

Appendix B

Public Consultation Notifications

HRM Webpage

The screenshot shows the HRM website with the following elements:

- Header:** "Visiting Halifax?", "311", "Online Services", "En français", and the "HALIFAX" logo.
- Navigation Menu:** "About Halifax", "Home & Property", "Transportation", "Fire & Police", "Business", "Parks & Recreation", and "City Hall".
- Breadcrumb:** "Home > Home & Property > Garbage, recycling, & green cart > Garbage collection > Otter Lake Public Consultation".
- Main Title:** "Otter Lake Public Consultation".
- Subtitle:** "Otter Lake Waste Processing & Disposal Facility Front End Processor and Waste Stabilization Facility".
- Text:** "Last updated: December 6, 2021".
- Note:** "Note: On July 20, 2021 Regional Council accepted staff recommendations, including to submit an application to Nova Scotia Environment and Climate Change to deactivate the Front-End Processor (FEP) and Waste Stabilization Facility (WSF). View the staff report [here](#)."
- Right Sidebar:**
 - In Garbage, recycling, & green cart**
 - Collection schedules and what goes where (+)
 - Garbage collection (-)
 - Otter Lake Public Consultation
 - Request residential refrigerant removal
 - Recycling

NOTICE

Consultative Process for Approval Under the Environment Act

This is to advise that Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) and MIRROR Nova Scotia Ltd. (MIRROR) are jointly applying to amend their existing Approval to Operate at the Otter Lake Landfill (600 Otter Lake Drive) in accordance with the Environment Act and the Activities Designation Regulations.

The purpose of the proposed amendment is to deactivate the Front-End Processor (FEP) and Waste Stabilization Facility (WSF) and direct solid waste to the landfill. Deactivation of the facilities (FEP and WSF) amount to pausing operations and maintaining equipment such that it can be put back into operation if needed. All environmental monitoring measures at Otter Lake will continue to be maintained. Halifax Regional Council accepted the HRM staff recommendation on this matter, which included submission of an amendment application to the Nova Scotia Department of Environment and Climate Change. This operational change is recommended, in part, due to the ongoing success of HRM's source separated waste diversion programs (organics, construction and demolition debris, recycling) and the resulting decrease in organic waste sent to the landfill. Further supporting the recommendation are conclusions from a report commissioned by MIRROR which indicate continued operation of the FEP/WSF offers no significant benefit and no increased risk to the environment or public health should waste be directed to the landfill. More information, including risks and mitigations, HRM Council direction, full reports, FAQs, and a survey to capture public feedback can be found at the following website:

www.halifax.ca/OtterLake

The public, in particular those within five kilometers of the Otter Lake facility (Timberlea, Lakeside, Beechville, and Prospect), are invited to provide comment on or before Dec. 3, 2021, via the following methods:

- Application website and survey (link above)
- By Email: OtterLake@Halifax.ca
- By mail: HRM Solid Waste Resources
PO Box 1749
Halifax, NS
B3J 3A5

All comments received from this public consultation will be compiled and submitted to Nova Scotia Environment and Climate Change as part of the amendment application.

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Newspaper Article – Bedford Wire³

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³ <https://saltwire.pressreader.com/the-bedford-wire/20211103>

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⁴ https://themastheadnews.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/November_2021_Masthead_News_Revised.pdf

Social Media Ad


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You're invited. Participate in public consultation on the deactivation of Otter Lake's Front-End Processor and Waste Stabilization Facility. The facilities will remain onsite, able to be re-activated if needed.

Click the link to learn about the project and to submit questions, concerns and feedback.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

[HALIFAX.CA/OTTERLAKE](https://halifax.ca/otterlake)

**Otter Lake Public
Consultation**

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Otter Lake Waste Processing & Disposal Facility Survey

As part of the NS Environment and Climate Change application process to deactivate the Front End Processor and Waste Stabilization Facility (FEP/WSF), Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) and MIRROR Nova Scotia are providing the public with the opportunity to comment on the potential impacts of the project to the environment and the proposed mitigation measures.

More information on this application process, HRM staff recommendations and supporting documents are provided at the following link:

[Halifax.ca/OtterLake](https://halifax.ca/OtterLake)

In accordance with Section 485 of the Municipal Government Act (MGA), the personal information collected through the completion of this form will only be used by municipal staff and, if necessary, individuals and/or organizations under service contract with the Halifax Regional Municipality, for purposes relating to processing activities at the Otter Lake Waste Processing facility; the information will not be presented or compiled in a manner that could potentially identify any respondent. If you have any questions about the collection and use of this personal information, please contact the Access and Privacy Office at 902.476.3294 or privacy@halifax.ca.

