



PW15.8

Councillor Paul Ainslie
Toronto City Council
Scarborough East - Ward 43

Chair, Government Management Committee
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Date: August 11, 2016
To: Public Works and Infrastructure Committee Members
Re: Site Alteration (Fill Placement) Regulation

Summary:

To confirm that contaminated soil is not brought onto construction sites a regulation to provide information on the origin and test results of source soil sites should be put in place by the Ontario Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MOECC) before soil is placed.

Recommendations:

That:

1. City Council request the Provincial Ministry of Environment and Climate Change to implement a regulated approach to monitor and test imported soil to be used in in construction activities through its proposed regulation governing excess soil, and City staff advise the Ministry of local concerns that all such soil movements should be traceable.

Background:

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MOECC) has recently issued guidelines pertaining to the management of excess soil excavated on construction sites. The MOECC is currently proposing a regulation governing soil conditions at source sites, which will include consideration of receiving sites. This approach should provide clarity as to the movement, placement and quality of soil at receiving sites. This would provide clarity to the public by ensuring that the soil or fill being placed on construction sites has been tested and meets Ministry standards.

Currently the MOECC only conducts additional testing, if concerns are raised, after the soil has been delivered to receiving sites. Usually concerns include: knowledge that the soil is from a contaminated site; foul smells emanating from the dirt or trucks; and, liquids with oil sheens from the dirt or trucks. If any of these conditions are present, the Ministry will intervene to ensure that contaminated soil has not been discharged under section 14 of the Environmental Protection Act, otherwise the soil is not tested by the Ministry. The new regulation will provide an opportunity for better information on soil movement.

Sincerely,
Councillor Paul Ainslie
City of Toronto
Scarborough East Ward 43