composting Council's (USCC) position is that the types and volumes of VOCs emitted from properly operated commercial composting facilities are naturally occurring and do not pose significant risk to the formation of ground level ozone; these VOCs will be emitted from vegetation and other organic materials whether they are managed via composting or not. The most effective means of mitigating VOC concentrations in compost emissions is by passing the exhausted air through a biofilter.

The proposed Project, as described by the registration document and the addendum, will utilize an aerobic decomposition process and will employ operational procedures such as frequent turning of compost to ensure anaerobic conditions do not develop. According to the Dillon study, the diversion of organics from landfill, and processing of this waste within an aerobic composting system, has the potential to generate greenhouse gas (GHG) reductions. This is as a result of the avoidance of methane production within the landfill that may otherwise be generated from the anaerobic decomposition of the organic waste. Within an aerobic composting process, carbon dioxide (CO2) is generated in place of methane. Since methane has a global warming potential (GWP) that is approximately 21 times higher than that of carbon dioxide, the avoidance of methane generates a net reduction in GHGs.

PPD indicates that a potential CoA would require consideration of an adequately sized bio-filter, the installation of mechanical ventilation with air scrubbers (if needed) and periodic air testing to manage compost emissions and provide a safe environment for facility workers and the surrounding area.

5. Risk of fire from spontaneous combustion:
Public concern was expressed over the risk of fire caused by spontaneous combustion of a composting pile and the spread of fire to the nearby community of Whitbourne due to insufficient firefighting equipment and training at the compost facility.

Fire and Emergency Services-NL (FES) was consulted during the environmental assessment of the Project, and they advise that there is an increased risk of fire at composting facilities which can be mitigated with proper fire protection features and planning. FES-NL further advise that they will work with the proponent to ensure an acceptable emergency plan is developed and approved, should the project be permitted to proceed.

Specific public concern was expressed that reintroducing leachates from a mature composting batch to a new composting batch doubles the risk of spontaneous combustion. This assertion was not supported by FES-NL or by reference materials consulted during the environmental assessment of the Project. One of the objectives of the Project is to produce a marketable, nutrient rich soil additive that will meet the CCME Compost Quality Guidelines. It is therefore unlikely that feedstock containing highly flammable or combustible materials would be composted at the facility.

6. Contamination of nearby groundwater, surface water, wetland, and soil and surrounding environment:
The public has identified concerns that nitrogen, sulfur and heavy metals may leach out of compost and contaminate surface and groundwater, wetlands, soils and streams including tributaries to salmon rivers.

The addendum describes the proposed compost building as having an impervious concrete floor with troughs to collect leachates, which will be reintroduced to the compost. Effective composting is contingent upon maintaining sufficient moisture content to facilitate microbial activity, and surplus
leachate is not anticipated. Leachate will be entirely contained within the enclosed building. PPD indicates that an adequate leachate collection system can be addressed during the CoA process.

The public has expressed concern about the potential spread of pathogenic viruses, bacteria, protozoa and parasites present in decomposed material to soil, plants, animals and people. As previously discussed, operational procedures under the CCME Guidelines for Compost Quality including the attainment of 55°C or greater for at least 15 days, will effectively inactivate pathogens during the composting period, including viruses, bacteria, protozoa, and parasites. PPD indicates that testing of the finished compost product will be required to ensure that the CCME Compost Quality Guidelines have been met.

There is public concern that composting at this facility will involve the use of toxic chemicals, since “animal carcasses cannot be broken down into compost using conventional means.” A guidance document produced by Alberta government entitled, “Large Animal Mortality Composting”, indicates that the composting of livestock is a biological process involving the breakdown of organic materials in an aerobic environment. Livestock mortality composting requires high-carbon material (e.g. woodchips, sawdust, shredded paper) with moderate moisture levels and good porosity. A good compost mix for livestock mortalities requires a carbon nitrogen ratio of approximately 30:1. Chemical additives are not required for livestock composting. The guidance document cautions that animals known or suspected to have died from an infectious or reportable disease, and animals that have been euthanized, cannot be disposed of by composting.

The project registration document indicates that chemicals additives will not be used in the composting process. The registration document and addendum indicate that a primary objective of the Project is to produce large quantities of high quality organic fertilizer compost to support the growing demand of locally produced, organically grown produce, and a natural organic fertilizer to be used for horticultural, landscaping and agricultural purposes. The overall quality of the finished product, which will be required to meet the CCME Compost Quality Guidelines, is of paramount importance to the proponent. PPD will require testing of the finished product to ensure that the CCME Compost Quality Guidelines are met.

7. Transportation of feedstock to the facility will cause widespread odours and flies; There is public concern that fish offal, animal manure and animal carcasses will be brought to the site in uncovered open vehicles and/or leaking containers which will cause widespread odours and increased vectors at the site and along the transportation route.

Road transportation within the province is regulated by the Highway Traffic Act, which is enforced by the Motor Registration Division of Service NL, the RCMP and the RNC. Section 31 of the Cargo Securement Regulations, 2004 under the Highway Traffic Act states:

31. (1) Where a vehicle that is operating on a highway in the province is carrying a load of sand, gravel, crushed stone, slag, salt or a mixture of them in the form of particles of up to 40 millimetres in diameter or is carrying waste or scrap metal, the

(a) portion of the load that is not enclosed by the vehicle or load container shall be covered with a covering made of tarpaulin, canvas, net or other material capable of confining the load within the vehicle or load container; and
(b) container shall be designed to prevent a leakage of liquids or other material or, where the load is not enclosed in a container, the vehicle shall be equipped in a manner that prevents a leakage of liquids or other material.

Concerns regarding the transportation to of feedstock to the Proposed Project area can be reported to the above-noted authorities.

8. Unproven technology in Newfoundland and Labrador:
The public identifies concern about the potential of this Project to be a large scale composting facility which should first be operated on a trial basis in a remote area of the province until the proponent can demonstrate that the operation will have no adverse impacts on nearby communities. Public concern has also been expressed that inadequate experience on the part of the operator and inadequate oversight by the government will lead to significant negative environmental impacts on nearby communities.

PPD indicates that a potential CoA will set the volume of feedstock that can be received on-site on a monthly basis, with renewal of the permit contingent on the proponent’s ability to produce a quality compost product in an environmentally sound manner. PPD advises that staff of the composting facility will be required to have certified training, consistent with the Composting Council of Canada, Solid Waste Association of North America, or equivalent. PPD informs that monthly inspections will be conducted by Divisional staff to ensure that the process is appropriately managed, and to address any outstanding issues. The level of oversight and regulatory management by PPD should address public concern regarding the proponent’s experience and ability to operate the facility in an environmentally sound manner.

9. Limit development potential for adjacent land area within Whitbourne’s municipal boundary.
The Town of Whitbourne is concerned that it will not be desirable to develop municipal land located east of Route 100, due to its close proximity to the proposed Project area. The Town of Whitbourne indicates that the Project is an incompatible land use with potential development inside Whitbourne’s municipal boundary along the east side of Route 100.

MA informs that Whitbourne’s municipal boundary extends westward from Route 81 (road that passes through Whitbourne from TCH) to within 170m of Route 100, the Argentia Access Road. The proponent has indicated that the proposed composting facility will be located 300m to the west of Route 100, in order to accommodate the required reservation for a power line that runs immediately west of this section of Route 100. This provides a separation distance of 470m between the composting facility and Whitbourne’s westernmost municipal boundary.

According to a diagram of the Whitbourne municipal zoning plan provided by Municipal Affairs (MA), the area in Whitbourne that lies across from the Project area and on the east side of Route 100, is zoned as Rural, with the permitted uses identified as agricultural, conservation, single dwelling, animal, veterinary mineral exploration and recreational open space. MA informs that residential subdivision development is not a permitted use in this zone, as per Whitbourne’s approved municipal plan. An image of Whitbourne’s Municipal Zoning Plan is attached.

MA further advises that the proposed undertaking is located in an unincorporated area that is subject to the Protected Road Zoning Regulations. Section 6(1) of the Protected Road Zoning Regulations outlines
permitted uses of land in the area, and informs that the proposed undertaking is classified as a waste disposal site and is permitted.

The Town of Whitbourne has not developed any land within its municipal boundary in the direction of Route 100, with the exception of business establishments located along the TCH near the junction of the TCH and Route 100. These establishments are located at least 3.3km from the proposed Project area. Existing residential development and new development is focused in southern and eastern regions of the town, a minimum of 4km from the project area. The area within Whitbourne’s Municipal Plan, located near Route 100 and across from the proposed Project, is zoned as Rural and includes agricultural, conservation and animal uses. All of these uses may be compatible with the proposed Project.

The proposed Project supports the initiative of the Provincial Waste Management Strategy to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill by 50 per cent. The Project contributes to the objectives of the Dillon study to divert organics from landfill while producing a beneficial finished material that can be used for landscaping and as a soil amendment.

The concerns expressed by the public, Tourism and Culture Division and Rural Economic Development Division can be addressed under a Certificate of Approval issued by PPD. PPD will provide the necessary government oversight to ensure the facility is in compliance with the terms and conditions of the CoA.
Attachments

Attachment #1: Draft Letter
Attachment #2: Unedited Comments
Attachment #3: Edited Comments
Attachment #4: MSWCF Guidance Document
Attachment #5: Project Registration Document
Attachment #6: Addendum
Attachment #7: Public Comments

References


   http://www.qp.alberta.ca/documents/codes/COMPOST.PDF

   http://www.ccme.ca/files/Resources/waste/compost_quality/compostgdlns_1340_e.pdf


Colleen and Martin,

The recommendation and Minister's letter are attached for your review.

Bas

From: Sweeney, Joanne  
Sent: Tuesday, July 12, 2016 9:23 AM  
To: Cleary, Bas  
Subject: 1838_Proposed Argentia Access Road Industrial Composting Facility project  

Bas,

Please find the minister’s memo and decision letter, attached.

Joanne
MEMO TO: Honourable Perry Trimper, Minister  
Environment and Conservation

THROUGH: Colleen Janes, Deputy Minister  
Martin Goebel, Assistant Deputy Minister  
Bas Cleary, Director, Environmental Assessment Division

FROM: Joanne Sweeney, Environmental Scientist, EA Division

DATE: July 6, 2016

SUBJECT: Registration and Review of the Argentia Access Road Industrial Composting Facility Project (the Project)

BACKGROUND
The proponent submitted a proposal to establish an industrial composting facility to process a variety of organic waste from commercial and industrial sources in Newfoundland, and to produce a marketable organic fertilizer product. Organic waste to be composted will include mink farm offal, spent hens, dead birds, poultry feathers, slaughterhouse offal and carcasses, and fish processing wastes. The organic waste will be mixed on-site with wood chips, sawdust and shredded plants and the mixture will be distributed in long parallel windrows, sufficiently spaced to be mechanically turned for aeration. The entire operation, including receiving, mixing, composting and curing will take place inside an 80ft wide x 400ft long enclosed building which will be equipped with mechanical ventilation. The undertaking is proposed to be located on the west side of the Argentia Access Road (Route 100), approximately 3.5 kilometres south of the intersection of the TCH and Route 100.

The undertaking was initially registered for environmental assessment on April 15, 2016; the deadline for public comments was May 10, 2016; and the minister’s decision was due by May 20, 2016. The proponent revised the project during the review period and submitted an addendum describing the proposed changes which will facilitate increased operational climate control and will enable the proponent to operate the composting facility year-round. The addendum was posted on the ENVC webpage and announced in the EA bulletin on May 12, 2016, and the review period was restarted. Public comments on the addendum and registration document were due by June 15, 2016 and the minister’s decision was due by June 25, 2016. On June 22, 2016, EA Division informed the proponent that additional time was needed for the environmental assessment of the project. The proponent agreed to extend the deadline, and the minister’s decision is due on July 15, 2016. The proponent’s email agreeing to the extension is attached.
RESULTS OF PUBLIC AND INTER-DEPARTMENTAL REVIEW
The registration document and addendum for the Project have been reviewed by the government environmental assessment screening committee.

Of the 25 screening agencies that received the registration, 16 advised that further assessment is not required and recommended release of the project. The Tourism and Culture Division and the Rural Economic Development Division of the Department of Business, Tourism, Culture and Rural Development recommended that an environmental preview report (EPR) be completed for the project. Three agencies indicated that they have no concerns with the project but did not provide an opinion as to whether or the project should be released, rejected or whether further study is needed. Four screening agencies did not respond to the request for review and comments.

Agencies not responding are:
1. Health and Community Services
2. Occupational Health and Safety Division
3. Health Canada
4. Natural Resources Canada

Public Consultation
Copies of the registration document and addendum were mailed to the Towns of Whitbourne and Placentia, and the Towns were requested to review the documents and submit comments to the Environmental Assessment Division within 35 days.

An Environmental Assessment (EA) News Bulletin was published on the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador’s website (http://www.releases.gov.nl.ca/releases/2016/env/0203n03.aspx) as well as on the Department of Environment and Conservation’s (ENVC) EA Project Listing website (http://www.env.gov.nl.ca/env/env_assessment/projects/Y2016/1832/index.html) on April 5, 2016, advising of the Project registration and requesting for public comments to be submitted to EA Division within 35 days (by May 10, 2016). The Project addendum was published on the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador’s website as well as on the Department of Environment and Conservation’s (ENVC) EA Project Listing website on May 12, 2016, advising of changes to the proposed Project and requesting for public comments to be submitted to EA Division by June 15, 2016. The extension to the minister’s decision was announced on the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador’s website as well as on the Department of Environment and Conservation’s (ENVC) EA Project Listing website on June 24, 2016. Notification of the Project registration document, addendum and extension to the minister’s decision was sent to subscribers of the EA News Bulletin, which includes environmental groups, media, government agencies, municipal organizations and interested members of the public.

PUBLIC COMMENTS
The proposed Project has generated substantial public opposition from home and business owners located within a 35km radius of the proposed Project site. Petitions containing in excess of 500 signatures, and more than 200 personal emails and letters have been submitted to ENVC from people who support the concept and practice of composting in general, but oppose the location of this Project. In addition to personal submissions from residents of nearby communities, emails and letters have been
received from the Town of Whitbourne, the Town of Placentia, the Town of Norman’s Cove-Long Cove, the Honourable Sherry Gambin-Walsh, MHA for the District of Placentia-St. Mary’s, business owners along the TCH near the intersection of the TCH and Route 100 (Argentia Access Road), business owners in Whitbourne and Markland including the owners of the Rodrigues Wine Distillery, and a subdivision developer in Whitbourne who plans to construct a business park on Route 100 at the intersection of the TCH and Route 100. The primary concern expressed by the public is the perceived negative impact to quality of life as a result of putrid odours emanating from the composting facility. Below is a summarized list of concerns that were identified during the public review of the Project, and the perceived effects these concerns will have:

1. Constant, putrid odours:
   • Decrease residential property values and slow future growth of nearby communities;
   • Discourage local developers in the Whitbourne area from carrying out plans to build a hotel, RV Park, senior’s residence, a 65-home Adult Community, 146-lot residential subdivision, 103 lot residential subdivision, and a small businesses park;
   • Discourage a Markland developer from carrying out plans to construct a brewery and large distillery that will bring 30 jobs to the province and will be a tourist attraction;
   • Deter customers from using nearby business establishments and restaurants including Mary Browns, Tim Horton’s, Circle K, Ultramar, Subway, Monty’s Restaurant, Smith’s Furniture and Foodex;
   • Deter tourists and residents from visiting nearby tourist attractions, including the Rodrigues Winery and the Sedna Nutraceutical Plant in Markland, the Whitbourne Museum and the T’Railway;
   • Decrease the quality of life for nearby cottage owners in Placentia Junction, Peak Pond, Reid’s Pond, Ocean Pond and Holiday Hill, and recreational users of Little Goose Pond;
   • Influence residents of the newly developed Goose Pond subdivision to put their homes up for sale and re-locate;
   • Take several years for an inexperienced operator to learn how to manage the composting process to minimize and eliminate putrid odours;
   • Prevent residents of Whitbourne from enjoying backyard, country living in a pristine area which was deliberately selected as their home.

2. Increased fly, insect, rodent, animal and gull populations:
   • Create negative impressions on tourists who use Route 100 to travel to and from the province via the Argentia ferry;
   • Deter tourists from using Route 100 to travel to the scenic Cape Shore and Cape St. Mary’s Ecological Bird Sanctuary;
   • Deter tourists from using Norman’s Cove-Long Cove as a “service centre” based on its close proximity (20 km) to the proposed facility;
   • Increase risks to human health caused by rodents, parasites and flies that may carry bacterial and viral microorganisms from the composting facility.
   • Create safety risks to nearby families by attracting black bears, coyotes and scavengers to the facility.
3. Visibility of the facility from Route 100:
- Create negative impressions for tourists who use Route 100 for the Argentia ferry service or to travel to the Cape Shore and Cape St. Mary's;
- May result in an abandoned building and equipment remaining on-site as an eyesore should the project fail within the early years of operation.

4. Risk of airborne pathogens:
- Increase risks to human health caused by micro aerosols in the exhaust dispersed from the composting facility, particularly for people with compromised respiratory systems and allergies;
- Emit gases containing carbon dioxide, methane, volatile organic compounds, bacteria, fungi and heavy metals.

5. Risk of fire from spontaneous combustion:
- Require costs for specialized training and equipment for nearby volunteer fire departments to be borne by residents of nearby towns;
- Increase the risk of spontaneous combustion by reintroducing leachates from a mature composting batch to a new composting batch;
- Increase the risk of a forest fire due to insufficient equipment on-site to contain a fire at the composting facility.

6. Contamination of groundwater, surface water, wetland, soil and surrounding environment:
- Nitrogen, sulfur and heavy metals may leach out of compost and contaminate surface and groundwater, soil and streams including tributaries to salmon rivers;
- Pathogenic viruses, bacteria, protozoa and parasites present in decomposed material may spread disease to soil, plants, animals and people;
- Leachate from compost will encourage blue-green algae blooms in nearby waterways;
- Composting will involve the use of toxic chemicals which will spread into the surrounding environment, since animal carcasses cannot be broken down into compost using conventional means;
- Pathogens present in feedstock used in the initial composting stages, will also be present in organic fertilizers sold as an end-product of composting, and will be spread to other environments where the fertilizer is used.

7. Transportation of feedstock to the facility will cause widespread odours and flies:
- Fish offal and animal manure and carcasses will be brought to the site in uncovered, open vehicles which will cause widespread odours and increased flies along the transportation route.

8. Unproven technology in Newfoundland and Labrador:
- A composting facility of this scale should be first operated on a trial basis in a remote area of the province until it can be demonstrated that it will have no adverse impacts on nearby communities;
- Inadequate experience on the part of the operator and inadequate oversight by the government will lead to significant negative environmental impacts on nearby communities.
9. Limit development potential for adjacent land area within Whitbourne's municipal boundary.
   • The Town of Whitbourne is concerned that potential developers of land to the east of Route 100, across from the proposed Project area and within Whitbourne’s municipal boundary, will be dissuaded from utilizing this land due to putrid odours and increased vectors surrounding the Project area.
   • The Town of Whitbourne indicates that the Project is an incompatible land use with potential development inside Whitbourne’s municipal boundary along the east side of Route 100.

Suggestions for alternate sites were provided in several of the public submissions, including Robin Hood Bay, Heart’s Content Barrens, Holyrood, Sunnyside, and on the Isthmus between Arnold’s Cove and Come by Chance turn-offs. A copy of comments received during the public review period is attached.

INTERDEPARTMENTAL REVIEW

Below is a summarized list of comments received from the EA Screening Committee. The full list of comments will be provided to the proponent if/when the project is released from further assessment.

Environment and Conservation

Pollution Prevention Division (PPD)
   • Recommends release of the Project from environmental assessment.
   • Notes that all activities associated with this project are subject to the Environmental Protection Act (EPA) and the Water Resources Act (WRA) and their regulations.
   • Offered advice relative waste disposal and litter, air quality management, pesticides, storage and handling of gasoline and associated products, used oil control regulations, halocarbon regulations and environmental control water and sewer regulations.
   • Indicates that a Certificate of Approval from the Pollution Prevention Division is required for construction and operation of the proposed facility. The Certificate of Approval will require/address (among other things) the following:
     • An impermeable surface under all areas in contact with organics or compost (including the receiving area and under windrows).
     • Adequate leachate collection system – septic system may not be able to handle the BOD of the leachate.
     • Testing of the finished product to ensure that CCME Compost quality guidelines have been met.
     • Staff with training in running an industrial composting operation.
     • Engineering designs for the in-vessel structure, taking into account the requirement for proper ventilation and negative air pressure when doors are open, as well as equipment and space requirements to operate.
     • Consideration of the design and maintenance aspects for an appropriately-sized biofilter.
     • The proposed composting technology is to be provided in detail, with assurances of adequate feedstock supply to maintain and manage the composting process.
• Set the volume of feedstock that can be received on-site on a monthly basis, with renewal of the permit contingent on performance, i.e. producing a quality compost product in an environmentally sound manner.
• Monthly inspections by Pollution Prevention Divisional staff to ensure that the process is appropriately managed and to address any outstanding issues.
• Staff should be certified by the Composting Council of Canada, Solid Waste Association of North America, or equivalent.
• Occupational health and safety of workers will need to be addressed, e.g. among other things there will need to be separate areas, away from the composting site, for staff to eat and shower; respiratory protection may also be required.

An email from PPD on July 5, 2016 illustrates a screening model of potential exhaust emissions from the facility and how the concentration of emissions would drop off over distance from the source. The model indicates that emission concentrations approximately 2.6 km from the facility are estimated to be 1/10 the concentration at the source. The concentration of emissions at the source is not known in this scenario. The model used worst case meteorological scenarios including atmospheric pressure, humidity, precipitation, wind speed and wind direction. The email adds that, assuming the proposed facility is operated appropriately and in conformance to the previous notes provided by PPD, the delivery of waste may provide a greater potential for odour than the facility itself and that such deliveries need to be made in a controlled environment. A copy of the email is included with the Unedited Comments.

**Water Resources Management Division (WRMD)**
• Recommends release of the Project from environmental assessment.
• Informs that the proponent must apply for and obtain a water use licence under the *Water Resources Act, 2002* [http://assembly.nl.ca/Legislation/sr/statutes/w04-01.htm](http://assembly.nl.ca/Legislation/sr/statutes/w04-01.htm) for the use of water from any water source for any purpose prior to the start of construction.
• Informs that the proponent must apply for and obtain a permit under the *Water Resources Act, 2002*, specifically Section 48 [http://assembly.nl.ca/Legislation/sr/statutes/w04-01.htm](http://assembly.nl.ca/Legislation/sr/statutes/w04-01.htm) for any work that may take place in any body of water (including wetland) with a possible need for a site drainage plan prior to the start of construction.
• Advises that any effluent or runoff leaving the site will be required to conform to the requirements of the *Environmental Control Water and Sewage Regulations, 2003* [http://assembly.nl.ca/Legislation/sr/regulations/rc030065.htm](http://assembly.nl.ca/Legislation/sr/regulations/rc030065.htm).

**Wildlife Division (WD) / Parks and Natural Areas Division (PNAD)**
• Recommends release of the Project from environmental assessment.
• Advises applicant to operate under established regulations and guidelines with respect to wildlife and their habitats (e.g. nesting birds, caribou, waterfowl, wetlands, inland fish, rare plants, riparian species) to minimize adverse impacts (Section 106 of the Wild Life Regulations under the *Wild Life Act (O.C. 96-809)*).
• Recommends a minimum 30m naturally vegetated buffer to be maintained along all waterbodies and wetlands to protect sensitive riparian and aquatic species, and their habitat;
• Informs that habitat disturbance impacts wildlife (birds, small mammals etc) negatively and should be kept to a minimum. To help reduce any negative impacts on any species, the Wildlife Division recommends that any necessary vegetation clearing or excessive noise be undertaken outside of the
nesting, breeding and brood rearing period (May to mid-July), when disturbance would be most critical. Where vegetation clearing is not avoidable and a nest is found:
- The nest and neighbouring vegetation should be left undisturbed until nesting is completed;
- Construction activities should be minimized in the immediate area until nesting is complete.

**Advanced Education and Skills**
- Recommends release of the Project from environmental assessment.
- Informs that no regulatory requirements of the Department of Advanced Education and Skills apply to this project; however, the information indicated below should be provided by the proponent prior to the Ministerial decision, or be conditions of the project’s release from further environmental assessment:
  - National Occupation Classification (NOC 2011) codes at the 4-digit level associated with each position for the construction phase of the project, including the number of positions associated with each NOC code.
  - The approximate time lines for each of the positions during the construction phase of the project. This would include the number of positions for each 4-digit NOC 2011 code throughout the project at specified time intervals (monthly or at least quarterly) which would show levels of employment throughout the project timeline.
  - An indication as to whether the positions associated with the construction phase are full-time equivalent or if they are the actual number of positions; if they are indeed the actual number of positions, how many are full-time vs. part-time.
  - Clarification on when the operations phase of the project is anticipated to begin and whether the operations phase will be year-round.
  - Clarification on which positions would be direct hires, and which would be from companies contracted to carry out project work. This information should be supplied for all positions associated with the project (i.e., both construction and operations phases).

**Business, Tourism, Culture and Rural Development (BTCRD)**

*Provincial Archaeology Office*
- Recommends release of the project from environmental assessment with no further comments.

*Tourism and Culture Division*
BTCRD provided the following comments on April 26, 2016, specific to review of the registration document:
- Recommends further study is needed in the form of an EPR to provide additional information that will:
  - Demonstrate that the composting facility doesn’t negatively impact tourism stakeholders and the driving experience along Route 100, a gateway for visitors to the province;
  - Address odour problems that may be associated with this type of operation;
  - Ensure that all tourism operators in the area are aware of the proposed development.

Note: BTCRD provided a letter on June 14, 2016 acknowledging that the proponent’s addendum to change the project to a covered year round facility may address some of the comments submitted on
April 26, 2016, but BTCRD is unsure if the addendum addresses all the concerns previously raised. The letter added that the comments provided are to be used only for the assessment and are not to be shared with the proponent without their (BTCRD) concurrence. The June 14, 2016 letter from BTCRD is included with the Unedited Comments.

**Regional Economic Development Division**
- Recommends further study is needed in the form of an EPR to provide additional information that will:
  - Address odour concerns for the commercial food establishments and accommodation facilities located near the intersection of the TCH and Route 100, as well as for residents of Blaketown who are directly upwind from the project, as the prevailing winds are from the SW;
  - Describe on-going measures that will be undertaken to control black flies and rodents that may be attracted to the composting operation.

**Executive Council**

**Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs Office**
- The Labrador Affairs Branch and the Aboriginal Affairs Branch both indicated that they have reviewed the registration and addendum documents and have no comments on the Project.

**Office of Climate Change & Energy Efficiency**
- Recommends release of the project from environmental assessment;
- Suggests that the proponent consider the provincial climate change projections for Argentia (the nearest regional site) in the planning for this undertaking, with specific reference to the grading of the site to control anticipated drainage runoff, and provides a web link and contact information for climate data;
- Advises that all land clearing activities must be undertaken with appropriate permits through the Forestry Division.
- Notes that all heavy equipment should be operated in a manner to maximize fuel efficiency, thereby reducing greenhouse gas emissions that could contribute to climate change.

**Women's Policy Office**
- Does not provide an opinion on whether the project should be released, rejected or requires further study, and advises that WPO does not have any comments concerning this EA as employment opportunities are very low.

**Fire and Emergency Services-NL**
- Informs that there is an increased risk of fire at composting facilities, and advises that the proponent should be required to provide an emergency plan to deal with fires, and to identify fire protection features on-site.
Provided a follow-up email on June 17, 2016 indicating that FES-NL would work with the proponent to ensure that an acceptable emergency plan is developed for the facility, prior to construction taking place. A copy of the email is included with the Unedited Comments.

**Fisheries and Aquaculture**
- Recommends release of the project from environmental assessment and does not provide further comment.

**Forestry and Agrifoods Agency (FAA)**
- Recommends release of the project from environmental assessment;
- Recommends that a buffer zone be established around the facility to restrict future conflicting development;
- Advises that a commercial cutting permit must be obtained from the local forestry services office prior to any harvesting and or timber removal activities.
- Notes that during the declared Fire Season (May 1-Sept 30) the proponent must also obtain and adhere to the conditions of an operating permit.

A follow-up email from FAA on June 24, 2016 indicates that having a composting facility that can handle organic waste streams from farming operations via composting could be an option for farms that wish to contract out some aspects of farm waste management. Other benefits would include the diversion of organics from landfills, reduction in GHG's, and improved soil fertility and health. A copy of the email is included with the Unedited Comments.

**Municipal Affairs**

*Land Management Division*
- Recommends release of the project from environmental assessment;
- Informs that an application for Crown lands has been submitted for the proposal and that a decision will be made pending the outcome of the EA and a review of all referrals from the processing of the Crown lands application;
- Advises that no activity or land clearing is to take place until the Lands Branch has issued the Crown lands title, and that any Crown title issued will be subject to those terms and conditions as prescribed by the Minister of Municipal Affairs;
- Notes that the proposal appears to encompass at least one waterbody and any occupation of the 15m shoreline reservation will be subject to Section 7 of the Lands Act;
- Informs that the proposed undertaking is located in an unincorporated area that is subject to the Protected Road Zoning Regulations;
- Advises that Section 6(1) of the Protected Road Zoning Regulations outlines permitted uses of land in the area, and informs that the proposed undertaking is classified as a waste disposal site and is permitted.
Land Management Division provided additional information in an email on June 29, 2016 informing of the setback distance from Route 100 that would be required for the proposed composting facility, as indicated below:

"The use would be permitted under Section 6 of the Protected Road Zoning Regulations and we would consider it to most match the Rural Industrial Use. Rural Industrial uses are required to be setback 100m from the centerline of the highway and also require a 50m tree screen."

**Rural industrial uses**

7. (1) Only industrial developments which, because of their nature, would be considered hazardous and incompatible to urban uses will be permitted in this zone.

(2) Developments of a rural industrial nature shall be set back a minimum of 100 metres from the centre line of the highway with a tree screen of not less than 50 metres, and shall be separated from adjacent incompatible developments by a minimum of 150 metres with a tree screen of not less than 100 metres.

A copy of the email is included with the Unedited Comments.

**Natural Resources**

*Mines Branch*
- Recommends release of the project from environmental assessment;
- Provides permitting advice to the proponent relative to the sourcing of any quarry materials required for the project and the removal of quarry materials from the project site.

*Energy Branch*
- Recommended release of the project from environmental assessment;
- Advises the proponent that the proposed project area appears to intersect a Newfoundland Power distribution line and recommends that the proponent consult with Newfoundland Power regarding potential land use conflicts.

*Strategic Planning and Policy Coordination*

SPPC offers no comment related to the proposed undertaking.

**Service NL**

*Government Service Centre*
- Recommends release of the project from environmental assessment;
- Provides regulatory, permitting and mitigative advice relative to waste management, gasoline and associated products, water and sewer, fire and life safety, development control, and electrical plans;
• Advises that a 30 metre undisturbed buffer should be maintained between the site and any surrounding watercourse or water body;
• Requires that any existing tree screen concealing the operation from public view is to be maintained;
• Advises that the site is located within 400 metres off the Argentia Access Road and falls within the jurisdiction of the Protected Road Zoning Regulations, therefore, a Preliminary Application to Develop land must be submitted to the Government Service Centre and a “Permit To Develop” issued before any construction takes place.

Transportation & Works
• Recommends release of the project from environmental assessment;
• Informs that intersection sight distance can be achieved at this location and provides direction on the location of the access road;
• Advises that Route 100 is a protected roadway and that no development will be permitted within 45m of the centerline of Route 100;
• Indicates that the access will be deemed commercial and as such will require a 10m wide top surface;
• Advises that a 600mm diameter culvert (minimum) will have to be installed across the access;
• Informs that traffic volume to be generated by the site should be provided to TW for further assessment of turning lane requirements.

FEDERAL DEPARTMENTS

Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEAA)
• Advises that the proposed project is not a designated project under CEAA 2012, and does not provide an opinion as to whether the project should be released, rejected or requires further study.

Environment Canada (EC)
• Recommends release of the project from environmental assessment;
• Offers advice regarding the Fisheries Act (FA); Migratory Birds Convention Act (MBCA and Regulations); the Species at Risk Act (SARA), and the Canadian Environmental Protection Act (CEPA).
• Recommends beneficial management practices specific to composting facilities, including:
  o Animal waste byproducts, food scraps and other garbage near the facility should be minimized and/or be made inaccessible to wildlife, because these can artificially enhance the populations of avian and mammalian predators of eggs and chicks.
  o Project staff should not approach concentrations of seabirds, sea ducks or shorebirds.
  o Project staff should undertake any measures that may minimize or eliminate discharge of oily waste into the marine environment.
• Recommends that the proponent should avoid vegetation clearing and field burning during the most critical period of the migratory bird breeding season, typically between April 15 and August 15, to avoid the risk of nest destruction;
• Advises the proponent to develop and implement a management plan that includes appropriate preventive measures to minimize the risk of impacts on migratory birds;
• Provides advice relative to unattended soil stockpiles, gull attraction, scare techniques, revegetation efforts, minimizing invasive species and avoiding species at risk;
• Recommends mitigative measures to be undertaken to avoid the attraction of migratory birds to human-induced light at the facility;
• Provides mitigative information relative to fuel leaks, refueling, spill response, and the management of hazardous materials (i.e., petroleum products), and advises that refuelling and maintenance activities should be undertaken on level impervious surface at least 30m from environmentally sensitive areas, including wetlands;
• Advises that a minimum vegetation buffer zone of 30m should be maintained between existing wetland areas and development activities;
• Provides advice on erosion and drainage control, wetland conservation, acid rock drainage, construction materials, management of hazardous materials, waste and dust suppression, and monitoring and adaptive management;
• Informs that mitigative measures should be factored into the design of the facility to ensure that the risk of environmental damage due to extreme climate and weather events is minimized.

Fisheries and Oceans (DFO)
• Recommends release of the project from environmental assessment;
• Informs that an environmental assessment based upon the habitat provisions of the Fisheries Act is not required;
• Provides guidance and reference information to the proponent relative to self-assessment.

Transport Canada
• Recommends release of the project from environmental assessment;
• Informs that the project does not require any regulatory approvals from Transport Canada to proceed.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT REVIEW

In 2002, the Newfoundland and Labrador government released a Waste Management Strategy with the aim of province-wide modern waste management to be implemented by 2025. One of the goals of this strategy is to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill by 50 per cent. According to a report on potential solutions for organics/composting for the province of Newfoundland and Labrador, prepared by Dillon Consulting in 2014 (Dillon study), organic waste constitutes approximately 30 per cent of the total waste going to landfill. The waste diversion rate in Newfoundland and Labrador increased from seven per cent in 1992 to 28 per cent in 2012. The diversion of organic materials is essential to reaching the 50 per cent diversion target.

Pollution Prevention Division (PPD) of the Department of Environment and Conservation (ENVC) has developed a series of guidance documents which outline environmental standards to support the provincial Waste Management Strategy, including the Environmental Standards for Municipal Solid
Waste Compost Facilities (MSWCF guidance document). PPD informs that all of the standards for the design, construction and operation of composting facilities that are contained in the MSWCF guidance document can be applied to this Project and potentially captured under a Certificate of Approval, should the Project be released from environmental assessment. A copy of the MSWCF guidance document is attached.

During the environmental assessment of this Project, most government screening agencies recommended releasing the project from environmental assessment, and two screening agencies recommended further assessment of the Project in the form of an EPR. The Tourism and Culture Division and the Regional Economic Development Division of the Department of Business, Tourism, Culture, and Rural Development recommended an EPR based on the rationale below.

Tourism and Culture Division requests further information to demonstrate that the composting facility will not negatively impact the driving experience along Route 100, a gateway for visitors entering and leaving the province via the Argentia ferry. Tourism and Culture provides the following statistics for passengers using the Argentia ferry service from 2013-2015, which operates between June and September:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Marine Atlantic</th>
<th>Argentia to North Sydney</th>
<th>North Sydney to Argentia</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Passengers</td>
<td>2013: 18,506</td>
<td>2013: 9,090</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2014: 24,994</td>
<td>2014: 11,996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2015: 28,460</td>
<td>2015: 13,714</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vehicles</td>
<td>2013: 8,303</td>
<td>2013: 4,089</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2014: 11,011</td>
<td>2014: 5,370</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2015: 12,200</td>
<td>2015: 5,865</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crossings</td>
<td>2013: 60</td>
<td>2013: 30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2014: 76</td>
<td>2014: 38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2015: 80</td>
<td>2015: 40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Tourism and Culture Division advises that further information on the project is needed to describe how potential odour problems that may be associated with this type of operation will be addressed, and to ensure that all tourism operators in the area are aware of the proposed development.

Regional Economic Development (RED) Division notes that the proposed project will be located approximately 3km from food establishments and accommodation facilities that are operating along the TCH near the intersection of the TCH and Route 100. RED is concerned that the raw materials identified for composting, including mink farm offal, spent hens, dead birds, poultry feathers, slaughterhouse offal and carcasses, and fish processing wastes will generate foul odours and attract black flies and pests that will impact business operators on the nearby TCH and residents of Blaketown, which lies upwind of the project.

With reference to Tourism and Culture’s concern regarding awareness of the Project by tourism operators, there are no established tourism operators within 10km south and west of the proposed Project. Tourism operators north and east of the Project area, near the junction of the TCH and Route 100 and within the communities of Whitbourne and Markland, have provided comments and petitions to EA Division and have been informed of the Project via Whitbourne town meetings and government and media announcements. EA Division is confident that all tourism operators within a 10 km radius of the Project are aware of the Project proposal.

Other concerns noted by Tourism and Culture Division and RED Division are reiterated in the concerns identified in the public comments, which include:
1. Constant, putrid odours;
2. Increased fly, insect, rodent, animal and gull populations;
3. Visibility of the facility from Route 100 for residents and tourists;
4. Risk of airborne pathogens;
5. Risk of spontaneous combustion;
6. Contamination of groundwater, surface water, wetlands, soils and surrounding environment;
7. Transportation of feedstock to the facility will cause widespread odours and flies;
8. Unproven technology in Newfoundland and Labrador;
9. Limited development potential for adjacent land area within Whitbourne’s municipal boundary.

These nine concerns are discussed in the ensuing paragraphs.

1. Constant, putrid odours
Odour is the primary public and BTCRD concern associated with the composting facility. The specific areas that will potentially be impacted by odour emanating from the project, as identified by Tourism and Culture and RED Divisions and the public are:

- Residential/commercial properties in the Town of Whitbourne and the Whitbourne Museum;
- Food establishments/accommodations facility near the intersection of Route 100 and the TCH;
- Residential and commercial properties in Markland, including Rodrigues Winery and the Sedna Nutraceutical Plant;
- Phase I and II Goose Pond residential subdivision developments in Whitbourne;
- Residential/commercial properties in Blaketown;
- Holiday Hill, Placentia Junction, Peak Pond, Reid’s Pond and Ocean Pond cabin areas;
- Recreational users of the nearby T’Railway and of Little Goose Pond in Whitbourne;
- Area at the intersection of Route 60 and the TCH for proposed development of a hotel, RV Park and a small businesses park;
- Area in Whitbourne for proposed development of a senior’s residence, a 65-home Adult Community, a 146-lot residential subdivision, and a 103-lot residential subdivision;
- Area in Markland for proposed development of a brewery and large distillery.

The Project addendum document indicates that engineered ventilation controls will be implemented to eliminate odours, however, there is no detail provided to describe the ventilation system and/or engineering controls. In order for the Project to proceed in a manner that minimizes and eliminates nuisance odours, rigorous odour management is essential during the design and operational phases. The MSWCF guidance document specifies the following criteria for the management of odour:

- Design the building to provide adequate ventilation in composting areas, organic feedstock storage areas and any other areas on site that contain readily putrescible materials;
- Manage the delivery, mixing and turning of feedstock to minimize odour potential;
- Monitor, manage and optimize the composting process to maintain aerobic conditions;
- Maintain a biofilter of adequate size;
- Maintain negative air pressure inside buildings to prevent the escape of odours;
- Install air scrubbers if necessary and practical;
- Track, appropriately respond to and learn from complaints;
- Provide baseline atmospheric dispersion modelling to the department prior to approval;
- Provide an Odour Management Program to the department prior to approval.
PPD indicates that all above-noted MSWCF guidance document criteria can be included in the terms and conditions of a Certificate of Approval (CoA), should the project be released from environmental assessment. PPD informs that the following additional measures may be required by the CoA:

- Restrict volumes of feedstock that can be received on-site on a monthly basis, with renewal of the permit contingent on performance, i.e. producing a quality compost product in an environmentally sound manner;
- Monthly inspections by PPD staff to ensure that the process is appropriately managed and to address any outstanding issues;
- Staff certification by the Composting Council of Canada, Solid Waste Association of North America, or equivalent.

