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Section 2 Summary

The Proponents for the EA Study are 'The Regional Municipality of Durham' (Durham) and 'The Regional Municipality of York' (York). Collectively, they will be referred to as "the Regions" in the EA Study document.

The Regions continue to face the challenge of managing residual waste. Although they have become reliant on exporting their residential residual waste outside their jurisdictional boundaries, both Regions desire a Durham/York based solution that is socially and environmentally acceptable to both communities, that maximizes environmental protection and that fosters the wise management of potential resources.

Both Regions remain committed to investigating technically feasible waste reduction, reuse, recycling and disposal opportunities. Durham is dedicated to reaching its goal of diverting 70% of its residential waste from disposal by December 2013 and will look for opportunities to increase diversion even more in the future. Similarly, York is committed to designing a waste management system that will divert approximately 65% of its residential waste from disposal in the short-term and hopes to increase this rate to over 70% in the 10-year planning horizon (2016). Moreover, both Regions are committed to developing strategies that will promote reducing and reusing waste so that managing the material may one day be avoided all-together.

Through extensive public consultation, the Regions have determined that a local landfill solution is not acceptable. The Regions also determined that continuing to transport waste to a landfill located outside of Ontario was not sustainable, as it does not provide the security of a long-term stable solution. This conclusion was reached after careful consideration of the fact that any non-local landfill option exposes the Regions to significant public policy risks that are not within their control. This direction provided the basis for Durham and York not including a purely landfill based alternative in its evaluation of long-term waste disposal options.

2. Identification of the Proponents

The Proponents for the EA Study are ‘**The Regional Municipality of Durham**’ (Durham) and ‘**The Regional Municipality of York**’ (York). Collectively, they will be referred to as “the Regions” in the EA Study.

On June 30, 2005, the Regions reached an agreement to jointly pursue a residual waste management Environmental Assessment Study. Specifically, the agreement outlined the scope of the EA Study, how it would be managed, financial commitments, and other general matters. The Regions agreed to share the responsibility for implementing the project including sharing the majority of the costs evenly. The agreement is to be terminated upon completion of the EA Study.

The Regions made a number of commitments in the agreement including ensuring that the study satisfies all requirements under the Ontario *Environmental Assessment Act* (EAA) and that only technologies that meet or exceed regulatory requirements would be considered during the study.

A joint management group (now referred to as the Joint Waste Management Group [JWVG]) was set up by the Regions to manage and oversee all aspects of the Study. The JWVG is a sub-committee to Durham’s Works Committee and York’s Waste Management Committee. The Group consists of elected officials, residents from Durham and York, and an external observer. All major decisions during this EA Study were voted on by the JWVG and carried if the majority of voters supported the decision.

Upon approval of the EA Study, the Proponents will work closely with the Preferred Technology Vendor to obtain all additional necessary approvals, in particular approvals under the Ontario EAA. The agreement between the Proponents, and the Preferred Technology Vendor, is currently being finalized and will be established following the approval of the EA and prior to the construction and operation of the facility.

The Proponents commit that if approval to proceed with the Undertaking is given, it will be the Proponents who are legally responsible for carrying out the Undertaking as approved.