

Keele Valley Landfill - Supplementary Solid Waste Management Fee for Biomedical and Asbestos Waste

(City Council on December 14, 15 and 16, 1999, adopted this Clause, without amendment.)

The Works Committee recommends the adoption of the following report (November 9, 1999) from the Commissioner of Works and Emergency Services:

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to seek authority to increase the Solid Waste Management fee for biomedical and asbestos waste disposed at the Keele Valley Landfill in order to recover costs incurred by the City for additional handling protocols applied to these special wastes.

Financial Implications and Impact Statement:

The corporation currently receives approximately \$506,000.00 annually for disposing of approximately 9,200 tonnes of biomedical and asbestos waste from the private sector. By increasing the Solid Waste Management (SWM) fee from \$55.00 per tonne to \$75.00 per tonne, additional revenues of approximately \$184,000.00 may be realized on an annual basis. No additional operational expenditures are proposed in relation to handling these special wastes.

The Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer has reviewed this report and concurs with the financial impact statement.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that:

- (1) the Solid Waste Management fee for the disposal of biomedical and asbestos waste at the Keele Valley Landfill should be increased to \$75.00 per tonne effective January 3, 2000; and
- (2) the appropriate City officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect thereto.

Background:

Staff estimate that the City of Toronto will receive 1100 loads (4300 tonnes) of biomedical waste and 1680 loads (4900 tonnes) of asbestos for disposal at the Keele Valley Landfill in the City of Vaughan in 1999. Revenue from these tonnages will amount to approximately \$506,000.00.

Each load of biomedical and asbestos waste requires special handling in view of the potentially hazardous nature of the material. Prenotification of site personnel as to the planned disposal of

these materials is undertaken. A designated area is defined on the landfill each day for receipt of the waste, and precautions are taken to ensure that the material is buried safely with a minimum of disturbance to each load. Any excavation of entombed material during regular drilling or trenching operations at the landfill requires acknowledgement of the inherent danger of the contents of the landfill and the associated special training of staff to work in this higher risk environment. Reports are prepared routinely and upon request for Ministry site inspectors as they relate to management of these special wastes.

Staff estimate that special precautions associated with management of these wastes requires the City to expend an additional \$65.00 for each load received at the landfill. This additional expenditure equates to approximately \$180,000.00 on an annual basis.

In order to recover these costs through a fee based on weight in tonnes, staff recommend that the SWM fee be increased to \$75.00 per tonne. Accordingly, additional revenue accruing to the City from the anticipated disposal of 9,200 tonnes of biomedical and asbestos waste is estimated to be approximately \$184,000.00. Gross annual revenues from the disposal of biomedical and asbestos waste are anticipated to be approximately \$690,000.00.

Comments:

There is a clear need to recover costs incurred by the corporation as a result of providing a special service related to the safe handling of asbestos and biomedical waste at the Keele Valley Landfill.

Staff has considered the economic impact to the generators of biomedical and asbestos waste and feel that an increase from \$55.00 per tonne to \$75.00 per tonne will not cause economic hardship to the industry.

This increase to the SWM fee for special wastes disposed at landfill should not affect the rationale for fees charged for any other material disposed at the transfer stations and landfill.

Conclusions:

The corporation incurs additional annual costs of approximately \$180,000.00 for disposing of biomedical and asbestos waste at the Keele Valley Landfill. These costs result from special notification, handling, risk assessment, and reporting related to the potentially hazardous nature of biomedical and asbestos waste delivered to the landfill.

In order to recover these costs, it is recommended that a SWM fee which reflects the nature and effort expended by the corporation to safely manage these wastes be established.

Accordingly, it is recommended that the SWM fee be set at \$75.00 per tonne for biomedical and asbestos waste disposed at the Keele Valley Landfill effective January 3, 2000.

Contact:

Ken Hogg, Manager, Operational Support
Transfer, Processing and Disposal Operations
Solid Waste Management Services, Works and Emergency Services
Metro Hall, 19th Floor
Phone: (416) 392-4226; Fax: (416) 392-4754
E-mail: ken_hogg@metrodesk.metrotor.on.ca