EA Division examined separation distances between the proposed Project and existing and future land use, as a means of odour control. These separation distances were compared to the minimum separation distances required by the MSWCF guidance document and by legislation from other provincial jurisdictions.

Separation distances between the proposed Project and existing land use were measured using 2016 Google Earth imagery and the Google Earth distance measuring tool. The distance measurements indicate that the areas for which odour is a potential concern, as identified by BTCRD and the public, range from 2.2km to 7.5km from the proposed project location. The closest existing land use is sparse residential/commercial development located 2.2km east northeast of the Project area, within the town of Whitbourne. Separation distances between the proposed Project site and aforementioned areas of concern are noted in the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Separation Distance from Proposed Composting Facility</th>
<th>Distance (km)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>T'Railway</td>
<td>1.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Closest Residential/Commercial Development</td>
<td>2.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business Establishments at TCH and Route 100</td>
<td>3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peak Pond Cabins</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unidentified Development</td>
<td>4.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phase I Goose Pond Subdivision</td>
<td>4.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phase II Goose Pond Subdivision</td>
<td>5.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Markland</td>
<td>5.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holiday Hill Cabins</td>
<td>5.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reid's Pond Cabins</td>
<td>5.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rodrigues Winery/Neutraceutical Plant</td>
<td>6.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blaketown</td>
<td>6.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Placentia Junction Cabins</td>
<td>7.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A map illustrating separation distances between the proposed Project location and the areas of concern is attached.

Legislative requirements for separation distances between composting facilities and residential developments does not exist in all provincial jurisdictions, as controlled composting does not result in land use conflicts. The following recommended separation distances were noted:
Environmental Standards for MSWCF Guidance Document:
- 1600m from residential, institutional, commercial and industrial properties

Nova Scotia Composting Facility Guidelines:\(^2\):
- 500m between the active composting area and the nearest residential or institutional building

Alberta Code of Practice for Compost Facilities:\(^3\):
- No separation distances are specified, but the document acknowledges that the greater the separation distance between the composting facility and adjacent land use, the less likely are complaints regarding non-compatible land use.

Separation distances between the Project and existing land use exceed the minimum recommended separation distances in the MSWCF guidance document and the Nova Scotia composting facility guidelines by 600m and 1700m respectively.

Under a CoA, PPD indicates that the volume of feedstock received at the facility can be restricted on a monthly basis, to enable the proponent to demonstrate that the facility can be operated in an environmentally acceptable manner. The volume of feedstock permitted at the facility may initially be quite low, and will increase incrementally as the operator demonstrates the ability to compost with minimal impacts to the surrounding environment. The CoA can also limit the type of organic waste permitted to be composted at the facility, should some waste streams prove to be problematic. The operator will be required to maintain records of all feedstock received at the facility, including the type and volume, and to make those records available to the department. Periodic air testing and monitoring may be required to ensure that compost emissions are at safe levels for facility workers.

Statistics obtained from Windfinder, a weather service with over 18,000 weather stations worldwide, indicate that the prevailing winds at the Argentia weather station are from the SSW direction, based on observations taken between August 2010 and May 2016. (Note: Wind direction data was not available from Environment Canada for this area).

Based on the prevailing wind, existing development along the most northerly stretch of Route 81 will be the most likely receptor for odours dispersed from the proposed Project. Zoning in this region as per Whitbourne’s municipal plane is a combination of rural, agriculture, and mixed development and encompasses land uses such as all residential, recreational open spaces, agriculture, animal, child care and home office. The nearest existing development to the Project site, in the direction of the prevailing wind is 2.2km from the site.

PPD provided a simple screening model of emissions from the proposed composting facility using assumptions of flat terrain, cultivated land and worst case scenario meteorological scenarios to yield an overestimation of dispersed emission concentrations. The model predicts that emission concentrations approximately 2.6km from the source will be 1/10 the concentration of emissions at the source, as illustrated below:
The addendum indicates that engineered ventilation controls will be installed to eliminate odours, however, there is no further detail provided in the addendum or the registration document to describe the ventilation system and/or engineering controls. PPD indicates that a potential CoA will address the requirement for proper ventilation and negative air pressure in the building, as well as equipment and space requirements to operate. The CoA would require consideration of an adequately-sized biofilter, based on anticipated throughput, to be included in the facility design. Biofilters consist of a filtration media such as finished compost, soil, wood chips or sand densely populated with microorganisms, through which the gases from the composting process are distributed via a perforated piping system. The biofilter medium acts as the nutrient supply for the microorganisms which adsorb and absorb micro aerosols and odorous gases such as carbon, nitrogen, and sulfur, to form non-odourous compounds. Design considerations must include maintaining the functionality of the biofilter during the winter months, as biofilters are often located outside buildings due to space requirements. Additional mitigative measures, such as the installation of mechanical ventilation with air scrubbers, could also be required should odour problems be encountered/persist at this facility.

Provided the facility is operated in conformance with the above-noted controls and restrictions, and based on the air emissions model, it is anticipated that the facility will not create unacceptably high levels of odours.

2. Increased fly, insect, rodent, animal and gull populations
There is public concern that the Project will result in increased numbers of flies, insects, rodents, animals and gulls in the area which will impact negatively on tourists using Route 100, will deter tourists from using Norman’s Cove-Long Cove as a “service centre,” will cause health risks to people living nearby from vectors carrying pathogens, and will create safety risks to nearby families by
attracting black bears, coyotes and scavengers. These concerns were echoed in comments from Tourism and Culture Division and RED Division. RED requested additional information to describe on-going measures that will be undertaken to control vectors that may be attracted to the site.

The project addendum informs that all activities, including receiving raw materials, mixing, composting, curing and processing the final organic fertilizer product, will take place inside an enclosed building(s). The proponent asserts that confining these activities within an enclosed building will provide control over vectors, vermin and other nuisances and adds that bird deterrents will be placed on building roofs and super structures, if needed. The MSWCF guidelines document indicates that a program to control insects, rodents, animals, birds and other vectors shall be approved by the ENVC and shall be in place for the lifespan of the facility. This requirement can be included as a condition of the CoA.

Enclosing all project related activities inside a building and implementing an on-going vector management program should address most of the concerns about vectors that were expressed by Tourism and Culture Division, RED Division and the public.

The public in nearby Whitbourne and Markland expressed additional concern that the Project will negatively impact human health from vectors carrying pathogens from the composting facility to surrounding areas. High temperatures achieved during the active composting phase inactivate pathogens and weed seeds. Section 3.5 of the CCME Guidelines for Compost Quality informs that any pathogenic organisms present in the compost feedstock, may potentially be present in the compost itself. To adequately reduce risks to human health, the CCME Guidelines direct that compost shall conform to the following criteria:

When compost contains other feedstock (other than yard waste), the following criteria shall be met:

1. Using the windrow composting method, the material shall attain a temperature of 55°C or greater for at least 15 days during the composting period. Also, during the high temperature period, the windrow shall be turned at least five times.

AND

2. Organism content shall meet the following:
   - Fecal coliforms <1000 most probable number (MPN)/g of total solids calculated on a dry weight basis;

OR (where the feedstock does not include materials that may include high levels of human pathogens)
   - No Salmonella sp. with a detection level <3 MPN/4g total solids calculated on a dry weight basis.”

PPD indicates in the registration review comments that the proponent will be required by the terms and conditions of a CoA to test the finished product to ensure that the CCME Compost Quality Guidelines have been met. The requirements of the CCME Guidelines and regulatory controls imposed by PPD should address public concerns regarding risks to human health.
3. Visibility of the facility from Route 100:
There is public concern that visibility of the Project will create negative impressions for tourists who use Route 100 for the Argentia ferry service or to travel to the Cape Shore and Cape St. Mary’s. There is additional concern that if the Project fails, an abandoned building and equipment will remain on the site indefinitely as an eyesore.

Land Management Division advises that a minimum of 150m setback distance will be required from Route 100 for the proposed facility, and that a minimum 100m tree screen must be contained within the setback distance. This requirement will be included in the Crown Lands permitting procedure.

The MSWCF guidance document advises that the owner/operator of the facility shall submit a preliminary decommissioning plan to the Department when applying for a CoA. Factors to be considered in the plan include site clean-up, repair and rehabilitation, and removal or securing of infrastructure, equipment and access. A detailed decommissioning plan shall be submitted prior to the closure of the site. PPD indicates that all recommendations in the MSWCF guidance document can be included as terms and conditions of a CoA.

The proponent indicates in the registration document and addendum that the facility will be set back a minimum of 300 metres from Route 100 and the existing tree screen will be maintained, such that the facility will not be visible from Route 100. This should address any concerns regarding visibility from Route 100.

4. Risk of airborne pathogens:
The public raised concerns about risks to human health caused by airborne particulates such as bacteria, fungi, heavy metals, volatile organic compounds (VOCs), carbon dioxide and methane gas that may be dispersed in air emissions from the composting facility, particularly for people with compromised respiratory systems and allergies.

Pathogenic bacteria and fungi are effectively inactivated by operational procedures, such as attaining a temperature of 55°C or greater for at least 15 days during the composting period. This operational procedure is a requirement of the CCME Composting Quality Guidelines and would be imposed by the terms and conditions of a CoA from PPD.

Heavy metals may be found in compost leachate and in the final compost product, but do not appear to be a concern in compost air emissions. Composition of feedstock determines the level of heavy metals found in leachate and compost products. Sewage sludge may contain high concentrations of heavy metals, however, the proponent has indicated in the addendum that sewage sludge will not be accepted or composted at this facility.

VOCs are carbon-based chemicals that evaporate at room temperature and are emitted by a wide array of products used in homes, including paints and lacquers, paint strippers, varnishes, cleaning supplies, air fresheners, pesticides, building materials and furnishings. VOCs are emitted as organic waste decomposes and are typically highest at the beginning of composting when feedstocks arrive, and may also be emitted during grinding, mixing and decomposing stages. The presence of VOCs in gaseous emissions from composting facilities has been widely investigated and documented, and the concern surrounding the VOCs appears to be both ozone and odour related, rather than health related. Some
studies indicate that VOCs may be a precursor for ozone formation. The United States Composting Council's (USCC) position is that the types and volumes of VOCs emitted from properly operated commercial composting facilities are naturally occurring and do not pose significant risk to the formation of ground level ozone; these VOCs will be emitted from vegetation and other organic materials whether they are managed via composting or not. The most effective means of mitigating VOC concentrations in compost emissions is by passing the exhausted air through a biofilter.

The proposed Project, as described by the registration document and the addendum, will utilize an aerobic decomposition process and will employ operational procedures such as frequent turning of compost to ensure anaerobic conditions do not develop. According to the Dillon study, the diversion of organics from landfill, and processing of this waste within an aerobic composting system, has the potential to generate greenhouse gas (GHG) reductions. This is as a result of the avoidance of methane production within the landfill that may otherwise be generated from the anaerobic decomposition of the organic waste. Within an aerobic composting process, carbon dioxide (CO2) is generated in place of methane. Since methane has a global warming potential (GWP) that is approximately 21 times higher than that of carbon dioxide, the avoidance of methane generates a net reduction in GHGs.

PPD indicates that a potential CoA would require consideration of an adequately sized bio-filter, the installation of mechanical ventilation with air scrubbers (if needed) and periodic air testing to manage emissions and provide a safe environment for facility workers and the surrounding area.

5. Risk of fire from spontaneous combustion:
Public concern was expressed over the risk of fire caused by spontaneous combustion of a composting pile and the spread of fire to the nearby community of Whitbourne due to insufficient firefighting equipment and training at the compost facility.

Fire and Emergency Services-NL (FES) was consulted during the environmental assessment of the Project, and they advise that there is an increased risk of fire at composting facilities which can be mitigated with proper fire protection features and planning. FES-NL further advise that they will work with the proponent to ensure an acceptable emergency plan is developed and approved, should the project be permitted to proceed.

Specific public concern was expressed that reintroducing leachates from a mature composting batch to a new composting batch doubles the risk of spontaneous combustion. This assertion was not supported by FES-NL or by reference materials consulted during the environmental assessment of the Project. One of the objectives of the Project is to produce a marketable, nutrient rich soil additive that will meet the CCME Compost Quality Guidelines. It is therefore unlikely that feedstock containing highly flammable or combustible materials would be composted at the facility.

6. Contamination of nearby groundwater, surface water, wetland, and soil and surrounding environment:
The public has identified concerns that nitrogen, sulfur and heavy metals may leach out of compost and contaminate surface and groundwater, wetlands, soils and streams including tributaries to salmon rivers.

The addendum describes the proposed compost building as having an impervious concrete floor with troughs to collect leachates, which will be reintroduced to the compost. Effective composting is contingent upon maintaining sufficient moisture content to facilitate microbial activity, and surplus
leachate is not anticipated. Leachate will be entirely contained within the enclosed building. PPD indicates that an adequate leachate collection system can be addressed during the CoA process.

The public has expressed concern about the potential spread of pathogenic viruses, bacteria, protozoa and parasites present in decomposed material to soil, plants, animals and people. As previously discussed, operational procedures under the CCME Guidelines for Compost Quality including the attainment of 55°C or greater for at least 15 days, will effectively inactivate pathogens during the composting period, including viruses, bacteria, protozoa, and parasites. PPD indicates that testing of the finished compost product will be required to ensure that the CCME Compost Quality Guidelines have been met.

There is public concern that composting at this facility will involve the use of toxic chemicals, since "animal carcasses cannot be broken down into compost using conventional means." A guidance document produced by Alberta government entitled, "Large Animal Mortality Composting", indicates that the composting of livestock is a biological process involving the breakdown of organic materials in an aerobic environment. Livestock mortality composting requires high-carbon material (e.g. woodchips, sawdust, shredded paper) with moderate moisture levels and good porosity. A good compost mix for livestock mortalities requires a carbon nitrogen ratio of approximately 30:1. Chemical additives are not required for livestock composting. The guidance document cautions that animals known or suspected to have died from an infectious or reportable disease, and animals that have been euthanized, cannot be disposed of by composting.

The project registration document indicates that chemicals additives will not be used in the composting process. The registration document and addendum indicate that a primary objective of the Project is to produce large quantities of high quality organic fertilizer compost to support the growing demand of locally produced, organically grown produce, and a natural organic fertilizer to be used for horticultural, landscaping and agricultural purposes. The overall quality of the finished product, which will be required to meet the CCME Compost Quality Guidelines, is of paramount importance to the proponent. PPD will require testing of the finished product to ensure that the CCME Compost Quality Guidelines are met.

7. Transportation of feedstock to the facility will cause widespread odours and flies:
There is public concern that fish offal, animal manure and animal carcasses will be brought to the site in uncovered open vehicles and/or leaking containers which will cause widespread odours and increased vectors at the site and along the transportation route.

Road transportation within the province is regulated by the *Highway Traffic Act*, which is enforced by the Motor Registration Division of Service NL, the RCMP and the RNC. Section 31 of the *Cargo Securement Regulations, 2004* under the *Highway Traffic Act* states:

31. (1) Where a vehicle that is operating on a highway in the province is carrying a load of sand, gravel, crushed stone, slag, salt or a mixture of them in the form of particles of up to 40 millimetres in diameter or is carrying waste or scrap metal, the

(a) portion of the load that is not enclosed by the vehicle or load container shall be covered with a covering made of tarpaulin, canvas, net or other material capable of confining the load within the vehicle or load container; and
(b) container shall be designed to prevent a leakage of liquids or other material or, where the load is not enclosed in a container, the vehicle shall be equipped in a manner that prevents a leakage of liquids or other material.

Concerns regarding the transportation to of feedstock to the Proposed Project area can be reported to the above-noted authorities.

8. Unproven technology in Newfoundland and Labrador:
The public identifies concern about the potential of this Project to be a large scale composting facility which should first be operated on a trial basis in a remote area of the province until the proponent can demonstrate that the operation will have no adverse impacts on nearby communities. Public concern has also been expressed that inadequate experience on the part of the operator and inadequate oversight by the government will lead to significant negative environmental impacts on nearby communities.

PPD indicates that a potential CoA will set the volume of feedstock that can be received on-site on a monthly basis, with renewal of the permit contingent on the proponent’s ability to produce a quality compost product in an environmentally sound manner. PPD advises that staff of the composting facility will be required to have certified training, consistent with the Composting Council of Canada, Solid Waste Association of North America, or equivalent. PPD informs that monthly inspections will be conducted by Divisional staff to ensure that the process is appropriately managed, and to address any outstanding issues. The level of oversight and regulatory management by PPD should address public concern regarding the proponent’s experience and ability to operate the facility in an environmentally sound manner.

9. Limit development potential for adjacent land area within Whitbourne’s municipal boundary.
The Town of Whitbourne is concerned that it will not be desirable to develop municipal land located east of Route 100, due to its close proximity to the proposed Project area. The Town of Whitbourne indicates that the Project is an incompatible land use with potential development inside Whitbourne’s municipal boundary along the east side of Route 100.

MA informs that Whitbourne’s municipal boundary extends westward from Route 81(road that passes through Whitbourne from TCH) to within 170m of Route 100, the Argentia Access Road. The proponent has indicated that the proposed composting facility will be located 300m to the west of Route 100, in order to accommodate the required reservation for a power line that runs immediately west of this section of Route 100. This provides a separation distance of 470m between the composting facility and Whitbourne’s westernmost municipal boundary.

According to a diagram of the Whitbourne municipal zoning plan provided by Municipal Affairs (MA), the area in Whitbourne that lies across from the Project area and on the east side of Route 100, is zoned as Rural, with the permitted uses identified as agricultural, conservation, single dwelling, animal, veterinary mineral exploration and recreational open space. MA informs that residential subdivision development is not a permitted use in this zone, as per Whitbourne’s approved municipal plan. An image of Whitbourne’s Municipal Zoning Plan is attached.

MA further advises that the proposed undertaking is located in an unincorporated area that is subject to the Protected Road Zoning Regulations. Section 6(1) of the Protected Road Zoning Regulations outlines
permitted uses of land in the area, and informs that the proposed undertaking is classified as a waste disposal site and is permitted.

The Town of Whitbourne has not developed any land within its municipal boundary in the direction of Route 100, with the exception of business establishments located along the TCH near the junction of the TCH and Route 100. These establishments are located at least 3.3km from the proposed Project area. Existing residential development and new development is focused in southern and eastern regions of the town, a minimum of 4km from the project area. The area within Whitbourne’s Municipal Plan, located near Route 100 and across from the proposed Project, is zoned as Rural and includes agricultural, conservation and animal uses. All of these uses may be compatible with the proposed Project.

The proposed Project supports the initiative of the Provincial Waste Management Strategy to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill by 50 per cent. The Project contributes to the objectives of the Dillon study to divert organics from landfill while producing a beneficial finished material that can be used for landscaping and as a soil amendment.

The concerns expressed by the public, Tourism and Culture Division and Rural Economic Development Division can be addressed under a Certificate of Approval issued by PPD. PPD will provide the necessary government oversight to ensure the facility is in compliance with the terms and conditions of the CoA.
Attachments

Attachment #1: Draft Letter
Attachment #2: Unedited Comments [Comments not required as part of this request]
Attachment #3: Edited Comments
Attachment #4: MSWCF Guidance Document [link found on pg. 227]
Attachment #5: Project Registration Document
Attachment #6: Addendum
Attachment #7: Public Comments [Comments not required as part of this request]

References


Sweeney, Joanne

From: Hubert Alacoque <hubert.alacoque@iddel.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, June 22, 2016 10:17 AM
To: Sweeney, Joanne
Cc: tpenneystar@yahoo.com
Subject: RE: request for extension to minister's decision - Industrial Composting Facility - Metro Environmental Ltd.

Ms. Sweeney,

We accept the extension to July 15th, 2016, for the Minister’s decision. We understand that the process involves a great number of stakeholders as well as the public and constituencies in the area of the location of the proposed facility.

We remain confident in a positive outcome of the EA process, on the notions that:
- Metro Environmental Ltd. intends to build and operate the proposed facility according to all the pertinent codes, standards and best practices;
- Such facilities exist and operate just about everywhere else in North America with no particular nuisance or negative environmental impact to the public;
- Industrial composting is a sound environmental and waste management practice, which contributes significantly to reducing environmental impact and greenhouse gas emissions;
- Industrial composting is also a very sound environmental and waste management practice from an economic perspective.

Best regards,

Hubert

Hubert Alacoque, P. Eng. MBA
President

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Good Morning Mr. Alacoque:
As discussed in our telephone conservation this morning, additional time is needed for the environmental assessment of the proposed Argentia Access Road Industrial Composting Facility project, to enable the minister to make an informed decision as to whether or not the project can proceed in an environmentally acceptable manner. In that regard, we are requesting that the deadline for the minister’s decision on the project be extended to July 15, 2016. Please reply by email to indicate whether you accept this deadline extension.

Regards,

Joanne

Joanne Sweeney
Environmental Scientist
Environmental Assessment Division
Department of Environment and Conservation
PO Box 8700, St. John’s NL A1B 4J6
Tel: (709) 729-2822, Fax (709) 729-5518

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Separation Distances from Proposed Composting Facility:

A: Blaketown - 6.8km
B: Food Establishments/Accomodations near intersection of TCH and Route 100 - 3.3km
C: Holiday Hill Cabins - 5.5km
D: Closest land development - 2.2km
E: Goose Pond Residential Subdivision development - 5.3km
F: Closest land development - 2.2km
G: Goose Pond residential subdivision development - 4.4km
H: Private development - 3.2 km
I: T’Railway - 1.6km
J: Markland - 5.3km
K: Rodrigues Winery - 6.7km
L: Placentia Junction Cabins - 7.5km

Additional Separation Distances:
Peak Pond - 4km NE of Facility
Reid’s Pond - 5.5km NE of Facility
Rural Zone - Permitted Use 1: Agricultural, Conservation; Permitted Use 2: Single Dwelling, Animal, Veterinary, Mineral Expl, Rec OpenSpace Residential - Permitted Use 1: Single Dwelling, Conservation; Discretionary Use: Subsidiary Apts, Rec Open Space, Child Care, Home Office Commercial Industrial (Cl) Zone: Permitted Use 1 - Agriculture (restricted to poultry), General Industry, Light Industry, Service Station; Discretionary Use - Office, Commercial residential, Shopping Centre.
K. I will wait the new version.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Bell network.

No - an EPR is now being recommended. We are revising.

Is this still current, or is there a thought to recommending an EPR?

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Bell network.

Colleen and Martin,

The recommendation and Minister’s letter are attached for your review.

Bas

Please find the minister’s memo and decision letter, attached.

Joanne
Bas,

Please find the minister’s memo and draft letter for the above-noted project, attached.

See you Monday!

Joanne
Minister and Colleen,

Attached is a recommendation on the commercial composting facility for your consideration. Martin has reviewed and approved.

Bas

s. 35(1)

1838 Minister's Decision Letter_13Jul16.pdf
1838-Minister's Memo13Jul16.pdf
Registration 1838

Mr. Terrence Penney
Metro Environmental Services Limited
10 Point Road
P.O. Box 19
Heart’s Desire NL A0B 2B0

Dear Mr. Penney:

RE: Argentia Access Road Composting Facility Project

Your proposal has been reviewed by an interdepartmental screening committee and an opportunity to comment has been provided to the public as required by the Newfoundland and Labrador Environmental Protection Act, SNL 2002, cE-14.2. Upon consideration of the comments received, please be advised that an environmental preview report (EPR) is required.

The EPR is necessary to provide information concerning the effects of the undertaking over the lifetime of the project to the people whose environment may be affected, and to meet with the local community to identify and respond to their concerns regarding the environmental effects. Additional information requirements shall address, but are not limited to:

- adequate ventilation and negative air pressure when doors are open; demonstrating sufficient equipment and space requirements for receiving, storing, mixing, composting and curing activities; and providing a separate area away from the composting activities for staff to eat and shower;
- design plans for an adequate leachate collection system and an adequately sized biofilter capable of functioning year-round;
- details of the proposed composting technology and process to be implemented at the facility, including identification of sufficient feedstock supply and equipment to be used to maintain and manage the composting process;
- provision of respiratory protective equipment and periodic indoor air quality testing to ensure a safe environment for workers;
- at least one operator/employee on-site trained in the operation of an industrial composting facility, with training certified by the Composting Council of Canada, Solid Waste Association of North America, or equivalent;
- testing of the finished product to be conducted and reported to the Department of Environment and Conservation to ensure compliance with CCME Compost Quality Guidelines;
- an on-going vector management plan;
• a decommissioning plan for site clean-up, repair and rehabilitation, and removal or securing of infrastructure, equipment and access;
• a fire and emergency plan developed in consultation with and approved by Fire and Emergency Services-NL; and
• information required by the Department of Advanced Education and Skills pertaining to National Occupation Classification (NOC 2011) codes and associated positions.

An Environmental Assessment Committee will be appointed for the purpose of providing technical and scientific advice to you regarding the preparation of an EPR. As per the legislative requirements, you will be issued guidelines for the completion of the EPR. Please be reminded that, in accordance with the Environmental Protection Act, project activities may not proceed until the proposal is released from the Environmental Assessment Process.

If you have any questions concerning these matters, please contact Mr. Bas Cleary, Director, Environmental Assessment Division at (709) 729-0673 or via email at clearyb@gov.nl.ca.

Sincerely,

PERRY TRIMPER, MHA
District of Lake Melville
Minister
Registration 1838

MEMO TO: Honourable Perry Trimper, Minister
          Environment and Conservation

THROUGH: Colleen Janes, Deputy Minister
          Martin Goebel, Assistant Deputy Minister
          Bas Cleary, Director, Environmental Assessment Division

FROM: Joanne Sweeney, Environmental Scientist, EA Division

DATE: July 13, 2016

SUBJECT: Registration and Review of the Argentia Access Road Industrial Composting Facility Project (the Project)

BACKGROUND

The proponent submitted a proposal to establish an industrial composting facility to process a variety of organic waste from commercial and industrial sources in Newfoundland, and to produce a marketable organic fertilizer product. Organic waste to be composted will include mink farm offal, spent hens, dead birds, poultry feathers, slaughterhouse offal and carcasses, and fish processing wastes. The organic waste will be mixed on-site with wood chips, sawdust and shredded plants and the mixture will be distributed in long parallel windrows, sufficiently spaced to be mechanically turned for aeration. The entire operation, including receiving, mixing, composting and curing will take place inside an 80ft wide x 400ft long enclosed building which will be equipped with mechanical ventilation. The undertaking is proposed to be located on the west side of the Argentia Access Road (Route 100), approximately 3.5 kilometres south of the intersection of the TCH and Route 100.

The undertaking was initially registered for environmental assessment on April 15, 2016; the deadline for public comments was May 10, 2016; and the minister’s decision was due by May 20, 2016. The proponent revised the project during the review period and submitted an addendum describing the proposed changes which will facilitate increased operational climate control and will enable the proponent to operate the composting facility year-round. The addendum was posted on the ENVC web page and announced in the EA bulletin on May 12, 2016, and the review period was restarted. Public comments on the addendum and registration document were due by June 15, 2016 and the minister’s decision was due by June 25, 2016. On June 22, 2016, EA Division informed the proponent that additional time was needed for the environmental assessment of the project. The proponent agreed to extend the deadline, and the minister’s decision is due on July 15, 2016. The proponent’s email agreeing to the extension is attached.
RESULTS OF PUBLIC AND INTER-DEPARTMENTAL REVIEW

The registration document and addendum for the Project have been reviewed by the government environmental assessment screening committee.

Of the 25 screening agencies that received the registration, 16 advised that further assessment is not required and recommended release of the project. The Tourism and Culture Division and the Rural Economic Development Division of the Department of Business, Tourism, Culture and Rural Development recommended that an environmental preview report (EPR) be completed for the project. Three agencies indicated that they have no concerns with the project but did not provide an opinion as to whether or the project should be released, rejected or whether further study is needed. Four screening agencies did not respond to the request for review and comments.

Agencies not responding are:
1. Health and Community Services
2. Occupational Health and Safety Division
3. Health Canada
4. Natural Resources Canada

Public Consultation
Copies of the registration document and addendum were mailed to the Towns of Whitbourne and Placentia, and the Towns were requested to review the documents and submit comments to the Environmental Assessment Division within 35 days.

An Environmental Assessment (EA) News Bulletin was published on the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador’s website (http://www.releases.gov.nl.ca/releases/2016/env/0203n03.aspx) as well as on the Department of Environment and Conservation’s (ENVC) EA Project Listing website (http://www.env.gov.nl.ca/env/env_assessment/projects/Y2016/1832/index.html) on April 5, 2016, advising of the Project registration and requesting for public comments to be submitted to EA Division within 35 days (by May 10, 2016). The Project addendum was published on the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador’s website as well as on the Department of Environment and Conservation’s (ENVC) EA Project Listing website on May 12, 2016, advising of changes to the proposed Project and requesting for public comments to be submitted to EA Division by June 15, 2016. The extension to the minister’s decision was announced on the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador’s website as well as on the Department of Environment and Conservation’s (ENVC) EA Project Listing website on June 24, 2016. Notification of the Project registration document, addendum and extension to the minister’s decision was sent to subscribers of the EA News Bulletin, which includes environmental groups, media, government agencies, municipal organizations and interested members of the public.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The proposed Project has generated substantial public opposition from home and business owners located within a 35km radius of the proposed Project site. Petitions containing in excess of 800 signatures, and more than 200 personal emails and letters have been submitted to ENVC from people
who support the concept and practice of composting in general, but oppose the location of this Project. In addition to personal submissions from residents of nearby communities, emails and letters have been received from the Town of Whitbourne, the Town of Placentia, the Town of Norman’s Cove-Long Cove, the Honourable Sherry Gambin-Walsh, MHA for the District of Placentia-St. Mary’s, business owners along the TCH near the intersection of the TCH and Route 100 (Argentia Access Road), business owners in Whitbourne and Markland including the owners of the Rodrigues Wine Distillery, and a subdivision developer in Whitbourne who plans to construct a business park on Route 100 at the intersection of the TCH and Route 100. The primary concern expressed by the public is the perceived negative impact to quality of life as a result of putrid odours emanating from the composting facility. Below is a summarized list of concerns that were identified during the public review of the Project, and the perceived effects these concerns will have:

1. **Constant, putrid odours:**
   - Decrease residential property values and slow future growth of nearby communities;
   - Discourage local developers in the Whitbourne area from carrying out plans to build a hotel, RV Park, senior’s residence, a 65-home Adult Community, 146-lot residential subdivision, 103 lot residential subdivision, and a small businesses park;
   - Discourage a Markland developer from carrying out plans to construct a brewery and large distillery that will bring 30 jobs to the province and will be a tourist attraction;
   - Deter customers from using nearby business establishments and restaurants including Mary Browns, Tim Horton’s, Circle K, Ultramar, Subway, Monty’s Restaurant, Smith’s Furniture, Whitbourne Drug Mart and Foodex;
   - Deter tourists and residents from visiting nearby tourist attractions, including the Rodrigues Winery and the Sedna Nutraceutical Plant in Markland, the Whitbourne Museum and the T’Railway;
   - Decrease the quality of life for nearby cottage owners in Placentia Junction, Peak Pond, Reid’s Pond, Ocean Pond and Holiday Hill, and recreational users of Little Goose Pond;
   - Influence residents of the newly developed Goose Pond subdivision to put their homes up for sale and re-locate;
   - Take several years for an inexperienced operator to learn how to manage the composting process to minimize and eliminate putrid odours;
   - Prevent residents of Whitbourne from enjoying backyard, country living in a pristine area which was deliberately selected as their home.

2. **Increased fly, insect, rodent, animal and gull populations:**
   - Create negative impressions on tourists who use Route 100 to travel to and from the province via the Argentia ferry;
   - Deter tourists from using Route 100 to travel to the scenic Cape Shore and Cape St. Mary’s Ecological Bird Sanctuary;
   - Deter tourists from using Norman’s Cove-Long Cove as a “service centre” based on its close proximity (20 km) to the proposed facility;
   - Increase risks to human health caused by rodents, parasites and flies that may carry bacterial and viral microorganisms from the composting facility.
   - Create safety risks to nearby families by attracting black bears, coyotes and scavengers to the facility.
3. Visibility of the facility from Route 100:
   - Create negative impressions for tourists who use Route 100 for the Argentia ferry service or to travel to the Cape Shore and Cape St. Mary’s;
   - May result in an abandoned building and equipment remaining on-site as an eyesore should the project fail within the early years of operation.

4. Risk of airborne pathogens:
   - Increase risks to human health caused by micro aerosols in the exhaust dispersed from the composting facility, particularly for people with compromised respiratory systems and allergies;
   - Emit gases containing carbon dioxide, methane, volatile organic compounds, bacteria, fungi and heavy metals.

5. Risk of fire from spontaneous combustion:
   - Require costs for specialized training and equipment for nearby volunteer fire departments to be borne by residents of nearby towns;
   - Increase the risk of spontaneous combustion by reintroducing leachates from a mature composting batch to a new composting batch;
   - Increase the risk of a forest fire due to insufficient equipment on-site to contain a fire at the composting facility.

6. Contamination of groundwater, surface water, wetland, soil and surrounding environment:
   - Nitrogen, sulfur and heavy metals may leach out of compost and contaminate surface and groundwater, soil and streams including tributaries to salmon rivers;
   - Pathogenic viruses, bacteria, protozoa and parasites present in decomposed material may spread disease to soil, plants, animals and people;
   - Leachate from compost will encourage blue-green algae blooms in nearby waterways;
   - Composting will involve the use of toxic chemicals which will spread into the surrounding environment, since animal carcasses cannot be broken down into compost using conventional means;
   - Pathogens present in feedstock used in the initial composting stages, will also be present in organic fertilizers sold as an end-product of composting, and will be spread to other environments where the fertilizer is used.

7. Transportation of feedstock to the facility will cause widespread odours and flies:
   - Fish offal and animal manure and carcasses will be brought to the site in uncovered, open vehicles which will cause widespread odours and increased flies along the transportation route.

8. Unproven technology in Newfoundland and Labrador:
   - A composting facility of this scale should be first operated on a trial basis in a remote area of the province until it can be demonstrated that it will have no adverse impacts on nearby communities;
   - Inadequate experience on the part of the operator and inadequate oversight by the government will lead to significant negative environmental impacts on nearby communities.
9. Limit development potential for adjacent land area within Whitbourne’s municipal boundary.
   • The Town of Whitbourne is concerned that potential developers of land to the east of Route 100, across from the proposed Project area and within Whitbourne’s municipal boundary, will be dissuaded from utilizing this land due to putrid odours and increased vectors surrounding the Project area.
   • The Town of Whitbourne indicates that the Project is an incompatible land use with potential development inside Whitbourne’s municipal boundary along the east side of Route 100.

Suggestions for alternate sites were provided in several of the public submissions, including Robin Hood Bay, Heart’s Content Barrens, Holyrood, Sunnyside, and on the Isthmus between Arnold’s Cove and Come by Chance turn-offs. A copy of comments received during the public review period is attached.

INTERDEPARTMENTAL REVIEW

Below is a summarized list of comments received from the EA Screening Committee. The full list of comments will be provided to the proponent if/when the project is released from further assessment.

Environment and Conservation

Pollution Prevention Division (PPD)
   • Recommends release of the Project from environmental assessment.
   • Notes that all activities associated with this project are subject to the Environmental Protection Act (EPA) and the Water Resources Act (WRA) and their regulations.
   • Offered advice relative waste disposal and litter, air quality management, pesticides, storage and handling of gasoline and associated products, used oil control regulations, halocarbon regulations and environmental control water and sewer regulations.
   • Indicates that a Certificate of Approval from the Pollution Prevention Division is required for construction and operation of the proposed facility. The Certificate of Approval will require/address (among other things) the following:
      • An impermeable surface under all areas in contact with organics or compost (including the receiving area and under windrows).
      • Adequate leachate collection system – septic system may not be able to handle the BOD of the leachate.
      • Testing of the finished product to ensure that CCME Compost quality guidelines have been met.
      • Staff with training in running an industrial composting operation.
      • Engineering designs for the in-vessel structure, taking into account the requirement for proper ventilation and negative air pressure when doors are open, as well as equipment and space requirements to operate.
      • Consideration of the design and maintenance aspects for an appropriately-sized biofilter.
      • The proposed composting technology is to be provided in detail, with assurances of adequate feedstock supply to maintain and manage the composting process.
- Set the volume of feedstock that can be received on-site on a monthly basis, with renewal of the permit contingent on performance, i.e. producing a quality compost product in an environmentally sound manner.
- Monthly inspections by Pollution Prevention Divisional staff to ensure that the process is appropriately managed and to address any outstanding issues.
- Staff should be certified by the Composting Council of Canada, Solid Waste Association of North America, or equivalent.
- Occupational health and safety of workers will need to be addressed, e.g. among other things there will need to be separate areas, away from the composting site, for staff to eat and shower; respiratory protection may also be required.

An email from PPD on July 5, 2016 illustrates a screening model of potential exhaust emissions from the facility and how the concentration of emissions would drop off over distance from the source. The model indicates that emission concentrations approximately 2.6 km from the facility are estimated to be 1/10 the concentration at the source. The concentration of emissions at the source is not known in this scenario. The model used worst case meteorological scenarios including atmospheric pressure, humidity, precipitation, wind speed and wind direction. The email adds that, assuming the proposed facility is operated appropriately and in conformance to the previous notes provided by PPD, The delivery of waste may provide a greater potential for odour than the facility itself and that such deliveries need to be made in a controlled environment. A copy of the email is included with the Unedited Comments.

**Water Resources Management Division (WRMD)**
- Recommends release of the Project from environmental assessment.
- Informs that the proponent must apply for and obtain a water use licence under the *Water Resources Act, 2002* [http://assembly.nl.ca/Legislation/sr/statutes/w04-01.htm](http://assembly.nl.ca/Legislation/sr/statutes/w04-01.htm) for the use of water from any water source for any purpose prior to the start of construction.
- Informs that the proponent must apply for and obtain a permit under the *Water Resources Act, 2002*, specifically Section 48 [http://assembly.nl.ca/Legislation/sr/statutes/w04-01.htm](http://assembly.nl.ca/Legislation/sr/statutes/w04-01.htm) for any work that may take place in any body of water (including wetland) with a possible need for a site drainage plan prior to the start of construction.
- Advises that any effluent or runoff leaving the site will be required to conform to the requirements of the *Environmental Control Water and Sewage Regulations, 2003* [http://assembly.nl.ca/Legislation/sr/regulations/rc030065.htm](http://assembly.nl.ca/Legislation/sr/regulations/rc030065.htm).

**Wildlife Division (WD) / Parks and Natural Areas Division (PNAD)**
- Recommends release of the Project from environmental assessment.
- Advises applicant to operate under established regulations and guidelines with respect to wildlife and their habitats (e.g. nesting birds, caribou, waterfowl, wetlands, inland fish, rare plants, riparian species) to minimize adverse impacts (Section 106 of the Wild Life Regulations under the Wild Life Act (O.C. 96-809)).
- Recommends a minimum 30m naturally vegetated buffer to be maintained along all waterbodies and wetlands to protect sensitive riparian and aquatic species, and their habitat;
- Informs that habitat disturbance impacts wildlife (birds, small mammals etc) negatively and should be kept to a minimum. To help reduce any negative impacts on any species, the Wildlife Division recommends that any necessary vegetation clearing or excessive noise be undertaken outside of the
nesting, breeding and brood rearing period (May to mid-July), when disturbance would be most critical. Where vegetation clearing is not avoidable and a nest is found:
- The nest and neighbouring vegetation should be left undisturbed until nesting is completed;
- Construction activities should be minimized in the immediate area until nesting is complete.

**Advanced Education and Skills**
- Recommends release of the Project from environmental assessment.
- Informs that no regulatory requirements of the Department of Advanced Education and Skills apply to this project; however, the information indicated below should be provided by the proponent prior to the Ministerial decision, or be conditions of the project’s release from further environmental assessment:
  - National Occupation Classification (NOC 2011) codes at the 4-digit level associated with each position for the construction phase of the project, including the number of positions associated with each NOC code.
  - The approximate time lines for each of the positions during the construction phase of the project. This would include the number of positions for each 4-digit NOC 2011 code throughout the project at specified time intervals (monthly or at least quarterly) which would show levels of employment throughout the project timeline.
  - An indication as to whether the positions associated with the construction phase are full-time equivalent or if they are the actual number of positions; if they are indeed the actual number of positions, how many are full-time vs. part-time.
  - Clarification on when the operations phase of the project is anticipated to begin and whether the operations phase will be year-round.
  - Clarification on which positions would be direct hires, and which would be from companies contracted to carry out project work. This information should be supplied for all positions associated with the project (i.e., both construction and operations phases).