Otter Lake FEP/WSF





Otter Lake Waste Processing & Disposal Facility Survey

General Questions

1. Do you live within 5 km of the FEP/WSF?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

2. Please provide your postal code (optional). E.g., A1A2B2

Areas of Concern

In the next few questions, an overview of potential area of concern and proposed mitigation measures have been provided along with the opportunity for you to provide additional comments regarding each of the potential concerns.

Safety of workers/increased traffic at landfill disposal area

Currently, all waste collection vehicles arriving at Otter Lake, after reporting to the Scale House, proceed to either the FEP tipping floor (residential collection vehicles) or the Transfer Station tipping floor (commercial collection vehicles, i.e., waste from businesses, industries and institutions). It is reiterated that waste from businesses, industries and institutions arriving at Otter Lake will continue to be managed as it is today and will be directed to the Transfer Station tipping floor to be transferred off-site. The approach with respect to the proposed deactivation of the Otter Lake FEP/WSF is consistent with the current approach, but with the following changes:

- All waste collection vehicles arriving at Otter Lake, after reporting to the Scale House, proceed to either the landfill disposal area (residential collection vehicles) or the Transfer Station tipping floor (commercial collection vehicles). Based on recent records for residential collection vehicle arrivals at Otter Lake, this will equate to approximately 25 to 30 vehicle trips to the landfill disposal area per day. This represents an

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Otter Lake Waste Processing & Disposal Facility Survey

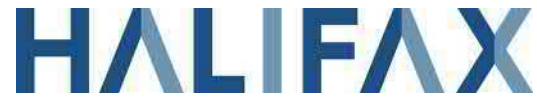
increase of approximately eight to 10 vehicle trips per day to the landfill disposal area as compared to current conditions.

With respect to the proposed deactivation of the Otter Lake FEP/WSF, no off-site impacts due to an increase in landfill disposal area traffic or worker safety have been identified. Some on-site impacts have been identified as representing a medium risk which includes increased disposal area traffic and worker safety. Mitigation measures include the following:

- Provision of instructions to residential collection contractors regarding site traffic rules and restrictions, including the definition of protocols (e.g., warnings, banning from site) for non-compliance.
- Establish directional signage from the Scale House to the landfill disposal area.
- Provision of traffic spotters at the landfill disposal area, acknowledging peak traffic periods.

Collection Vehicle at the Scale House





Otter Lake Waste Processing & Disposal Facility Survey

3. Do these mitigation measures address your concerns?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ I do not have any concerns

4. If No, please indicate why these mitigation measures do not address your concerns and/or any additional concerns you may have with this specific item:

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Otter Lake Waste Processing & Disposal Facility Survey

Additional Blowing Litter

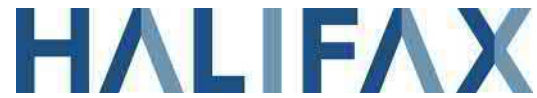
In addition to regular inspections and clean ups conducted along Highway 103 and the site access road, litter is currently collected on a daily basis from the Otter Lake site, particularly from fences, on-site roads, and entrance area. Fixed fences are installed as needed on exterior berms. Portable fences are installed at or near the landfill disposal area to catch windblown materials and are cleaned as necessary. Additionally, higher fencing is installed beyond the portable fencing as necessary to catch further wind-blown material.

With respect to the proposed deactivation of the Otter Lake FEP/WSF, no off-site impacts due to blowing litter have been identified. Some on-site impacts have been identified as medium risk which includes the increased potential for blowing litter at the landfill disposal area. Mitigation measures include the following:

- Use of additional portable fencing.
- Additional litter collection and removal efforts by site personnel.

Landfill Litter Fencing





Otter Lake Waste Processing & Disposal Facility Survey

5. Do these mitigation measures address your concerns?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ I do not have any concerns

6. If No, please indicate why these mitigation measures do not address your concerns and/or any additional concerns you may have with this specific item:

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Otter Lake Waste Processing & Disposal Facility Survey

Enhanced attraction of birds

Currently, several bird management measures are regularly conducted in proximity to the landfill disposal area, including noise makers (whistler flares), use of a falcon and handler and limited culling (consistent with Federal regulations).

With respect to the proposed deactivation of the Otter Lake FEP/WSF, no off-site impacts due to an enhanced attraction of birds have been identified. Some on-site impacts have been identified as representing a medium risk which includes an enhanced attraction of birds. Mitigation measures include the following:

- Increased frequency of bird and vector control efforts at the landfill disposal area and around the landfill in general.
- Emphasis on minimizing the size (and thus the attractiveness to birds) of the landfill disposal area, as well as applying daily cover on freshly placed waste.

