
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Committee of the Whole endorses preferred location and passes motion for Council's approval

Midhurst/ March 8, 2016 – During its meeting on Tuesday, March 8, 2016, County of Simcoe Committee of the Whole endorsed a motion to move forward with the single location for the proposed Organics Processing Facility (OPF) and Materials Management Facility (MMF) at 2976 Horseshoe Valley Road West, Springwater.

Committee of the Whole's recommendation will be considered by County Council on March 22, 2016. Following further direction, staff will proceed with this open process, which will include scoped engineering and environmental studies on the preferred location beginning later this spring. The County will host two public information sessions on April 19 at the Simcoe County Museum at 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. The procurement process and Request for Proposal (RFP) for technology is anticipated to be released in fall 2016. The opportunity for County Council to provide full approvals for development of this facility is scheduled to occur in 2017 with results of the RFP and an accurate business case.

"It is clear that our consultants have done an extremely thorough job in their evaluation and comprehensive siting process," said Warden Gerry Marshall. "We will continue to listen to neighbours of the preferred location, our partners at Springwater Township, as well as all our 465,000 residents across the region. As a Council, we will do the right thing by making a responsible economic and environmental decision while ultimately improving our services for future generations."

The Preferred Location and Process

2976 Horseshoe Valley Road West, Springwater, ranked first for all three options – an OPF, MMF and a co-located facility. Industry-leading consultants evaluated 502 locations in three screening phases. Although not required for these projects, Environmental Assessment methodology and criteria was applied to the siting evaluation. Extensive public, Aboriginal and stakeholder consultation supported the evaluation process.

Primary Advantages of the Preferred Location

- Provides transportation efficiencies
- Significant usable space
- Has good separation distances from nearby houses
- Scored high among all environmental criteria used to evaluate the 502 sites
- Provides cost savings and economic benefits

Additional Information

Details about the proposed facilities including siting methodology, anticipated costs, completed meetings and reports, and a detailed FAQ can be found at www.simcoe.ca/opf and www.simcoe.ca/mmf. The agenda and staff report can be found at www.simcoe.ca/dpt/clk/amr.

Q&A

Has the County determined costs? What are the next steps in the process?

MMF

- A business case for the MMF was approved by County Council in 2014
- it is estimated that the capital cost of the MMF will be \$4.7 million – this considers \$1.15 million in significant funding that has been secured from the Continuous Improvement Fund
- the MMF would save an estimated \$13 million in contracted transfer costs over the next 20 years with a calculated payback of six years

OPF

- A Viability Assessment Report was completed in 2012 and concluded that an OPF was viable
- OPF costs could range from \$10 to \$35 million or higher, dependent on technology
- accurate costing for the OPF will occur following siting and the procurement process to select OPF technology starting in spring 2016
- location-specific information combined with input from the public and neighbouring landowners will be important in determining technology

What environmental work has been done to date? What assessments/studies are still to be completed?

- the County followed Environmental Assessment methodology to select the preferred location
- evaluation considered groundwater and surface water conditions, Prime Agricultural Lands, soil conditions (among many other criteria)
- held initial consultation with the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority, Lake Simcoe Conservation Authority, Severn Sound Environmental Association and the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change
- further environmental studies, such as a scoped Environmental Impact Statement, are required and will be undertaken on the preferred location

What analysis of traffic has been done to date? What studies are still to be completed?

- additional vehicles (trucks, staff cars) to OPF/MMF location at 30-year capacity maximum is 420/day (includes both in and out movements), which is an estimated 6% increase on current traffic volumes over 30 years
 - Current two-way traffic count for Horseshoe Valley Road (County Road 22) is 6,700 vehicles/day
- a Traffic Impact Study will be undertaken, which will identify needed road improvement requirements (i.e., turning and acceleration lanes)

Is the County considering odours, noise and visual impacts of the potential facility? What steps will be taken to mitigate?

- location is large and offers good buffer distances from surrounding homes to mitigate odour and noise; design and technology will also incorporate odour and noise control measures
- proposed facility must fully comply with the Ontario Environmental Protection Act, which regulates odour emissions
- footprint of the facility will only occupy approximately 5% of this location; existing trees combined with placement of the facility will provide visual screening

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