**Business, Tourism, Culture and Rural Development (BTCRD)**

*Provincial Archaeology Office*
- Recommends release of the project from environmental assessment with no further comments.

*Tourism and Culture Division*
BTCRD provided the following comments on April 26, 2016, specific to review of the registration document:
- Recommends further study is needed in the form of an EPR to provide additional information that will:
  - Demonstrate that the composting facility doesn’t negatively impact tourism stakeholders and the driving experience along Route 100, a gateway for visitors to the province;
  - Address odour problems that may be associated with this type of operation;
  - Ensure that all tourism operators in the area are aware of the proposed development.

Note: BTCRD provided a letter on June 14, 2016 acknowledging that the proponent’s addendum to change the project to a covered year round facility may address some of the comments submitted on
April 26, 2016, but BTCRD is unsure if the addendum addresses all the concerns previously raised. The letter added that the comments provided are to be used only for the assessment and are not to be shared with the proponent without their (BTCRD) concurrence. The June 14, 2016 letter from BTCRD is included with the Unedited Comments.

*Regional Economic Development Division*
- Recommends further study is needed in the form of an EPR to provide additional information that will:
  - Address odour concerns for the commercial food establishments and accommodation facilities located near the intersection of the TCH and Route 100, as well as for residents of Blaketown who are directly upwind from the project, as the prevailing winds are from the SW;
  - Describe on-going measures that will be undertaken to control black flies and rodents that may be attracted to the composting operation.

*Executive Council*

*Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs Office*
- The Labrador Affairs Branch and the Aboriginal Affairs Branch both indicated that they have reviewed the registration and addendum documents and have no comments on the Project.

*Office of Climate Change & Energy Efficiency*
- Recommends release of the project from environmental assessment;
- Suggests that the proponent consider the provincial climate change projections for Argentia (the nearest regional site) in the planning for this undertaking, with specific reference to the grading of the site to control anticipated drainage runoff, and provides a web link and contact information for climate data;
- Advises that all land clearing activities must be undertaken with appropriate permits through the Forestry Division.
- Notes that all heavy equipment should be operated in a manner to maximize fuel efficiency, thereby reducing greenhouse gas emissions that could contribute to climate change.

*Women’s Policy Office*
- Does not provide an opinion on whether the project should be released, rejected or requires further study, and advises that WPO does not have any comments concerning this EA as employment opportunities are very low.

*Fire and Emergency Services-NL*
- Informs that there is an increased risk of fire at composting facilities, and advises that the proponent should be required to provide an emergency plan to deal with fires, and to identify fire protection features on-site.
• Provided a follow-up email on June 17, 2016 indicating that FES-NL would work with the proponent to ensure that an acceptable emergency plan is developed for the facility, prior to construction taking place. A copy of the email is included with the Unedited Comments.

**Fisheries and Aquaculture**
• Recommends release of the project from environmental assessment and does not provide further comment.

**Forestry and Agrifoods Agency (FAA)**
• Recommends release of the project from environmental assessment;
• Recommends that a buffer zone be established around the facility to restrict future conflicting development;
• Advises that a commercial cutting permit must be obtained from the local forestry services office prior to any harvesting and or timber removal activities.
• Notes that during the declared Fire Season (May 1-Sept 30) the proponent must also obtain and adhere to the conditions of an operating permit.

A follow-up email from FAA on June 24, 2016 indicates that having a composting facility that can handle organic waste streams from farming operations via composting could be an option for farms that wish to contract out some aspects of farm waste management. Other benefits would include the diversion of organics from landfills, reduction in GHG’s, and improved soil fertility and health. A copy of the email is included with the Unedited Comments.

**Municipal Affairs**

*Land Management Division*
• Recommends release of the project from environmental assessment;
• Informs that an application for Crown lands has been submitted for the proposal and that a decision will be made pending the outcome of the EA and a review of all referrals from the processing of the Crown lands application;
• Advises that no activity or land clearing is to take place until the Lands Branch has issued the Crown lands title, and that any Crown title issued will be subject to those terms and conditions as prescribed by the Minister of Municipal Affairs;
• Notes that the proposal appears to encompass at least one waterbody and any occupation of the 15m shoreline reservation will be subject to Section 7 of the *Lands Act*;
• Informs that the proposed undertaking is located in an unincorporated area that is subject to the Protected Road Zoning Regulations;
• Advises that Section 6(1) of the Protected Road Zoning Regulations outlines permitted uses of land in the area, and informs that the proposed undertaking is classified as a waste disposal site and is permitted.
Land Management Division provided additional information in an email on June 29, 2016 informing of the setback distance from Route 100 that would be required for the proposed composting facility, as indicated below:

"The use would be permitted under Section 6 of the Protected Road Zoning Regulations and we would consider it to most match the Rural Industrial Use. Rural Industrial uses are required to be setback 100m from the centerline of the highway and also require a 50m tree screen."

**Rural industrial uses**

7. (1) Only industrial developments which, because of their nature, would be considered hazardous and incompatible to urban uses will be permitted in this zone.

(2) Developments of a rural industrial nature shall be set back a minimum of 100 metres from the centre line of the highway with a tree screen of not less than 50 metres, and shall be separated from adjacent incompatible developments by a minimum of 150 metres with a tree screen of not less than 100 metres.

A copy of the email is included with the Unedited Comments.

**Natural Resources**

* **Mines Branch**
  - Recommends release of the project from environmental assessment;
  - Provides permitting advice to the proponent relative to the sourcing of any quarry materials required for the project and the removal of quarry materials from the project site.

* **Energy Branch**
  - Recommended release of the project from environmental assessment;
  - Advises the proponent that the proposed project area appears to intersect a Newfoundland Power distribution line and recommends that the proponent consult with Newfoundland Power regarding potential land use conflicts.

**Strategic Planning and Policy Coordination**

SPPC offers no comment related to the proposed undertaking.

**Service NL**

* **Government Service Centre**
  - Recommends release of the project from environmental assessment;
  - Provides regulatory, permitting and mitigative advice relative to waste management, gasoline and associated products, water and sewer, fire and life safety, development control, and electrical plans;
Advises that a 30 metre undisturbed buffer should be maintained between the site and any surrounding watercourse or water body;
- Requires that any existing tree screen concealing the operation from public view is to be maintained;
- Advises that the site is located within 400 metres off the Argentia Access Road and falls within the jurisdiction of the Protected Road Zoning Regulations, therefore, a Preliminary Application to Develop land must be submitted to the Government Service Centre and a “Permit To Develop” issued before any construction takes place.

Transportation & Works
- Recommends release of the project from environmental assessment;
- Informs that intersection sight distance can be achieved at this location and provides direction on the location of the access road;
- Advises that Route 100 is a protected roadway and that no development will be permitted within 45m of the centerline of Route 100;
- Indicates that the access will be deemed commercial and as such will require a 10m wide top surface;
- Advises that a 600mm diameter culvert (minimum) will have to be installed across the access;
- Informs that traffic volume to be generated by the site should be provided to TW for further assessment of turning lane requirements.

FEDERAL DEPARTMENTS

Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEAA)
- Advises that the proposed project is not a designated project under CEAA 2012, and does not provide an opinion as to whether the project should be released, rejected or requires further study.

Environment Canada (EC)
- Recommends release of the project from environmental assessment;
- Offers advice regarding the Fisheries Act (FA); Migratory Birds Convention Act (MBCA and Regulations); the Species at Risk Act (SARA), and the Canadian Environmental Protection Act (CEPA).
- Recommends beneficial management practices specific to composting facilities, including:
  - Animal waste byproducts, food scraps and other garbage near the facility should be minimized and/or be made inaccessible to wildlife, because these can artificially enhance the populations of avian and mammalian predators of eggs and chicks.
  - Project staff should not approach concentrations of seabirds, sea ducks or shorebirds.
  - Project staff should undertake any measures that may minimize or eliminate discharge of oily waste into the marine environment.
- Recommends that the proponent should avoid vegetation clearing and field burning during the most critical period of the migratory bird breeding season, typically between April 15 and August 15, to avoid the risk of nest destruction;
Advises the proponent to develop and implement a management plan that includes appropriate preventive measures to minimize the risk of impacts on migratory birds;

- Provides advice relative to unattended soil stockpiles, gull attraction, scare techniques, revegetation efforts, minimizing invasive species and avoiding species at risk;

- Recommends mitigative measures to be undertaken to avoid the attraction of migratory birds to human-induced light at the facility;

- Provides mitigative information relative to fuel leaks, refueling, spill response, and the management of hazardous materials (i.e., petroleum products), and advises that refuelling and maintenance activities should be undertaken on level impervious surface at least 30m from environmentally sensitive areas, including wetlands;

- Advises that a minimum vegetation buffer zone of 30m should be maintained between existing wetland areas and development activities;

- Provides advice on erosion and drainage control, wetland conservation, acid rock drainage, construction materials, management of hazardous materials, waste and dust suppression, and monitoring and adaptive management;

- Informs that mitigative measures should be factored into the design of the facility to ensure that the risk of environmental damage due to extreme climate and weather events is minimized.

Fisheries and Oceans (DFO)
- Recommends release of the project from environmental assessment;

- Informs that an environmental assessment based upon the habitat provisions of the Fisheries Act is not required;

- Provides guidance and reference information to the proponent relative to self-assessment.

Transport Canada
- Recommends release of the project from environmental assessment;

- Informs that the project does not require any regulatory approvals from Transport Canada to proceed.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT REVIEW

In 2002, the Newfoundland and Labrador government released a Waste Management Strategy with the aim of province-wide modern waste management to be implemented by 2025. One of the goals of this strategy is to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill by 50 per cent. According to a report on potential solutions for organics/composting for the province of Newfoundland and Labrador, prepared by Dillon Consulting in 2014 (Dillon study), organic waste constitutes approximately 30 per cent of the total waste going to landfill. The waste diversion rate in Newfoundland and Labrador increased from seven per cent in 1992 to 28 per cent in 2012. The diversion of organic materials is essential to reaching the 50 per cent diversion target.

Pollution Prevention Division (PPD) of the Department of Environment and Conservation (ENVC) has developed a series of guidance documents which outline environmental standards to support the provincial Waste Management Strategy, including the Environmental Standards for Municipal Solid
Waste Compost Facilities (MSWCF guidance document). PPD informs that all of the standards for the design, construction and operation of composting facilities that are contained in the MSWCF guidance document can be applied to this Project and potentially captured under a Certificate of Approval, should the Project be released from environmental assessment. A copy of the MSWCF guidance document is attached.

During the environmental assessment of this Project, most government screening agencies recommended releasing the project from environmental assessment, and two screening agencies recommended further assessment of the Project in the form of an EPR. The Tourism and Culture Division and the Regional Economic Development Division of the Department of Business, Tourism, Culture, and Rural Development recommended an EPR based on the rationale below.

Tourism and Culture Division requests further information to demonstrate that the composting facility will not negatively impact the driving experience along Route 100, a gateway for visitors entering and leaving the province via the Argentia ferry. Tourism and Culture provides the following statistics for passengers using the Argentia ferry service from 2013-2015, which operates between June and September:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Marine Atlantic</th>
<th>Argentia to North Sydney</th>
<th>North Sydney to Argentia</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>18,506</td>
<td>24,994</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vehicles</td>
<td>8,303</td>
<td>11,011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crossings</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Tourism and Culture Division advises that further information on the project is needed to describe how potential odour problems that may be associated with this type of operation will be addressed, and to ensure that all tourism operators in the area are aware of the proposed development.

Regional Economic Development (RED) Division notes that the proposed project will be located approximately 3km from food establishments and accommodation facilities that are operating along the TCH near the intersection of the TCH and Route 100. RED is concerned that the raw materials identified for composting, including mink farm offal, spent hens, dead birds, poultry feathers, slaughterhouse offal and carcasses, and fish processing wastes will generate foul odours and attract black flies and pests that will impact business operators on the nearby TCH and residents of Blaketown, which lies upwind of the project.

With reference to Tourism and Culture’s concern regarding awareness of the Project by tourism operators, there are no established tourism operators within 10km south and west of the proposed Project. Tourism operators north and east of the Project area, near the junction of the TCH and Route 100 and within the communities of Whitbourne and Markland, have provided comments and petitions to EA Division and have been informed of the Project via Whitbourne town meetings and government and media announcements. EA Division is confident that all tourism operators within a 10 km radius of the Project are aware of the Project proposal.

Other concerns noted by Tourism and Culture Division and RED Division are reiterated in the concerns identified in the public comments, which include:
1. Constant, putrid odours;
2. Increased fly, insect, rodent, animal and gull populations;
3. Visibility of the facility from Route 100 for residents and tourists;
4. Risk of airborne pathogens;
5. Risk of spontaneous combustion;
6. Contamination of groundwater, surface water, wetlands, soils and surrounding environment;
7. Transportation of feedstock to the facility will cause widespread odours and flies;
8. Unproven technology in Newfoundland and Labrador;
9. Limited development potential for adjacent land area within Whitbourne’s municipal boundary.

These nine concerns are discussed in the ensuing paragraphs.

1. Constant, putrid odours
Odour is the primary public and BTCRD concern associated with the composting facility. The specific areas that will potentially be impacted by odour emanating from the project, as identified by Tourism and Culture and RED Divisions and the public are:
- Residential/commercial properties in the Town of Whitbourne and the Whitbourne Museum;
- Food establishments/accommodations facility near the intersection of Route 100 and the TCH;
- Residential and commercial properties in Markland, including Rodrigues Winery and the Sedna Nutraceutical Plant;
- Phase I and II Goose Pond residential subdivision developments in Whitbourne;
- Residential/commercial properties in Blaketown;
- Holiday Hill, Placentia Junction, Peak Pond, Reid’s Pond and Ocean Pond cabin areas;
- Recreational users of the nearby T’Railway and of Little Goose Pond in Whitbourne;
- Area at the intersection of Route 60 and the TCH for proposed development of a hotel, RV Park and a small businesses park;
- Area in Whitbourne for proposed development of a senior’s residence, a 65-home Adult Community, a 146-lot residential subdivision, and a 103-lot residential subdivision;
- Area in Markland for proposed development of a brewery and large distillery.

The Project addendum document indicates that engineered ventilation controls will be implemented to eliminate odours, however, there is no detail provided to describe the ventilation system and/or engineering controls. In order for the Project to proceed in a manner that minimizes and eliminates nuisance odours, rigorous odour management is essential during the design and operational phases. The MSWCF guidance document specifies the following criteria for the management of odour:
- Design the building to provide adequate ventilation in composting areas, organic feedstock storage areas and any other areas on site that contain readily putrescible materials;
- Manage the delivery, mixing and turning of feedstock to minimize odour potential;
- Monitor, manage and optimize the composting process to maintain aerobic conditions;
- Maintain a biofilter of adequate size;
- Maintain negative air pressure inside buildings to prevent the escape of odours;
- Install air scrubbers if necessary and practical;
- Track, appropriately respond to and learn from complaints;
- Provide baseline atmospheric dispersion modelling to the department prior to approval;
- Provide an Odour Management Program to the department prior to approval.
Additional information is needed from the proponent to describe how the above-noted criteria will be met to facilitate odour management. The additional information may be acquired either from an environmental preview report or may be captured under the terms and conditions of a Certificate of Approval (CoA) issued by PPD, should the project be released from environmental assessment. PPD informs that the following additional measures may be required by the CoA:

- Restrict volumes of feedstock that can be received on-site on a monthly basis, with renewal of the permit contingent on performance, i.e. producing a quality compost product in an environmentally sound manner;
- Monthly inspections by PPD staff to ensure that the process is appropriately managed and to address any outstanding issues;
- Staff certification by the Composting Council of Canada, Solid Waste Association of North America, or equivalent.

EA Division examined separation distances between the proposed Project and existing and future land use, as a means of odour control. These separation distances were compared to the minimum separation distances required by the MSWCF guidance document and by legislation from other provincial jurisdictions.

Separation distances between the proposed Project and existing land use were measured using 2016 Google Earth imagery and the Google Earth distance measuring tool. The distance measurements indicate that the areas for which odour is a potential concern, as identified by BTCRD and the public, range from 2.2km to 7.5km from the proposed project location. The closest existing land use is sparse residential/commercial development located 2.2km east northeast of the Project area, within the town of Whitbourne. Separation distances between the proposed Project site and aforementioned areas of concern are noted in the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Separation Distance from Proposed Composting Facility</th>
<th>Distance (km)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>T'Railway</td>
<td>1.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Closest Residential/Commercial Development</td>
<td>2.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business Establishments at TCH and Route 100</td>
<td>3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peak Pond Cabins</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unidentified Development</td>
<td>4.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phase I Goose Pond Subdivision</td>
<td>4.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phase II Goose Pond Subdivision</td>
<td>5.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Markland</td>
<td>5.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holiday Hill Cabins</td>
<td>5.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reid's Pond Cabins</td>
<td>5.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rodrigues Winery/Neutraceutical Plant</td>
<td>6.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blaketown</td>
<td>6.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Placentia Junction Cabins</td>
<td>7.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A map illustrating separation distances between the proposed Project location and the areas of concern is attached.
Legislative requirements for separation distances between composting facilities and residential developments does not exist in all provincial jurisdictions, as controlled composting does not equate to land use conflicts. The following recommended separation distances were noted:

Environmental Standards for MSWCF Guidance Document:
- 1600m from residential, institutional, commercial and industrial properties

Nova Scotia Composting Facility Guidelines:
- 500m between the active composting area and the nearest residential or institutional building

Alberta Code of Practice for Compost Facilities:
- No separation distances are specified, but the document acknowledges that the greater the separation distance between the composting facility and adjacent land use, the less likely are complaints regarding non-compatible land use.

Separation distances between the Project and existing land use exceed the minimum recommended separation distances in the MSWCF guidance document and the Nova Scotia composting facility guidelines by 600m and 1700m respectively.

PPD indicates that, under of CoA, the volume of feedstock received at the facility can be restricted on a monthly basis to enable the proponent to demonstrate that the facility can be operated in an environmentally acceptable manner. The volume of feedstock permitted at the facility may initially be quite low, and will increase incrementally as the operator demonstrates the ability to compost with minimal impacts to the surrounding environment. The CoA will also limit the type of organic waste permitted to be composted at the facility, should some waste streams prove to be problematic. The operator will be required to maintain records of all feedstock received at the facility, including the type and volume, and to make those records available to the department. Periodic air testing and monitoring may be required to ensure that compost emissions are at safe levels for facility workers.

Statistics obtained from Windfinder, a weather service with over 18,000 weather stations worldwide, indicate that the prevailing winds at the Argentia weather station are from the SSW direction, based on observations taken between August 2010 and May 2016. (Note: Wind direction data was not available from Environment Canada for this area).

Based on the prevailing wind, existing development along the most northerly stretch of Route 81 will be the most likely receptor for odours dispersed from the proposed Project. Zoning in this region as per Whitbourne’s municipal plane is a combination of rural, agriculture, and mixed development and encompasses land uses such as all residential, recreational open spaces, agriculture, animal, child care and home office. The nearest existing development to the Project site, in the direction of the prevailing wind is 2.2km from the site.

PPD provided a simple screening model of emissions from the proposed composting facility using assumptions of flat terrain, cultivated land and worst case scenario meteorological conditions to yield an overestimation of dispersed emission concentrations. The model predicts that emission concentrations
approximately 2.6 km from the source will be 1/10 the concentration of emissions at the source, as illustrated below:

Concentration of Emissions/Distance from Source

The addendum indicates that engineered ventilation controls will be installed to eliminate odours, however, there is no further detail provided in the addendum or the registration document to describe the ventilation system and/or engineering controls. PPD indicates that a CoA will address the requirement for proper ventilation and negative air pressure in the building, as well as equipment and space requirements to operate. The CoA would require consideration of an adequately-sized biofilter, based on anticipated throughput, to be included in the facility design. Biofilters consist of a filtration media such as finished compost, soil, wood chips or sand densely populated with microorganisms, through which the emissions from the composting facility are distributed via a perforated piping system. The biofilter medium acts as the nutrient supply for the microorganisms which adsorb and absorb micro aerosols and odorous gases such as carbon, nitrogen, and sulfur, to form non-odourous compounds. Design considerations must include maintaining the functionality of the biofilter during the winter months, as biofilters are often located outside buildings due to space requirements. PPD indicates that provided the facility is operated in conformance with the above-noted controls and restrictions, and based on the air emissions model s. 29(1)(a)

The requirement for additional information from the proponent to provide details of mechanical ventilation and engineering controls including the maintenance of negative air pressure, the design of a biofilter and consideration for the addition of air scrubbers if deemed necessary, can be addressed in an EPR and/or as conditions of a CoA.
2. Increased fly, insect, rodent, animal and gull populations

There is public concern that the Project will result in increased numbers of flies, insects, rodents, animals and gulls in the area which will impact negatively on tourists using Route 100, will deter tourists from using Norman's Cove-Long Cove as a "service centre," will cause health risks to people living nearby from vectors carrying pathogens, and will create safety risks to nearby families by attracting black bears, coyotes and scavengers. These concerns were echoed in comments from Tourism and Culture Division and RED Division. RED requested additional information to describe on-going measures that will be undertaken to control vectors that may be attracted to the site.

The project addendum informs that all activities, including receiving raw materials, mixing, composting, curing and processing the final organic fertilizer product, will take place inside an enclosed building(s). The proponent asserts that confining these activities within an enclosed building will provide control over vectors, vermin and other nuisances and adds that bird deterrents will be placed on building roofs and super structures, if needed. The MSWCF guidelines document indicates that a program to control insects, rodents, animals, birds and other vectors shall be approved by the ENVC and shall be in place for the lifespan of the facility.

Enclosing all project related activities inside a building and implementing an on-going vector management program should address most of the concerns about vectors that were expressed by Tourism and Culture Division, RED Division and the public. The requirement for an on-going rodent control program can be addressed by the proponent in an EPR and/or can be included in the terms and conditions of a CoA.

The public in nearby Whitbourne and Markland expressed additional concern that the Project will negatively impact human health from vectors carrying pathogens from the composting facility to surrounding areas. High temperatures achieved during the active composting phase inactivate pathogens and weed seeds. Section 3.5 of the CCME Guidelines for Compost Quality informs that any pathogenic organisms present in the compost feedstock, may potentially be present in the compost itself. To adequately reduce risks to human health, the CCME Guidelines direct that compost shall conform to the following criteria:

When compost contains other feedstock (other than yard waste), the following criteria shall be met:

1. Using the windrow composting method, the material shall attain a temperature of 55°C or greater for at least 15 days during the composting period. Also, during the high temperature period, the windrow shall be turned at least five times.

AND

2. Organism content shall meet the following:
   Fecal coliforms <1000 most probable number (MPN)/g of total solids calculated on a dry weight basis,

OR (where the feedstock does not include materials that may include high levels of human pathogens)
No Salmonella sp. with a detection level <3 MPN/4g total solids calculated on a dry weight basis."

PPD indicates in the registration review comments that the proponent will be required by the terms and conditions of a CoA to test the finished product to ensure that the CCME Compost Quality Guidelines have been met. The requirements of the CCME Guidelines and regulatory controls imposed by PPD should address public concerns regarding risks to human health.

3. Visibility of the facility from Route 100:
There is public concern that visibility of the Project will create negative impressions for tourists who use Route 100 for the Argentia ferry service or to travel to the Cape Shore and Cape St. Mary's. There is additional concern that if the Project fails, an abandoned building and equipment will remain on the site indefinitely as an eyesore.

Land Management Division advises that a minimum of 150m set back distance will be required from Route 100 for the proposed facility, and that a minimum 100m tree screen must be contained within the setback distance. This requirement will be included in the Crown Lands permit.

The proponent indicates in the registration document and addendum that the facility will be set back a minimum of 300 metres from Route 100 and the existing tree screen will be maintained, such that the facility will not be visible from Route 100. This should address concerns regarding visibility from Route 100.

The MSWCF guidance document advises that the owner/operator of the facility shall submit a preliminary decommissioning plan to the Department when applying for a CoA. Factors to be considered in the plan include site clean-up, repair and rehabilitation, and removal or securing of infrastructure, equipment and access. Requirements for a preliminary decommissioning plan and a subsequent detailed decommissioning plan to be submitted to and approved by ENVC, can be included in EPR guidelines and/or as terms and conditions of a CoA.

4. Risk of airborne pathogens:
The public raised concerns about risks to human health caused by airborne particulates such as bacteria, fungi, heavy metals, volatile organic compounds (VOCs), carbon dioxide and methane gas that may be dispersed in air emissions from the composting facility, particularly for people with compromised respiratory systems and allergies.

Pathogenic bacteria and fungi are effectively inactivated by operational procedures, such as attaining a temperature of 55°C or greater for at least 15 days during the composting period. This operational procedure is a requirement of the CCME Composting Quality Guidelines and would be imposed by the terms and conditions of a CoA from PPD.

Heavy metals may be found in compost leachate and in the final compost product, but do not appear to be a concern in compost air emissions. Composition of feedstock determines the level of heavy metals found in leachate and compost products. Sewage sludge may contain high concentrations of heavy
metals, however, the proponent has indicated in the addendum that sewage sludge will not be accepted or composted at this facility.

VOCs are carbon-based chemicals that evaporate at room temperature and are emitted by a wide array of products used in homes, including paints and lacquers, paint strippers, varnishes, cleaning supplies, air fresheners, pesticides, building materials and furnishings. VOCs are emitted as organic waste decomposes and are typically highest at the beginning of composting when feedstocks arrive, and may also be emitted during grinding, mixing and decomposing stages. The presence of VOCs in gaseous emissions from composting facilities has been widely investigated and documented, and the concern surrounding the VOCs appears to be both ozone and odour related, rather than health related. Some studies indicate that VOCs may be a precursor for ozone formation. The United States Composting Council’s (USCC) position is that the types and volumes of VOCs emitted from properly operated commercial composting facilities are naturally occurring and do not pose significant risk to the formation of ground level ozone; these VOCs will be emitted from vegetation and other organic materials whether they are managed via composting or not. The most effective means of mitigating VOC concentrations in compost emissions is by passing the exhausted air through a biofilter.

The proposed Project, as described by the registration document and the addendum, will utilize an aerobic decomposition process and will employ operational procedures such as frequent turning of compost to ensure anaerobic conditions do not develop. According to the Dillon study, the diversion of organics from landfill, and processing of this waste within an aerobic composting system, has the potential to generate greenhouse gas (GHG) reductions. This is as a result of the avoidance of methane production within the landfill that may otherwise be generated from the anaerobic decomposition of the organic waste. Within an aerobic composting process, carbon dioxide (CO2) is generated in place of methane. Since methane has a global warming potential (GWP) that is approximately 21 times higher than that of carbon dioxide, the avoidance of methane generates a net reduction in GHGs.

Requirements for the design of an adequately sized bio-filter, design considerations for the addition of air scrubbers to the mechanical ventilation system, and for periodic air testing to provide a safe environment for facility workers and the surrounding area, can be included in EPR guidelines and/or as terms and conditions of a CoA.

5. Risk of fire from spontaneous combustion:
Public concern was expressed over the risk of fire caused by spontaneous combustion of a composting pile and the spread of fire to the nearby community of Whitbourne due to insufficient firefighting equipment and training at the compost facility.

Specific public concern was expressed that reintroducing leachates from a mature composting batch to a new composting batch doubles the risk of spontaneous combustion. This assertion was not supported by FES-NL or by reference materials consulted during the environmental assessment of the Project. One of the objectives of the Project is to produce a marketable, nutrient rich soil additive that will meet the CCME Compost Quality Guidelines. It is therefore unlikely that feedstock containing highly flammable or combustible materials would be composted at the facility.

Fire and Emergency Services-NL (FES) was consulted during the environmental assessment of the Project, and they advise that there is an increased risk of fire at composting facilities which can be mitigated with proper fire protection features and planning. FES-NL informs that they will work with
the proponent to ensure an acceptable emergency plan is developed and approved, should the project be permitted to proceed. The requirement to provide an approved fire emergency plan to FES-NL, prior to the commencement of project related activities, can be included in EPR guidelines, or as a condition of release along with the prescribed terms and conditions of a CoA.

6. Contamination of nearby groundwater, surface water, wetland, and soil and surrounding environment: The public has identified concerns that nitrogen, sulfur and heavy metals may leach out of compost and contaminate surface and groundwater, wetlands, soils and streams including tributaries to salmon rivers.

The addendum describes the proposed compost building as having an impervious concrete floor with troughs to collect leachates, which will be reintroduced to the compost. Effective composting is contingent upon maintaining sufficient moisture content to facilitate microbial activity, and surplus leachate is not anticipated. Leachate will be entirely contained within the enclosed building. Requirements for the design of an adequate leachate collection system can be included in EPR guidelines and/or with the terms and conditions of a CoA.

The public has expressed concern about the potential spread of pathogenic viruses, bacteria, protozoa and parasites present in decomposed material to soil, plants, animals and people. As previously discussed, operational procedures under the CCME Guidelines for Compost Quality including the attainment of 55°C or greater for at least 15 days, will effectively inactivate pathogens during the composting period, including viruses, bacteria, protozoa, and parasites. The requirement for testing of the finished compost product, to ensure compliance with the CCME Compost Quality Guidelines, can be included in EPR guidelines and/or with the terms and conditions of a CoA.

There is public concern that composting at this facility will involve the use of toxic chemicals, since “animal carcasses cannot be broken down into compost using conventional means.” A guidance document produced by Alberta government entitled, “Large Animal Mortality Composting”, indicates that the composting of livestock is a biological process involving the breakdown of organic materials in an aerobic environment. Livestock mortality composting requires high-carbon material (e.g. woodchips, sawdust, shredded paper) with moderate moisture levels and good porosity. A good compost mix for livestock mortalities requires a carbon nitrogen ratio of approximately 30:1. Chemical additives are not required for livestock composting. The guidance document cautions that animals known or suspected to have died from an infectious or reportable disease, and animals that have been euthanized, cannot be disposed of by composting.

The project registration document indicates that chemicals additives will not be used in the composting process. The registration document and addendum indicate that a primary objective of the Project is to produce large quantities of high quality organic fertilizer compost to support the growing demand of locally produced, organically grown produce, and a natural organic fertilizer to be used for horticultural, landscaping and agricultural purposes. The overall quality of the finished product, which will be required to meet the CCME Compost Quality Guidelines, is of paramount importance to the proponent. The requirement for testing of the finished compost product, to ensure compliance with the CCME Compost Quality Guidelines, can be included in EPR guidelines and/or with the terms and conditions of a CoA.
7. Transportation of feedstock to the facility will cause widespread odours and flies:
There is public concern that fish offal, animal manure and animal carcasses will be brought to the site in uncovered, open vehicles and/or leaking containers which will cause widespread odours and increased vectors at the site and along the transportation route.

Road transportation within the province is regulated by the Highway Traffic Act, which is enforced by the Motor Registration Division of Service NL, the RCMP and the RNC. Section 31 of the Cargo Securement Regulations, 2004 under the Highway Traffic Act states:

31. (1) Where a vehicle that is operating on a highway in the province is carrying a load of sand, gravel, crushed stone, slag, salt or a mixture of them in the form of particles of up to 40 millimetres in diameter or is carrying waste or scrap metal, the
   (a) portion of the load that is not enclosed by the vehicle or load container shall be covered with a covering made of tarpaulin, canvas, net or other material capable of confining the load within the vehicle or load container; and
   (b) container shall be designed to prevent a leakage of liquids or other material or, where the load is not enclosed in a container, the vehicle shall be equipped in a manner that prevents a leakage of liquids or other material.

Concerns regarding the transportation to of feedstock to the Proposed Project area can be reported to the above-noted authorities.

8. Unproven technology in Newfoundland and Labrador:
The public identifies concern about the potential of this Project to be a large scale composting facility which should first be operated on a trial basis in a remote area of the province until the proponent can demonstrate that the operation will have no adverse impacts on nearby communities. Public concern has also been expressed that inadequate experience on the part of the operator and inadequate oversight by the government will lead to significant negative environmental impacts on nearby communities.

PPD will restrict the volume of feedstock that can be received on-site on a monthly basis, under the terms and conditions of a CoA. Renewal of the CoA will be contingent on the proponent's ability to produce a quality compost product in an environmentally sound manner. PPD advises that staff of the composting facility will be required to have certified training, consistent with the Composting Council of Canada, Solid Waste Association of North America, or equivalent. PPD informs that monthly inspections will be conducted by Divisional staff to ensure that the process is appropriately managed, and to address any outstanding issues. PPD's requirements for restricted volumes of feedstock, operator training and competency, and monthly government inspections can be included in EPR guidelines and/or with the terms and conditions of a CoA.

9. Limit development potential for adjacent land area within Whitbourne's municipal boundary.
The Town of Whitbourne is concerned that it will not be desirable to develop municipal land located east of Route 100, due to its close proximity to the proposed Project area. The Town of Whitbourne indicates that the Project is an incompatible land use with potential development inside Whitbourne's municipal boundary along the east side of Route 100.
MA informs that Whitbourne's municipal boundary extends westward from Route 81 (road that passes through Whitbourne from TCH) to within 170m of Route 100, the Argentia Access Road. The proponent has indicated that the proposed composting facility will be located 300m to the west of Route 100, in order to accommodate the required reservation for a power line that runs immediately west of this section of Route 100. This provides a separation distance of 470m between the composting facility and Whitbourne's westernmost municipal boundary.

According to a diagram of the Whitbourne municipal zoning plan provided by Municipal Affairs (MA), the area in Whitbourne that lies across from the Project area and on the east side of Route 100, is zoned as Rural, with the permitted uses identified as agricultural, conservation, single dwelling, animal, veterinary mineral exploration and recreational open space. MA informs that residential subdivision development is not a permitted use in this zone, as per Whitbourne's approved municipal plan. An image of Whitbourne's Municipal Zoning Plan is attached.

MA further advises that the proposed undertaking is located in an unincorporated area that is subject to the Protected Road Zoning Regulations. Section 6(1) of the Protected Road Zoning Regulations outlines permitted uses of land in the area, and informs that the proposed undertaking is classified as a waste disposal site and is permitted.

The Town of Whitbourne and a local contractor indicate plans for the future development of an RV Park and a Business Park along Route 100, on land situated at the northeast corner of the junction between Route 100 and the TCH. This future development area is located approximately 3.0km from the proposed Project area. Existing residential development and new development is focused in southern and eastern regions of the town, approximately 4km from the project area. The area within Whitbourne's Municipal Plan, located near Route 100 and across from the proposed Project, is zoned as Rural and includes agricultural, conservation, single dwelling, animal, veterinary, mineral exploration, mineral working, forestry, light industry, cemetery and recreational open space uses. All of these uses, with the possible exception of single dwelling, may be compatible with the proposed Project.

The proposed Project supports the initiative of the Provincial Waste Management Strategy to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill by 50 per cent. The Project contributes to the objectives of the Dillon study to divert organics from landfill while producing a beneficial finished material that can be used for landscaping and as a soil amendment. The concerns expressed by the public, Tourism and Culture Division and Rural Economic Development Division can be addressed by a requirement for an environmental preview report, or under a Certificate of Approval issued by PPD, or by both.

The volume of opposition to the Project that was expressed from residents and business owners in Whitbourne and nearby communities, and their belief that this project will negatively impact their quality of life and their residential and commercial financial investments, must be given due consideration. It is apparent from the public comments that the proponent has not adequately demonstrated the ability to conduct the undertaking in an environmentally sound manner.

The option to release the project with conditions that would include prescribed terms and conditions of a CoA, would give the proponent an opportunity to provide additional information without providing further opportunity for public consultation. The option to require an EPR would give the proponent an
opportunity to provide additional information with further opportunity for public review. EPR guidelines would also require the proponent to engage the public by holding a public information session.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the minister make the determination to require an EPR for this project, pursuant to Sections 24 (1), (2a) and (2b) of the EA Regs., 2003.

The EPR shall provide an opportunity for the proponent to meet with the public to address their concerns, and shall address information deficiencies in the project description pertaining, but not limited to the following:

- conceptual design plans for the composting facility structure taking into account the requirement for adequate ventilation and negative air pressure when doors are open; demonstrating sufficient equipment and space requirements for receiving, storing, mixing, composting and curing activities; and providing a separate area away from the composting activities for staff to eat and shower;
- design plans for an adequate leachate collection system and an adequately sized biofilter capable of functioning year-round;
- details of the proposed composting technology and process to be implemented at the facility, including identification of sufficient feedstock supply and equipment to be used to maintain and manage the composting process;
- provision of respiratory protective equipment and periodic indoor air quality testing to ensure a safe environment for workers;
- at least one operator/employee on-site trained in the operation of an industrial composting facility, with training certified by the Composting Council of Canada, Solid Waste Association of North America, or equivalent;
- testing of the finished product to be conducted and reported to the Department of Environment and Conservation to ensure compliance with CCME Compost Quality Guidelines;
- an on-going vector management plan;
- a decommissioning plan for site clean-up, repair and rehabilitation, and removal or securing of infrastructure, equipment and access;
- a fire and emergency plan developed in consultation with and approved by Fire and Emergency Services-NL; and
- information required by the Department of Advanced Education and Skills pertaining to National Occupation Classification (NOC 2011) codes and associated positions.

A draft letter to this effect is attached for your consideration.

Joanne Sweeney
Environmental Scientist
Attachments

Attachment #1: Draft Letter
Attachment #2: Unedited Comments
Attachment #3: Edited Comments
Attachment #4: MSWCF Guidance Document [link found on pg. 227]
Attachment #5: Project Registration Document
Attachment #6: Addendum
Attachment #7: Public Comments [Comments not required as part of this request]

References


   http://www qp.alberta.ca/documents/codes/COMPOST.PDF

   http://www.ccme.ca/files/Resources/waste/compost_quality/compostgdlns_1340_e.pdf


Separation Distances from Proposed Composting Facility:

A: Blaketown - 6.8km
B: Food Establishments/Accomodations near intersection of TCH and Route 100 - 3.3km
C: Holiday Hill Cabins - 5.5km
D: Closest land development - 2.2km
E: Goose Pond Residential Subdivision development - 5.3km
F: Closest land development - 2.2km
G: Goose Pond residential subdivision development - 4.4km
H: Private development - 3.2 km
I: T’Railway - 1.6km
J: Markland - 5.3km
K: Rodrigues Winery - 6.7km
L: Placentia Junction Cabins - 7.5km

Additional Separation Distances:

Peak Pond - 4km NE of Facility
Reid’s Pond - 5.5km NE of Facility
Cl: Commercial Industrial - Agriculture, General Industry, Light Industry, Service Station, Office, Commercial residential, Shopping Centre

Ru: Rural - Agriculture, Conservation, Single dwelling, Animal, Veterinary, Mineral exploration, Mineral working, Forestry, Light industry, Cemetery, Recreational open space

R: Residential - single dwelling, Subdivision, Subsidary apartments, Recreational open space, Child care, Home office, Antenna
From: Cleary, Bas
Sent: Friday, July 15, 2016 10:06 AM
To: Samson, Sherry
Subject: Fw: 1838-Recommendation for 1838 - Argentia Access Road Industrial Composting Facility

Fyi

From: Cleary, Bas
Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 07:14 PM
To: Janes, Colleen G; Goebel, Martin
Subject: Re: 1838-Recommendation for 1838 - Argentia Access Road Industrial Composting Facility

Ok. Will do.

From: Janes, Colleen G
Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 07:07 PM
To: Cleary, Bas; Goebel, Martin
Subject: Re: 1838-Recommendation for 1838 - Argentia Access Road Industrial Composting Facility

Martin could sign on M's behalf. You can place his email approval in the green folder.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Bell network.

From: Cleary, Bas
Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 5:35 PM
To: Janes, Colleen G; Goebel, Martin
Subject: Fw: 1838-Recommendation for 1838 - Argentia Access Road Industrial Composting Facility

If a signature can go on the letter I can get this to the proponent tomorrow.

From: Trimper, Perry
Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 05:38 PM
To: Cleary, Bas; Janes, Colleen G
Cc: Goebel, Martin; Sweeney, Joanne; Murphy, Ian
Subject: Re: 1838-Recommendation for 1838 - Argentia Access Road Industrial Composting Facility

I approve of the recommendation.

PGT

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Bell network.

From: Cleary, Bas
Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 2:58 PM
To: Trimper, Perry; Janes, Colleen G
Cc: Goebel, Martin; Sweeney, Joanne
Subject: FW: 1838-Recommendation for 1838 - Argentia Access Road Industrial Composting Facility
Minister and Colleen,

Attached is a recommendation on the commercial composing facility for your consideration. Martin has reviewed and approved.