Birds on the Landfill Cap





Otter Lake Waste Processing & Disposal Facility Survey

7. Do these mitigation measures address your concerns?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ I do not have any concerns

8. If No, please indicate why these mitigation measures do not address your concerns and/or any additional concerns you may have with this specific item:

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Otter Lake Waste Processing & Disposal Facility Survey

Delivery of rodents to the disposal area

Currently, regular baiting programs for rodent control are conducted in proximity to the FEP/WSF. With respect to the proposed deactivation of the Otter Lake FEP/WSF, no off-site impacts due to the delivery of rodents to the landfill disposal area have been identified. Some on-site impacts have been identified as medium risk which includes the delivery of rodents to the landfill disposal area. Mitigation measures include the following:

- Implementation of a baiting program for rodents in proximity to the landfill disposal area.

Vehicle discharging waste at the Landfill Disposal Area





Otter Lake Waste Processing & Disposal Facility Survey

9. Do these mitigation measures address your concerns?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ I do not have any concerns

10. If No, please indicate why these mitigation measures do not address your concerns and/or any additional concerns you may have with this specific item:

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Dust generation from additional disposal site traffic

Currently, all vehicles delivering waste to the Front End Processor and Transfer Station travel on paved roads. The perimeter access road around the landfill and leading to the disposal area is granular. A naturally-sourced dust suppressant (Tembec) is used as necessary to reduce the generation of dust. Landfill road construction and maintenance practices will be completed in a manner that will minimize creation of mud. Granular material and positive drainage will work to keep landfill roads dry and reduce the possibility of mud accumulation on haul trucks. With respect to the proposed deactivation of the Otter Lake FEP/WSF, the proposed approach is consistent with the current approach. No on or off-site impacts have been identified due to dust generation from additional disposal site traffic.

Vehicle on the Perimeter Access Road





Otter Lake Waste Processing & Disposal Facility Survey

11. Does the existing approach address your concerns?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ I do not have any concerns

12. If No, please indicate why the existing approach does not address your concerns and/or any additional concerns you may have with this specific item:



Otter Lake Waste Processing & Disposal Facility Survey

Additional generation of greenhouse gases

Landfills are a significant source of greenhouse gas emissions and produce methane gas, which is approximately 25 times more potent than carbon dioxide at trapping heat in the atmosphere. Diverting material (e.g., green cart program) from landfill disposal is the best way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from Halifax's solid waste system.

As organic materials decompose in a landfill, they generate greenhouse gases; namely, methane and carbon dioxide. Based on previously completed evaluations, the FEP/WSF does not have a significant effect on the decomposition potential of waste delivered to the landfill. This has been illustrated by the ongoing requirement for landfill gas and leachate management systems at the landfill. The WSF does partially treat (decompose/stabilize) materials and therefore can reduce the amount of greenhouse gases generated in the landfill. The FEP separates materials that are smaller than 150 mm in size and conveys them to the WSF for treatment. However, other methane-generating materials greater than 150 mm in size and are not treated in the WSF. As such, greenhouse gases are not anticipated to greatly increase by deactivating the FEP/WSF as food waste only makes up a portion of the methane- generating waste deposited in the landfill.

The operation of the FEP/WSF consumes significant electricity. As a result of deactivating the FEP/WSF, there will be a significant reduction in electricity use on site and a corresponding reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in the order of 1240 tonnes of CO₂ (equivalent) per year. This offset will mitigate potential increases as result of not stabilizing materials in the WSF (as noted above).

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Otter Lake Waste Processing & Disposal Facility Survey

Landfill Gas Collection Wells



13. Does the existing approach address your concerns?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ I do not have any concerns

14. If No, please indicate why the existing approach does not address your concerns and/or any additional concerns you may have with this specific item:

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Otter Lake Waste Processing & Disposal Facility Survey

Additional generation of odours

Dillon's FEP/WSF Closure Review noted that the potential for odour issues at the landfill may be increased by operating the FEP/WSF. The reason is that the WSF stabilization process 'kick starts' the microbiological treatment process that continues once the material is landfilled. Once the 'stabilized' material is landfilled (i.e., output from WSF), the production of landfill gas (including odorous hydrogen sulfide gas) is quicker at Otter Lake than at a traditional municipal solid waste landfill.

