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July 18, 2014

Agatha Garcia-Wright, Director,
Environmental Approvals Branch
Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change
2 St. Clair Avenue West, Floor 12A
Toronto, ON M4V 1L5

Dear Ms. Garcia-Wright:

**RE: Durham/York Energy from Waste Project
Environmental Assessment Commitment: Alternative Ash
Disposal Locations
MOE File No.: EA-08-02**

It has come to our attention, following recent discussions with Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change (MOECC) staff, that there are concerns that the current proposed disposal location for ash residues from the subject project may deviate from the understanding established by the environmental assessment process.

During the development of the Environmental Assessment for the subject project, prospective vendors were requested to provide a proposed venue for ash disposal. Covanta responded by identifying an ash residue handling plan and location. This information was used at the time as part of the vendor evaluation process as discussed in the Durham/York Residual Waste Study: Environmental Assessment Study Document. Following a review of detailed work plans and associated contractual arrangements were undertaken, the preferred vendor, Covanta, was selected. The MOECC, at that time, also encouraged the identification of a landfill to ensure that implementation of the undertaking will not be delayed or impeded by the process to identify the venue to receive ash residues.

As stated in the **EA sub-section Section 10.6.3.1 to Conceptual Residue Handling**; "Following appropriate testing to ensure the material is not hazardous as defined and regulated by the Province, the bottom ash will be transported to a licensed landfill facility. At the time of this submission, it is anticipated that the bottom ash will be utilized as daily cover material. Covanta's Research and Development group are continually investigating new and more beneficial uses for this material."

The Environmental Assessment Review (Section 3.3.1) as prepared by the MOECC also acknowledged that:

“The Regions have committed to continuing their ongoing investigation of more local landfill alternatives and alternative non-landfill uses for the process residues should the undertaking be approved. The ministry is satisfied that the proposed residual disposal approach addresses the concerns raised.”

The EFW operator, Covanta, is in the process of securing landfill capacity with Walker Brothers Landfill located in the Niagara Region. The travel distance to this new landfill location is significantly decreased over the previously proposed location. This decreased travel distance for ash disposal will reduce the environmental impacts and is a more sustainable solution in comparison to the long haul transportation location. It is anticipated that the bottom ash will be utilized as alternative daily cover which will further reduce the environmental impacts associated with mining virgin cover materials. Similarly, once the fly ash has been treated on-site at the Durham York Energy Centre and demonstrated to be non-hazardous, it will also be disposed of at the Walker Brothers Landfill.

We are requesting your approval of this alternative for ash disposal. If you require any further information, please contact Gioseph Anello, Manager, Waste Planning and Technical Services, at (905) 668-7711 ext. 3445.

Sincerely,

Mirka Januszkiewicz, P.Eng.
Director, Waste Management

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