Bas
Thanks for the information Susan. We will incorporate to address that part of the inquiry.

Lynn Robinson
Media Relations Manager
Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment
709-729-5449
lynnrobinson@gov.nl.ca

From: Squires, Susan
Sent: Wednesday, April 19, 2017 2:34 PM
To: Robinson, Lynn <lynnrobinson@gov.nl.ca>; Spurrell, Dana <dana.spurrell@gov.nl.ca>; Tizzard, Heather <heather.tizzard@gov.nl.ca>
Cc: Shea, Erin <erin.shea@gov.nl.ca>
Subject: RE: Media Inquiry: Composting Facility - Argentia Access Road

Lynn,

There has been multiple requests made by the proponent to meet with the Minister as well. To date, the proponent has not received a reply from the minister as it is not common practice for the minister to meet with proponent’s and/or the public to discuss projects under review. If the Mayor meets with the minister, please see the attached email from the Environmental Scientist (Joanne) managing this file for additional comments and details.

Susan
---
Susan Squires, Ph.D.
Director (A)
Environmental Assessment Division
Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
709-729-0673
susansquires@gov.nl.ca

From: Robinson, Lynn
Sent: Wednesday, April 19, 2017 2:03 PM
To: Spurrell, Dana; Tizzard, Heather
Cc: Squires, Susan; Shea, Erin
Subject: Media Inquiry: Composting Facility - Argentia Access Road

Hi,
The Mayor of Whitbourne was on CBC's morning show today discussing concerns about the proposed composting facility on the Argentia Access Road and fire services/safety. CBC has asked the Minister to come on the show and respond and we are putting together some messages for him.

The mayor indicated that she would be having a meeting with the Minister concerning this. Is there a note being developed for this? If so, can you send along please?

Thanks.
Lynn

MAYOR ABOUT COMPOSTING FACILITY: People in Whitbourne are still holding their noses over a revived proposal for a industrial composting facility near their town. The plan is to compost carcasses and manure from mink and chicken slaughter houses and fish offal. Residents were about Metro Environmental Services' original proposal last year now they are upset with the revised plan. ["Hilda Whelan", Mayor]

CBN - St. John's - East Coast Morning Show @ 07:12:10am Duration: 00:07:00 Reporter: Jeremy Eaton

Ref Id: k3g-2S5-19

Lynn Robinson
Media Relations Manager
Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment
709-729-5449
lynnrobinson@gov.nl.ca
Media reports indicate that the Mayor of Whitbourne has requested to meet with the minister to discuss her opposition to the proposed Argentia Access Road Industrial Composting Facility project. The proponent for this project has likewise made several requests within the past month to meet with the minister to discuss the benefits of the project. To date, the proponent has not received a reply from the minister informing of whether or not his meeting request will be granted. If the Mayor of Whitbourne is provided the opportunity to meet with the minister, it is not common practice for the minister to meet with proponent’s and/or the public to discuss projects that are currently under environmental review, however, I’ve attached the most recent proponent request for a meeting with the minister.

Regards,

Joanne

Joanne Sweeney
Environmental Scientist
Environmental Assessment Division
Department of Environment and Climate Change
PO Box 8700, St. John’s NL A1B 4J6
Tel. (709) 729-2822; Fax (709)729-5518
Martin,

Here's some background on Mr. Alacoque's email below:

- The proponent conducted a public information session in Whitbourne on November 9, 2016, as required by the EPR Guidelines, to provide information about the undertaking to the people that it may affect.
- During the public meeting, an individual introduced herself as a lawyer and voiced her opinion as to why the project shouldn't proceed. [s. 40(1)]
- The lawyer, [redacted], has made several submissions to the EA process, during both the registration and the EPR review, outlining various reasons why she believes the project should not proceed in the proposed location. [s. 40(1)]
- Various points of concern and other concerns raised during the EPR review are currently being addressed by the minister's decision to require an EPR addendum, which was given to the proponent on January 31, 2017.
- The minister's January 31/17 decision letter informs the proponent that additional information is needed to enable the minister to decide whether the project can proceed in an environmentally acceptable manner, and provides details of the information that's required.
- The proponent doesn't feel it's necessary to provide the additional information and feels he's being treated unfairly by the EA process.
- A senior scientist from PPD and I, met with Mr. Alacoque (consultant) and Mr. Penney (proponent) on Thursday, March 9, to clarify some of the information required by the minister's letter.
- Mr. Penney was adamant that his commitment to provide plans, as stated in the EPR, should be acceptable, and that he should not be required to provide such plans in an EPR Addendum.
- The plans in question are: an Odour Management Plan, a Vector Management Plan including a Fly Management Plan, an Emergency Response Plan, a Fire and Emergency services Plan, an Environmental Emergency Contingency Plan, and a Decommissioning Plan.
- These plans are required by the EPR Guidelines to address concerns brought forward by the public and government agencies during the EA review.
- Mr. Penney was informed during our meeting on March 9, 2017 that it's not only government that has identified that the EPR is deficient, but also members of the general public have identified that the EPR fails to meet the requirements of the EPR Guidelines.
- Mr. Penney ascertained that [redacted] has made submissions to the EA process and is requesting/ requiring that he be provided with a copy of [redacted] submissions.

Sections 59 of the Environmental Protection Act, 2002 (the Act) states: [s. 40(1)]

Public interest

59. (1) Where (EIS) guidelines have been prepared under paragraph 53(1)(b), and before they have been approved under subsection 53(2), the minister shall request that interested persons review those guidelines and submit written comments to the minister with respect to the guidelines.
(2) At any time during an environmental assessment of an undertaking, the minister may request that interested persons submit written comments with respect to the environmental effects of that undertaking.

(3) The minister may forward written comments submitted to him or her under subsection (2) to the proponent who shall respond to those comments.

Section 59 of the Act falls follows sections which refer specifically to EIS's. However, 59 (2) states that, “At any time during an environmental assessment of an undertaking...” It appears to me that Section 59(2) may be applicable during an EPR review, and therefore it’s ok to forward the submission which was provided to EA Division during the EPR review, to the proponent as requested.

Please advise.

Additionally, the proponent was advised by the previous minister that he would not meet with him while his project was undergoing EA. The new minister may or may not follow the same process.

Please advise.

Regards,

Joanne Sweeney
Environmental Scientist
Environmental Assessment Division
Department of Environment and Climate Change
PO Box 8700, St. John's NL A1B 4J6
Tel. (709) 729-2822; Fax (709)729-5518

From: Hubert Alacoque [mailto:hubert.alacoque@iddel.ca]
Sent: Monday, March 13, 2017 10:17 AM
To: Sweeney, Joanne; Goebel, Martin; Joyce, Eddie
Cc: 'tpenneystar@yahoo.com'
Subject: RE: Argentia Access Road Composting Facility - Request of meeting with the Minister
Importance: High

Dear Ms. Sweeney,

We sincerely appreciated meeting with you and Ms. Ryan on Thursday morning to further discuss and clarify the 12 information items required for our EPR Addendum. It was useful and constructive indeed.

But we definitely still want to have a face to face meeting with Mr. Joyce, the new minister of the department, before the EPR Addendum is formally submitted for public review. We feel strongly that Mr. Joyce should have the opportunity to see our point of view on the merits of the project directly from us, especially since he is new to the department of environment and our project. In particular, we want to convey the following points:

- As we indicated to you in our meeting on Thursday, we sincerely feel that your department fails to give sufficient weighing to the greater environmental and economic merits of the project in the
ongoing environmental assessment process. Diverting substantial amounts of organic solid wastes from landfills, with all the benefits that it would provide in terms of reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, reduction of actual or potential pollution of groundwater and hydrographic systems, overall reduction of regional waste management costs, extending the service life of landfills, are significant positive benefits to the eastern Newfoundland community and its overall waste management operations. In addition to substantial capital investment, the project will provide several permanent jobs in a rural area where unemployment is always high.

- In the EPR and in our public presentation of the project in Whitbourne, the Proponent has provided every indication of his clear intent to meet all regulations and best practices on such a project, and to fully collaborate with all authorities having jurisdiction. We still feel that trying to foresee and write every little details of every possible operational plans is premature and futile at this stage of project planning. We do not want to see our best attempt of preparing such plans to be a reason for the EPR Addendum to be deemed deficient again, and the Environmental Assessment process to be further drawn into the future.

Now, this is the third time we have asked to meet with the minister in the process of this Environmental Assessment. We don’t understand the apparent ongoing reluctance of your department to arrange a meeting with the minister. We don’t think that the minister can be so busy that he can’t meet with us about this project.

From what we have been told, we understand that [redacted] is expanding significant efforts and producing extensive correspondence and documentation addressed to your department to oppose our project. We are compelled to ask why someone would go to such effort and extent to oppose such a project.

We look forward to your response with a date and time for our meeting with the minister.

Thank you and best regards,

Huber Alacoque, on behalf of Mr. Ted Penney, CEO, Metro Environmental Ltd.

Hubert Alacoque, P. Eng. MBA
President

Innovative Development & Design Engineers Ltd.

Anderson House, 42 Power’s Court, St. John’s, NL A1A 1B6 Canada
Tel: (709) 368 3870 Ext. 1 Cell: (709) 746 0571
Engineering Services: www.iddel.ca 3D Modelling & Rendering: www.iddel3d.com
Click Here for our location on Google Map

This document may contain information that is privileged, confidential or proprietary, and exempt from disclosure under applicable law. If you are not the intended recipient, you are on notice that any unauthorized disclosure, copying, distribution, or taking of any action in reliance on the contents of this document is prohibited.
Dear Mr. Penney and Mr. Alacoque,

You recently requested to meet with the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Environment (and the former Minister of Environment and Climate Change), in emails on March 5, 2017 and February 21, 2017, to discuss the status of your environmental assessment and additional information requirements outlined to you in the minister’s EPR decision letter on January 31, 2017. Since that time, you’ve been provided with clarification on the points outlined in the minister’s letter, and you’ve met Marie Ryan of the Pollution Prevention Division to further discuss information requirements directly related to the PPD mandate. It is my understanding that you are proceeding with the provision of additional project-related information, as required by the minister’s letter, that will be submitted to the Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment in a revised EPR or EPR addendum that will undergo a 45-day environmental assessment.

Please indicate whether you are still requesting a meeting with the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Environment, or whether your concerns have been addressed at this time.

Regards,

Joanne

Joanne Sweeney
Environmental Scientist
Environmental Assessment Division
Department of Environment and Climate Change
PO Box 8700, St. John’s NL A1B 4J6
Tel. (709) 729-2822; Fax (709)729-5518

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Hi Dana,

Is there anything further that we can add about fire protection to these KMs for the Minister re: Composting Facility on Argentia Access Road? The Mayor of Whitbourne had brought up the fact that she didn’t want the fire department to be responsible for having to go to the location...for fear of getting equipment damaged, etc. that sort of thing. She was on the CBC morning show this morning expressing concerns about the project overall and spoke about fire safety/services.

Thanks.
Lynn

Environment and Conservation
Industrial Compost Facility
April 19, 2017

Summary:
Metro Environmental Services Inc. is proposing to establish an industrial composting facility near Whitbourne. Organic waste to be composted will include mink farm offal, spent hens, dead birds, poultry feathers, slaughterhouse offal and carcasses, and fish processing wastes. There is significant local opposition from the Town Council of Whitbourne

Key Messages:
- The deadline for public comments was January 5, 2017.
- Public comments and input from referring agencies are given full and fair consideration in the environmental assessment process.
- The Minister’s decision is due May 25, 2017.

Secondary Messages (EA process):
- The purpose of environmental assessment is to protect the environment and quality of life of the people of the province and to facilitate the wise management of the natural resources of the province.
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- The environmental assessment process ensures if projects proceed, they do so in an environmentally acceptable manner.
Consultations with the public concerning a proponent's proposal do not occur during the environmental assessment process.

Secondary Messages (Fire Services in Municipalities):

- Most fire departments in the province are volunteer based, and are committed to providing the best level of fire and emergency services possible.
- Fire protection is the responsibility of the towns and communities across the province.

Lynn Robinson
Media Relations Manager
Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment
709-729-5449
lynnrobinson@gov.nl.ca
Environment and Conservation
Industrial Compost Facility
April 19, 2017

Summary:
Metro Environmental Services Inc. is proposing to establish an industrial composting facility near Whitbourne. Organic waste to be composted will include mink farm offal, spent hens, dead birds, poultry feathers, slaughterhouse offal and carcasses, and fish processing wastes. There is significant local opposition from the Town Council of Whitbourne.

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???
Keith, Debi L

From: Simmons, Derek
Sent: Wednesday, April 19, 2017 8:48 PM
To: Spurrell, Dana
Cc: Robinson, Lynn; Shea, Erin
Subject: RE: Media request Aregentia Composting Facility

Good evening Dana,

Please have a look. Not much more I can say. By the way the issue is not about fire safety, this is about a composting facility.

- The proposal was subject to an Environmental Preview Report (EPR) and Fire and Emergency Services was part of that process.
- Fire Commissioner reviewed the report and provided comment and recommendations to the Environmental Assessment Committee.
- The proponent has revised the proposal to meet the concerns of Fire and Emergency Services.
- Properly operated composting facilities have no higher incidents of fires than any other manufacturing or process operation.
- The proponent has stated that they would be contracting fire protection services from either Whitbourne, Long Harbour, or Chapel Arm.
- The proponent acknowledges that all the buildings must meet be submitted for plan review, approval and meet the Provincial adopted building and fire codes.

Derek Simmons
Director of Fire Services/Fire Commissioner
Fire & Emergency Services
Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment
Phone (709) 729-1608
Fax (709) 729-2524

“Strong minds discuss ideas, average minds discuss events, weak minds discuss people.”
— Socrates

From: Spurrell, Dana
Sent: Wednesday, April 19, 2017 6:09 PM
To: Simmons, Derek
Subject: Fw: Media request Aregentia Composting Facility

Derek, please advise of key messages for the Minister.

Thanks
Dana

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Bell network.

From: Joyce, Eddie <ejoyce@gov.nl.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, April 19, 2017 5:33 PM
To: Robinson, Lynn; Chippett, Jamie; Spurrell, Dana
Cc: Shea, Erin; Squires, Susan
Subject: RE: Media request Aregentia Composting Facility

I will do it but it may not be until Thursday morning. Thanks, Eddie.
From: Robinson, Lynn
Sent: Wednesday, April 19, 2017 12:58 PM
To: Joyce, Eddie; Chippett, Jamie; Spurrell, Dana
Cc: Shea, Erin; Squires, Susan
Subject: FW: Media request Aregentia Composting Facility
Importance: High

Hi Minister,

Please see request below to come on the St. John's Morning Show tomorrow to respond to concerns raised by the Mayor of Whitbourne about fire safety in relations to the proposed composting site on the Argentia Access Road. Would you like to respond?

Thanks.
Lynn

Lynn Robinson
Media Relations Manager
Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment
709-729-5449
lynnrobinson@gov.nl.ca

From: Budgell, Marc
Sent: Wednesday, April 19, 2017 12:16 PM
To: Shea, Erin <ErinShea@gov.nl.ca>
Cc: MacArthur, Gina <GinaMacArthur@gov.nl.ca>
Subject: Fw: Media request for Ms. MacArthur

Hi Erin, believe this one is yours.

Best,
Marc

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Bell network.

From: [redacted]@cbc.ca
Sent: Wednesday, April 19, 2017 12:11 PM
To: Budgell, Marc
Subject: Media request for Ms. MacArthur

Good day,

This morning on the St. John's Morning Show we spoke with Whitbourne Mayor Hilda Whalen about the revised proposal from Metro Environmental Services Inc to build a composting facility there.

She highlighted concerns over the lack of fire coverage, in the event of an emergency at the proposed site. Mayor Whalen says the volunteer fire department is not equipped to handle a fire at a facility like that. Despite the town and Ms. Whalen raising the concerns about the fire safety, she claims the newest proposal includes fire protection from Whitbourne.
We at the St. John's Morning Show were wondering if either Minister Trimper or Joyce would be available to chat with us tomorrow morning about this issue; to address the fire safety concerns the town has and the latest on this proposal which is being reviewed by the government, if I am not mistaken.

Anything helps,

www.cbc.ca/nl

call or text
Twitter: @
I am ok with that.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Bell network.

Derek, should we say that composting facilities are at no higher fire hazard (or hazmat hazard?) than other facilities?

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Bell network.

Please see revised KMs based on Derek's additional info for approval. We will send these to the Minister today.

Lynn

Municipal Affairs and Environment
Industrial Compost Facility
April 20, 2017

Summary:
Metro Environmental Services Inc. is proposing to establish an industrial composting facility near Whitbourne. Organic waste to be composted will include mink farm offal, spent hens, dead birds, poultry feathers, slaughterhouse offal and carcasses, and fish processing wastes. There is significant local opposition from the Town Council of Whitbourne
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From: Spurrell, Dana  
Sent: Wednesday, April 19, 2017 9:57 PM  
To: Simmons, Derek <dsimmons@gov.nl.ca>  
Cc: Robinson, Lynn <LynnRobinson@gov.nl.ca>; Shea, Erin <ErinShea@gov.nl.ca>  
Subject: Re: Media request Aregentia Composting Facility

Thanks Derek. The only thing that jumps out at me is the statement which says the building can be designed to meet the Fire Code without a sprinkler system. 

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Bell network.

From: Simmons, Derek  
Sent: Wednesday, April 19, 2017 8:52 PM  
To: Spurrell, Dana  
Cc: Robinson, Lynn; Shea, Erin  
Subject: RE: Media request Aregentia Composting Facility

Sorry to send more info. Bed time reading to help you sleep.

I have attached the proponent proposal – see 4.3.21, page 42 in Adobe when you open the doc.

Derek Simmons  
Director of Fire Services/Fire Commissioner  
Fire & Emergency Services  
Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment  
Phone (709) 729-1608  
Fax (709) 729-2524

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From: Spurrell, Dana  
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Derek, please advise of key messages for the Minister.

Thanks  
Dana

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Bell network.

From: Joyce, Eddie <ejoyce@gov.nl.ca>  
Sent: Wednesday, April 19, 2017 5:33 PM  
To: Robinson, Lynn; Chippett, Jamie; Spurrell, Dana  
Cc: Shea, Erin; Squires, Susan  
Subject: RE: Media request Aregentia Composting Facility

I will do it but it may not be until Thursday morning. Thanks, Eddie
Hi Minister,

Please see request below to come on the St. John’s Morning Show tomorrow to respond to concerns raised by the Mayor of Whitbourne about fire safety in relation to the proposed composting site on the Argentia Access Road. Would you like to respond?

Thanks.
Lynn

Lynn Robinson
Media Relations Manager
Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment
709-729-5449
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Hi Erin, believe this one is yours.

Best,
Marc

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Bell network.

Good day,

This morning on the St. John's Morning Show we spoke with Whitbourne Mayor Hilda Whalen about the revised proposal from Metro Environmental Services Inc to build a composting facility there.

She highlighted concerns over the lack of fire coverage, in the event of an emergency at the proposed site. Mayor Whalen says the volunteer fire department is not equipped to handle a fire at a facility like that. Despite the town and Ms. Whalen raising the concerns about the fire safety, she claims the newest proposal includes fire protection from Whitbourne.
We at the St. John's Morning Show were wondering if either Minister Trimper or Joyce would be available to chat with us tomorrow morning about this issue; to address the fire safety concerns the town has and the latest on this proposal which is being reviewed by the government, if I am not mistaken.

Anything helps,

www.cbc.ca/nl
Good day all,

I understood the deadline for public comment was May 16, 2017.

The rest of the KM look good. The note regarding the risk compared to other facilities is accurate but may not be necessary. As I said earlier this is not about fire risk or fire protection however now that the Town has raised that issue it may be worthwhile putting that fear to rest.

Derek Simmons  
Director of Fire Services/Fire Commissioner  
Fire & Emergency Services  
Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment  
Phone (709) 729-1608  
Fax (709) 729-2524

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From: Shea, Erin  
Sent: Thursday, April 20, 2017 9:42 AM  
To: Spurrell, Dana; Robinson, Lynn; Simmons, Derek  
Subject: RE: Media request Aregentia Composting Facility

29(1)(a) the Minister is responsible for the decision on the Environmental Assessment piece....
E.

From: Spurrell, Dana  
Sent: Thursday, April 20, 2017 9:40 AM  
To: Robinson, Lynn <lynnRobinson@gov.nl.ca>; Simmons, Derek <dsimmons@gov.nl.ca>  
Cc: Shea, Erin <ErinShea@gov.nl.ca>  
Subject: Re: Media request Aregentia Composting Facility

Derek, should we say that composting facilities are at no higher fire hazard (or hazmat hazard?) than other facilities?

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Bell network.

From: Robinson, Lynn  
Sent: Thursday, April 20, 2017 9:27 AM  
To: Spurrell, Dana; Simmons, Derek  
Cc: Shea, Erin  
Subject: RE: Media request Aregentia Composting Facility

Please see revised KMs based on Derek's additional info for approval. We will send these to the Minister today.
Thanks.
Municipal Affairs and Environment
Industrial Compost Facility
April 20, 2017

Summary:
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Fire & Emergency Services
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From: Joyce, Eddie <ejoyce@gov.nl.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, April 19, 2017 5:33 PM
To: Robinson, Lynn; Chippett, Jamie; Spurrell, Dana
Cc: Shea, Erin; Squires, Susan
Subject: RE: Media request Aregentia Composting Facility

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From: Robinson, Lynn
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To: Joyce, Eddie; Chippett, Jamie; Spurrell, Dana
Cc: Shea, Erin; Squires, Susan
Subject: FW: Media request Aregentia Composting Facility
Importance: High

Hi Minister,

Please see request below to come on the St. John’s Morning Show tomorrow to respond to concerns raised by the Mayor of Whitbourne about fire safety in relation to the proposed composting site on the Argentia Access Road. Would you like to respond?

Thanks.
Lynn

Lynn Robinson
Media Relations Manager
Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment
709-729-5449
lynnrobinson@gov.nl.ca

From: Budgell, Marc
Sent: Wednesday, April 19, 2017 12:16 PM
To: Shea, Erin <ErinShea@gov.nl.ca>
Cc: MacArthur, Gina <GinaMacArthur@gov.nl.ca>
Subject: Fw: Media request for Ms. MacArthur

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Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Bell network.

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We at the St. John's Morning Show were wondering if either Minister Trimper or Joyce would be available to chat with us tomorrow morning about this issue; to address the fire safety concerns the town has and the latest on this proposal which is being reviewed by the government, if I am not mistaken

Anything helps,

www.cbc.ca/nl

call or text
Twitter: @
Erin,

I have no further suggestions to the text below (thanks Joanne!).

The dates for the EA process can get easily confused in the public as there can be multiple deadline dates over the course of a single project (e.g. initial registration vs EPR). The simplest source for dates for this project is http://www.ecc.gov.nl.ca/env_assessment/projects/Y2016/1838/index.html

Deadline for public comments on the EPR was January 5, 2017 but then the EPR was deemed to be deficient and an addendum was submitted April 10, 2017. This opened up a new public comment period which is set to close on May 18, 2017.

Susan

---
Susan Squires, Ph.D.
Director (A)
Environmental Assessment Division
Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
709-729-0673
susansquires@gov.nl.ca

From: Sweeney, Joanne
Sent: Thursday, April 20, 2017 1:05 PM
To: Shea, Erin
Cc: Robinson, Lynn; Squires, Susan
Subject: RE: FOR APPROVAL: Argentia Composting Facility

Please see my suggested revisions in red font, below.

Joanne

From: Shea, Erin
Sent: Thursday, April 20, 2017 12:44 PM
To: Squires, Susan; Sweeney, Joanne
Cc: Robinson, Lynn
Subject: FOR APPROVAL: Argentia Composting Facility
Importance: High

Please see KMs for approval for Minister’s interview tomorrow morning on CBC AM. FES has reviewed fire services part. Thanks.

Municipal Affairs and Environment
Industrial Compost Facility
April 20, 2017

Summary:
Metro Environmental Services Inc. is proposing to establish an industrial composting facility near Whitbourne. Organic waste to be composted will include mink farm offal, spent hens, dead birds, poultry feathers, slaughterhouse offal and carcasses, and fish processing wastes. There is significant local opposition from the Town Council of Whitbourne

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- Consultations between the minister and the public with the public concerning a proponent’s proposal do not generally occur during the environmental assessment process.

Secondary Messages (Fire Services in Municipalities):
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- The fire commissioner reviewed the report and provided comment and recommendations to the Environmental Assessment Committee.
- The proponent has revised the proposal to meet the concerns of Fire and Emergency Services.
• The proponent has stated that they would be contracting fire protection services from either Whitbourne, Long Harbour, or Chapel Arm.

• The proponent acknowledges that all of the buildings must be submitted for plan review, approval and meet the provincial adopted building and fire codes.
From: Robinson, Lynn  
Sent: Thursday, April 20, 2017 1:51 PM  
To: Chippett, Jamie  
Cc: Shea, Erin  
Subject: For Approval: KMs for CBC Interview - Compost Facility Whitbourne Concerns  
Importance: High

Hi,
Attached are KMs for the Minister for his interview tomorrow morning with the CBC morning show in response to concerns raised by the mayor of Whitbourne on the proposed composting facility on the Argentia Access Road.
Thanks.
Lynn

Municipal Affairs and Environment  
Industrial Compost Facility  
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Lynn Robinson
Media Relations Manager
Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment
709-729-5449
lynnrobinson@gov.nl.ca
OK

From: Robinson, Lynn
Sent: Thursday, April 20, 2017 2:34PM
To: Chippett, Jamie
Cc: Shea, Erin
Subject: RE: For Approval: KMs for CBC Interview - Compost Facility Whitbourne Concerns

Thanks. See revised.

Municipal Affairs and Environment
Industrial Compost Facility
April 20, 2017

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• Fire protection is the responsibility of the towns and communities across the province.

• The proposal was subject to an Environmental Preview Report (EPR) and Fire and Emergency Services (FES) was part of that process. FES will provide advice to be considered in the final decision.

• The fire commissioner reviewed the report and provided comment and recommendations to the Environmental Assessment Committee.

Lynn Robinson
Media Relations Manager
Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment
709-729-5449
lynnrobinson@gov.nl.ca

From: Chippett, Jamie
Sent: Thursday, April 20, 2017 2:04 PM
To: Robinson, Lynn <LynnRobinson@gov.nl.ca>
Cc: Shea, Erin <ErinShea@gov.nl.ca>
Subject: RE: For Approval: KMs for CBC Interview - Compost Facility Whitbourne Concerns

I'd also say "directly" for consultations between public and minister not occurring.

From: Robinson, Lynn
Sent: Thursday, April 20, 2017 1:51 PM
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Cc: Shea, Erin
Subject: For Approval: KMs for CBC Interview - Compost Facility Whitbourne Concerns
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Lynn Robinson  
Media Relations Manager  
Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment  
709-729-5449  
lynnrobinson@gov.nl.ca
Hi Joanne,

The past correspondence that I forwarded to you should address your questions.

To summarize:

The suggestion that the compost facility will manage significant volumes of salmon by-product whether processing or otherwise is a hypothetical, and is not consistent with the current practices of our producers, or the management options identified in the Grieg NL registration released from environmental assessment.

If there was an opportunity for the composter to secure salmon as a byproduct, which is a possibility that will be cost and market driven, it would make a good feedstock, and the practice is standard in Canada. The main technical issue is the composter’s competency in effectively managing its material holding and C:N ratios. We would most certainly prefer to see any material that must be buried at this time composted, but there are also initiatives underway to ensile salmon in partnership with agriculture.

If our collective surveillance programs identified a reportable disease, our contingency planning would immediately come into effect and all aspects of handling and disposal would have to be done through SOP reviewed and supported by CFIA and FLR. To suggest this facility would be used or the operator would make its facility available is a hypothetical at this stage.

Although, groups and individuals opposed to salmon aquaculture like to cite and express that the salmon we produce is contaminated, the facts are that Atlantic salmon produced in Canada is well within regulatory tolerances, a safe and healthy food source. The suggestion that PoPs present in fish product is a risk to a compost product or the environment is unfounded. This material is the byproduct of a high quality internationally sold food commodity that well exceeds CFIA, Health Canada and US FDA food safety requirements for PoPs, and is recommended as part of a healthy diet.

Best regards, 

Jonathan Kawa ja
Environmental Scientist (Aquaculture)
Aquaculture Development
Department of Fisheries and Land Resources
58 Hardy Ave, Grand Falls-Windsor, NL
A2A 2K2

Ph 709.292.4104
Fax 709.292.4113
Hi Jonathan,

EA Division is currently reviewing a proposal for an industrial composting facility. The proponent advises his intention to compost fish waste and fish offal, amongst other feedstock, but has not identified exact sources. The project is currently under public review and the following public concerns have been identified:

- The proponent will compost mass mortalities from the NL aquaculture industry;
- Feedstock used in the salmon aquaculture industry is known to contain persistent organic pollutants (POP);
- Diseased salmon mortalities will be composted and the final compost product, containing pathogens and POP, will be spread over food fields, and used for horticulture and land in-filling and will contaminate food, soils and groundwater.

Can you provide insight on DFO regulations/management of the handling and final disposal of fish mortalities and diseased fish mortalities, both large and small volumes, in the aquaculture industry? Also, does DFO have any information on the presence and/or prevalence of POP in salmon feed?

I have a meeting with the environmental assessment committee for this project on May 16, 2017. Any information you can provide in advance would be much appreciated.

Regards,

Joanne

Joanne Sweeney
Environmental Scientist
Environmental Assessment Division
Department of Environment and Climate Change
PO Box 8700, St. John's NL A1B 4J6
Tel. (709) 729-2822; Fax (709)729-5518
I can't open the TRIM document either. TRIM is set up like shared drives. I might not have access to the TRIM system he is sending it from.

I may be able to get it if he forwards it to me through TRIM or he will have to send it in a different electronic format.

Susan

-----Original Message-----
From: Sweeney, Joanne
Sent: Friday, May 05, 2017 4:10 PM
To: Squires, Susan
Subject: FW: HP TRIM DEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE : COR/2017/00556 : Environmental Assessment / Registration 1838 Argentia Access Road Industrial Compost Facility / Comments on Public Comments regarding Aquaculture Mortality and Offal as a Compost Feedstock

Susan,

I can't open the 2nd attachment from Jonathan Kawaja without TRIM. Are you able to open it and forward it in a different format? Or print it if another format isn't an option?

Thanks,

Joanne

Joanne Sweeney
Environmental Scientist
Environmental Assessment Division
Department of Environment and Climate Change PO Box 8700, St. John's NL A1B 4J6 Tel. (709) 729-2822; Fax (709) 729-5518

-----Original Message-----
From: kawaja, jonathan
Sent: Friday, May 05, 2017 3:22 PM
To: Sweeney, Joanne
Cc: Morgan, Tara
Subject: HP TRIM DEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE : COR/2017/00556 : Environmental Assessment / Registration 1838 Argentia Access Road Industrial Compost Facility / Comments on Public Comments regarding Aquaculture Mortality and Offal as a Compost Feedstock
Hi Joanne,

I am going to forward some commentary and references from past discussions on the topics you raised for expediency.

Let me know after reviewing if there are any gaps.

Best regards,

Jonathan Kawaja
Environmental Scientist (Aquaculture)
Aquaculture Development
Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture
58 Hardy Ave, Grand Falls-Windsor, NL
A2A 2K2

Ph 709.292.4104
Fax 709.292.4113

------< HP TRIM Record Information >------

Record Number:     COR/2017/00556
Title : Environmental Assessment / Registration 1838 Argentia Access Road Industrial Compost Facility / Comments on Public Comments regarding Aquaculture Mortality and Offal as a Compost Feedstock
Hi Tara,

Elizabeth and I spoke, unless the proponent has changed the scope of their undertaking, there is no reason to consider aquaculture mortalities or byproduct.

Salmon byproduct (offal) is fully utilized for feeds. Some mortality of poor quality may be disposed at Sunnyside, for lack of an alternative (the alternative being available composting or ensiling to be used in agricultural soil amendment (demonstrated in NL). During a major disease event we render the mortality. There are CFIA approved SOP in place for this.

Fish is recognized as a good source of N by composters, and farmers. All other jurisdictions in Canada that have a salmon farming industry use composting to manage their salmon mortality. A site with good control of C:N ratios, standard engineering and monitoring controls should be able to accept fish byproducts. It is a better management practice than burial. In NL we did, but the aquaculture sector outgrew the Wild Cove facility and the operator didn’t put the work into maintaining the service.

The use of this proposed facility in a mass mortality or reportable disease event is a hypothetical. The proponent would have to be will to accept the material and FFA and CFIA would have to approve the SOPs depending on the scenario, which can be rather restrictive.

Hope this helps, but I think the focus should be on other animal feed stocks identified in the registration documentation.

Best regards,

Jonathan Kawaja

Environmental Scientist (Aquaculture)
Hi Nicole and Elizabeth,

Project #1838. I'm not sure if Bas sent this to you or not, I was tied up most of the day yesterday and am only now getting back to the request. Jonathan may call you to discuss and provide some background.

Jonathan suggested we forward this request to you for comment.

Tara

Tara Morgan
Manager of Environment and Land Use Services
LRSD, Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agrifoods

From: Cleary, Bas
Sent: Monday, February 06, 2017 9:13 AM
To: Morgan, Tara
Subject: FW: Project #1834 - Diseased dead aquaculture salmon and trout
Tara,

Joanne was going to raise this in her information to the Minister on the composting project. Are there any issues with animals that may have diseases or antibiotic treatment in using compost for soil enhancement? Is there any oversight requirements by the CFIA?

Bas

From: EA Project Comments
Sent: Monday, February 06, 2017 8:42 AM
To: Cleary, Bas; Carter, Paul A.
Subject: FW: Project #1834 - Diseased dead aquaculture salmon and trout

FYI - question from [REDACTED]
Subject: Project #1834 - Diseased dead aquaculture salmon and trout

Honorable Minister Trimper and Respected Others;

Project #1843
(http://www.ecc.gov.nl.ca/env_assessment/projects/Y2016/1838/index.html) has a section entitled Testing and Quality Control 4.3.7 which is using municipal waste guideline and completely disregards the nature of the starting material ie massive amounts of dead (diseased?) industrially produced aquaculture fin fish. These fish are known concentrators of a varied of very harmful substance yet no mention is made of them in any list or the effect on the leachate nor resulting compost.

Will this be part of your inquiry and demands for the amendments to the EA of this project? If so, which compounds are your department concerned with?

Cheers;

s.40(1)
Susan,

I've compiled the attached summary of public concerns submitted to EA Division during the environmental assessment of the proposed Argentia Access Road Industrial Composting Facility project. The table also includes mitigations proposed in the EA registration, EPR and EPR addendum documents to minimize/eliminate the potential environmental effects of the project, as well as government oversight of the project should it be released from EA.

EA Division received more than 400 individual public submissions and an 800-signature public petition opposing the project during the environmental assessment process. EA Division makes an effort to reply to public submissions after the minister renders a decision on a project, but in this case, the number of submissions makes individual replies impractical. It may be appropriate the post a universal reply on the project web page, such as the attached table. Please review the table and let me know (a) if it's appropriate to post the table on the project web page, and (b) if revisions are needed. The table will be included in the green folder for the DM and Minister, so they will have an opportunity to provide an opinion on posting it on the web page. The minister’s decision is due May 25, 2017.

Before the green folder is prepared/finalized, I’d like to forward the table to Justin to get some feedback from JPS. Your thoughts?

Joanne
Tel 709.729.2822
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PUBLIC CONCERNS</th>
<th>PROPOSED MITIGATIONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Perceived Biophysical Effects</strong></td>
<td><strong>PROPOSED MITIGATIONS</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 1. Odours from the facility will adversely affect the quality of life of nearby home, business and cottage owners and recreational enthusiasts. | - All stages of composting will occur inside enclosed buildings, including receiving, mixing, active composting and curing.  
- Composting buildings B and C will be under negative air pressure to minimize the escape of odours when doors are opened for short durations to permit the entry and exit of transport vehicles.  
- Composting buildings B and C will be equipped with biofilters that meet the specifications of the Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment. The biofilters are designed to remove odours, moisture and particulate material. Air leaving the buildings will be exhausted through the biofilters.  
- Organic feedstock will be blended with wood chafe and carbon fibre upon delivery to minimize odours.  
- Sufficient quantities of carbon fibre and bulking agents will be stored on-site at all times.  
- Vigilant monitoring and regular turning of windrows will ensure the process remains aerobic.  
- Full maturation of compost material will be confirmed prior to removal of the final soil amendment product from Building D.  
- A screening model of potential exhaust emissions from the facility was generated by the Pollution Prevention Division of Municipal Affairs and Environment. It indicates that emission concentrations 2.6 km from the facility will be approximately 1/10 of the concentration at the source, without the use of a biofilter.  
- Additional operational measures that will be implemented to control odour are described in the environmental assessment (EA) registration document, registration addendum, environmental preview report (EPR), and EPR Addendum.  
- An Odour Management Plan (OMP) that meets the specifications of the Pollution Prevention Division and will be implemented at the facility.  
- The OMP includes measures to receive, record and address public complaints related to odours. |
| 2. The facility will attract nuisance flies, birds and rodents to the surrounding area and will adversely affect the quality of life | - All stages of composting will occur inside enclosed buildings, including receiving, mixing, active composting and curing.  
- The Addendum includes a Vector Management Plan. |
of nearby home, business and cottage owners and recreational enthusiasts.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plan (VMP) that meets the requirements of the Pollution Prevention and the Department of Fisheries and Land Resources and will be implemented at the facility.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- The VMP includes treatments and controls to deter, capture and remove birds, vermin and insects from the facility.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- The VMP includes a Fly Management Plan that meets the requirements of Fisheries and Land Resources, and includes treatments and controls to deter, capture and remove flies from the facility.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- The VMP includes the engagement of professional exterminator services as needed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- The VMP includes measures to receive, record and address public complaints related to nuisance vectors.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- The CCME Guidelines for Compost Quality (the Compost Guidelines)², which apply to this undertaking, establish criteria that must be met to ensure compost is mature and stable at the time of sale and distribution. Unstable and immature product has the potential to attract vectors and cause odours.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Finished compost will be sampled and tested to ensure compliance with the Compost Guidelines.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- The Pollution Prevention Division will provide regulatory oversight for compliance with the Compost Guidelines.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. Pathogens in airborne emissions, leachate and finished soil amendment will contaminate the surrounding environment.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feedstock will be received and mixed in an enclosed building under negative air pressure to minimize emissions.</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>- Floors inside Buildings A, B, C and D are of an impervious design. Air leaving Buildings B and C will be exhausted through biofilters designed to remove particulate matter.</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Leachate will be managed in a closed loop system whereby leachate from the composting process and washing activities will be collected and used to re-wet compost piles.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- The Compost Guidelines establish operational criteria that must be followed to inactivate pathogenic bacteria, viruses, and parasites during the composting process.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Operational procedures described in the EPR meet the criteria outlined in section 3.5 of the Compost Guidelines for inactivating pathogenic bacteria,</td>
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</table>
viruses, and parasites.
- The EPR indicates that the final compost product will be sampled and tested to ensure compliance with the Compost Guidelines.
- The Pollution Prevention Division will provide regulatory oversight for compliance with the Compost Guidelines.

4. The composting facility will contaminate drilled drinking water wells in Whitbourne.

4.1. The Water Resources Management Division (WRMD) of the Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment advises that there is no risk of any contamination from the proposed site adversely affecting the drinking water supply wells in Whitbourne. Even if there were to be a spill or an accident with the leachate or wash water, the effects would be localized directly adjacent to the site. There is no possibility of groundwater from the area of the facility migrating anywhere near existing wells.

5. Persistent organic pollutants (POP) found in salmon aquaculture waste will concentrate in the composting process, particularly if leachate is used to re-wet compost piles.

5.1. The CCME Compost Quality Guidelines advise that given the low content of persistent organic pollutants (POP), including dioxin, furans, PCB and PAH, in compost feedstock and in composts produced in Canada routine analysis under the CCME Guidelines is not considered necessary.
- The Department of Fisheries and Land Resources informs that farmed Atlantic salmon produced in Canada is well within regulatory tolerances for a safe and healthy food source. The associated fish by-product (fish waste) is derived from a high quality internationally sold food commodity that exceeds CFIA, Health Canada and US FDA food safety requirements for POPs.