Odour mitigation measures will continue regardless of whether the FEP/WSF is operated, these include:

- Maintaining the landfill disposal area as small as possible.
- Applying daily landfill cover to freshly placed waste.
- Maintaining a landfill gas collection and treatment system.
- Proactive monitoring for site odours.

With respect to the proposed deactivation of the Otter Lake FEP/WSF the proposed approach is consistent with the current approach for the management of odours. No on or off-site impacts due to odours have been identified with the proposed deactivation.

Landfill Gas Flares





Otter Lake Waste Processing & Disposal Facility Survey

15. Does the existing approach address your concerns?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ I do not have any concerns

16. If No, please indicate why the existing approach does not address your concerns and/or any additional concerns you may have with this specific item (400 character limit):



Otter Lake Waste Processing & Disposal Facility Survey

Impact to groundwater quality

Nova Scotia has stringent landfill requirements with respect to groundwater quality protection. Otter Lake was developed as what is known in Nova Scotia as a 'second generation landfill'. This means that the landfill at Otter Lake is equipped with a double composite liner system and leachate collection system, which prevents leachate from entering the underlying soils and groundwater. Deactivating the FEP/WSF will have no impact on protecting groundwater.

Precipitation that comes in contact with waste in the landfill and percolates to the bottom of the landfill is called leachate. As such the landfill disposal area is kept as small as possible (e.g., less than 30 m in width) to limit the amount of exposed waste (water that runs off the landfill cap is managed as surface water). Leachate which percolates through waste is collected within the leachate collection system at the bottom of the landfill (and located above the double composite liner system). Leachate is conveyed via pipes to collection sumps where it is subsequently pumped to a leachate storage tank. Leachate from the storage tank is transferred to a tanker truck as required for transport to an approved treatment facility (currently Halifax Water's Mill Cove Wastewater Treatment Facility). In cases of high flows, a temporary holding pond, located near Cell 4, can accept leachate. Regular monitoring of site groundwater, along with associated reporting to NS Environment and Climate Change (with copies provided to the Otter Lake Community Monitoring Committee), will continue to allow for validation of the effectiveness of leachate management infrastructure and operations at the site.

With respect to the deactivation of the Otter Lake FEP/WSF, the proposed approach is consistent with the current approach for the management of groundwater quality. No on or off-site impacts due to groundwater quality have been identified with the proposed deactivation.

Otter Lake Waste Processing & Disposal Facility Survey

Sampling of a Groundwater Monitoring Well



17. Does the existing approach address your concerns?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ I do not have any concerns

18. If No, please indicate why the existing approach does not address your concerns and/or any additional concerns you may have with this specific item:



Otter Lake Waste Processing & Disposal Facility Survey

Impact to surface water quality

Surface water is generated at landfills predominantly related to runoff from the landfill cap — i.e., this is precipitation/rainfall that runs down the capped landfill side slopes and has not come into contact with waste materials.

At Otter Lake, the surface water management system includes ditches, pipes, culverts etc. to convey surface water to stormwater management ponds. The stormwater management ponds are used to remove sedimentation in the surface water. The surface water in the stormwater management ponds is tested prior to discharging to the Nine Mile River.

Erosion control measures are key to preventing erosion and sedimentation in surface water. Examples of erosion control measures include temporary measures such as the use of erosion protection blankets, and permanent measures such as seeding and establishing a grass/vegetative cover on the landfill cap.

Monthly erosion inspections are completed to ensure that adequate measures have been put in place. Additionally after each storm event, all erosion control measures are inspected, and, if found to be damaged, are repaired or replaced as soon as possible.

Regular monitoring of site surface water, along with associated reporting to NS Environment and Climate Change (with copies provided to the Otter Lake Community Monitoring Committee), will continue to allow for validation of the effectiveness of stormwater management infrastructure and operations at the site.

With respect to the proposed deactivation of the Otter Lake FEP/WSF, the proposed approach is consistent with the current approach for the management of surface water quality. No on or off-site impacts due to surface water quality have been identified with the proposed deactivation.

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Surface Water Sampling



19. Does the existing approach address your concerns?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ I do not have any concerns

20. If No, please indicate why the existing approach does not address your concerns and/or any additional concerns you may have with this specific item:



Otter Lake Waste Processing & Disposal Facility Survey

Honouring the original Community Agreement

The 1999 agreement between HRM and the Halifax Waste Resource Society (Society) titled: "Agreement for Community Monitoring of Solid Waste Facilities" (HRWS Agreement) lays out the framework for community monitoring of landfill operations by the Community Monitoring Committee (CMC). The agreement can be accessed at Halifax.ca/OtterLake

The Society was established in 1999 to represent the interests of the local community with respect to Otter Lake. As part of developing Otter Lake, HRM entered into an agreement with the Society to establish roles and responsibilities, including the establishment of the CMC. The CMC consists of 15 members, 9 of which are appointed by the Society, and 6 of which are appointed by HRM. HRM's representatives on the CMC include the Mayor and the Councillors from Districts 11, 12, and 13.

