



Letter of Agreement for Monitoring of Specific Contaminants of Concern to Three Species of Whales in Canada in Landfill Leachate between Environment and Climate Change Canada (Waste Reduction and Management Division) and

Background

Whales are vital to healthy marine ecosystems, and an important part of eco-tourism in Canada's Pacific and Atlantic coastal regions, and in the St. Lawrence Estuary. A complex mix of threats—such as the availability of prey, increased noise levels from passing ships and pollution in the water—are endangering many whale populations, notably the Southern Resident Killer Whale, the North Atlantic Right Whale and the St. Lawrence Estuary Beluga. The degradation of water quality due to environmental contaminants poses a particularly serious threat to whales, their prey and their habitat.

In order to assess the potential impacts of contaminants on whales, Environment and Climate Change Canada is interested in evaluating the contribution of land-based sources of pollution to water pollution, including from landfills. Certain substances of concern, including *Canadian Environmental Protection Act's* toxic and Chemical Management Plan substances have been detected or are expected to be found in landfill leachate. Contaminants may be leaching from consumer products or manufactured items disposed in landfills at end of life. This study aims to verify if any of the contaminants identified (refer to Annex 1) may be released from landfills (via leachate) in concentrations and loadings that would be of concern in the receiving environment and to endangered whales species.

Declaration of Intent

This letter expresses the intent of Environment and Climate Change Canada and _____ to enter into an agreement for a confidential landfill leachate monitoring program at the _____ landfill in _____. _____ hereby grants access to Environment and Climate Change Canada staff and contractors they will hire in order for them to collect samples of landfill leachate at the _____ Landfill. SNC-Lavalin Inc. has been contracted to conduct landfill leachate sampling on behalf of Environment and Climate Change Canada. This consent is being given subject to the following conditions:

- All analytical results from sampling at the _____ Landfill will be kept confidential by Environment and Climate Change Canada and its contractors and will be provided to _____.
- The final report prepared by Environment and Climate Change Canada will not identify the _____ Landfill or any others facilities where sampling was done and no reader will be able to, by deduction, guess at the results of the testing at the _____ Landfill;
- _____ will receive a copy of the final report at least one month in advance of it becoming public. During this time, _____ will keep the report confidential;
- _____ also hereby agrees to provide data on waste tonnage, leachate flow, and other pertinent site operational data to assist in the interpretation of the sampling results. Any such information provided will be kept strictly confidential by Environment and Climate Change Canada and its contractors and in addition subject to the conditions noted above.



It is understood that on-going participation in this undertaking is voluntary, and the information obtained during the sampling events is to be used to further Environment and Climate Change Canada's understanding of the presence of target substances. It is also understood that the list of target substances may change over time. Depending on previous results and future Environment and Climate Change Canada risk assessment and monitoring needs, some substances may be added while others may be removed from list. Before any additional testing can be done, consent will need to be sought from the _____ landfill.

As noted above, for the purposes of reporting data, no reference or information possibly leading to the site identification will be made and sampling results from any samples collected at the site will be provided to _____.

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Industrial Sectors, Chemicals and Waste Directorate
Environment and Climate Change Canada

Landfill