6. Toxins and metals from the compost will escape into surrounding wetlands and soil.

6.1. Proposed composting activities occur entirely inside enclosed buildings, including receiving and mixing feedstock, active composting and curing, and storage of bulk carbon fibre and finished soil amendment products.
- Drainage and leachate associated with mixing and composting activities will be collected and used to re-wet compost piles.
- Feedstock will originate from farms associated with food production. The level of toxic substances present in animal feed is anticipated to be insignificant, as the feed will affect the quality of the marketable end-product. Feedstock will be mixed with carbon fibre upon delivery to the
facilities to produce an optimal carbon: nitrogen ratio for composting. Chemical additives are not used in the composting process.

- The Compost Guidelines establish criteria for maximum concentrations of trace elements that must be met by the final compost product, including metals such as mercury, cadmium and lead.

- The EPR indicates that the final compost product will be sampled and tested to ensure compliance with the CCME Compost Quality Guidelines.

- The Pollution Prevention Division will provide regulatory oversight for compliance with the Compost Guidelines.

7. Antibiotics in fish and animal feedstock will accumulate in the finished soil amendment product. Hydromantis Inc., et al., conducted a study for the CCME in June 2010, that examined the efficiencies of seven sludge treatment processes, including aerobic composting, in the removal of pharmaceuticals and other constituents that may be present in the feedstock. Pharmaceuticals in the study included a number of frequently detected antibiotics. The study, amongst other conclusions, found that aerobic composting at thermophilic temperatures appears to be the more effective technology with respect to the removal of pharmaceutical compounds.

8. Feedstock will include diseased fish and animal mortalities. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) and the Department of Fisheries and Land Resources implement surveillance programs to identify reportable diseases amongst fish and animal farms, and have contingency plans to regulate all aspects of handling and disposal of diseased fish and animal mortalities.

9. Transportation of feedstock to the facility will cause widespread odours and flies. Operational practices will be implemented to manage odours and flies associated with transport vehicles, such as: scheduling feedstock deliveries to prevent wait times outside the facility; requiring feedstock delivery drivers to secure and cover their loads; and designing and maintaining the site access road so as to prevent spillage from delivery vehicles.

- Road transportation within the province is regulated by the Highway Traffic Act, which is enforced by the Motor Registration Division of Service NL, the RCMP and the RNC. Concerns regarding feedstock delivery vehicles may be reported to the proponent and/or the above-noted.
<p>| | | |</p>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10. Using meat and fish that has been farm raised with antibiotics and other chemicals cannot produce organic compost.</td>
<td>- The EPR indicates that the intended meaning of the term “organic” is not “certified organic”. The intended meaning is that the final compost product is a substantially organic product to be used as a replacement for chemical fertilizers, and as a soil amendment to lighten up the soil, and to add humus to increase the overall fertility of the soil for plant growth.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>11. With the prevailing westerly winds, the communities of Whitbourne and Markland will be choked with the stench of rotting fish, chicken, mink, etc.</td>
<td>- Wind statistics based on observations from a weather station at Argentia between August 2010 and April 2017 indicate the prevailing wind is from the SSW, blowing air from the composting facility away from the more populated areas of Whitbourne and Markland.</td>
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<tr>
<td>12. The proponent has not secured the services of a nearby fire department to prevent a potential fire from spreading into nearby residential and commercial areas.</td>
<td>- Fire and Emergency Services-NL is committed to working with the proponent to ensure that an approved fire protection plan is in place at the composting facility. - The (potential) minister’s decision letter to the proponent stipulates that release from environmental assessment is contingent upon having a Fire and Emergency Protection Plan approved by Fire and Emergency Services-NL prior to the commencement of construction activities.</td>
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<tr>
<td>13. Specialized training is needed to fight compost fires.</td>
<td>- Training requirements will be included in the fire protection plan to be approved by Fire and Emergency Services.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>14. The storage of fuel and chemicals on the site pose a risk to the surrounding environment.</td>
<td>- The Environmental Contingency Plan indicates that a detailed hazardous materials management plan will be submitted to the Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment for approval prior to the issuance of a Certificate of Approval. - The Pollution Prevention Division affirms that an approved hazardous materials management plan will be a requirement of a Certificate of Approval for the undertaking.</td>
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<tr>
<td>15. The restricted volume of 5,000 tonnes of compost at start-up is the tip of the iceberg with no maximum production set for later stages.</td>
<td>- A restricted volume of 5,000 tonnes of compost to be produced at the facility during the first year of operation has been established by the Pollution Prevention Division. - The maximum annual volume of produced compost will be increased incrementally by the Pollution Prevention Division under the terms and conditions of a Certificate of Approval, only if it can be demonstrated that the undertaking is being</td>
<td></td>
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</table>
16. Industrial composting is untested and a test facility should be established far away from communities.

- Operation of the proposed industrial composting facility will be subject to the regulatory oversight of the Pollution Prevention Division within the Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment, and will be subject to the CCME Guidelines for Compost Quality.
- Specific feedstock may trigger the additional regulatory oversight of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency and/or the provincial Department of Fisheries, Food and Land Resources.

17. Existing municipal composting facilities of similar enclosed building design, with negative air pressure and biofilter fans disseminate noxious odours.

- Minimizing and eliminating noxious odours associated with composting facilities is contingent upon operational procedures, in conjunction with building design.
- Several operational procedures are proposed to be implemented at the facility, in addition to building design features, to minimize and eliminate odours, including: mixing organic feedstock with carbonaceous material upon delivery; using the appropriate carbon to nitrogen ratio; ensuring a sufficient supply of carbon fibre on-site; scheduling feedstock delivery to prevent vehicles from having to wait outside prior to offloading; vigilant monitoring of air and moisture content of compost windrows; turning of compost windrows as required; and ensuring full maturation has been achieved prior to removing final soil amendment outside the building.

**Perceived Socio-Economic Effects**

1. The composting facility will deter the development of new homes and subdivisions and the establishment of new businesses and the creation of new jobs in/near Whitbourne.

- Mitigative measures described above and presented in the EA registration document, environmental preview report and addendum are designed to minimize the impacts of the project on the surrounding biophysical and socio-economic environment.
- Regulatory oversight by provincial government agencies and the CFIA, if triggered by feedstock requirements, will ensure the implementation of mitigative measures respective to their mandates.

2. The benefit of a low number of jobs at the facility does not offset the negative impacts on nearby communities and cottage, tourism

- With the implementation of the above-noted mitigations and regulatory oversight, it is anticipated that the impacts of the project on the surrounding environment will be low.
and recreational developments. - In addition to new jobs, the benefits of the facility include: the promotion of organic material as a resource rather than waste; the returning of nutrients and organic matter to the soil, potentially making it a valuable amendment for landscaping, horticulture, and agriculture; the reduction of organic waste to landfill; the diversion of wood fibre and carbonaceous material from landfill.
- The Department of Business, Culture, Industry and Innovation acknowledges that there will be a need for the acquisition of goods and services from construction firms, waste management companies and other waste management agencies.

| 3. The composting facility will leave a negative impression on tourists entering and leaving the province via the Argentia Ferry. | - Land Management Division of the Department of Fisheries and Land Resources advises that a minimum 100 metre set back distance will be required from Route 100 for the proposed facility, and that a minimum 50 metre tree screen must be contained within the setback distance. This requirement will be included in the Crown Lands permit.
- There is sufficient tree screen to comply with the Land Management Division requirements.
- The clearing of trees and brush will be limited to only what is necessary for construction and operation of the facility.
- The Department of Tourism, Culture, Industry and Innovation advises that the siting of the proposed facility and tree screen mitigations appear to minimize the impact of the composting facility on the viewscape of this important provincial gateway and touring route. |

| 4. Property values in the Whitbourne area will decline based on the adverse impacts of flies and odour from the facility. | - Various mitigative measures to minimize the impacts of flies and odour are described in the EA registration document, environmental preview report and addendum.
- Regulatory oversight by provincial government agencies, and the CFIA if triggered by feedstock requirements, will ensure the implementation of mitigative measures respective to their mandates. |

| 5. Taxpayers’ money will be used to pay for the facility. | - The proponent is not applying for or obtaining any government funding of any kind to undertake this project. |

| 6. Low value end product will be difficult to market. | - The EPR informs that the required capital investment for the undertaking is substantial, and the proponent intends to run a quality operation that |
7. The proponent lacks the experience and expertise to operate an industrial composting facility.

- At least one employee/operator on-site and the facility manager will be trained in the operation of an industrial composting facility, with training certified by the Composting Council of Canada, Solid Waste Association of North America, or equivalent.
- The services of a qualified composting industry consultant will be engaged during the initial stages of the operation.
- The composting industry consultant will provide training to staff operating the facility.
- The Pollution Prevention Division will establish minimum training requirements for compost facility employees and will oversee that the services of an experienced industrial composter are acquired during the initial stages of operation, under the terms and conditions of a potential Certificate of Approval for the undertaking.

8. Siting a composting facility on land adjacent to the Town of Whitbourne’s municipal boundary is an incompatible land use.

- The Land Management Division informs that the proposed undertaking is located in an unincorporated area that is subject to Section 6(1) of the Protected Road Zoning Regulations.
- The proposed undertaking falls under the category of waste disposal, which is a permitted use in a Rural Industrial Zone under Section 6 of the Protected Road Zoning Regulations.
- The Town of Whitbourne has the authority to designate development zones and permitted and discretionary uses in development zones within their municipal boundary.
- The area in Whitbourne that lies adjacent to the project area and on the east side of Route 100 is zoned as Rural in Whitbourne’s Municipal Plan. Permitted uses in a Rural Zone are identified as agricultural and conservation.


- Both the Whitbourne Wetland Habitat Stewardship Agreement and the Stewardship Agreement for the North American Waterfowl Management Plan refer to the enhancement and protection of land areas within the Town of Whitbourne’s Municipal Plan. The proposed project site lies outside Whitbourne’s municipal planning boundary.
10. The minister should exercise his discretion and refuse approval on the basis that this project is not in the public interest.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>10. The minister should exercise his discretion and refuse approval on the basis that this project is not in the public interest.</th>
<th>- The Department of Justice and Public Safety has provided EA Division with the following information.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Building A: Administration Building; Building B: Primary Composting and Receiving Building; Building C: Composting Building; Building D: Product Storage Building. A site plan for the proposed facility is attached.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. The CCME Compost Quality Guidelines are found at the link below: http://www.ccme.ca/files/Resources/waste/compost_quality/compostgdlns_1340_e.pdf

The Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME), the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) and the bureau de normalization du Quebec coordinated efforts to develop guidelines for compost quality to ensure a consistent, high quality product that is safe for a variety of uses. The objectives of the guideline are to protect public health and the environment across the country; to produce compost standards that are consistent across the country; to discourage the application of untreated organic wastes to land; and to ensure consumer confidence through consistent nationwide product quality standards. The CCME Guidelines for Compost Quality (the Compost Guidelines) apply to compost originating from any organic feedstock that is sold, given away or used on-site.

The Compost Guidelines are based on the following four criteria for product safety and quality: foreign matter, maturity, pathogens, and trace elements. The guidelines establish two grades of material for end use:

**Category A-Unrestricted Use**
Compost that can be used in any application, such as agricultural lands, residential gardens, horticultural operations, the nursery industry, and other businesses.

**Category B-Restricted Use**
Compost that has a restricted use because of the presence of sharp foreign matter or higher trace element content.


Good Morning,

I'm looking forward to meeting with you at 9:30 this morning. Please remember to bring a printed copy of the public concerns table, attached. I'm anticipating the full committee to be in attendance, so it should make for some informed and spirited discussion. The meeting is in the Environment main boardroom on the 4th floor of the west block of the Confederation Building. I believe you will have to use the Visitor's Entrance in the East Block, and have Security call me at [redacted] or 729-0741. Tara, I'll call you at 637-2084 or you can call in at 729-0741. Derek will be calling in as well.

Drive safe,

Joanne
Tel. (709) 729-2822; Fax (709)729-5518

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Good Afternoon,

I've attached a table outlining the public concerns and proposed mitigations associated with the proposed Argentia Access Road Industrial Composting Facility project. Please review the table prior to our meeting on Tuesday, particularly the sections that are pertinent to your mandate. The meeting will focus on whether or not each of the perceived public concerns have been resolved by mitigative measures proposed in the EA registration, EPR and Addendum documents, and/or by government regulatory oversight. Bring a printed copy of the table along to the meeting, and I'll collect them at the end. Our discussions will guide the recommendation to the minister as to whether the project should be released, rejected or whether further study is needed.

I've added an hour to the board room reservation in case extra time is needed (booked from 9:30 to 11:30). All but one committee member have confirmed their attendance at the meeting. I'm waiting for a response from the final member (no pressure). No one has indicated they will be participating by telephone, so it appears that everyone will attend in person. If you intend to participate by phone please let me know.

I look forward to meeting with you next week.

Regards,

Joanne

Joanne Sweeney
Environmental Scientist
Environmental Assessment Division
Department of Environment and Climate Change
PO Box 8700, St. John's NL A1B 4J6
Tel. (709) 729-2822, Fax (709) 729-5518
<table>
<thead>
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<tr>
<td>Perceived Biophysical Effects</td>
<td>1. Odours from the facility will adversely affect the quality of life of nearby home, business and cottage owners and recreational enthusiasts. - All stages of composting will occur inside enclosed buildings, including receiving, mixing, active composting and curing. - Buildings B and C will be under negative air pressure to minimize the escape of odours when doors are opened for short durations to permit the entry and exit of transport vehicles. - Buildings B and C will be equipped with biofilters that meet the specifications of the Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment. The biofilters are designed to remove odours, moisture and particulate material. Air leaving the buildings will be exhausted through the biofilters. - Organic feedstock will be blended with wood chafe and carbon fibre upon delivery to minimize odours. - Sufficient quantities of carbon fibre and bulking agents will be stored on-site at all times. - Vigilant monitoring and regular turning of windrows will ensure the process remains aerobic. - Full maturation of compost material will be confirmed prior to removal of the final soil amendment product from Building D(^1). - A screening model of potential exhaust emissions from the facility was generated by the Pollution Prevention Division of Municipal Affairs and Environment. It indicates that emission concentrations 2.6 km from the facility will be approximately 1/10 of the concentration at the source, without the use of a biofilter. - Additional mitigative measures that will be implemented to control odour are described in the environmental</td>
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</table>
2. The facility will attract nuisance flies, birds and rodents to the surrounding area and will adversely affect the quality of life of nearby home, business and cottage owners and recreational enthusiasts.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>assessment (EA) registration document, registration addendum, environmental preview report (EPR), and EPR Addendum.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- The Addendum includes an Odour Management Plan (OMP) and will be implemented at the facility.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- The OMP includes measures to receive, record and address public complaints related to odours.</td>
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- All stages of composting will occur inside enclosed buildings, including receiving, mixing, active composting and curing.
- The Addendum includes a Vector Management Plan (VMP) that meets the requirements of the Pollution Prevention and the Department of Fisheries and Land Resources and will be implemented at the facility.
- The VMP includes treatments and controls to deter, capture and remove birds, vermin and insects from the facility.
- The VMP includes a Fly Management Plan that meets the requirements of Fisheries and Land Resources, and includes treatments and controls to deter, capture and remove flies from the facility.
- The VMP includes the engagement of professional exterminator services as needed.
- The VMP includes measures to receive, record and address public complaints related to nuisance vectors.
- The CCME Guidelines for Compost Quality (the Compost Guidelines)\(^2\), which apply to this undertaking, establish criteria that must be met to ensure compost is mature and stable at the time of sale and distribution. Unstable and immature product has the potential to attract vectors and cause...
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<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Description</th>
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| 3. Pathogens in airborne emissions, leachate and finished soil amendment will contaminate the surrounding environment. | - Feedstock will be received and mixed in an enclosed building under negative air pressure to minimize emissions.  
- Floors inside Buildings A, B, C and D are of an impervious design. Air leaving Buildings B and C will be exhausted through biofilters designed to remove particulate matter.  
- Leachate will be managed in a closed loop system whereby leachate from the composting process and washing activities will be collected and used to re-wet compost piles.  
- The Compost Guidelines establish operational criteria that must be followed to inactivate pathogenic bacteria, viruses, and parasites during the composting process.  
- Operational procedures described in the EPR meet the criteria outlined in section 3.5 of the Compost Guidelines for inactivating pathogenic bacteria, viruses, and parasites.  
- The EPR indicates that the final compost product will be sampled and tested to ensure compliance with the Compost Guidelines.  
- The Pollution Prevention Division will provide regulatory oversight for compliance with the Compost Guidelines. |
| 4. The composting facility will contaminate drilled drinking water wells in Whitbourne. | - The Water Resources Management Division (WRMD) of the Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment advises that there is no risk of any contamination from the proposed site adversely affecting the drinking water supply wells in Whitbourne. Even if |
there were to be a spill or an accident with the leachate or wash water, the effects would be localized directly adjacent to the site. There is no possibility of groundwater from the area of the facility migrating anywhere near existing wells.

5. Persistent organic pollutants (POP) found in salmon aquaculture waste will concentrate in the composting process, particularly if leachate is used to re-wet compost piles.

- The CCME Compost Quality Guidelines advise that given the low content of persistent organic pollutants (POP), including dioxin, furans, PCB and PAH, in compost feedstock and in composts produced in Canada routine analysis under the CCME Guidelines is not considered necessary.
- The Department of Fisheries and Land Resources informs that farmed Atlantic salmon produced in Canada is well within regulatory tolerances for a safe and healthy food source. The associated fish by-product (fish waste) is derived from a high quality internationally sold food commodity that exceeds CFIA, Health Canada and US FDA food safety requirements for POPs.

6. Toxins and metals from the compost will escape entirely into surrounding wetlands and soil.

- Proposed composting activities occur entirely inside enclosed buildings, including receiving and mixing feedstock, active composting and curing, and storage of bulk carbon fibre and finished soil amendment products.
- Drainage and leachate associated with mixing and composting activities will be collected and used to re-wet compost piles.
- Feedstock will originate from farms associated with food production. The level of toxic substances present in animal feed is anticipated to be insignificant, as the feed will affect the quality of the marketable end-product. Feedstock will be mixed with carbon fibre upon delivery to the facility, to produce an optimal carbon: nitrogen ratio for composting. Chemical additives are not used in the composting process.
- The Compost Guidelines establish criteria for maximum concentrations of trace elements that must be met by the final compost product, including metals such as mercury, cadmium and lead.
- The EPR indicates that the final compost product will be sampled and tested to ensure compliance with the CCME Compost Quality Guidelines.
- The Pollution Prevention Division will provide regulatory oversight for compliance with the Compost Guidelines.

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<tr>
<th>7. Antibiotics in fish and animal feedstock will accumulate in the finished soil amendment product.</th>
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<tr>
<td>- Hydromantis Inc., et al., conducted a study for the CCME in June 2010, that examined the efficiencies of seven sludge treatment processes, including aerobic composting, in the removal of pharmaceuticals and other constituents that may be present in the feedstock. Pharmaceuticals in the study included a number of frequently detected antibiotics. The study, amongst other conclusions, found that aerobic composting at thermophilic temperatures appears to be the more effective technology with respect to the removal of pharmaceutical compounds.</td>
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<tr>
<th>8. Feedstock will include diseased fish and animal mortalities.</th>
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<tr>
<td>- The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) and the Department of Fisheries and Land Resources implement surveillance programs to identify reportable diseases amongst fish and animal farms, and have contingency plans to regulate all aspects of handling and disposal of diseased fish and animal mortalities.</td>
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<tr>
<th>9. Transportation of feedstock to the facility will cause widespread odours and flies.</th>
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<tr>
<td>- Operational practices will be implemented to manage odours and flies associated with transport vehicles, such as: scheduling feedstock deliveries to prevent wait times outside the facility; requiring feedstock delivery drivers to secure and cover their loads; and designing and maintaining the site</td>
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access road so as to prevent spillage from delivery vehicles.  
- Road transportation within the province is regulated by the *Highway Traffic Act*, which is enforced by the Motor Registration Division of Service NL, the RCMP and the RNC. Concerns regarding feedstock delivery vehicles may be reported to the proponent and/or the above-noted authorities.

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<tr>
<th>10. Using meat and fish that has been farm raised with antibiotics and other chemicals cannot produce organic compost.</th>
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<tr>
<td>- The EPR indicates that the intended meaning of the term “organic” is not “certified organic”. The intended meaning is that the final compost product is a substantially organic product to be used as a replacement for chemical fertilizers, and as a soil amendment to lighten up the soil, and to add humus to increase the overall fertility of the soil for plant growth.</td>
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<tr>
<th>With the prevailing westerly winds, the communities of Whitbourne and Markland will be choked with the stench of rotting fish, chicken, mink, etc.</th>
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<tr>
<td>- Wind statistics based on observations from a weather station at Argentia between August 2010 and April 2017 indicate the prevailing wind is from the SSW, blowing air from the composting facility away from the more populated areas of Whitbourne and Markland.</td>
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<tr>
<th>The proponent has not secured the services of a nearby fire department to prevent a potential fire from spreading into nearby residential and commercial areas.</th>
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</table>
| - Fire and Emergency Services-NL is committed to working with the proponent to ensure that an approved fire protection plan is in place at the composting facility.  
- The (potential) minister’s decision letter to the proponent stipulates that release from environmental assessment is contingent upon having a Fire and Emergency Protection Plan approved by Fire and Emergency Services-NL prior to the commencement of construction activities. |

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<tr>
<th>Specialized training is needed to fight compost fires.</th>
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<tr>
<td>- Training requirements will be included in the fire protection plan to be approved by Fire and Emergency Services-NL.</td>
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<tr>
<th>The storage of fuel and chemicals on the site pose</th>
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<tr>
<td>- The Environmental Contingency Plan indicates that a detailed hazardous</td>
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</table>
A risk to the surrounding environment.

A restricted volume of 5,000 tonnes of compost at start-up is the tip of the iceberg with no maximum production set for later stages.

Industrial composting is untested and a test facility should be established far away from communities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Perceived Socio-Economic Effects</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The composting facility will deter the establishment of new businesses and the creation of new jobs in/near Whitbourne.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Mitigative measures described above and presented in the EA registration document, environmental preview report and addendum are designed to minimize the impacts of the project on the surrounding biophysical and socio-economic environment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The benefit of a low number of jobs at the facility does not offset the negative impacts on nearby communities and cottage, tourism and recreational developments.</td>
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<td>---</td>
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<tr>
<td>The composting facility will leave a negative impression on tourists entering and leaving the province via the Argentia Ferry.</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Land Management Division of the Department of Fisheries and Land Resources advises that a minimum 100 metre set back distance will be required from Route 100 for the proposed facility, and that a minimum 50 metre tree screen must be contained within the setback distance. This requirement will be included in the Crown Lands permit. - There is sufficient tree screen to comply with the Land Management Division requirements. - The clearing of trees and brush will be limited to only what is necessary for construction and operation of the facility. - The Department of Tourism, Culture,</td>
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Industry and Innovation advises that the siting of the proposed facility and tree screen mitigations appear to minimize the impact of the composting facility on the viewscapes of this important provincial gateway and touring route.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Property values in the Whitbourne area will decline based on the adverse impacts of flies and odour from the facility.</th>
<th>Various mitigative measures to minimize the impacts of flies and odour are described in the EA registration document, environmental preview report and addendum. Regulatory oversight by provincial government agencies, and the CFIA if triggered by feedstock requirements, will ensure the implementation of mitigative measures respective to their mandates.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Taxpayers’ money will be used to pay for the facility.</td>
<td>The proponent is not applying for or obtaining any government funding of any kind to undertake this project.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low value end product will be difficult to market.</td>
<td>The EPR informs that the required capital investment for the undertaking is substantial, and the proponent intends to run a quality operation that meets all market and regulatory requirements to optimize value of marketable end product.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The proponent lacks the experience and expertise to operate an industrial composting facility.</td>
<td>At least one employee/operator on-site and the facility manager will be trained in the operation of an industrial composting facility, with training certified by the Composting Council of Canada, Solid Waste Association of North America, or equivalent. The services of a qualified composting industry consultant will be engaged during the initial stages of the operation. The composting industry consultant will provide training to staff operating the facility. The Pollution Prevention Division will establish minimum training requirements for compost facility employees and will oversee that the</td>
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Siting a composting facility on land adjacent to the Town of Whitbourne's municipal boundary is an incompatible land use. Services of an experienced industrial composter are acquired during the initial stages of operation, under the terms and conditions of a potential Certificate of Approval for the undertaking.

- The Land Management Division informs that the proposed undertaking is located in an unincorporated area that is subject to Section 6(1) of the Protected Road Zoning Regulations.
- The proposed undertaking falls under the category of waste disposal, which is a permitted use in a Rural Industrial Zone under Section 6 of the Protected Road Zoning Regulations.
- The Town of Whitbourne has the authority to designate development zones and permitted uses in development zones within their municipal boundary. The Town of Whitbourne.
- The area in Whitbourne that lies across from the project area and on the east side of Route 100 is zoned as Rural in Whitbourne's Municipal Zoning Plan. Permitted uses in a Rural Zone are identified as agricultural, conservation, single dwelling, animal, veterinary mineral exploration and recreational open space. All of these uses, with the possible exception of single dwelling, may be compatible with the proposed undertaking.

The minister should exercise his discretion and refuse approval on the basis that this project is not in the public interest.

- The Department of Justice and Public Safety has provided EA Division with the following s. 30(1)(a)
1. **Building A**: Administration Building; **Building B**: Primary Composting and Receiving Building; **Building C**: Composting Building; **Building D**: Product Storage Building. A site plan for the proposed facility is attached.

2. The CCME Compost Quality Guidelines are found at the link below:
   http://www.ccme.ca/files/Resources/waste/compost_quality/compostgdlns_1340_e.pdf

   The Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME), the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) and the bureau de normalization du Quebec coordinated efforts to develop guidelines for compost quality to ensure a consistent, high quality product that is safe for a variety of uses. The objectives of the guideline are to protect public health and the environment across the country; to produce compost standards that are consistent across the country; to discourage the application of untreated organic wastes to land; and to ensure consumer confidence through consistent nationwide product quality standards. The CCME Guidelines for Compost Quality (the Compost Guidelines) apply to compost originating from any organic feedstock that is sold, given away or used on-site.

   The Compost Guidelines are based on the following four criteria for product safety and quality: foreign matter, maturity, pathogens, and trace elements. The guidelines establish two grades of material for end use:

   **Category A-Unrestricted Use**
   Compost that can be used in any application, such as agricultural lands, residential gardens, horticultural operations, the nursery industry, and other businesses.

   **Category B-Restricted Use**
   Compost that has a restricted use because of the presence of sharp foreign matter or higher trace element content.

3. Hydromantis, Inc., University of Waterloo and Trent University, 2010. Emerging Substances of Concern In Biosolids: Concentrations and Effects of Treatment Processes
   http://www.ccme.ca/files/Resources/waste/biosolids/pn_1448_biosolids_esoc_final_e.pdf


The information provided in the EPR Addendum fulfills the requirements for additional information issued to the proponent in the Minister’s EPR decision letter dated January 31, 2017. The Minister’s EPR decision letter is attached.
The Fire and Emergency Services Plan described in the Addendum is incomplete. The proponent has not secured the services of a nearby fire department to respond to a fire at the facility/on the premises if requested. [s. 29(1)(a)]
Potential copyright material

If you wish to obtain a copy please contact the ATIPP Office at (709) 729-7072 or atippoffice@gov.nl.ca.
Dear Mr. Penney:

RE: Argentia Access Road Industrial Composting Facility

The Environmental Preview Report (EPR) submitted on November 25, 2016, has been reviewed and an opportunity to comment has been provided to the Environmental Assessment Committee (EAC) and the public, as required by the Environmental Protection Act, SNL 2002, cE-14.2. Upon consideration of the comments received, please be advised that the EPR is deficient and you must submit a revised EPR or addendum to that report.

The revised EPR or addendum will consider and address the following deficiencies, including, but not limited to:

1. Building design details identifying dimensions of the space required for mixing feedstock and wood fibre, and the space required for delivery trucks to enter the building, offload their cargo, and exit the building. These details may be included in the composting facility layout plan provided in Appendix 1 of the EPR.
2. Details of an appropriately sized biofilter that will be installed at the proposed composting facility specifying the design, size, and location of the biofilter(s).
3. Operational measures that will be undertaken to manage odour associated with the composting facility and with vehicles transporting feedstock to the facility, including, but not limited to:
   a. scheduling feedstock deliveries to prevent trucks from waiting outside the facility to unload;
   b. requiring feedstock delivery drivers to secure and cover their loads;
   c. designing and maintaining the site access road to prevent spillage of feedstock from trucks approaching the facility;
   d. minimizing the amount of time a building door is open at the facility;
   e. blending organic feedstock with wood chafe and carbon fibre within 24 hours of receiving the feedstock;
   f. using sufficient quantities of carbon fibre and bulking agents in the mixing process and throughout the entire composting process to minimize odour and prevent spontaneous combustion;
g. having sufficient quantities of carbon fibre and bulking agents on-site at all times;

h. conducting regular maintenance on mechanical ventilation and biofilters;

i. conducting vigilant monitoring of temperature, air space, moisture level and moisture distribution throughout windrows and bulk soil amendment;

j. ensuring full maturation has been achieved before removing the finished soil amendment product from inside the building.

4. A revised estimate of the volume of compost that will be produced at the facility during the first year of operation, in consultation with the Pollution Prevention Division of the Department of Environment and Climate Change.

5. A commitment to contract the services of a consultant with industrial composting experience to instill confidence in the public and government agency stakeholders that the undertaking, from the initial stages of operation, will be carried out in an environmentally acceptable manner.

6. Additional employment information identifying positions in the construction phase that will be contracted out and those that will have some other form of hiring.

7. An Odour Management Plan specific to the proposed project, including a procedure for recording and responding to public complaints.

8. A Vector Management Plan specific to the proposed project, including a Fly Management Plan and a procedure for recording and responding to public complaints.

9. An Emergency Response Plan specific to the proposed project, including measures that will be undertaken to ensure worker protection in an environment where noise, mechanical equipment and contaminated air may pose health and safety risks to workers.

10. A Decommissioning Plan specific to the proposed project.

11. A Fire and Emergency Protection Plan specific to the project, including identification of the on-site water supply and fire protection features. The plan must be developed in consultation with, and approved by, Fire and Emergency Services-NL.

12. An Environmental Emergency Contingency Plan specific to the project, including identification of an approved alternate site for compost in the event of an on-site emergency, and an approved leachate disposal method for excess leachate.

If you have any questions regarding preparation of the revised EPR or addendum, please contact Ms. Joanne Sweeney, chair of the project EAC, at 709-729-2822, or email joannesweeney@gov.nl.ca.

Sincerely,

PERRY TRIMPER, MHA
District of Lake Melville
Minister
Further to our conversation this afternoon, I've attached the Minister's Memo and a summary table of public concerns/proposed mitigations relative to EA Project #1838 – the proposed Argentia Access Road Industrial Composting Facility project.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at 2822 or reply by email.

Joanne
MEMO TO: Honourable Eddie Joyce, Minister Municipal Affairs and Environment
THROUGH: Jamie Chippett, Deputy Minister Dana Spurrell, Assistant Deputy Minister Susan Squires, Director, EA Division
FROM: Joanne Sweeney, Environmental Scientist, EA Division
DATE: May 26, 2017
SUBJECT: Recommendation concerning the acceptability of the EPR Addendum and review of the Argentia Access Road Industrial Composting Facility Project

BACKGROUND

The proponent, Metro Environmental Limited, submitted a proposal to establish an industrial composting facility to process a variety of organic waste from commercial and industrial sources in Newfoundland. Organic waste to be composted includes mink farm offal and carcasses, spent hens and dead birds, poultry feathers, and slaughterhouse offal from poultry, sheep, cattle and hogs. There are plans to include fish processing wastes in later stages of operation. The organic waste will be mixed on-site with wood chips, sawdust and shredded plants and the mixture will be distributed in long parallel windrows, sufficiently spaced to be mechanically turned for aeration. The finished compost product will be a marketable soil amendment, suitable for the landscaping and agricultural industries. The entire operation, including receiving, mixing, composting, curing and storage of finished compost and wood chips will take place inside three free standing steel-framed buildings. All buildings will have a slab on grade foundation and impervious concrete floor design. Two of the buildings have an area of 1,070 square metres and the third has an area of 1500 square metres. A fourth building will be constructed on-site for administrative purposes. Equipment to be used for the composting operations includes a frontend loader, a mixer, a windrow turner and a wood shredder/chipper. The proposed location for the undertaking is 23 hectares of Crown land along the west side of the Argentia Access Road (Route 100), approximately 3.5 kilometres south of the intersection of the TCH and Route 100.

The undertaking was initially registered for environmental assessment on April 5, 2016; the deadline for public comments was May 10, 2016; and the minister's decision was due by May 20, 2016. The proponent revised the project during the review period and submitted an Addendum describing the proposed changes. The registration Addendum was posted on the
department’s web page and announced in the EA bulletin on May 12, 2016, and the review period was restarted. Due to a high level of public interest in the project, the deadline for the minister’s decision was extended and on July 15, 2016, the minister informed the proponent that the registration document was deficient and an environmental preview report (EPR) was required. An environmental assessment committee (EAC) was appointed by the minister on July 29, 2016, comprised of representatives from the following provincial government agencies:

- **Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment**
  - Environmental Assessment Division – Committee Chairperson
  - Pollution Prevention Division
  - Fire and Emergency Services
- **Department of Tourism, Culture, Industry and Innovation**
  - Tourism and Culture Division
  - Regional Economic Development Division
- **Department of Fisheries and Land Resources**
  - Forestry and Agrifoods Agency
- **Department of Advanced Education, Skills and Labour**
  - Labour Market Development Agreement
- **Multi-Materials Stewardship Board**

The minister issued EPR guidelines to the proponent on September 16, 2016. The proponent submitted an EPR to EA Division on November 25, 2016, and subsequently submitted a revised EPR on November 30, 2016, which included a site plan of the proposed facility that was not included in the previous submission. The deadline for public comments was January 5, 2017 and the minister’s decision was due by January 14, 2017. The minister’s decision was delayed to accommodate the provision of key EAC comments and on January 31, 2017 the minister informed the proponent that the EPR is deficient and additional information is needed in the form of a revised EPR or EPR Addendum. An EPR Addendum was submitted by the proponent on April 10, 2017 and was circulated to the EAC for review and posted on the department’s web page for public consultation. The deadline for public comments was May 18, 2017 and the minister’s decision is due by May 25, 2017.

**Chronology**

Project registered – April 5, 2016
Deadline for public comments - May 10, 2016
Minister’s decision due – May 20, 2016
Registration Addendum submitted - May 12, 2016
Deadline for public comments - June 15, 2016
Minister’s decision due - June 25, 2016
Minister’s decision extended - July 15, 2016
Minister’s decision - July 15, 2016
EAC appointed - July 29, 2016
EPR guidelines issued - September 22, 2016
EPR submitted - November 25, 2016
Revised EPR submitted - November 30, 2016
Deadline for EPR public comments - January 5, 2017
Minister’s EPR decision due – January 14, 2017
Minister’s EPR decision extended – January 31, 2017
Minister’s EPR decision issued - EPR deficient- January 31, 2017
EPR Addendum submitted – April 10, 2017
Deadline for public comments – May 18, 2017
Minister’s EPR Addendum decision due – May 25, 2017

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

The EPR Addendum was announced in the Environmental Assessment (EA) News Bulletin on the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador’s web site and the document was posted on the Department’s web site on April 13, 2017. The public was invited to review the EPR Addendum and to submit comments to the Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment (MAE) by May 18, 2017. A notification was sent to subscribers of the EA News Bulletin (including environmental groups, media, government agencies, municipal organizations and interested members of the public), advising of the EPR Addendum and the opportunity to submit comments. A copy of the EPR Addendum was emailed to the Towns of Whitbourne and Placentia on April 13, 2017, inviting the Towns to review the Addendum and submit comments to MAE before the public deadline of May 18, 2017.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The EPR Addendum has generated public concern from town councils as well as home, business and cottage owners located near the proposed project site. Forty (40) individual emails and letters opposing the undertaking were received electronically during the public review period, including letters from the Town of Whitbourne, the Town of Placentia, the Town of Norman’s Cove-Long Cove, Rodrigues Winery/Sedna Nutraceuticals, Gosse Developments, a Daycare Centre, a farm owner, and businesses along the TCH near Route 100. One hundred and eighty-nine (189) copies of a form letter were emailed from the Town of Whitbourne, on behalf of residents of Whitbourne and surrounding areas who oppose the project. Approximately 250 separate copies of a form letter opposing the project were received from the Town of Whitbourne, via Canada Post, primarily from residents and business owners in Whitbourne and Markland, and including some residents and cottage owners in nearby areas, such as Placentia Junction, Peak Pond, Blaketown, New Harbour, Old Shop and Dildo.

During the EPR review conducted in November 2016-January 2017, 44 individual emails and 32 copies of a form letter opposing the project were submitted from residents of Whitbourne, Markland, Blaketown, Green’s Harbour, Old Shop and Dildo. The registration review of the undertaking, conducted in June 2016, generated substantial public concern including an 800-signature petition and more than 200 individual emails and letters opposing the project.
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT ANALYSIS

Activities associated with the construction and operation of an industrial composting facility fall under the purview of federal and provincial legislation and approvals. The CCME Compost Quality Guidelines\(^1\) which were developed to establish consistent quality guidelines for compost that is sold or given away in Canada, are applicable to this project.

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) advises that fertilizers and supplements sold or imported into Canada are regulated by the CFIA under the authority of the Fertilizers Act. Compost and products represented to contain compost must meet the prescribed safety and labelling standards of this Act. The CFIA informs that the inclusion of prohibited material (e.g., products derived from most mammalian proteins, including meat and bone meal) and specified risk material (e.g., whole cattle carcasses) places restrictions on the end-use of the product, and requires specific recall and record keeping procedures. An email to EA Division from the CFIA on May 19, 2017, is attached.

The Pollution Prevention Division (PPD) requires a Certificate of Approval (CofA) for the construction and operation of the proposed undertaking. The terms and conditions of the CofA will be guided by the Environmental Standards for Municipal Solid Waste Compost Facilities (MSWCF)\(^2\), developed by PPD in 2010, and other environmental issues of concern. The Environmental Standards for MSWCF apply to municipal solid waste composting facilities processing greater than 1000 metric tonnes of source separated organics per year. The proposed undertaking will receive raw feedstock associated with animal and poultry farms, and fish farms in later stages of development, and will start with 5,000 tonnes of produced compost in the first year.

The Department of Fisheries and Land Resources advises that the proponent must register the compost facility for a Premises Identification Number, prior to acceptance of any livestock mortalities at the site for composting.

Many of the concerns brought forward during the public consultation periods of the registration review and the EPR review, were once again raised during public consultation of the EPR Addendum. The public concerns were identified to the proponent as information deficiencies noted in EPR Guidelines issued by the minister on September 22, 2016, and in the minister’s EPR decision letter to the proponent, dated January 31, 2017. The proponent revised the project, as described in the EPR and EPR Addendum, in an effort to mitigate potential environmental effects of the undertaking that may adversely impact the lives and livelihoods of people who live, work and partake in recreational activities near the proposed project area.

The EAC met on May 16, 2017 to discuss the EPR Addendum and public submissions, as well as the proposed facility design, operational procedures and mitigative measures and the regulatory oversight associated with the undertaking. Members of the EAC were provided with a table summarizing the concerns, mitigations and regulatory oversight, and were asked to provide an opinion as to whether or not each of the public concerns has been adequately addressed. A copy of the table is attached. Public concerns regarding the potential effects of the project on the
surrounding biophysical and socio-economic environment, proposed mitigative measures and regulatory oversight are discussed below.

POTENTIAL BIOPHYSICAL EFFECTS

1. Odours from the facility will adversely affect the quality of life of nearby home, business and cottage owners and recreational enthusiasts.