The agreement does not specifically mandate that the FEP/WSF be operated at Otter Lake. The agreement stipulates that only 'Acceptable Waste' shall be landfilled. Acceptable Waste is defined as "Inert Materials"; "Stable Materials" (i.e., biostabilized through the FEP/WSF); and "Residual Materials" (i.e., minor quantities of putrescible and other banned materials).

While the FEP/WSF was designed as a mechanism to biostabilize putrescible waste (e.g., food waste), it provides little if any benefit to the environment today as the composition of waste and quantity has changed significantly since the development of Otter Lake in the late 1995. This is in part due to the success of HRM's solid waste program, including the success of the green cart program at diverting food waste from landfill disposal. Most of the waste currently delivered to and disposed of at Otter Lake is considered Inert Materials or Residual Materials, such that it does not need to be biostabilized prior to landfilling. Based on current tonnages HRM can therefore remain compliant with its commitments under agreement if the FEP/WSF is deactivated.

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Otter Lake Waste Processing & Disposal Facility Survey

Otter Lake Waste Processing & Disposal Facility



21. Does this information address your concerns?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ I do not have any concerns

22. If No, please indicate why the information provided does not address your concerns and/or any additional concerns you may have with this specific item:



Otter Lake Waste Processing & Disposal Facility Survey

Inability to reactivate the FEP/WSF if necessary

As part of the proposed deactivation plan, the FEP/WSF will be maintained such that the facilities could be put back into operation if needed. Activities have been defined to appropriately monitor and maintain the FEP/WSF following deactivation and include:

General:

- Removal of waste materials.
- Areas free of debris or stored materials.
- Cleaning floors.
- Regular walkthroughs are conducted and documented including the inspection of structural members and equipment support members.
- Access Control - doors and access points locked and/or regularly checked.
- Security of site maintained.
- Structures are maintained wind and water tight.
- Ventilation minimized but maintained.
- Pest control program maintained.

Mechanical Equipment:

- Removing/flushing/draining/purging of tanks/piping and winterizing.
- Cleaning equipment/supports.
- Filling all lubricants/seal systems.
- Removing/replacement of existing fluids.
- Applying external vapour corrosion inhibitors to equipment and supports.
- Machinery shutdown (locked and tagged out) — ongoing inspections — may include additional lubricants, dust coverings, regular energizing/rotation schedule, etc.

Electrical Equipment:

- Application of desiccants and vapour phase inhibitors in panels/cabinets.
- Motor heaters' activation.
- Provide heaters inside panels where condensation might be an issue.
- Thermal imagery of electrical circuits to remain energized.

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Otter Lake Waste Processing & Disposal Facility Survey

Biofilter:

- Removal and landfilling of media.
- Transfer of leachate to leachate storage tank.
- Flushing clear stone and transfer to leachate storage tank.
- Placing geomembrane lined notch in berm to limit depth of stored precipitation.
- Connection of biofilter to Stormwater ditching system.
- Installing perimeter fencing.

Fire Safety:

- Fire doors and Exit lighting are maintained.
- Dry Sprinkler System is maintained and air pressure monitored as required.
- Annual inspections of fire suppression equipment and systems, alarm systems and hydrants maintained.
- Propane system disconnected.

FEP Equipment



23. Does this information address your concerns?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ I do not have any concerns



Otter Lake Waste Processing & Disposal Facility Survey

24. If No, please indicate why the information provided does not address your concerns and/or any additional concerns you may have with this specific item:

Other items of concern related to the deactivation of the FEP/WSF

25. Please indicate any additional specific items of concern with respect to the proposed deactivation of the Otter Lake FEP/WSF:

26. Please provide your contact information (optional):

Name:

Email:

Thank you for providing your input on the proposed deactivation of the FEP/WSF. For additional information including links to staff reports and the Closure Review report please visit here: [Halifax.ca/OtterLake](https://halifax.ca/OtterLake)

This survey can be sent via email to otterlake@halifax.ca or by mail to Solid Waste Resources, PO Box 1749, Halifax, NS, B3J 3A5. Mailed surveys should be returned by **December 3, 2021**.