Proposed Mitigations and Regulatory Oversight

- All stages of composting will occur inside enclosed buildings, including receiving, mixing, active composting and curing.
- Composting buildings will be under negative air pressure to minimize the escape of odours when doors are opened for short durations to permit the entry and exit of transport vehicles.
- Composting buildings will be equipped with biofilters that meet the specifications of PPD. The biofilters are designed to remove odours, moisture and particulate material. Air leaving the buildings will be exhausted through the biofilters.
- Organic feedstock will be blended with wood chafe and carbon fibre upon delivery to minimize odours.
- Sufficient quantities of carbon fibre and bulking agents will be stored on-site at all times.
- Vigilant monitoring and regular turning of windrows will be implemented to ensure the process remains aerobic.
- Full maturation of compost material will be confirmed prior to removal of the final soil amendment product from Building D, the curing and storage building.
- A screening model of potential exhaust emissions from the facility was generated by PPD during the registration review of this project. It indicates that emission concentrations 2.6 km from the facility will be approximately 1/10 of the concentration at the source.
- An Odour Management Plan (OMP) that meets the specifications of PPD will be implemented at the facility.
- The OMP includes measures to receive, record and address public complaints related to odours.
- Legislative requirements for separation distances between composting facilities and residential developments do not exist in many provincial jurisdictions, as it is noted that controlled composting does not equate to land use conflicts. The following recommended separation distances were noted:
  - Environmental Standards for MSWCF Guidance Document:
    1600m from residential, institutional, commercial and industrial properties
  - Nova Scotia Composting Facility Guidelines:\n    500m between the active composting area and the nearest residential or institutional building
  - Alberta Code of Practice for Compost Facilities:\n    No separation distances are specified, but the document acknowledges that the greater the separation distance between the composting facility and adjacent land use, the less likely are complaints regarding non-compatible land use.
- The distance between the nearest residential dwelling and the proposed undertaking is approximately 2.2 km.
• Separation distances between the proposed project and existing land use were measured using 2016 Google Earth imagery and the Google Earth distance measuring tool. Distances were measured for areas identified as a public concern in the table below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table: Separation Distances from Proposed Composting Facility</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>T'Railway</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Closest Residential/Commercial Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business Establishments at TCH and Route 100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peak Pond Cabins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phase I Goose Pond Subdivision</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phase II Goose Pond Subdivision</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Markland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holiday Hill Cabins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reid's Pond Cabins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rodrigues Winery/Neutraceutical Plant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blaketown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Placentia Junction Cabins</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. The facility will attract nuisance flies, birds and rodents to the surrounding area and will adversely affect the quality of life of nearby home, business and cottage owners and recreational enthusiasts.

**Proposed Mitigations and Regulatory Oversight:**
- All stages of composting will occur inside enclosed buildings, including receiving, mixing, active composting and curing.
- The Addendum includes a Vector Management Plan (VMP) that meets the requirements of PPD and the Department of Fisheries and Land Resources (FLR) and will be implemented at the facility.
- The VMP includes treatments and controls to deter, capture and remove birds, vermin and insects from the facility.
- The VMP includes a Fly Management Plan that meets the requirements of Fisheries and Land Resources, and includes treatments and controls to deter, capture and remove flies from the facility.
- The VMP includes the engagement of professional exterminator services as needed.
- The VMP includes measures to receive, record and address public complaints related to nuisance vectors.
- The CCME Compost Quality Guidelines (Compost Quality Guidelines) establish criteria that must be met to ensure compost is mature and stable at the time of sale and distribution. Unstable and immature product has the potential to attract vectors and cause odours.
- Finished compost will be sampled and tested to ensure compliance with the Compost Quality Guidelines.
- PPD will monitor and oversee the implementation of the VMP under the terms and conditions of a CofA. The CofA shall be subject to renewal at a time interval determined by PPD.
PPD will provide regulatory oversight for compliance with sampling and analysis criteria defined in the Compost Quality Guidelines.

3. Pathogens in airborne emissions, leachate and finished soil amendment will contaminate the surrounding environment.

**Proposed Mitigations and Regulatory Oversight:**
- Feedstock will be received and mixed in an enclosed building under negative air pressure to minimize emissions.
- Floors inside all buildings associated with the proposed undertaking are of an impervious design. Air leaving the composting buildings will be exhausted through biofilters designed to remove particulate matter.
- Leachate will be managed in a closed loop system whereby leachate from composting and washing activities will be collected and used to re-wet compost piles. Disposal of excess leachate, should it be necessary, will be conducted in a manner and at a location approved by PPD.
- The Compost Quality Guidelines establish operational criteria that must be followed to inactivate pathogenic bacteria, viruses, and parasites during the composting process.
- Operational procedures described in the EPR meet the criteria outlined in section 3.5 of the Compost Quality Guidelines for inactivating pathogenic bacteria, viruses, and parasites.
- The EPR indicates that the final compost product will be sampled and tested to ensure compliance with the Compost Quality Guidelines.
- PPD will provide regulatory oversight for compliance with the sampling and analysis criteria defined in the Compost Quality Guidelines.
- PPD will require, under the terms and conditions of the CoFA, that the proponent engage the services of the Occupational Health and Safety Division of the Department of Service NL to monitor air quality and bioaerosols inside the facility buildings.

4. The composting facility will contaminate drilled drinking water wells in Whitbourne.

**Proposed Mitigations and Regulatory Oversight:**
- The Water Resources Management Division (WRMD) advises that there is no risk of any contamination from the proposed site adversely affecting the drinking water supply wells in Whitbourne. There is no possibility of groundwater from the area of the facility migrating anywhere near existing wells.

5. Persistent organic pollutants (POP) found in salmon aquaculture waste will concentrate in the composting process, particularly if leachate is used to re-wet compost piles.

**Proposed Mitigations and Regulatory Oversight:**
- Persistent organic pollutants are a widespread environmental concern and are being dealt with on a global scale. The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) is a global treaty to protect human health and the environment from chemicals that remain intact in the environment for long periods, become widely distributed geographically, accumulate in the fatty tissue of humans and wildlife, and have harmful
impacts on human health or on the environment. In response to this global problem, the Stockholm Convention, which was adopted in 2001 and entered into force in 2004, requires its parties to take measures to eliminate or reduce the release of POPs into the environment. Under the Stockholm Convention, Canada has agreed to reduce or eliminate the production, use, and/or release of 12 key POPs in three broad categories:

- Pesticides - DDT, chlordane, toxaphene, mirex, aldrin, dieldrin, endrin, heptachlor
- Industrial chemicals - PCBs, hexachlorobenzene
- By-products and contaminants - dioxins and furans.

In 2009, the Stockholm Convention was amended to list nine new POPs.

Canada has a number of domestic programs dealing with research, development and monitoring of POPs, including a Chemicals Management Plan (CMP). In this province, WRMD collects quarterly water and sediment samples from an impacted river, the Waterford River, which are analyzed under the CMP for the following persistent chemicals of concern: bisphenol-A (BPA), perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS), triclosan, azo disperse dye (DY3), nonylphenols (NP-NPEs). The Environment Canada Water Quality Monitoring and Surveillance Program reports that samples collected from Waterford River are well below the ecological benchmark for the parameters analyzed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chemical</th>
<th>Years sampled</th>
<th>No. samples</th>
<th>No. detections</th>
<th>Mean Concentration</th>
<th>Max Concentration</th>
<th>Ecological Benchmark</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bisphenol-A</td>
<td>2008-2016</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>14.4 ng/l</td>
<td>42.3 ng/l</td>
<td>175 ng/l</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PFOS</td>
<td>2013-2017</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2.92 ng/l</td>
<td>3.93 ng/l</td>
<td>6000 ng/l</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Triclosan</td>
<td>2012-2016</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8.88 ng/l</td>
<td>17 ng/l</td>
<td>115 ng/l</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disperse Yellow 3</td>
<td>2015-2018</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nonylphenol</td>
<td>2016-2017</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5.71 ng/l</td>
<td>8.14 ng/l</td>
<td>1000 ng/l</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Compost Quality Guidelines advise that given the low content of persistent organic pollutants (POPs), including dioxin, furans, PCB and PAH in compost feedstock and in composts produced in Canada, routine analysis under the Guidelines is not considered necessary.

The Compost Quality Guidelines acknowledge that some compost feedstocks may contain trace amounts of persistent or bio-accumulating organic contaminants, such as dioxins, furans, pesticides, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB), polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH) or herbicides. The manufacturer is advised to pay special attention to raw materials that might contain such contaminants and to avoid composting raw materials with high contents of these contaminants.

PPD will require the proponent, under the terms and conditions of a CofA, to keep records of all feedstock deliveries, sources, volumes, dates, etc.

The CFIA regularly monitors livestock feed for environmental contaminants which have the potential to impact the safety of the food chain and the health of animals.

FLR informed in an email on May 8, 2017 that farmed Atlantic salmon produced in Canada is well within regulatory tolerances for a safe and healthy food source. The associated fish by-product (fish waste) is derived from a high quality internationally sold food commodity that exceeds CFIA, Health Canada and US FDA food safety requirements for POPs. An email of FLR’s comments is attached.
6. Toxins and metals from the compost will escape into surrounding wetlands and soil.

Proposed Mitigations and Regulatory Oversight:
- Proposed composting activities occur entirely inside enclosed buildings, including receiving and mixing feedstock, active composting and curing, and storage of bulk carbon fibre and finished soil amendment products.
- Drainage and leachate associated with mixing and composting activities will be collected and used to re-wet compost piles.
- Feedstock will originate from farms associated with food production. The level of toxic substances present in animal feed is anticipated to be low, as the feed will affect the quality of the marketable end-product. Feedstock will be mixed with carbon fibre upon delivery to the facility, to produce an optimal carbon: nitrogen ratio for composting. Chemical additives are not used in the composting process.
- The Compost Quality Guidelines establish criteria for maximum concentrations of trace elements that must be met by the final compost product, including metals such as mercury, cadmium and lead.
- The EPR indicates that the final compost product will be sampled and tested to ensure compliance with the Compost Quality Guidelines.
- PPD will provide regulatory oversight for compliance with the sampling and analysis criteria defined in the Compost Quality Guidelines.

7. Antibiotics in fish and animal feedstock will accumulate in the finished soil amendment product.

Proposed Mitigations and Regulatory Oversight:
- Hydromantis Inc., et al., conducted a study for the CCME in June 2010, that examined the efficiencies of seven sludge treatment processes, including aerobic composting, anaerobic digestion, alkaline stabilization, and other processes in the removal of pharmaceuticals and other constituents that may be present in the feedstock. Pharmaceuticals in the study included a number of frequently detected antibiotics. The study found that aerobic composting at thermophilic temperatures appears to be the more effective technology with respect to the removal of pharmaceutical compounds, including antibiotics.

8. Feedstock will include diseased fish and animal mortalities.

Proposed Mitigations and Regulatory Oversight:
- CFIA and the FLR implement surveillance programs to identify reportable diseases amongst fish and animal farms, and have contingency plans to regulate all aspects of handling and disposal of diseased fish and animal mortalities.
- FLR informs that premises identification is an important part of an effective traceability system and emergency management plan. It is a tool used to prevent, prepare for, respond to or recover from a disaster, a foreign animal disease outbreak or an emergency that threatens animal or human health. In an animal health event, having animal locations (including deadstock disposal facilities) and other key information in one system is critical for quick, accurate and cost-effective emergency response. FLR requests that if
the project is released from EA, a condition of release be included requiring the proponent to register the facility with FLR to obtain a Premises Identification Number, prior to acceptance of any livestock mortalities. Information regarding registration can be obtained through the government website or by contacting nlpid@gov.nl.ca or 709-637-2088.

9. Transportation of feedstock to the facility will cause widespread odours and flies.

Proposed Mitigations and Regulatory Oversight:
- Operational practices will be implemented to manage odours and flies associated with transport vehicles, such as: scheduling feedstock deliveries to prevent wait times outside the facility; requiring feedstock delivery drivers to secure and cover their loads; and designing and maintaining the site access road so as to prevent spillage from delivery vehicles.
- Road transportation within the province is regulated by the Highway Traffic Act, which is enforced by the Motor Registration Division of Service NL, the RCMP and the RNC. Concerns regarding feedstock delivery vehicles may be reported to the proponent and/or the above-noted authorities.

10. Using meat and fish that has been farm raised with antibiotics and other chemicals cannot produce organic compost

Proposed Mitigations and Regulatory Oversight:
- The EPR indicates that the intended meaning of the term “organic” is not “certified organic”. The intended meaning is that the final compost product is a substantially organic product to be used as a replacement for chemical fertilizers, and as a soil amendment to lighten up the soil, and to add humus to increase the overall fertility of the soil for plant growth.

11. With the prevailing westerly winds, the communities of Whitbourne and Markland will be choked with the stench of rotting fish, chicken, mink, etc.

Proposed Mitigations and Regulatory Oversight:
- Wind statistics based on observations from the Windfinder weather station at Argentia between August 2010 and April 2017 indicate the prevailing wind is from the SSW, blowing air from the composting facility away from the more populated areas of Whitbourne and Markland. The majority of development in Whitbourne, including new residential and cottage lot development at Little Goose Pond, is located due east of the proposed facility and Markland is southeast of the facility. New development at Goose Pond, northeast of the facility, is in the direction of the prevailing wind and is located approximately 5.3 km from the proposed project site. Google earth images depicting the location of various developments relative to the proposed facility are attached. Distances were obtained using the Google Earth measuring tool for distance.
12. The proponent has not secured the services of a nearby fire department to prevent a potential fire from spreading into nearby residential and commercial areas.

Proposed Mitigations and Regulatory Oversight:
- The Fire and Emergency Services (FES) Branch advises that the Fire and Emergency Protection Plan described in the EPR Addendum meets the requirements of FES. FES informs that there is no legislative requirement for the facility to secure fire protection services from a town, and there is no legislative requirement for fire suppression. FES notes that there are other industrial sites on the island operating without a fire suppression system and/or the services of a town fire department.
- If nearby town councils are concerned that fire protection services at the proposed facility are inadequate to prevent a potential fire from spreading to their nearby towns, then the Towns may wish to consider negotiating a contract with the proponent to provide firefighting services.

13. Specialized training and equipment is needed to fight compost fires.

Proposed Mitigations and Regulatory Oversight:
- FES advises that no specialized equipment is required to fight a compost fire. The principle of extinguishment of a compost fire is the same as that of a structural fire: reduce the temperature of the material on fire so that it doesn’t continue to burn, or separate the material and extinguish the smaller piles.
- FES will provide fire-fighting training to on-site staff, as needed.

14. The storage of fuel and chemicals on the site pose a risk to the surrounding environment.

Proposed Mitigations and Regulatory Oversight:
- The Environmental Contingency Plan indicates that a detailed Hazardous Materials Management Plan will be submitted to the Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment for approval prior to the issuance of a CofA.
- PPD affirms that an approved Hazardous Materials Management Plan will be a requirement of a CofA for the undertaking, and will include all aspects of the storage and handling of hazardous materials.

15. The restricted volume of 5,000 tonnes of compost at start-up is the tip of the iceberg with no maximum production set for later stages.

Proposed Mitigations and Regulatory Oversight:
- A restricted volume of 5,000 tonnes of compost to be produced at the facility during the first year of operation has been established by PPD.
- The maximum annual volume of produced compost will be increased incrementally by PPD under the terms and conditions of a CofA, only if it can be demonstrated that the undertaking is being carried out in an environmentally acceptable manner.
16. **Industrial composting is untested and a test facility should be established far away from communities.**

**Proposed Mitigations and Regulatory Oversight:**
- The proposed facility is located approximately 2.2km from existing residential development. Siting such a facility in a remote location will remove the facility from available markets and jeopardize the viability of the operation. The proposed industrial composting facility will be subject to the regulatory oversight of PPD and will be subject to the Compost Quality Guidelines and the *Fertilizers Act*. There are regulatory controls in place that restrict the movement and management of fish and animal mortalities from farms, as administered by FLR and the CFIA.

17. **Existing municipal composting facilities of similar enclosed building design, with negative air pressure and biofilter fans, disseminate noxious odours.**
- PPD informs that minimizing and eliminating noxious odours associated with composting facilities is contingent upon operational procedures, in conjunction with building design.
- Several operational procedures are proposed to be implemented at the facility, in addition to building design features, to minimize and eliminate odours, including: mixing organic feedstock with carbonaceous material upon delivery; using the appropriate carbon to nitrogen ratio; ensuring a sufficient supply of carbon fibre on-site; scheduling feedstock delivery to prevent vehicles from having to wait outside prior to offloading; vigilant monitoring of air and moisture content of compost windrows; turning of compost windrows as required; and ensuring full maturation has been achieved prior to removing final soil amendment outside the building.

During the EPR review, the EAC Chair consulted with four officials with the Nova Scotia Department of Environment (NSE) who have experience with large-scale regional composting facilities, to gain insight on the impact such facilities have on the surrounding environment. The following NSE Officials provided advice:

1. Colchester County: provided information on the Colchester Balefill/Composting Facility in Kemptown
2. Yarmouth County: provided information on the SPEC Resources Composting Facility in Church Point, Digby County
3. Halifax: provided information on the Miller Waste Composting Facility in the Burnside Industrial Park, Dartmouth
4. Sydney: provided information on the CBRM Composting Facility in Sydney

**Table: Summary of Information from NSE Officials regarding Regional Composting Facilities**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st Feedstock</td>
<td>SSO*</td>
<td>Mink-carcasses, manure, waste feed</td>
<td>SSO</td>
<td>SSO, occasionally fish plant waste, seal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Tonnage</td>
<td>9,000 tonnes/year &amp; bedding; aquaculture culls; lobster bodies &amp; shells</td>
<td>15,000 tonnes/yr</td>
<td>24,000 tonnes/yr</td>
<td>12,000 tonnes/yr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------------</td>
<td>------------------</td>
<td>------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building Design</td>
<td>1 enclosed metal bldg., no biofilter; 2 open ended fabric bldgs., all bldgs. measure 90&quot;W x 274&quot;L</td>
<td>Enclosed, fabric, negative air pressure, biofilter</td>
<td>Enclosed, metal, negative air pressure, biofilters</td>
<td>Enclosed fabric, negative air pressure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Composting Method</td>
<td>In-vessel, windrows</td>
<td>windrows</td>
<td>in-vessel open aerated tunnels; similar to windrows</td>
<td>Automated tunnel, aerobic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Composting Process Indoors</td>
<td>Receiving, mixing and active composting take place inside enclosed buildings; final maturation takes place outside on 1-acre asphalt pad</td>
<td>Receiving, blending and active composting occur indoors; curing takes place in outdoor windrows</td>
<td>100% - from receiving feedstock to storing soil amendment</td>
<td>Receiving, blending, active composting, curing - indoors; end product stored in separate bldg. without neg. air pressure or biofilter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distance to Residential</td>
<td>1 km</td>
<td>1 km</td>
<td>~5 km</td>
<td>4-5 km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distance to Commercial</td>
<td>1 km</td>
<td>1 km</td>
<td>&lt;100 m</td>
<td>&lt; 1 km to box stores</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level of Public Concern Odour/Pests</td>
<td>Almost nil - one complaint about odour in 10 yrs of operation</td>
<td>Low to nil - controlled by BMPs and good public communication</td>
<td>Occasionally low-moderate during peak compost production; short duration; from adjacent businesses &amp; clients, no residential</td>
<td>Moderate to high, constant; from nearby business owners &amp; clients, as well as homeowners 4-5 km away</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excess leachate</td>
<td>Yes, processed by SPEC Resources dewatering facility and treated for safe discharge</td>
<td>No excess leachate, controlled by adding more bulk material</td>
<td>Excess leachate, can’t be disposed of at local STP due to excessive BOD, problematic</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of Fires</td>
<td>none</td>
<td>unaware</td>
<td>1 fire in ~ 20yrs</td>
<td>1 fire in 7-8 yrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sufficient Feedstock Supply</td>
<td>Yes - organics cannot be landfilled in NS</td>
<td>Yes - organics cannot be landfilled in NS</td>
<td>Yes - organics cannot be landfilled in NS</td>
<td>Yes - organics cannot be landfilled in NS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Market for Soil Amendment</td>
<td>Consumed by SPEC Resources - construction</td>
<td>Yes, landscaping and sod farm sectors, low value</td>
<td>No, very smelly - can’t give it away</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*SSO refers to source separated organics - which is a requirement of municipal waste collection in Nova Scotia; organics are banned from landfills.*
A compilation of additional best management practices recommended by the NSE Officials is listed below:

- scheduling feedstock deliveries to ensure trucks do not remain outside the building waiting for the previous delivery truck to unload;
- minimizing the amount of time a door stays open at the facility;
- designing and maintaining the site access road to prevent spillage of feedstock from trucks approaching the facility;
- requiring drivers delivering feedstock to secure and cover their load;
- blending organic feedstock with wood chafe and carbon fibre within 24 hours of receiving the feedstock;
- using sufficient quantities of carbon fibre and bulking agents in the mixing process and throughout the entire composting process;
- using sufficient quantities of carbon fibre and bulking agents to manage quantities of leachate;
- having sufficient quantities of carbon fibre and bulking agents on-site at all times;
- conducting regular maintenance on mechanical ventilation and biofilters;
- vigilant monitoring of temperature, air space, and moisture level throughout windrows and piles of bulk soil amendment;
- ensuring full maturation has been achieved before preparing the compost as a marketable end product.

Information provided by the NSE Officials was shared with the proponent during his preparation of the EPR Addendum. The proponent is proposing to implement all of the best management practices recommended by the NSE Officials in the construction and operation of the proposed facility, as described in the EPR Addendum.

POTENTIAL SOCIO-ECONOMIC EFFECTS

1. The composting facility will deter the development of new homes and subdivisions, the establishment of new businesses and the creation of new jobs in/near Whitbourne.
   - The concern is based on perceived adverse effects of the project on the surrounding biophysical environment (e.g. odour, flies, rodents, etc.).
   - Building design features, operational procedures and mitigative measures described in the EA registration document, EPR and EPR Addendum are anticipated to minimize the impacts of the project on the surrounding biophysical environment.
   - Regulatory oversight will be conducted by government agencies to ensure compliance with relevant legislation and to monitor the implementation of building design features, operational procedures and mitigative measures.

2. The benefit of a low number of jobs at the facility does not offset the negative impacts on nearby communities and cottage, tourism and recreational developments.
   - In addition to new jobs, the benefits of the facility include: the promotion of organic material as a resource rather than waste; the returning of nutrients and organic matter to
the soil, making it a valuable amendment for landscaping, horticulture, and agriculture; the reduction of organic waste to landfill; and the diversion of wood fibre and carbonaceous material from landfill.

- The Department of Tourism, Culture, Industry and Innovation notes that there will be a need for the acquisition of goods and services from construction firms, waste management companies and other waste management agencies.

3. The composting facility will leave a negative impression on tourists entering and leaving the province via the Argentia Ferry.

- Land Management Division of FLR advises that a minimum 100 metre setback distance will be required from Route 100 for the proposed facility, and that a minimum 50 metre tree screen must be contained within the setback distance. This requirement will be included in a Crown Lands permit.
- There is sufficient tree screen to comply with the Land Management Division requirement.
- The clearing of trees and brush will be limited to only what is necessary for construction and operation of the facility.
- The Department of Tourism, Culture, Industry and Innovation advises that the siting of the proposed facility and tree screen mitigations appear to minimize the impact of the composting facility on the viewscapes of this important provincial gateway and touring route.
- The Provincial Tourism Product Development Plan, released by the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador in May 2017, identifies the quality of travel experiences and the ‘sense of arrival’ at major entry points and gateways as key priorities for government. Given that Route 100 is a main gateway to the province via the Argentia ferry, Tourism and Culture Division advises that buildings and property associated with the undertaking must be maintained in a manner that does not detract from viewscapes.

4. Property values in the Whitbourne area will decline based on the adverse impacts of flies and odour from the facility.

- The concern is based on perceived adverse effects of the project on the surrounding biophysical environment (e.g. odour, flies, rodents, etc.).
- Building design features, operational procedures and mitigative measures described in the EA registration document, EPR and EPR Addendum are anticipated to minimize the impacts of the project on the surrounding biophysical environment.
- Regulatory oversight will be conducted by government agencies to ensure compliance with relevant legislation and to monitor the implementation of building design features, operational procedures and mitigative measures.

5. Taxpayers’ money will be used to pay for the facility.

- The proponent is not applying for or obtaining any government funding of any kind to undertake this project.
6. Low value end product will be difficult to market.
   - The EPR informs that the required capital investment for the undertaking is substantial and the proponent intends to run a quality operation that meets all market and regulatory requirements to optimize the value of the marketable end product.

7. The proponent lacks the experience and expertise to operate an industrial composting facility.
   - At least one employee/operator on-site and the facility manager will be trained in the operation of an industrial composting facility, with training certified by the Composting Council of Canada, Solid Waste Association of North America, or equivalent.
   - The services of a qualified composting industry consultant will be engaged during the initial stages of the operation.
   - The composting industry consultant will provide training to staff operating the facility.
   - PPD will establish minimum training requirements for compost facility employees and will oversee that the services of an experienced industrial composter are acquired during the initial stages of operation, under the terms and conditions of a CofA for the undertaking.

8. Siting a composting facility on land adjacent to the Town of Whitbourne’s municipal boundary is an incompatible land use.
   - The Land Management Division informs that the proposed undertaking is located in an unincorporated area that is subject to Section 6(1) of the Protected Road Zoning Regulations.
   - The proposed undertaking falls under the category of waste disposal, which is a permitted use under Section 6 of the Protected Road Zoning Regulations.
   - The Town of Whitbourne has the authority to designate development zones and permitted and discretionary uses within their municipal boundary.
   - The area in Whitbourne that lies adjacent to the project area and on the east side of Route 100 is zoned as Rural in Whitbourne’s Municipal Plan. Permitted uses in a Rural Zone are identified as agricultural and conservation.

   - Both the Whitbourne Wetland Habitat Stewardship Agreement and the Stewardship Agreement for the North American Waterfowl Management Plan refer to the enhancement and protection of land areas within the Town of Whitbourne’s Municipal Plan. The proposed project site lies outside Whitbourne’s municipal planning boundary.

10. The minister should exercise his discretion and refuse approval on the basis that this project is not in the public interest.
    - The Department of Justice and Public Safety has, in the past, provided EA Division with the following [s. 30(1)(b)]
References


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PUBLIC CONCERNS</th>
<th>PROPOSED MITIGATIONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Potential Biophysical Effects</strong></td>
<td><strong>- All stages of composting will occur inside enclosed buildings, including receiving, mixing, active composting and curing.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Odours from the facility will adversely affect the quality of life of nearby home, business and cottage owners and recreational enthusiasts.</td>
<td><strong>- Composting buildings B and C will be under negative air pressure to minimize the escape of odours when doors are opened for short durations to permit the entry and exit of transport vehicles.</strong></td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>- Composting buildings B and C will be equipped with biofilters that meet the specifications of the Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment. The biofilters are designed to remove odours, moisture and particulate material. Air leaving the buildings will be exhausted through the biofilters.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>- Organic feedstock will be blended with wood chafe and carbon fibre upon delivery to minimize odours.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>- Sufficient quantities of carbon fibre and bulking agents will be stored on-site at all times.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>- Vigilant monitoring and regular turning of windrows will ensure the process remains aerobic.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>- Full maturation of compost material will be confirmed prior to removal of the final soil amendment product from Building D.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>- A screening model of potential exhaust emissions from the facility was generated by the Pollution Prevention Division (PPD) of Municipal Affairs and Environment. It indicates that emission concentrations 2.6 km from the facility will be approximately 1/10 of the concentration at the source.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>- Additional operational measures that will be implemented to control odour are described in the environmental assessment (EA) registration document, registration addendum, environmental preview report (EPR), and EPR Addendum.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>- An Odour Management Plan (OMP) that meets the specifications of the Pollution Prevention Division will be implemented at the facility.</strong></td>
</tr>
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<td><strong>- The OMP includes measures to receive, record and address public complaints related to odours.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. The facility will attract nuisance flies, birds and rodents to the surrounding area and will adversely affect the quality of life of nearby home, business and cottage owners and recreational</td>
<td><strong>- All stages of composting will occur inside enclosed buildings, including receiving, mixing, active composting and curing.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>- The Addendum includes a Vector Management Plan (VMP) that meets the requirements of the Pollution Prevention and the Department of Fisheries and Land</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
enthusiasts. Resources and will be implemented at the facility.
- The VMP includes treatments and controls to deter, capture and remove birds, vermin and insects from the facility.
- The VMP includes a Fly Management Plan that meets the requirements of Fisheries and Land Resources, and includes treatments and controls to deter, capture and remove flies from the facility.
- The VMP includes the engagement of professional exterminator services as needed.
- The VMP includes measures to receive, record and address public complaints related to nuisance vectors.
- The CCME Guidelines for Compost Quality (the Compost Quality Guidelines)^2, which apply to this undertaking, establish criteria that must be met to ensure compost is mature and stable at the time of sale and distribution. Unstable and immature product has the potential to attract vectors and cause odours.
- Finished compost will be sampled and tested to ensure compliance with the Compost Quality Guidelines.
- The Pollution Prevention Division will monitor and oversee the implementation of the VMP under the terms and conditions of a Certificate of Approval (CofA), required for the construction and operation of the proposed undertaking. The CofA shall be subject to renewal at a time interval determined by the Pollution Prevention Division.
- The Pollution Prevention Division will provide regulatory oversight for compliance with the sampling and analysis criteria defined in the Compost Quality Guidelines.

| 3. Pathogens in airborne emissions, leachate and finished soil amendment will contaminate the surrounding environment. | - Feedstock will be received and mixed in an enclosed building under negative air pressure to minimize emissions.
- Floors inside Buildings A, B, C and D are of an impervious design. Air leaving Buildings B and C will be exhausted through biofilters designed to remove particulate matter.
- Leachate will be managed in a closed loop system whereby leachate from the composting process and washing activities will be collected and used to re-wet compost piles. Disposal of excess leachate, should it be necessary, will be conducted in a manner and at a location approved by the Pollution Prevention Division. |
- The Compost Quality Guidelines establish operational criteria that must be followed to inactivate pathogenic bacteria, viruses, and parasites during the composting process.
- Operational procedures described in the EPR meet the criteria outlined in section 3.5 of the Compost Quality Guidelines for inactivating pathogenic bacteria, viruses, and parasites.
- The EPR indicates that the final compost product will be sampled and tested to ensure compliance with the Compost Quality Guidelines.
- The Pollution Prevention Division will provide regulatory oversight for compliance with the sampling and analysis criteria defined in the Compost Quality Guidelines.
- The Polluton Prevention Division will require, under the terms and conditions of the CoFA, that the proponent engage the services of the Occupational Health and Safety Division of the Department of Service NL to monitor air quality and bioaerosols inside the facility buildings.

4. The composting facility will contaminate drilled drinking water wells in Whitbourne.

- The Water Resources Management Division (WRMD) of the Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment advises that there is no risk of any contamination from the proposed site adversely affecting the drinking water supply wells in Whitbourne. There is no possibility of groundwater from the area of the facility migrating anywhere near existing wells.

5. Persistent organic pollutants (POPs) found in salmon aquaculture waste will concentrate in the composting process, particularly if leachate is used to re-wet compost piles.

- Persistent organic pollutants are a widespread environmental concern and are being dealt with on a global scale. The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) is a global treaty to protect human health and the environment from chemicals that remain intact in the environment for long periods, become widely distributed geographically, accumulate in the fatty tissue of humans and wildlife, and have harmful impacts on human health or on the environment. In response to this global problem, the Stockholm Convention, which was adopted in 2001 and entered into force in 2004, requires its parties to take measures to eliminate or reduce the release of POPs into the environment. Under the Stockholm Convention, Canada, agreed to reduce or eliminate the production, use, and/or release of 12 key POPs in three broad
categories:
- Pesticides - DDT, chlordane, toxaphene, mirex, aldrin, dieldrin, endrin, heptachlor
- Industrial chemicals - PCBs, hexachlorobenzene
- By-products and contaminants - dioxins and furans.

In 2009, the Stockholm Convention was amended to list nine new POPs.
- Canada has a number of domestic programs dealing with research, development and monitoring of POPs, including a Chemicals Management Plan (CMP). In this province, WRMD collects quarterly water and sediment samples from an impacted river, the Waterford River, which are analyzed under the CMP for the following persistent chemicals of concern: triclosan, bisphenol-A (BPA), hydrous magnesium silicate (DY3), perfluorinated chemicals (PFCs), nonylphenol (NP) and nonylphenol ethoxylates (NPEs).
- The Compost Quality Guidelines advise that given the low content of persistent organic pollutants (POP), including dioxin, furans, PCB and PAH, in compost feedstock and in composts produced in Canada routine analysis under the CCME Guidelines is not considered necessary.
- The Compost Quality Guidelines acknowledge that some compost feedstocks may contain trace amounts of persistent or bio-accumulating organic contaminants, such as dioxins, furans, pesticides, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB), polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH) or herbicides. The manufacturer is advised to pay special attention to raw materials that might contain such contaminants and to avoid composting raw materials with high contents of these contaminants.
- The Pollution Prevention Division will require the proponent, under the terms and conditions of a CoFA, to keep records of all feedstock deliveries, sources, volumes, dates, etc.
- The CFIA regularly monitors livestock feed for environmental contaminants which have the potential to impact the safety of the food chain and the health of animals.
- The Department of Fisheries and Land Resources informs that farmed Atlantic salmon produced in
Canada is well within regulatory tolerances for a safe and healthy food source. The associated fish by-product (fish waste) is derived from a high quality internationally sold food commodity that exceeds CFIA, Health Canada and US FDA food safety requirements for POPs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>6. Toxins and metals from the compost will escape into surrounding wetlands and soil.</th>
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<tr>
<td>- Proposed composting activities occur entirely inside enclosed buildings, including receiving and mixing feedstock, active composting and curing, and storage of bulk carbon fibre and finished soil amendment products.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Drainage and leachate associated with mixing and composting activities will be collected and used to re-wet compost piles.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Feedstock will originate from farms associated with food production. The level of toxic substances present in animal feed is anticipated to be insignificant, as the feed will affect the quality of the marketable end-product. Feedstock will be mixed with carbon fibre upon delivery to the facility, to produce an optimal carbon: nitrogen ratio for composting. Chemical additives are not used in the composting process.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- The Compost Quality Guidelines establish criteria for maximum concentrations of trace elements that must be met by the final compost product, including metals such as mercury, cadmium and lead.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- The EPR indicates that the final compost product will be sampled and tested to ensure compliance with the sampling and analysis criteria defined in CCME Compost Quality Guidelines.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- The Pollution Prevention Division will provide regulatory oversight for compliance with the Compost Quality Guidelines.</td>
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<tr>
<th>7. Antibiotics in fish and animal feedstock will accumulate in the finished soil amendment product.</th>
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<td>- Hydromantis Inc. et al., conducted a study for the CCME in June 2010, that examined the efficiencies of seven sludge treatment processes, including aerobic composting, anaerobic digestion, alkaline stabilization, and other processes in the removal of pharmaceuticals and other constituents that may be present in the feedstock. Pharmaceuticals in the study included a number of frequently detected antibiotics. The study found that aerobic composting at thermophilic temperatures appears to be the more effective technology with respect to the removal of pharmaceutical compounds.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 8. Feedstock will include diseased fish and animal mortalities. | - The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) and the Department of Fisheries and Land Resources implement surveillance programs to identify reportable diseases amongst fish and animal farms, and have contingency plans to regulate all aspects of handling and disposal of diseased fish and animal mortalities.  
- The Department of Fisheries and Land Resources advises the proponent to register for a Premises Identification Number for the composting facility prior to acceptance of any livestock mortalities to the site for composting. |
| --- | --- |
| 9. Transportation of feedstock to the facility will cause widespread odours and flies. | - Operational practices will be implemented to manage odours and flies associated with transport vehicles, such as: scheduling feedstock deliveries to prevent wait times outside the facility; requiring feedstock delivery drivers to secure and cover their loads; and designing and maintaining the site access road so as to prevent spillage from delivery vehicles.  
- Road transportation within the province is regulated by the *Highway Traffic Act*, which is enforced by the Motor Registration Division of Service NL, the RCMP and the RNC. Concerns regarding feedstock delivery vehicles may be reported to the proponent and/or the above-noted authorities. |
<p>| 10. Using meat and fish that has been farm-raised with antibiotics and other chemicals cannot produce organic compost. | - The EPR indicates that the intended meaning of the term “organic” is not “certified organic”. The intended meaning is that the final compost product is a substantially organic product to be used as a replacement for chemical fertilizers, and as a soil amendment to lighten the soil, and to add humus to increase the overall fertility of the soil for plant growth. |
| 11. With the prevailing westerly winds, the communities of Whitbourne and Markland will be choked with the stench of rotting fish, chicken, mink, etc. | - Wind statistics based on observations from a Windfinder weather station at Argentia between August 2010 and April 2017 indicate the prevailing wind is from the SSW, blowing air from the composting facility away from the more populated areas of Whitbourne and Markland. The majority of development in Whitbourne, including new residential and cottage lot development at Little Goose Pond, is located due east of the proposed facility and Markland is southeast of the facility. New development at Goose Pond, northeast of the facility, is in the direction of the prevailing wind and is located approximately 5.3 km from the proposed facility. |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>12. The proponent has not secured the services of a nearby fire department to prevent a potential fire from spreading into nearby residential and commercial areas.</th>
<th>The Fire and Emergency Services (FES) Branch of the Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment advises that the Fire and Emergency Protection Plan described in the EPR Addendum meets the requirements of FES. FES informs that there is no legislative requirement for the facility to secure fire protection services from a town, and there is no legislative requirement for fire suppression. FES notes that there are other industrial sites on the island operating without a fire suppression system and/or the services of a town fire department.</th>
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<tr>
<td>13. Specialized training is needed to fight compost fires.</td>
<td>FES advises that they will provide fire-fighting training to on-site staff as needed, and that no specialized equipment is required to fight a compost fire. The principle of extinguishment of a compost fire is the same as that of a structural fire: reduce the temperature of the material on fire so that it doesn’t continue to burn, or separate the material and extinguish the smaller piles.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. The storage of fuel and chemicals on the site pose a risk to the surrounding environment.</td>
<td>The Environmental Contingency Plan included in the EPR Addendum indicates that a detailed Hazardous Materials Management Plan will be submitted to the Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment for approval prior to the issuance of a Certificate of Approval. The Pollution Prevention Division affirms that an approved Hazardous Materials Management Plan will be a requirement of a Certificate of Approval for the undertaking.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. The restricted volume of 5,000 tonnes of compost at start-up is the tip of the iceberg with no maximum production set for later stages.</td>
<td>A restricted volume of 5,000 tonnes of compost to be produced at the facility during the first year of operation has been established by the Pollution Prevention Division. The maximum annual volume of produced compost will be increased incrementally by the Pollution Prevention Division under the terms and conditions of a Certificate of Approval, only if it can be demonstrated that the undertaking is being carried out in an environmentally acceptable manner.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. Industrial composting is untested and a test facility should be established far away from communities.</td>
<td>The proposed facility is located approximately 2.2km from existing residential development. Siting such a facility in a remote location will remove the facility from available markets and jeopardize the viability of the operation. The proposed industrial composting facility will be subject to the regulatory</td>
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</table>
oversight of the Pollution Prevention Division and will be subject to the CCME Guidelines for Compost Quality and the Fertilizers Act administered by the CFIA. There are regulatory controls in place that restrict the movement and management of fish and animal mortalities from farms, as administered by the Department of Fisheries and Land Resources and the CFIA.

17. Existing municipal composting facilities of similar enclosed building design, with negative air pressure and biofilter fans, disseminate noxious odours. - The Pollution Prevention Division informs that minimizing and eliminating noxious odours associated with composting facilities is contingent upon operational procedures, in conjunction with building design. Several operational procedures are proposed to be implemented at the facility, in addition to building design features, to minimize and eliminate odours, including: mixing organic feedstock with carbonaceous material upon delivery; using the appropriate carbon to nitrogen ratio; ensuring a sufficient supply of carbon fibre on-site; scheduling feedstock delivery to prevent vehicles from having to wait outside prior to offloading; vigilant monitoring of air and moisture content of compost windrows; turning of compost windrows as required; and ensuring full maturation has been achieved prior to removing final soil amendment outside the building.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Perceived Socio-Economic Effects</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. The composting facility will deter the development of new homes and subdivisions, the establishment of new businesses and the creation of new jobs in/near Whitbourne.</td>
<td>- The concern is based on perceived adverse effects of the project on the surrounding bio-physical environment (e.g. odour, flies, rodents, etc.). Building design features, operational procedures and mitigative measures described in the EA registration document, EPR and EPR Addendum are anticipated to minimize the impacts of the project on the surrounding biophysical environment. - Regulatory oversight will be conducted by government agencies to ensure compliance with relevant legislation and to monitor the implementation of building design features, operational procedures and mitigative measures.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. The benefit of a low number of jobs at the facility does not offset the negative impacts on nearby communities and cottage, tourism and recreational</td>
<td>- In addition to new jobs, the benefits of the facility include: the promotion of organic material as a resource rather than waste; the returning of nutrients and organic matter to the soil, making it a valuable amendment for landscaping, horticulture, and</td>
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8
developments. agriculture; the reduction of organic waste to landfill; and the diversion of wood fibre and carbonaceous material from landfill.
- The Department of Tourism, Culture, Industry and Innovation notes that there will be a need for the acquisition of goods and services from construction firms, waste management companies and other waste management agencies.

3. The composting facility will leave a negative impression on tourists entering and leaving the province via the Argentia Ferry.
- Land Management Division of the Department of Fisheries and Land Resources advises that a minimum 100 metre setback distance will be required from Route 100 for the proposed facility, and that a minimum 50 metre tree screen must be contained within the setback distance. This requirement will be included in the Crown Lands permit.
- There is sufficient tree screen to comply with the Land Management Division requirements.
- The clearing of trees and brush will be limited to only what is necessary for construction and operation of the facility.
- The Department of Tourism, Culture, Industry and Innovation advises that the siting of the proposed facility and tree screen mitigations appear to minimize the impact of the composting facility on the viewscapes of this important provincial gateway and touring route.
- The Provincial Tourism Product Development Plan, released by the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador in May 2017, identifies the quality of travel experiences and the 'sense of arrival' at major entry points and gateways as key priorities for government. Given that Route 100 is a main gateway to the province via the Argentia ferry, Tourism and Culture Division advises that buildings and property associated with the undertaking must be maintained in a manner that does not detract from viewscapes.

4. Property values in the Whitbourne area will decline based on the adverse impacts of flies and odour from the facility.
- The concern is based on perceived adverse effects of the project on the surrounding bio-physical environment (e.g. odour, flies, rodents, etc.).
- Building design features, operational procedures and mitigative measures described in the EA registration document, EPR and EPR Addendum are anticipated to minimize the impacts of the project on the surrounding biophysical environment.
- Regulatory oversight will be conducted by
<p>| | |</p>
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<tr>
<td>5. Taxpayers’ money will be used to pay for the facility.</td>
<td>- The proponent is not applying for or obtaining government funding of any kind to undertake this project.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Low value end product will be difficult to market.</td>
<td>- The EPR informs that the required capital investment for the undertaking is substantial, and the proponent intends to run a quality operation that meets all market and regulatory requirements to optimize value of marketable end product.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. The proponent lacks the experience and expertise to operate an industrial composting facility.</td>
<td>- At least one employee/operator on-site and the facility manager will be trained in the operation of an industrial composting facility, with training certified by the Composting Council of Canada, Solid Waste Association of North America, or equivalent. - The services of a qualified composting industry consultant will be engaged during the initial stages of the operation. - The composting industry consultant will provide training to staff operating the facility. - The Pollution Prevention Division will establish minimum training requirements for compost facility employees and will oversee that the services of an experienced industrial composter are acquired during the initial stages of operation, under the terms and conditions of a Certificate of Approval for the undertaking.</td>
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<tr>
<td>8. Siting a composting facility on land adjacent to the Town of Whitbourne’s municipal boundary is an incompatible land use.</td>
<td>- The Land Management Division informs that the proposed undertaking is located in an unincorporated area that is subject to Section 6(1) of the Protected Road Zoning Regulations. - The proposed undertaking falls under the category of waste disposal, which is a permitted use under Section 6 of the Protected Road Zoning Regulations. - The Town of Whitbourne has the authority to designate development zones and permitted and discretionary uses within their municipal boundary. - The area in Whitbourne that lies adjacent to the project area and on the east side of Route 100 is zoned as Rural in Whitbourne’s Municipal Plan. Permitted uses in a Rural Zone are identified as agricultural and conservation.</td>
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<tr>
<td>9. The Provincial Government and the Town of Whitbourne</td>
<td>- Both the Whitbourne Wetland Habitat Stewardship Agreement and the Stewardship Agreement for the</td>
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signed an agreement in 1993 titled the “Whitbourne Wetland Habitat Stewardship Agreement” and in May 2006, the “Stewardship Agreement for the North American Waterfowl Management Plan.”

North American Waterfowl Management Plan refer to the enhancement and protection of land areas within the Town of Whitbourne’s Municipal Plan. The proposed project site lies outside Whitbourne’s municipal planning boundary.

10. The minister should exercise his discretion and refuse approval on the basis that this project is not in the public interest.

- The Department of Justice and Public Safety has, in the past, provided EA Division with the following

1. **Building A**: Administration Building; **Building B**: Primary Composting and Receiving Building; **Building C**: Composting Building; **Building D**: Product Storage Building. A site plan for the proposed facility is attached.

2. The Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME), the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) and the bureau de normalisation du Quebec coordinated efforts to develop guidelines for compost quality to ensure a consistent, high quality product that is safe for a variety of uses. The objectives of the guideline are to protect public health and the environment across the country; to produce compost standards that are consistent across the country; to discourage the application of untreated organic wastes to land; and to ensure consumer confidence through consistent nationwide product quality standards. The CCME Guidelines for Compost Quality (the Compost Quality Guidelines) apply to compost originating from any organic feedstock that is sold, given away or used on-site.

The Compost Quality Guidelines are based on the following four criteria for product safety and quality: foreign matter, maturity, pathogens, and trace elements. The guidelines establish two grades of material for end use:

**Category A-Unrestricted Use**
Compost that can be used in any application, such as agricultural lands, residential gardens, horticultural operations, the nursery industry, and other businesses.

**Category B-Restricted Use**
Compost that has a restricted use because of the presence of sharp foreign matter or higher trace element content.
From: Chippett, Jamie  
Sent: Friday, June 02, 2017 5:36 PM  
To: Michielsen, Dan; Squires, Susan; Sweeney, Joanne; Spurrell, Dana  
Cc: Khan, Haseen; Shea, Erin  
Subject: Re: Memo and table of public concerns

You are on the right track.

Thks
JDC

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Bell network.

From: Michielsen, Dan  
Sent: Friday, June 2, 2017 5:25 PM  
To: Chippett, Jamie; Squires, Susan; Sweeney, Joanne; Spurrell, Dana  
Cc: Khan, Haseen; Shea, Erin  
Subject: Re: Memo and table of public concerns

The intent was to get your blessing on the format. The plan is to populate the table with more approval like conditions as it digs into the specific issues like environmental monitoring etc.

On these types of Approvals we issue in two stages, the first to construct once we are happy with the plans and design, the second to operated once we confirm it is constructed as proposed. That in itself is a significant mitigative approach.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Bell network.

From: Chippett, Jamie  
Sent: Friday, June 2, 2017 4:55 PM  
To: Michielsen, Dan; Squires, Susan; Sweeney, Joanne; Spurrell, Dana  
Cc: Khan, Haseen; Shea, Erin  
Subject: RE: Memo and table of public concerns

More or less.

But I was most interested in what the conditions of the C of A would be but I don’t mind this broader approach.

I would expect much more detail on the C of A though. And based on table construction below should be a separate line for Operating C of A.

From: Michielsen, Dan  
Sent: Friday, June 2, 2017 9:13 AM  
To: Squires, Susan <SusanSquires@gov.nl.ca>; Chippett, Jamie <JamieChippett@gov.nl.ca>; Sweeney, Joanne <Joannesweeney@gov.nl.ca>; Spurrell, Dana <DanaSpurrell@gov.nl.ca>  
Cc: Khan, Haseen <hkhan@gov.nl.ca>; Shea, Erin <ErinShea@gov.nl.ca>  
Subject: RE: Memo and table of public concerns
Folks,

As discussed I will have staff search the recommendation document for the requirements of PPD and prepare a table similar to below. Note this is to be used as a starting point we will ensure that all of the requirements in the recommendation document and as discussed at the meeting yesterday will be outlined in this table. Jamie is this what you had envisioned?

Dan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Authority</th>
<th>Proposed Action</th>
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<tr>
<td>Certificate of Approval</td>
<td>Sections 16 (2) and 78 of the <em>Environmental Protection Act</em> specifically requires the operator of a waste management system to have an approval.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Decommissioning and Rehabilitation plan</td>
<td>Section 83 of the EPA allows the Minister to require rehabilitation plans, release and pollution prevention plans, implementation schedules, security and public information consultations and plans from an approval holder.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Odour management</td>
<td>Section 83 of the EPA allows the minister to impose conditions in an approval which he deems appropriate.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Environmental monitoring</td>
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<td>Community stakeholder committee</td>
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<td>Operator experience and training</td>
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<td>Volume restrictions</td>
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s. 29(1)(a)
Further to our conversation this afternoon, I’ve attached the Minister’s Memo and a summary table of public concerns/proposed mitigations relative to EA Project #1838 – the proposed Argentia Access Road Industrial Composting Facility project.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at 2822 or reply by email.

Joanne
Keith, Debi L

From: Sweeney, Joanne
Sent: Tuesday, June 06, 2017 2:24 PM
To: Squires, Susan
Subject: prevailing winds_proposed composting facility

Susan,

I've discussed prevailing winds in the vicinity of the proposed composting facility with Barrie Lawrence, PPD. Barrie informs that it isn't appropriate to apply the prevailing wind direction from Argentia to the area surrounding the proposed composting facility. I selected Argentia because it's the closest location to the proposed facility for which I could find wind direction data. Barrie advises that factors such as terrain elevation, land use, temperature gradients and other factors influence wind speed and direction.

The only real way to determine wind flow at the project site is to either measure it (which will take several years) or to run a meteorological model, which would take a number of weeks to acquire data. Barrie contacted a consulted who can access wind data for this area, from a previous project. The data is available at the costs outlined below:

$5000 would generate data at a 200 metre resolution, thereby virtually accounting for each and every nook and cranny elevation change.

$1000 would generate a 3-km resolution. Given the community is ~ 3 km from the proposed facility and the land is relatively flat between the project and the community, a resolution of 3 km would be more than accurate.

Barrie put together some crude terrain elevations for the area, which show that higher terrain runs in a north / south direction, which would indicate the general flow should be more aligned in this direction. This would direct air flows from the project site away from the town of Whitbourne, as per Barrie's image below:
I'm not sure whether the department is interested in purchasing the wind direction information from the consultant, at the above-noted costs. You may want to make Dana/Jamie aware and let me know if we wish to pursue this.

Regards,

Joanne

Joanne Sweeney  
Environmental Scientist  
Environmental Assessment Division  
Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment  
PO Box 8700, St. John's NL A1B 4J6  
Tel. (709) 729-2822; Fax (709) 729-5518

From: Lawrence, Barrie  
Sent: Tuesday, June 06, 2017 1:15 PM  
To: Sweeney, Joanne  
Subject: FW: Wind rose

Hey Joanne,

Below is the email I received from the consultant. To put it in plain English:

The $500 option is not an option. The domain in question doesn't cover the site of the proposed facility; it misses by about 28 km. If it was available, the resolution would have been 200 metres. The $5000 option would generate data at a 200 metre resolution, thereby virtually accounting for each and every nook and granny elevation change. The $1000 3-km WRF-NMM option is probably the best for this project. Given the community is ~3 km from the proposed facility and the land is relatively flat between the project and the community, a resolution of 3 km would be more than accurate.

Please let me know if and how you'd like to proceed.

Barrie

From: [Redacted]  
Sent: Tuesday, June 06, 2017 12:00 PM  
To: Lawrence, Barrie  
Cc: [Redacted]  
Subject: Wind rose

Hi Barrie,

I have few questions:

Are these coordinates in the domain of CALMET for Holyrood. (You can check that quickly). I can extract that quite quickly. (500 $)

If not, can you accept data from the WRF-NMM (3 km resolution).

For WRF-NMM - 4 years of data extraction for this location, the cost would be a day of work ($1000.00).
If I need to re-run CALMET for that area that would be about $5000.00. (We need to prepare the input for CALMET from WRF-NMM and re-run CALMET.)

Regards,
MEMO TO: Honourable Eddie Joyce, Minister
Municipal Affairs and Environment

THROUGH: Jamie Chippett, Deputy Minister
Dana Spurrell, Assistant Deputy Minister
Susan Squires, Director, EA Division

FROM: Joanne Sweeney, Environmental Scientist, EA Division

DATE: June 9, 2017

SUBJECT: Recommendation concerning the acceptability of the EPR Addendum
and review of the Argentia Access Road Industrial Composting Facility Project

BACKGROUND

The proponent, Metro Environmental Limited, submitted a proposal to establish an industrial composting facility to process a variety of organic waste from commercial and industrial sources in Newfoundland. Organic waste to be composted includes mink farm offal and carcasses, spent hens and dead birds, poultry feathers, and slaughterhouse offal from poultry, sheep, cattle and hogs. There are plans to include fish processing wastes in later stages of operation. The organic waste will be mixed on-site with wood chips, sawdust and shredded plants and the mixture will be distributed in long parallel windrows, sufficiently spaced to be mechanically turned for aeration. The finished compost product will be a marketable soil amendment, suitable for the landscaping and agricultural industries. The entire operation, including receiving, mixing, composting, curing and storage of finished compost and wood chips will take place inside three free standing steel-framed buildings. All buildings will have a slab on grade foundation and impervious concrete floor design. Two of the buildings have an area of 1,070 square metres and the third has an area of 1,500 square metres. A fourth building will be constructed on-site for administrative purposes. Equipment to be used for the composting operations includes a frontend loader, a mixer, a windrow turner and a wood shredder/chipper. The proposed location for the undertaking is 23 hectares of Crown land along the west side of the Argentia Access Road (Route 100), approximately 3.5 kilometres south of the intersection of the TCH and Route 100.

The undertaking was initially registered for environmental assessment on April 5, 2016; the deadline for public comments was May 10, 2016; and the minister’s decision was due by May 20, 2016. The proponent revised the project during the review period and submitted an Addendum describing the proposed changes. The registration Addendum was posted on the
department’s web page and announced in the EA bulletin on May 12, 2016, and the review period was restarted. Due to a high level of public interest in the project, the deadline for the minister’s decision was extended and on July 15, 2016, the minister informed the proponent that the registration document was deficient and an environmental preview report (EPR) was required. An environmental assessment committee (EAC) was appointed by the minister on July 29, 2016, comprised of representatives from the following provincial government agencies:

- Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment
  - Environmental Assessment Division – Committee Chairperson
  - Pollution Prevention Division
  - Fire and Emergency Services
- Department of Tourism, Culture, Industry and Innovation
  - Tourism and Culture Division
  - Regional Economic Development Division
- Department of Fisheries and Land Resources
  - Forestry and Agrifoods Agency
- Department of Advanced Education, Skills and Labour
  - Labour Market Development Agreement
- Multi-Materials Stewardship Board

The minister issued EPR guidelines to the proponent on September 16, 2016. The proponent submitted an EPR to EA Division on November 25, 2016, and subsequently submitted a revised EPR on November 30, 2016, which included a site plan of the proposed facility that was not included in the previous submission. The deadline for public comments was January 5, 2017 and the minister’s decision was due by January 14, 2017. The minister’s decision was delayed to accommodate the provision of key EAC comments and on January 31, 2017 the minister informed the proponent that the EPR is deficient and additional information is needed in the form of a revised EPR or EPR Addendum. An EPR Addendum was submitted by the proponent on April 10, 2017 and was circulated to the EAC for review and posted on the department’s web page for public consultation. The deadline for public comments was May 18, 2017 and the minister’s decision is due by May 25, 2017.

**Chronology**

- Project registered – April 5, 2016
- Deadline for public comments - May 10, 2016
- Minister’s decision due – May 20, 2016
- Registration Addendum submitted - May 12, 2016
- Deadline for public comments - June 15, 2016
- Minister’s decision due - June 25, 2016
- Minister’s decision extended - July 15, 2016
- Minister’s decision - July 15, 2016
- EAC appointed - July 29, 2016
- EPR guidelines issued - September 22, 2016
- EPR submitted - November 25, 2016
- Revised EPR submitted - November 30, 2016
- Deadline for EPR public comments - January 5, 2017
Minister’s EPR decision due – January 14, 2017
Minister’s EPR decision extended – January 31, 2017
Minister’s EPR decision issued- EPR deficient- January 31, 2017
EPR Addendum submitted – April 10, 2017
Deadline for public comments – May 18, 2017
Minister’s EPR Addendum decision due – May 25, 2017

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

The EPR Addendum was announced in the Environmental Assessment (EA) News Bulletin on the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador’s web site and the document was posted on the Department’s web site on April 13, 2017. The public was invited to review the EPR Addendum and to submit comments to the Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment (MAE) by May 18, 2017. A notification was sent to subscribers of the EA News Bulletin (including environmental groups, media, government agencies, municipal organizations and interested members of the public), advising of the EPR Addendum and the opportunity to submit comments. A copy of the EPR Addendum was emailed to the Towns of Whitbourne and Placentia on April 13, 2017, inviting the Towns to review the Addendum and submit comments to MAE before the public deadline of May 18, 2017.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The EPR Addendum has generated public concern from town councils as well as home, business and cottage owners located near the proposed project site. Forty (40) individual emails and letters opposing the undertaking were received electronically during the public review period, including letters from the Town of Whitbourne, the Town of Placentia, the Town of Norman’s Cove-Long Cove, Rodrigues Winery/Sedna Nutraceuticals, Gosse Developments, a Daycare Centre, a farm owner, and businesses along the TCH near Route 100. One hundred and eighty-nine (189) copies of a form letter were emailed from the Town of Whitbourne, on behalf of residents of Whitbourne and surrounding areas who oppose the project. Approximately 250 separate copies of a form letter opposing the project were received from the Town of Whitbourne, via Canada Post, primarily from residents and business owners in Whitbourne and Markland, and including some residents and cottage owners in nearby areas, such as Placentia Junction, Peak Pond, Blaketown, New Harbour, Old Shop and Dildo.

During the EPR review conducted in November 2016-January 2017, 44 individual emails and 32 copies of a form letter opposing the project were submitted from residents of Whitbourne, Markland, Blaketown, Green’s Harbour, Old Shop and Dildo. The registration review of the undertaking, conducted in June 2016, generated substantial public concern including an 800-signature petition and more than 200 individual emails and letters opposing the project.
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT ANALYSIS

Activities associated with the construction and operation of an industrial composting facility fall under the purview of federal and provincial legislation and approvals. The CCME Compost Quality Guidelines, which were developed to establish consistent quality guidelines for compost that is sold or given away in Canada, are applicable to this project.

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) advises that fertilizers and supplements sold or imported into Canada are regulated by the CFIA under the authority of the Fertilizers Act. Compost and products represented to contain compost must meet the prescribed safety and labelling standards of this Act. The CFIA informs that the inclusion of prohibited material (e.g., products derived from most mammalian proteins, including meat and bone meal) and specified risk material (e.g., whole cattle carcasses) places restrictions on the end-use of the product, and requires specific recall and record keeping procedures. An email to EA Division from the CFIA on May 19, 2017, is attached.

The Pollution Prevention Division (PPD) requires a Certificate of Approval (CoA) for the construction and operation of the proposed undertaking. The terms and conditions of the CoA will be guided by the Environmental Standards for Municipal Solid Waste Compost Facilities (MSWCF), developed by PPD in 2010, and other environmental issues of concern. The Environmental Standards for MSWCF apply to municipal solid waste composting facilities processing greater than 1000 metric tonnes of source separated organics per year. The proposed undertaking will receive raw feedstock associated with animal and poultry farms, and fish farms in later stages of development, and will start with 5,000 tonnes of produced compost in the first year. A potential CoA, drafted by PPD, is attached to give an indication of the terms and conditions that will likely be included in the CoA should the project be released from environmental assessment.

The Department of Fisheries and Land Resources advises that the proponent must register the compost facility for a Premises Identification Number, prior to acceptance of any livestock mortalities at the site for composting.

Many of the concerns brought forward during the public consultation periods of the registration review and the EPR review, were once again raised during public consultation of the EPR Addendum. The public concerns were identified to the proponent as information deficiencies noted in EPR Guidelines issued by the minister on September 22, 2016, and in the minister’s EPR decision letter to the proponent, dated January 31, 2017. The proponent revised the project, as described in the EPR and EPR Addendum, in an effort to mitigate potential environmental effects of the undertaking that may adversely impact the lives and livelihoods of people who live, work and partake in recreational activities near the proposed project area.

The EAC met on May 16, 2017 to discuss the EPR Addendum and public submissions, as well as the proposed facility design, operational procedures and mitigative measures and the regulatory oversight associated with the undertaking. Members of the EAC were provided with a table summarizing the concerns, mitigations and regulatory oversight, and were asked to provide an opinion as to whether or not each of the public concerns has been adequately addressed. A
copy of the table is attached. Public concerns regarding the potential effects of the project on the surrounding biophysical and socio-economic environment, proposed mitigative measures and regulatory oversight are discussed below.

POTENTIAL BIOPHYSICAL EFFECTS

1. Odours from the facility will adversely affect the quality of life of nearby home, business and cottage owners and recreational enthusiasts.

Proposed Mitigations and Regulatory Oversight

- All stages of composting will occur inside enclosed buildings, including receiving, mixing, active composting and curing.
- Composting buildings will be under negative air pressure to minimize the escape of odours when doors are opened for short durations to permit the entry and exit of transport vehicles.
- Composting buildings will be equipped with biofilters that meet the specifications of PPD. The biofilters are designed to remove odours, moisture and particulate material. Air leaving the buildings will be exhausted through the biofilters.
- Organic feedstock will be blended with wood chafe and carbon fibre upon delivery to minimize odours.
- Sufficient quantities of carbon fibre and bulking agents will be stored on-site at all times.
- Vigilant monitoring and regular turning of windrows will be implemented to ensure the process remains aerobic.
- Full maturation of compost material will be confirmed prior to removal of the final soil amendment product from Building D, the curing and storage building.
- A screening model of potential exhaust emissions from the facility was generated by PPD during the registration review of this project. It indicates that emission concentrations 2.6 km from the facility will be approximately 1/10 of the concentration at the source.
- An Odour Management Plan (OMP) that meets the specifications of PPD will be implemented at the facility.
- The OMP includes measures to receive, record and address public complaints related to odours.
- Legislative requirements for separation distances between composting facilities and residential developments do not exist in many provincial jurisdictions, as it is noted that controlled composting does not equate to land use conflicts. The following recommended separation distances were noted:
  - Environmental Standards for MSWCF Guidance Document: 1600m from residential, institutional, commercial and industrial properties
  - Nova Scotia Composting Facility Guidelines: 500m between the active composting area and the nearest residential or institutional building
  - Alberta Code of Practice for Compost Facilities: No separation distances are specified, but the document acknowledges that the greater the separation distance between the composting facility and adjacent land use, the less likely are complaints regarding non-compatible land use.
• The distance between the nearest residential dwelling and the proposed undertaking is approximately 2.2 km.
• Separation distances between the proposed project and existing land use were measured using 2016 Google Earth imagery and the Google Earth distance measuring tool. Distances were measured for areas identified as a public concern in the table below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table: Separation Distances from Proposed Composting Facility</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>T’Railway</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Closest Residential/Commercial Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business Establishments at TCH and Route 100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peak Pond Cabins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phase I Goose Pond Subdivision</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phase II Goose Pond Subdivision</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Markland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holiday Hill Cabins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reid’s Pond Cabins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rodrigues Winery/Neutraceutical Plant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blaketown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Placentia Junction Cabins</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

• A Google Earth image, shown below, depicts the proximity of various developments relative to the proposed facility. Distances were obtained using the Google Earth measuring tool for distance. A full size copy of the image below is attached for clarity.
2. The facility will attract nuisance flies, birds and rodents to the surrounding area and will adversely affect the quality of life of nearby home, business and cottage owners and recreational enthusiasts.

Proposed Mitigations and Regulatory Oversight:
- All stages of composting will occur inside enclosed buildings, including receiving, mixing, active composting and curing.
- The Addendum includes a Vector Management Plan (VMP) that meets the requirements of PPD and the Department of Fisheries and Land Resources (FLR) and will be implemented at the facility.
- The VMP includes treatments and controls to deter, capture and remove birds, vermin and insects from the facility.
- The VMP includes a Fly Management Plan that meets the requirements of Fisheries and Land Resources, and includes treatments and controls to deter, capture and remove flies from the facility.
- The VMP includes the engagement of professional exterminator services as needed.
- The VMP includes measures to receive, record and address public complaints related to nuisance vectors.
- The CCME Compost Quality Guidelines (Compost Quality Guidelines) establish criteria that must be met to ensure compost is mature and stable at the time of sale and distribution. Unstable and immature product has the potential to attract vectors and cause odours.
- Finished compost will be sampled and tested to ensure compliance with the Compost Quality Guidelines.
- PPD will provide regulatory oversight for compliance with the sampling and analysis criteria defined in the Compost Quality Guidelines, as specified by the terms and conditions of the COA.
- PPD will monitor and oversee the implementation of the VMP under the terms and conditions of a CoA. If public complaints are received at the Department regarding nuisance flies and vectors associated with the composting facility, PPD has the authority to investigate the complaints, require the operator to address the complaints, and require the operator to stop receiving feedstock at the facility until the problems with flies and vectors have been addressed to the satisfaction of PPD.
- The CoA shall be subject to renewal at a time interval determined by PPD.

3. Pathogens in airborne emissions, leachate and finished soil amendment will contaminate the surrounding environment.

Proposed Mitigations and Regulatory Oversight:
- Feedstock will be received and mixed in an enclosed building under negative air pressure to minimize emissions.
- Floors inside all buildings associated with the proposed undertaking are of an impervious design. Air leaving the composting buildings will be exhausted through biofilters designed to remove particulate matter.
• Leachate will be managed in a closed loop system whereby leachate from composting and washing activities will be collected and used to re-wet compost piles. Under typical operating conditions no leachate will be leaving the buildings, as all leachate will be reused in the composting process. In the event that a particular feedstock has an excessive amount of liquid (e.g. fish mortalities and fish offal), excess leachate will be disposed of in a manner at a location approved by PPD, as included in the terms and conditions of the CoA.

• The Compost Quality Guidelines establish operational criteria that must be followed to inactivate pathogenic bacteria, viruses, and parasites during the composting process. For example, for feedstock containing material other than grass clippings and yard waste and using the windrow composting method, the material shall attain a temperature of 55°C or greater for at least 15 days during the composting period. Also, during the high temperature period, the windrow shall be turned at least five times. The proponent has stated in the EPR that this operational practice, amongst others prescribed by the Compost Quality Guidelines, will be implemented at the proposed facility.

• Operational procedures described in the EPR meet the criteria outlined in section 3.5 of the Compost Quality Guidelines for inactivating pathogenic bacteria, viruses, and parasites.

• The EPR indicates that the final compost product will be sampled and tested to ensure compliance with the Compost Quality Guidelines.

• PPD will provide regulatory oversight for compliance with the sampling and analysis criteria defined in the Compost Quality Guidelines, as demonstrated in the attached draft version of a CoA for this project.

• PPD will require, under the terms and conditions of the CoA, that the proponent engage the services of the Occupational Health and Safety Division of the Department of Service NL to monitor air quality and bioaerosols inside the facility buildings.

4. The composting facility will contaminate drilled drinking water wells in Whitbourne.

Proposed Mitigations and Regulatory Oversight:

• The Water Resources Management Division (WRMD) advised EA Division in an email on May 8, 2017, that there is no risk of any contamination from the proposed site adversely affecting the drinking water supply wells in Whitbourne. Even if there were to be a spill or an accident with the leachate or wash water, the effects would be localized directly adjacent to the site. There is no possibility of groundwater from the area of the facility migrating anywhere near existing wells. Any groundwater flow would also likely be in the northwest direction, away from Whitbourne. A map illustrating the proximity of drinking water wells to the proposed facility, along the email from WRMD, is attached.

5. Persistent organic pollutants (POP) found in salmon aquaculture waste will concentrate in the composting process, particularly if leachate is used to re-wet compost piles.

Proposed Mitigations and Regulatory Oversight:

• Persistent organic pollutants are a widespread environmental concern and are being dealt with on a global scale. The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) is a global treaty to protect human health and the environment from chemicals
that remain intact in the environment for long periods, become widely distributed geographically, accumulate in the fatty tissue of humans and wildlife, and have harmful impacts on human health or on the environment. In response to this global problem, the Stockholm Convention, which was adopted in 2001 and entered into force in 2004, requires its parties to take measures to eliminate or reduce the release of POPs into the environment. Under the Stockholm Convention, Canada has agreed to reduce or eliminate the production, use, and/or release of 12 key POPs in three broad categories:

- Pesticides - DDT, chlordane, toxaphene, mirex, aldrin, dieldrin, endrin, heptachlor
- Industrial chemicals - PCBs, hexachlorobenzene
- By-products and contaminants - dioxins and furans.

In 2009, the Stockholm Convention was amended to list nine new POPs.

- Canada has a number of domestic programs dealing with research, development and monitoring of POPs, including a Chemicals Management Plan (CMP). In this province, WRMD collects quarterly water and sediment samples from an impacted river, the Waterford River, which are analyzed under the CMP for the following persistent chemicals of concern: bisphenol-A (BPA), perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS), triclosan, azo disperse dye (DY3) and nonylphenols (NP-NPEs). The Environment Canada Water Quality Monitoring and Surveillance Program reports that samples collected from Waterford River are well below the ecological benchmark for the parameters analyzed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chemical</th>
<th>Years sampled</th>
<th>No. samples</th>
<th>No. Detections</th>
<th>Mean Concentration</th>
<th>Max Concentration</th>
<th>Ecological Benchmark</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bisphenyl-a</td>
<td>2008-2016</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>14.4 ng/l</td>
<td>42.3 ng/l</td>
<td>175 ng/l</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PFOS</td>
<td>2013-2017</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2.92 ng/l</td>
<td>3.63 ng/l</td>
<td>6000 ng/l</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Triclosan</td>
<td>2012-2016</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8.88 ng/l</td>
<td>17 ng/l</td>
<td>115 ng/l</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disperse Yellow 3</td>
<td>2015-2016</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nonylphenol</td>
<td>2016-2017</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5.71 ng/l</td>
<td>8.10 ng/l</td>
<td>1000 ng/l</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Compost Quality Guidelines advise that given the low content of persistent organic pollutants (POPs), including dioxin, furans, PCB and PAH in compost feedstock and in composts produced in Canada, routine analysis under the Guidelines is not considered necessary.

- The Compost Quality Guidelines acknowledge that some compost feedstocks may contain trace amounts of persistent or bio-accumulating organic contaminants, such as dioxins, furans, pesticides, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB), polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH) or herbicides. The manufacturer is advised to pay special attention to raw materials that might contain such contaminants and to avoid composting raw materials with high contents of these contaminants.

- PPD will require the proponent, under the terms and conditions of a CoA, to keep records of all feedstock deliveries, sources, volumes, dates, etc.

- The CFIA regularly monitors livestock feed for environmental contaminants which have the potential to impact the safety of the food chain and the health of animals.

- FLR informed in an email on May 8, 2017 that farmed Atlantic salmon produced in Canada is well within regulatory tolerances for a safe and healthy food source. The associated fish by-product (fish waste) is derived from a high quality internationally sold food commodity that exceeds CFIA, Health Canada and US FDA food safety requirements for POPs. An email of FLR’s comments is attached.
6. Toxins and metals from the compost will escape into surrounding wetlands and soil.

Proposed Mitigations and Regulatory Oversight:
- Proposed composting activities occur entirely inside enclosed buildings, including receiving and mixing feedstock, active composting and curing, and storage of bulk carbon fibre and finished soil amendment products.
- Drainage and leachate associated with mixing and composting activities will be collected and used to re-wet compost piles. The EPR explains that a floor drain and trough system will collect liquid drainage in the receiving, mixing, composting and washing areas which will flow by gravity to a concrete pound. A sump pump and piping system will transport the leachate back to the windrow areas to re-wet the composting material.
- Feedstock will originate from farms associated with food production. The level of toxic substances present in animal feed is anticipated to be low, as the feed will affect the quality of the marketable end-product. Feedstock will be mixed with carbon fibre upon delivery to the facility, to produce an optimal carbon: nitrogen ratio for composting. Chemical additives are not needed in the composting process, and may restrict the end-use of the marketable product, which must meet the criteria outlined in the Compost Quality Guidelines for Unrestricted Use, to be used in agricultural, horticultural and residential applications.
- The Compost Quality Guidelines establish criteria for maximum concentrations of trace elements that must be met by the final compost product, including metals such as mercury, cadmium and lead.
- The EPR indicates that the final compost product will be sampled and tested to ensure compliance with the Compost Quality Guidelines.
- PPD will provide regulatory oversight for compliance with the sampling and analysis criteria defined in the Compost Quality Guidelines.

7. Antibiotics in fish and animal feedstock will accumulate in the finished soil amendment product.

Proposed Mitigations and Regulatory Oversight:
- Hydromantis Inc., et al., conducted a study for the CCME in June 2010, that examined the efficiencies of seven sludge treatment processes, including aerobic composting, anaerobic digestion, alkaline stabilization, and other processes in the removal of pharmaceuticals and other constituents that may be present in the feedstock. Pharmaceuticals in the study included a number of frequently detected antibiotics. The study found that aerobic composting at thermophilic temperatures appears to be the more effective technology with respect to the removal of pharmaceutical compounds, including antibiotics.

8. Feedstock will include diseased fish and animal mortalities.

Proposed Mitigations and Regulatory Oversight:
- CFIA and the FLR implement surveillance programs to identify reportable diseases amongst fish and animal farms, and have contingency plans to regulate all aspects of handling and disposal of diseased fish and animal mortalities.
FLR informs that premises identification is an important part of an effective traceability system and emergency management plan. It is a tool used to prevent, prepare for, respond to or recover from a disaster, a foreign animal disease outbreak or an emergency that threatens animal or human health. In an animal health event, having animal locations (including deadstock disposal facilities) and other key information in one system is critical for quick, accurate and cost-effective emergency response. FLR requests that if the project is released from EA, a condition of release be included requiring the proponent to register the facility with FLR to obtain a Premises Identification Number, prior to acceptance of any livestock mortalities. Information regarding registration can be obtained through the government website or by contacting nlpid@gov.nl.ca or 709-637-2088.

9. Transportation of feedstock to the facility will cause widespread odours and flies.

**Proposed Mitigations and Regulatory Oversight:**
- Operational practices will be implemented to manage odours and flies associated with transport vehicles, such as: scheduling feedstock deliveries to prevent wait times outside the facility; requiring feedstock delivery drivers to secure and cover their loads; and designing and maintaining the site access road so as to prevent spillage from delivery vehicles.
- Road transportation within the province is regulated by the *Highway Traffic Act*, which is enforced by the Motor Registration Division of Service NL, the RCMP and the RNC. Concerns regarding feedstock delivery vehicles may be reported to the proponent and/or the above-noted authorities.

10. Using meat and fish that has been farm raised with antibiotics and other chemicals cannot produce organic compost

**Proposed Mitigations and Regulatory Oversight:**
- The EPR indicates that the intended meaning of the term “organic” is not “certified organic”. The intended meaning is that the final compost product is a substantially organic product to be used as a replacement for chemical fertilizers, and as a soil amendment to lighten up the soil, and to add humus to increase the overall fertility of the soil for plant growth.

11. With the prevailing westerly winds, the communities of Whitbourne and Markland will be choked with the stench of rotting fish, chicken, mink, etc.

**Proposed Mitigations and Regulatory Oversight:**
- Argentia is the closest community to the proposed area for which wind data is readily available. Prevailing winds in Argentia are documented to be south westerly. PPD advised in an email on June 6, 2017, that prevailing wind data for Argentia may not accurately reflect prevailing winds in the vicinity of the proposed project. Wind direction is influenced by factors such as by terrain elevation, land use and temperature gradients. PPD informs that the only real way to determine wind flow at the project site is to either measure it over several years, or to run a meteorological model over several weeks.
crudely put together the terrain elevations for the area, as shown in the figure below. The black dot represents the approximate project area. Terrain elevation goes from low (blue) to high (red). Higher terrain near the project area runs in a north/south direction, which would indicate the general flow should be more aligned in this direction, channeling air surrounding the facility away from the town of Whitbourne.

![Terrain Elevation Map](image)

- PPD advises that measured wind data near the proposed site can be purchased from a consultant who has previously conducted work in the area, at the following rates:
  - $5000 would generate data at a 200 metre resolution, thereby virtually accounting for each and every nook and cranny elevation change.
  - $1000 would generate a 3 km resolution. Given that the community is ~ 3 km from the proposed facility and the land is relatively flat between the project and the community, a resolution of 3 km is anticipated to be accurate.
  - PPD emails on June 6, 2017 relative to wind direction are attached.

12. The proponent has not secured the services of a nearby fire department to prevent a potential fire from spreading into nearby residential and commercial areas.

**Proposed Mitigations and Regulatory Oversight:**
- The Fire and Emergency Services Division (FES) advises that the Fire and Emergency Protection Plan described in the EPR Addendum meets the requirements of FES. FES informs that there is no legislative requirement for the facility to secure fire protection services from a town, and there is no legislative requirement for fire suppression. FES notes that there are other industrial sites on the island operating without a fire suppression system and/or the services of a town fire department.
- If nearby town councils are concerned that fire protection services at the proposed facility are inadequate to prevent a potential fire from spreading to their nearby towns, then the Towns may wish to consider negotiating a contract with the proponent to provide firefighting services.
13. Specialized training and equipment is needed to fight compost fires.

**Proposed Mitigations and Regulatory Oversight:**
- FES advises that no specialized equipment is required to fight a compost fire. The principle of extinguishment of a compost fire is the same as that of a structural fire: reduce the temperature of the material on fire so that it doesn’t continue to burn, or separate the material and extinguish the smaller piles.
- FES will provide fire-fighting training to on-site staff, as needed.

14. The storage of fuel and chemicals on the site pose a risk to the surrounding environment.

**Proposed Mitigations and Regulatory Oversight:**
- The Environmental Contingency Plan indicates that a detailed Hazardous Materials Management Plan will be submitted to the Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment for approval prior to the issuance of a CoA.
- PPD affirms that an approved Hazardous Materials Management Plan will be a requirement of a CoA for the undertaking, and will include all aspects of the storage and handling of hazardous materials.

15. The restricted volume of 5,000 tonnes of compost at start-up is the tip of the iceberg with no maximum production set for later stages.

**Proposed Mitigations and Regulatory Oversight:**
- A restricted volume of 5,000 tonnes of compost to be produced at the facility during the first year of operation has been established by PPD.
- The maximum annual volume of produced compost will be increased incrementally by PPD under the terms and conditions of a CoA, only if it can be demonstrated that the undertaking is being carried out in an environmentally acceptable manner.

16. Industrial composting is untested and a test facility should be established far away from communities.

**Proposed Mitigations and Regulatory Oversight:**
- The proposed facility is located approximately 2.2km from existing residential development. Siting such a facility in a remote location will remove the facility from available markets and jeopardize the viability of the operation. The proposed industrial composting facility will be subject to the regulatory oversight of PPD and will be subject to the Compost Quality Guidelines and the Fertilizers Act. There are regulatory controls in place that restrict the movement and management of fish and animal mortalities from farms, as administered by FLR and the CFIA.

17. Existing municipal composting facilities of similar enclosed building design, with negative air pressure and biofilter fans, disseminate noxious odours.

- The above-noted public concern refers specifically to a municipal composting facility in [s. 34(1)]
The Facility consists of two buildings: a completely enclosed building with negative air pressure, a biofilter and an emissions stack is used for receiving feedstock, mixing and most of the composting process; a second building that has open air gaps between the tops of the walls and the roof is used for curing and storage of the final compost product. Air inside the curing building is collected and directed to the main compost building where it passes through a biofilter and emissions stack before exhausting to the outside. A significant volume of untreated air escapes to the outdoors through the open gaps in the curing building.

The Facility is located in an industrial park where other industrial facilities are operating, such as a chemical manufacturing facility and a waste transfer station. It is difficult to isolate whether the odour complaints originate from a single facility or whether they are attributable to a combination of industrial processes.

Odour complaints are received primarily from industrial workers located within 200m of the Facility, and from a residential area within 1 km of the Facility.

Primary feedstock at the Facility is source separated organics from municipal waste collection, and the Facility produced 16,000 tonnes of compost last year.

PPD informs that odour complaints regarding individual composting facilities may be related to inadequate operating procedures and/or building design. All composting processes associated with the proposed composting facility will take place inside completely enclosed buildings. The receiving and mixing building and the compost windrows building are each equipped with a biofilter and are under negative air pressure. After a six to eight week composting period, the compost material will be transferred for final curing and storage to a completely enclosed building that does not have a biofilter and is not under negative air pressure. Pungent odours are not anticipated during the final curing of compost.

Several operational procedures are proposed to be implemented at the facility, in addition to building design features, to minimize and eliminate odours, including: mixing organic feedstock with carbonaceous material upon delivery; using the appropriate carbon to nitrogen ratio; ensuring a sufficient supply of carbon fibre on-site; scheduling feedstock delivery to prevent vehicles from having to wait outside prior to offloading; vigilant monitoring of air and moisture content of compost windrows; turning of compost windrows as required; and ensuring full maturation has been achieved prior to removing final soil amendment outside the building.

During the EPR review, the EAC Chair consulted with four officials with the Nova Scotia Department of Environment (NSE) who have experience with large-scale regional composting facilities, to gain insight on the impact such facilities have on the surrounding environment. The following NSE Officials provided advice:
Colchester County: provided information on the Colchester
Balefill/Composting Facility in Kemptown

Yarmouth County: provided information on the SPEC
Resources Composting Facility in Church Point, Digby County

Halifax: provided information on the Miller Waste
Facility in the Burnside Industrial Park, Dartmouth

Sydney: provided information on the CBRM Composting
Facility in Sydney

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1st Feedstock</strong></td>
<td>SSO*</td>
<td>SSO</td>
<td>SSO, occasionally fish plant waste, seal culls, crab and lobster shells</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Annual Tonnage</strong></td>
<td>9,000 tonnes/year</td>
<td>15,000 tonnes/yr</td>
<td>24,000 tonnes/yr</td>
<td>12,000 tonnes/yr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Building Design</strong></td>
<td>1 enclosed metal bldg., no biofilter; 2 open ended fabric bldgs., all bldgs. measure 90&quot;W x 274&quot;L</td>
<td>Enclosed, fabric, negative air pressure, biofilter</td>
<td>Enclosed, metal, negative air pressure, biofilters</td>
<td>Enclosed fabric, negative air pressure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Composting Method</strong></td>
<td>In-vessel, windrows</td>
<td>in-vessel open aerated tunnels; similar to windrows</td>
<td>Receiving, blending, active composting, curing - indoors; end product stored in separate bldg. without neg. air pressure or biofilter</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>% Composting Process Indoors</strong></td>
<td>Receiving, mixing and active composting take place inside enclosed buildings; final maturation takes place outside on 1-acre asphalt pad</td>
<td>Receiving, blending and active composting occur indoors; curing takes place in outdoor windrows</td>
<td>100% - from receiving feedstock to storing soil amendment</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Distance to Residential</strong></td>
<td>1 km</td>
<td>1 km</td>
<td>~5 km</td>
<td>4-5 km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Distance to Commercial</strong></td>
<td>1 km</td>
<td>1 km</td>
<td>&lt;100 m</td>
<td>&lt;1 km to box stores</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Level of Public Concern - Odour/Pests</strong></td>
<td>Almost nil - one complaint about odour in 10 yrs of operation</td>
<td>Low to nil - controlled by BMPs and good public communication</td>
<td>Occasionally low - moderate during peak compost production; short duration; from adjacent businesses &amp; clients, no residential</td>
<td>Moderate to high, constant; from nearby business owners &amp; clients, as well as homeowners 4-5 km away</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
concur that odours associated with the CBRM Composting Facility are a result of removing compost product from inside the facility before full maturation of the compost has been achieved. A compilation of additional best management practices recommended by the NSE Officials is listed below:

- scheduling feedstock deliveries to ensure trucks do not remain outside the building waiting for the previous delivery truck to unload;
- minimizing the amount of time a door stays open at the facility;
- designing and maintaining the site access road to prevent spillage of feedstock from trucks approaching the facility;
- requiring drivers delivering feedstock to secure and cover their load;
- blending organic feedstock with wood chafe and carbon fibre within 24 hours of receiving the feedstock;
- using sufficient quantities of carbon fibre and bulking agents in the mixing process and throughout the entire composting process;
- using sufficient quantities of carbon fibre and bulking agents to manage quantities of leachate;
- having sufficient quantities of carbon fibre and bulking agents on-site at all times;
- conducting regular maintenance on mechanical ventilation and biofilters;
- vigilant monitoring of temperature, air space, and moisture level throughout windrows and piles of bulk soil amendment;
- ensuring full maturation has been achieved before removing the compost outside of an closed building for preparation and sale.

Information provided by the NSE Officials was shared with the proponent during his preparation of the EPR Addendum. The proponent is proposing to implement all of the best management practices recommended by the NSE Officials in the construction and operation of the proposed facility, as described in the EPR Addendum.
POTENTIAL SOCIO-ECONOMIC EFFECTS

1. The composting facility will deter the development of new homes and subdivisions, the establishment of new businesses and the creation of new jobs in/near Whitbourne.
   - The concern is based on perceived adverse effects of the project on the surrounding biophysical environment (e.g. odour, flies, rodents, etc.).
   - Building design features, operational procedures and mitigative measures described in the EA registration document, EPR and EPR Addendum are anticipated to minimize the impacts of the project on the surrounding biophysical environment.
   - Regulatory oversight will be conducted by government agencies to ensure compliance with relevant legislation and to monitor the implementation of building design features, operational procedures and mitigative measures.

2. The benefit of a low number of jobs at the facility does not offset the negative impacts on nearby communities and cottage, tourism and recreational developments.
   - In addition to new jobs, the benefits of the facility include: the promotion of organic material as a resource rather than waste; the returning of nutrients and organic matter to the soil, making it a valuable amendment for landscaping, horticulture, and agriculture; the reduction of organic waste to landfill; and the diversion of wood fibre and carbonaceous material from landfill.
   - The Department of Tourism, Culture, Industry and Innovation notes that there will be a need for the acquisition of goods and services from construction firms, waste management companies and other waste management agencies.

3. The composting facility will leave a negative impression on tourists entering and leaving the province via the Argentia Ferry.
   - Land Management Division of FLR advises that a minimum 100 metre set back distance will be required from Route 100 for the proposed facility, and that a minimum 50 metre tree screen must be contained within the setback distance. This requirement will be included in a Crown Lands permit.
   - There is sufficient tree screen to comply with the Land Management Division requirement.
   - The clearing of trees and brush will be limited to only what is necessary for construction and operation of the facility.
   - The Department of Tourism, Culture, Industry and Innovation advises that the siting of the proposed facility and tree screen mitigations appear to minimize the impact of the composting facility on the viewscapes of this important provincial gateway and touring route.
   - The Provincial Tourism Product Development Plan, released by the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador in May 2017, identifies the quality of travel experiences and the ‘sense of arrival’ at major entry points and gateways as key priorities for government. Given that Route 100 is a main gateway to the province via the Argentia ferry, Tourism and Culture Division advises that buildings and property associated with the undertaking must be maintained in a manner that does not detract from viewscapes.
4. Property values in the Whitbourne area will decline based on the adverse impacts of flies and odour from the facility.
   • The concern is based on perceived adverse effects of the project on the surrounding biophysical environment (e.g. odour, flies, rodents, etc.).
   • Building design features, operational procedures and mitigative measures described in the EA registration document, EPR and EPR Addendum are anticipated to minimize the impacts of the project on the surrounding biophysical environment.
   • Regulatory oversight will be conducted by government agencies to ensure compliance with relevant legislation and to monitor the implementation of building design features, operational procedures and mitigative measures.

5. Taxpayers' money will be used to pay for the facility.
   • The proponent is not applying for or obtaining any government funding of any kind to undertake this project.

6. Low value end product will be difficult to market.
   • The EPR informs that the required capital investment for the undertaking is substantial and the proponent intends to run a quality operation that meets all market and regulatory requirements to optimize the value of the marketable end product.

7. The proponent lacks the experience and expertise to operate an industrial composting facility.
   • At least one employee/operator on-site and the facility manager will be trained in the operation of an industrial composting facility, with training certified by the Composting Council of Canada, Solid Waste Association of North America, or equivalent.
   • The services of a qualified composting industry consultant will be engaged during the initial stages of the operation.
   • The composting industry consultant will provide training to staff operating the facility.
   • PPD will establish minimum training requirements for compost facility employees and will oversee that the services of an experienced industrial composter are acquired during the initial stages of operation, under the terms and conditions of a CoA for the undertaking.

8. Siting a composting facility on land adjacent to the Town of Whitbourne’s municipal boundary is an incompatible land use.
   • The Land Management Division informs that the proposed undertaking is located in an unincorporated area that is subject to Section 6(1) of the Protected Road Zoning Regulations.
   • The proposed undertaking falls under the category of waste disposal, which is a permitted use under Section 6 of the Protected Road Zoning Regulations.
   • The Town of Whitbourne has the authority to designate development zones and permitted and discretionary uses within their municipal boundary.
   • The area in Whitbourne that lies adjacent to the project area and on the east side of Route 100 is zoned as Rural in Whitbourne’s Municipal Plan. Permitted uses in a Rural Zone are identified as agricultural and conservation.

- Both the Whitbourne Wetland Habitat Stewardship Agreement and the Stewardship Agreement for the North American Waterfowl Management Plan refer to the enhancement and protection of land areas within the Town of Whitbourne’s Municipal Plan. The proposed project site lies outside Whitbourne’s municipal planning boundary.

10. The minister should exercise his discretion and refuse approval on the basis that this project is not in the public interest.

- The Department of Justice and Public Safety has, in the past, provided EA Division with the following.
Attachments

Attachment #1: Draft Letter
Attachment #2: EAC Summary Table
Attachment #3: Email from CFIA
Attachment #4: Potential COA from PPD
Attachment #5: WRMD Email and Map of Existing Private Wells
Attachment #6: Google Earth Images Depicting Distances
Attachment #7: Email from FLR regarding POPs
Attachment #8: PPD Prevailing Wind Emails
Attachment #9: s. 34(1)
Attachment #10: s. 30(1)(b) EPR Addendum
Attachment #12: Minister’s EPR Decision Letter
Attachment #13: Environmental Preview Report
Attachment #14: EPR Guidelines
Attachment #15: Minister’s Registration Decision Letter
Attachment #16: Registration Document
Attachment #17: Public Comments [Comments not required as part of this request]

References


## PUBLIC CONCERNS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Potential Biophysical Effects</th>
<th>PROPOSED MITIGATIONS</th>
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| 1. Odours from the facility will adversely affect the quality of life of nearby home, business and cottage owners and recreational enthusiasts. | - All stages of composting will occur inside enclosed buildings, including receiving, mixing, active composting and curing.  
- Composting buildings B and C will be under negative air pressure to minimize the escape of odours when doors are opened for short durations to permit the entry and exit of transport vehicles.  
- Composting buildings B and C will be equipped with biofilters that meet the specifications of the Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment. The biofilters are designed to remove odours, moisture and particulate material. Air leaving the buildings will be exhausted through the biofilters.  
- Organic feedstock will be blended with wood chafe and carbon fibre upon delivery to minimize odours.  
- Sufficient quantities of carbon fibre and bulking agents will be stored on-site at all times.  
- Vigilant monitoring and regular turning of windrows will ensure the process remains aerobic.  
- Full maturation of compost material will be confirmed prior to removal of the final soil amendment product from Building D.  
- A screening model of potential exhaust emissions from the facility was generated by the Pollution Prevention Division (PPD) of Municipal Affairs and Environment. It indicates that emission concentrations 2.6 km from the facility will be approximately 1/10 of the concentration at the source.  
- Additional operational measures that will be implemented to control odour are described in the environmental assessment (EA) registration document, registration addendum, environmental preview report (EPR), and EPR Addendum.  
- An Odour Management Plan (OMP) that meets the specifications of the Pollution Prevention Division will be implemented at the facility.  
- The OMP includes measures to receive, record and address public complaints related to odours. |
| 2. The facility will attract nuisance flies, birds and rodents to the surrounding area and will adversely affect the quality of life of nearby home, business and cottage owners and recreational enthusiasts. | - All stages of composting will occur inside enclosed buildings, including receiving, mixing, active composting and curing.  
- The Addendum includes a Vector Management Plan (VMP) that meets the requirements of the Pollution Prevention and the Department of Fisheries and Land |


enthusiasts.

- The VMP includes treatments and controls to deter, capture and remove birds, vermin and insects from the facility.
- The VMP includes a Fly Management Plan that meets the requirements of Fisheries and Land Resources, and includes treatments and controls to deter, capture and remove flies from the facility.
- The VMP includes the engagement of professional exterminator services as needed.
- The VMP includes measures to receive, record and address public complaints related to nuisance vectors.
- The CCME Guidelines for Compost Quality (the Compost Quality Guidelines), which apply to this undertaking, establish criteria that must be met to ensure compost is mature and stable at the time of sale and distribution. Unstable and immature product has the potential to attract vectors and cause odours.
- Finished compost will be sampled and tested to ensure compliance with the Compost Quality Guidelines.
- The Pollution Prevention Division will monitor and oversee the implementation of the VMP under the terms and conditions of a Certificate of Approval (CofA), required for the construction and operation of the proposed undertaking. The CofA shall be subject to renewal at a time interval determined by the Pollution Prevention Division.
- The Pollution Prevention Division will provide regulatory oversight for compliance with the sampling and analysis criteria defined in the Compost Quality Guidelines.

3. Pathogens in airborne emissions, leachate and finished soil amendment will contaminate the surrounding environment.

- Feedstock will be received and mixed in an enclosed building under negative air pressure to minimize emissions.
- Floors inside Buildings A, B, C and D are of an impervious design. Air leaving Buildings B and C will be exhausted through biofilters designed to remove particulate matter.
- Leachate will be managed in a closed loop system whereby leachate from the composting process and washing activities will be collected and used to re-wet compost piles. Disposal of excess leachate, should it be necessary, will be conducted in a manner and at a location approved by the Pollution Prevention Division.
- The Compost Quality Guidelines establish operational criteria that must be followed to inactivate pathogenic bacteria, viruses, and parasites during the composting process.
- Operational procedures described in the EPR meet the criteria outlined in section 3.5 of the Compost Quality Guidelines for inactivating pathogenic bacteria, viruses, and parasites.
- The EPR indicates that the final compost product will be sampled and tested to ensure compliance with the Compost Quality Guidelines.
- The Pollution Prevention Division will provide regulatory oversight for compliance with the sampling and analysis criteria defined in the Compost Quality Guidelines.
- The Pollution Prevention Division will require, under the terms and conditions of the CoA, that the proponent engage the services of the Occupational Health and Safety Division of the Department of Service NL to monitor air quality and bioaerosols inside the facility buildings.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>4. The composting facility will contaminate drilled drinking water wells in Whitbourne.</th>
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<tr>
<td>- The Water Resources Management Division (WRMD) of the Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment advises that there is no risk of any contamination from the proposed site adversely affecting the drinking water supply wells in Whitbourne. There is no possibility of groundwater from the area of the facility migrating anywhere near existing wells.</td>
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<tr>
<th>5. Persistent organic pollutants (POPs) found in salmon aquaculture waste will concentrate in the composting process, particularly if leachate is used to re-wet compost piles.</th>
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</table>
| - Persistent organic pollutants are a widespread environmental concern and are being dealt with on a global scale. The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) is a global treaty to protect human health and the environment from chemicals that remain intact in the environment for long periods, become widely distributed geographically, accumulate in the fatty tissue of humans and wildlife, and have harmful impacts on human health or on the environment. In response to this global problem, the Stockholm Convention, which was adopted in 2001 and entered into force in 2004, requires its parties to take measures to eliminate or reduce the release of POPs into the environment. Under the Stockholm Convention, Canada, agreed to reduce or eliminate the production, use, and/or release of 12 key POPs in three broad
categories:
- Pesticides - DDT, chlordane, toxaphene, mirex, aldrin, dieldrin, endrin, heptachlor
- Industrial chemicals - PCBs, hexachlorobenzene
- By-products and contaminants - dioxins and furans.

In 2009, the Stockholm Convention was amended to list nine new POPs.
- Canada has a number of domestic programs dealing with research, development and monitoring of POPs, including a Chemicals Management Plan (CMP). In this province, WRMD collects quarterly water and sediment samples from an impacted river, the Waterford River, which are analyzed under the CMP for the following persistent chemicals of concern: triclosan, bisphenol-A (BPA), hydrous magnesium silicate (DY3), perfluorinated chemicals (PFCs), nonylphenol (NP) and nonylphenol ethoxylates (NPEs).
- The Compost Quality Guidelines advise that given the low content of persistent organic pollutants (POP), including dioxin, furans, PCB and PAH, in compost feedstock and in composts produced in Canada routine analysis under the CCME Guidelines is not considered necessary.
- The Compost Quality Guidelines acknowledge that some compost feedstocks may contain trace amounts of persistent or bio-accumulating organic contaminants, such as dioxins, furans, pesticides, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB), polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH) or herbicides. The manufacturer is advised to pay special attention to raw materials that might contain such contaminants and to avoid composting raw materials with high contents of these contaminants.
- The Pollution Prevention Division will require the proponent, under the terms and conditions of a CofA, to keep records of all feedstock deliveries, sources, volumes, dates, etc.
- The CFIA regularly monitors livestock feed for environmental contaminants which have the potential to impact the safety of the food chain and the health of animals.
- The Department of Fisheries and Land Resources informs that farmed Atlantic salmon produced in
Canada is well within regulatory tolerances for a safe and healthy food source. The associated fish by-product (fish waste) is derived from a high quality internationally sold food commodity that exceeds CFIA, Health Canada and US FDA food safety requirements for POPs.

6. Toxins and metals from the compost will escape into surrounding wetlands and soil.

- Proposed composting activities occur entirely inside enclosed buildings, including receiving and mixing feedstock, active composting and curing, and storage of bulk carbon fibre and finished soil amendment products.
- Drainage and leachate associated with mixing and composting activities will be collected and used to re-wet compost piles.
- Feedstock will originate from farms associated with food production. The level of toxic substances present in animal feed is anticipated to be insignificant, as the feed will affect the quality of the marketable end-product. Feedstock will be mixed with carbon fibre upon delivery to the facility, to produce an optimal carbon:nitrogen ratio for composting. Chemical additives are not used in the composting process.
- The Compost Quality Guidelines establish criteria for maximum concentrations of trace elements that must be met by the final compost product, including metals such as mercury, cadmium and lead.
- The EPR indicates that the final compost product will be sampled and tested to ensure compliance with the sampling and analysis criteria defined in CCME Compost Quality Guidelines.
- The Pollution Prevention Division will provide regulatory oversight for compliance with the Compost Quality Guidelines.

7. Antibiotics in fish and animal feedstock will accumulate in the finished soil amendment product.

- Hydromantis Inc. et al., conducted a study for the CCME in June 2010, that examined the efficiencies of seven sludge treatment processes, including aerobic composting, anaerobic digestion, alkaline stabilization, and other processes in the removal of pharmaceuticals and other constituents that may be present in the feedstock. Pharmaceuticals in the study included a number of frequently detected antibiotics. The study found that aerobic composting at thermophilic temperatures appears to be the more effective technology with respect to the removal of pharmaceutical compounds.
| 8. Feedstock will include diseased fish and animal mortalities. | - The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) and the Department of Fisheries and Land Resources implement surveillance programs to identify reportable diseases amongst fish and animal farms, and have contingency plans to regulate all aspects of handling and disposal of diseased fish and animal mortalities.  
- The Department of Fisheries and Land Resources advises the proponent to register for a Premises Identification Number for the composting facility prior to acceptance of any livestock mortalities to the site for composting. |
|---|---|
| 9. Transportation of feedstock to the facility will cause widespread odours and flies. | - Operational practices will be implemented to manage odours and flies associated with transport vehicles, such as: scheduling feedstock deliveries to prevent wait times outside the facility; requiring feedstock delivery drivers to secure and cover their loads; and designing and maintaining the site access road so as to prevent spillage from delivery vehicles.  
- Road transportation within the province is regulated by the *Highway Traffic Act*, which is enforced by the Motor Registration Division of Service NL, the RCMP and the RNC. Concerns regarding feedstock delivery vehicles may be reported to the proponent and/or the above-noted authorities. |
| 10. Using meat and fish that has been farm-raised with antibiotics and other chemicals cannot produce organic compost. | - The EPR indicates that the intended meaning of the term "organic" is not "certified organic". The intended meaning is that the final compost product is a substantially organic product to be used as a replacement for chemical fertilizers, and as a soil amendment to lighten up the soil, and to add humus to increase the overall fertility of the soil for plant growth. |
| 11. With the prevailing westerly winds, the communities of Whitbourne and Markland will be choked with the stench of rotting fish, chicken, mink, etc. | - Wind statistics based on observations from a Windfinder weather station at Argentia' between August 2010 and April 2017 indicate the prevailing wind is from the SSW, blowing air from the composting facility away from the more populated areas of Whitbourne and Markland. The majority of development in Whitbourne, including new residential and cottage lot development at Little Goose Pond, is located due east of the proposed facility and Markland is southeast of the facility. New development at Goose Pond, northeast of the facility, is in the direction of the prevailing wind and is located approximately 5.3 km from the proposed |
12. The proponent has not secured the services of a nearby fire department to prevent a potential fire from spreading into nearby residential and commercial areas. - The Fire and Emergency Services (FES) Branch of the Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment advises that the Fire and Emergency Protection Plan described in the EPR Addendum meets the requirements of FES. FES informs that there is no legislative requirement for the facility to secure fire protection services from a town, and there is no legislative requirement for fire suppression. FES notes that there are other industrial sites on the island operating without a fire suppression system and/or the services of a town fire department.

13. Specialized training is needed to fight compost fires. - FES advises that they will provide fire-fighting training to on-site staff as needed, and that no specialized equipment is required to fight a compost fire. The principle of extinguishment of a compost fire is the same as that of a structural fire: reduce the temperature of the material on fire so that it doesn’t continue to burn, or separate the material and extinguish the smaller piles.

14. The storage of fuel and chemicals on the site pose a risk to the surrounding environment. - The Environmental Contingency Plan included in the EPR Addendum indicates that a detailed Hazardous Materials Management Plan will be submitted to the Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment for approval prior to the issuance of a Certificate of Approval. - The Pollution Prevention Division affirms that an approved Hazardous Materials Management Plan will be a requirement of a Certificate of Approval for the undertaking.

15. The restricted volume of 5,000 tonnes of compost at start-up is the tip of the iceberg with no maximum production set for later stages. - A restricted volume of 5,000 tonnes of compost to be produced at the facility during the first year of operation has been established by the Pollution Prevention Division. - The maximum annual volume of produced compost will be increased incrementally by the Pollution Prevention Division under the terms and conditions of a Certificate of Approval, only if it can be demonstrated that the undertaking is being carried out in an environmentally acceptable manner.

16. Industrial composting is untested and a test facility should be established far away from communities. - The proposed facility is located approximately 2.2 km from existing residential development. Siting such a facility in a remote location will remove the facility from available markets and jeopardize the viability of the operation. The proposed industrial composting facility will be subject to the regulatory
oversight of the Pollution Prevention Division and will be subject to the CCME Guidelines for Compost Quality and the Fertilizers Act administered by the CFIA. There are regulatory controls in place that restrict the movement and management of fish and animal mortalities from farms, as administered by the Department of Fisheries and Land Resources and the CFIA.

<table>
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<th>17. Existing municipal composting facilities of similar enclosed building design, with negative air pressure and biofilter fans, disseminate noxious odours.</th>
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</table>
| - The Pollution Prevention Division informs that minimizing and eliminating noxious odours associated with composting facilities is contingent upon operational procedures, in conjunction with building design.  
- Several operational procedures are proposed to be implemented at the facility, in addition to building design features, to minimize and eliminate odours, including: mixing organic feedstock with carbonaceous material upon delivery; using the appropriate carbon to nitrogen ratio; ensuring a sufficient supply of carbon fibre on-site; scheduling feedstock delivery to prevent vehicles from having to wait outside prior to offloading; vigilant monitoring of air and moisture content of compost windrows; turning of compost windrows as required; and ensuring full maturation has been achieved prior to removing final soil amendment outside the building. |

### Perceived Socio-Economic Effects

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| - The concern is based on perceived adverse effects of the project on the surrounding bio-physical environment (e.g. odour, flies, rodents, etc.).  
- Building design features, operational procedures and mitigative measures described in the EA registration document, EPR and EPR Addendum are anticipated to minimize the impacts of the project on the surrounding biophysical environment.  
- Regulatory oversight will be conducted by government agencies to ensure compliance with relevant legislation and to monitor the implementation of building design features, operational procedures and mitigative measures. |

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<th>2. The benefit of a low number of jobs at the facility does not offset the negative impacts on nearby communities and cottage, tourism and recreational</th>
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developments. agriculture; the reduction of organic waste to landfill; and the diversion of wood fibre and carbonaceous material from landfill.
- The Department of Tourism, Culture, Industry and Innovation notes that there will be a need for the acquisition of goods and services from construction firms, waste management companies and other waste management agencies.

3. The composting facility will leave a negative impression on tourists entering and leaving the province via the Argentia Ferry.
- Land Management Division of the Department of Fisheries and Land Resources advises that a minimum 100 metre setback distance will be required from Route 100 for the proposed facility, and that a minimum 50 metre tree screen must be contained within the setback distance. This requirement will be included in the Crown Lands permit.
- There is sufficient tree screen to comply with the Land Management Division requirements.
- The clearing of trees and brush will be limited to only what is necessary for construction and operation of the facility.
- The Department of Tourism, Culture, Industry and Innovation advises that the siting of the proposed facility and tree screen mitigations appear to minimize the impact of the composting facility on the viewscapes of this important provincial gateway and touring route.
- The Provincial Tourism Product Development Plan, released by the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador in May 2017, identifies the quality of travel experiences and the 'sense of arrival' at major entry points and gateways as key priorities for government. Given that Route 100 is a main gateway to the province via the Argentia ferry, Tourism and Culture Division advises that buildings and property associated with the undertaking must be maintained in a manner that does not detract from viewscapes.

4. Property values in the Whitbourne area will decline based on the adverse impacts of flies and odour from the facility.
- The concern is based on perceived adverse effects of the project on the surrounding bio-physical environment (e.g. odour, flies, rodents, etc.).
- Building design features, operational procedures and mitigative measures described in the EA registration document, EPR and EPR Addendum are anticipated to minimize the impacts of the project on the surrounding biophysical environment.
- Regulatory oversight will be conducted by
5. Taxpayers’ money will be used to pay for the facility. - The proponent is not applying for or obtaining government funding of any kind to undertake this project.

6. Low value end product will be difficult to market. - The EPR informs that the required capital investment for the undertaking is substantial, and the proponent intends to run a quality operation that meets all market and regulatory requirements to optimize value of marketable end product.

7. The proponent lacks the experience and expertise to operate an industrial composting facility. - At least one employee/operator on-site and the facility manager will be trained in the operation of an industrial composting facility, with training certified by the Composting Council of Canada, Solid Waste Association of North America, or equivalent.
  - The services of a qualified composting industry consultant will be engaged during the initial stages of the operation.
  - The composting industry consultant will provide training to staff operating the facility.
  - The Pollution Prevention Division will establish minimum training requirements for compost facility employees and will oversee that the services of an experienced industrial composter are acquired during the initial stages of operation, under the terms and conditions of a Certificate of Approval for the undertaking.

8. Siting a composting facility on land adjacent to the Town of Whitbourne’s municipal boundary is an incompatible land use. - The Land Management Division informs that the proposed undertaking is located in an unincorporated area that is subject to Section 6(1) of the Protected Road Zoning Regulations.
  - The proposed undertaking falls under the category of waste disposal, which is a permitted use under Section 6 of the Protected Road Zoning Regulations.
  - The Town of Whitbourne has the authority to designate development zones and permitted and discretionary uses within their municipal boundary.
  - The area in Whitbourne that lies adjacent to the project area and on the east side of Route 100 is zoned as Rural in Whitbourne’s Municipal Plan. Permitted uses in a Rural Zone are identified as agricultural and conservation.

9. The Provincial Government and the Town of Whitbourne - Both the Whitbourne Wetland Habitat Stewardship Agreement and the Stewardship Agreement for the
signed an agreement in 1993 titled the “Whitbourne Wetland Habitat Stewardship Agreement” and in May 2006, the “Stewardship Agreement for the North American Waterfowl Management Plan.”

North American Waterfowl Management Plan refer to the enhancement and protection of land areas within the Town of Whitbourne’s Municipal Plan. The proposed project site lies outside Whitbourne’s municipal planning boundary.

10. The minister should exercise his discretion and refuse approval on the basis that this project is not in the public interest.

- The Department of Justice and Public Safety has, in the past, provided EA Division with the following

1. Building A: Administration Building; Building B: Primary Composting and Receiving Building; Building C: Composting Building; Building D: Product Storage Building. A site plan for the proposed facility is attached.

2. The Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME), the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) and the bureau de normalisation du Quebec coordinated efforts to develop guidelines for compost quality to ensure a consistent, high quality product that is safe for a variety of uses. The objectives of the guideline are to protect public health and the environment across the country; to produce compost standards that are consistent across the country; to discourage the application of untreated organic wastes to land; and to ensure consumer confidence through consistent nationwide product quality standards. The CCME Guidelines for Compost Quality (the Compost Quality Guidelines) apply to compost originating from any organic feedstock that is sold, given away or used on-site.

The Compost Quality Guidelines are based on the following four criteria for product safety and quality: foreign matter, maturity, pathogens, and trace elements. The guidelines establish two grades of material for end use:

Category A-Unrestricted Use
Compost that can be used in any application, such as agricultural lands, residential gardens, horticultural operations, the nursery industry, and other businesses.

Category B-Restricted Use
Compost that has a restricted use because of the presence of sharp foreign matter or higher trace element content.
Hello Joanne,

That looks like a good summary of the main points. We have revised the statement a little bit and also updated the contact phone numbers to be used.

"The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) informs that the inclusion of whole cattle carcasses and other specified risk material (SRM) will result in a compost product that is considered SRM, and is not to be sold as fertilizer or soil supplement. The CFIA further informs that the inclusion of prohibited material places restrictions on the end-use of the product, and also requires specific recall and record keeping procedures. Prohibited material includes products derived from most mammalian proteins, including meat and bone meal. There are additional requirements for fertilizers and soil supplements containing prohibited material under the Health of Animals Regulations.

The CFIA advises that fertilizers and supplements sold or imported into Canada are regulated by the CFIA under the authority of the Fertilizers Act. Both compost and products represented to contain compost fall under the purview of this Act, and as such must meet the prescribed safety and labelling standards.

Please note: The following material is not prohibited:

• proteins derived from swine, horses, poultry and fish;
• blood meal, milk and gelatine from any mammal;
• tallow from cattle and other ruminants that contains less than 0.15% impurities; and,
• manure and solids from municipal wastewater treatment plants that do not receive SRM.

For further information regarding CFIA’s requirements as it pertains to the Enhanced Feed ban and compost, fertilizers and soil amendments, please contact the CFIA at 21 Hallett Crescent, St. John’s NL, telephone (709) 772-4714/5286."

Thank you and have a good weekend.

Darryl
Hi Darryl,

Thanks for the very informative email below. The Environmental Assessment (EA) Division continues to be engaged in the assessment of the proposed industrial composting facility project and is formulating potential advice to be given to the proponent, should the minister decide to release the project from EA. Based on your email below, we are considering providing the following advice to the proponent relative to CFIA requirements:

"The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) informs that the inclusion of whole cattle carcasses and other specified risk material (SRM) will result in a compost product that is considered SRM, and is not to be sold as fertilizer or soil supplement. The CFIA further informs that the inclusion of prohibited material places restrictions on the end-use of the product, and also requires specific recall and record keeping procedures. Prohibited material includes products derived from most mammalian proteins, including meat and bone meal. The following material is not prohibited:

- proteins derived from swine, horses, poultry and fish;
- blood meal, milk and gelatine from any mammal;
- tallow from cattle and other ruminants that contains less than 0.15% impurities; and,
- manure and solids from municipal wastewater treatment plants that do not receive SRM.

There are additional requirements for fertilizers and soil supplements containing prohibited material under the Health of Animals Regulations.

The CFIA advises that fertilizers and supplements sold or imported into Canada are regulated by the CFIA under the authority of the Fertilizers Act. Both compost and products represented to contain compost fall under the purview of this Act, and as such must meet the prescribed safety and labelling standards. For further information regarding CFIA’s requirements pertaining to compost, fertilizers and soil amendments, please contact the CFIA at 21 Hallett Crescent, St. John’s NL, telephone (709) 682-7969."

Are the above-noted comments an accurate representation of the information you provided in the email below? Is there additional information within the CFIA mandate that the proponent should be made aware of?

Please feel free to revise the comments above as you see fit. Call me if you wish to discuss, at 729-2822 or reply by email. Please note that no decision has been made on the project to date, and the information included in this email should not be shared outside the CFIA.

Thanks for your assistance,
Legend

- Roads
- Domestic Wells
Hi, Joanne –

I’ve attached a map showing the distribution of wells in the Groundwater Section’s Drilled Well Database in the vicinity of the proposed Compost facility.

There is no risk of any contamination from the proposed site adversely affected the drinking water supply wells in Whitbourne. Even if there were to be a spill or an accident with the leachate or wash water, the effects would be localized directly adjacent to the site. There is no possibility of groundwater from the area of the facility migrating anywhere near existing wells. Any groundwater flow would also likely be in the north west direction, away from Whitbourne.

Please let me know if this addresses your question adequately.

Dorothea

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From: Sweeney, Joanne  
Sent: Monday, May 08, 2017 7:53 AM  
To: Hanchar, Dorothea  
Subject: public concern re proposed composting facility

Hi Dorothea,

EA Division has received a public concern that a proposed industrial composting facility on the Argentia Access Road will contaminate drilled drinking water wells in Whitbourne.

The proposal indicates that all composting activities will take place inside 3 enclosed metal buildings, each one with a concrete floor. Composting activities include receiving, mixing, active composting, curing and storage of the final soil amendment product for public sale. A leachate collection system is proposed for composting buildings and all leachate, including wash water from the feedstock receiving area, will be reintroduced into the compost process. Homes in Whitbourne are located a minimum of 2.5km from the proposed composting facility, with the majority of homes located a minimum of 5 km from the facility.

Can you advise on the anticipated level of risk the proposed composting facility will impose on drinking water wells in Whitbourne?

Thanks,

Joanne

2822
Separation Distances from Proposed Composting Facility:

A: Blaketown - 6.8km
B: Food Establishments/Accomodations near intersection of TCH and Route 100 - 3.3km
C: Holiday Hill Cabins - 5.5km
D: Closest land development - 2.2km
E: Goose Pond Residential Subdivision development - 5.3km
F: Closest land development - 2.2km
G: Goose Pond residential subdivision development - 4.4km
H: Private development - 3.2 km
I: T'Railway - 1.6km
J: Markland - 5.3km
K: Rodrigues Winery - 6.7km
L: Placentia Junction Cabins - 7.5km

Additional Separation Distances:

Peak Pond - 4km N of Facility
Reid's Pond - 5.5km W of Facility
Hi Joanne,

The past correspondence that I forwarded to you should address your questions.

To summarize:

The suggestion that the compost facility will manage significant volumes of salmon by-product whether processing or otherwise is a hypothetical, and is not consistent with the current practices of our producers, or the management options identified in the Grieg NL registration released from environmental assessment.

If there was an opportunity for the composting to secure salmon as a byproduct, which is a possibility that will be cost and market driven, it would make a good feedstock, and the practice is standard in Canada. The main technical issue is the composters competency in effectively managing its material holding and C:N ratios. We would most certainly prefer to see any material that must be buried at this time composted, but there are also initiatives underway to ensile salmon in partnership with agriculture.

If our collective surveillance programs identified a reportable disease, our contingency planning would immediately come into effect and all aspects of handling and disposal would have to be done through SOP reviewed and supported by CFIA and FLR. To suggest this facility would be used or the operator would make its facility available is a hypothetical at this stage.

Although, groups and individuals opposed to salmon aquaculture like to cite and express that the salmon we produce is contaminated, the facts are that Atlantic salmon produced in Canada is well within regulatory tolerances, a safe and healthy food source. The suggestion that PoPs present in fish product is a risk to a compost product or the environment is unfounded. This material is the byproduct of a high quality internationally sold food commodity that well exceeds CFIA, Health Canada and US FDA food safety requirements for PoPs, and is recommended as part of a healthy diet.

Best regards,

Jonathan Kawaja
Environmental Scientist (Aquaculture)
Aquaculture Development
Department of Fisheries and Land Resources
58 Hardy Ave, Grand Falls-Windsor, NL
A2A 2K2

Ph 709.292.4104
Fax 709.292.4113
Hi Jonathan,

EA Division is currently reviewing a proposal for an industrial composting facility. The proponent advises his intention to compost fish waste and fish offal, amongst other feedstock, but has not identified exact sources. The project is currently under public review and the following public concerns have been identified:

- The proponent will compost mass mortalities from the NL aquaculture industry;
- Feedstock used in the salmon aquaculture industry is known to contain persistent organic pollutants (POP)
- Diseased salmon mortalities will be composted and the final compost product, containing pathogens and POP will be spread over food fields, and used for horticulture and land in-filling and will contaminate food, soils and groundwater.

Can you provide insight on DFO regulations/management of the handling and final disposal of fish mortalities and diseased fish mortalities, both large and small volumes, in the aquaculture industry? Also, does DFO have any information on the presence and/or prevalence of POP in salmon feed?

I have a meeting with the environmental assessment committee for this project on May 16, 2017. Any information you can provide in advance would be much appreciated.

Regards,

Joanne

Joanne Sweeney
Environmental Scientist
Environmental Assessment Division
Department of Environment and Climate Change
PO Box 8700, St. John's NL A1B 4J6
Tel. (709) 729-2822; Fax (709)729-5518
Hey Joanne,

Below is the email I received from the consultant. To put it in plain English:

The $500 option is not an option. The domain in question doesn't cover the site of the proposed facility; it misses by about 28 km. If it was available, the resolution would have been 200 metres.

The $5000 option would generate data at a 200 metre resolution, thereby virtually accounting for each and every nook and granby elevation change.

The $1000 3-km WRF-NMM option is probably the best for this project. Given the community is ~ 3 km from the proposed facility and the land is relatively flat between the project and the community, a resolution of 3 km would be more than accurate.

Please let me know if and how you'd like to proceed.

Barrie

Hi Barrie,

I have few questions:

Are these coordinates in the domain of CALMET for Holyrood. (You can check that quickly). I can extract that quite quickly. (500 $)

If not, can you accept data from the WRF-NMM (3 km resolution).

For WRF-NMM - 4 years of data extraction for this location, the cost would be a day of work ($1000.00).

If I need to re-run CALMET for that area that would be about $5000.00.
(We need to prepare the input for CALMET from WRF-NMM and re-run CALMET.)

Regards,
Hi Joanne,

When we talk wind we have to look at both the upper level and surface characteristics. At the higher levels, we all know that wind rotates clockwise around high pressure and counter clockwise around low pressure. At the surface this flow is affected by terrain elevation, land use, temperature gradients, etc. For example we get an onshore affect when the air above land is warmer than the air above the ocean, resulting in the air above the land rising faster than the air above the ocean and thus the air over the ocean rushes in to fill the void left by the warmer air over land. The affect is typically prevalent within a couple of kilometres from the coast. Also since wind can’t go through solid objects, be it a hill or a building, it must channel its way around it resulting in an increased flow near the object. Walk out front door of the building some days, and the wind knocks you back, get to the parking lot and the wind is “normal”.

I say this to put some context into the Argentia windrose. First things first, we know that in general the southern half of the island has a general SW wind flow. If you look closely at the Argentia windrose, it generally has the SW flow, but it is skewed as it follows the shoreline of Placentia Bay. The wind channels up the bay as the bay is more or less funnel shaped with higher terrain on both sides of the bay. Windrose of data from the refinery area is even more pronounced in this regard. Also note the prevalence of the wind direction that is perpendicular to the land. This is likely the onshore affect.

So I wouldn’t necessarily put too much credence in using the Argentia data for Whitbourne; I’m sure there is some similarity, but not as much as you’d hope for.

Below is the Windfinder windrose for Bay Roberts, which is geographically about 6 kilometres closer to the project site than Argentia (35 km vs 29 km). Note the windrose has the general SW flow, but in this case is skewed more or less to follow the contour of the bay itself.

The only real way to determine wind flow at the project site is to either measure it (which will take several years) or to run a meteorological model. I can run the model, but I’ll need time to set it up and it is something that will take a number of week as I need to acquire data. I’m aware of a number of consultants who may already have such model data readily available as they may have generated it for other projects.

Also for reference, below I’ve crudely put together the terrain elevations for the area. The black dot is the approximate project area. Terrain elevation goes from low (blue) to high (red). As you can see, near the project area, higher terrain runs in a north / south direction, which would indicate the general flow should be more aligned in this direction. Also note the small hill to the immediate SW. This will have an impact in the general vicinity. Generally a disturbance like this has an impact a distance of 5 times its height. So a hill that is 50 metres higher than the surrounding terrain will impact wind flows up to 250 metres away.

Hopefully this helps.

Barrie
Wind direction distribution in (%)