



CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL LAW ASSOCIATION

MEDIA RELEASE

301-130 Spadina Ave. St. Toronto ON M5V 2L4 • ph: 416/960-2284 • fx: 416/960-9392
Web site: www.cela.ca

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: APRIL 29, 2010

**“NO MEANS NO”: MOHAWKS, MUNICIPALITY, AND RESIDENTS WILL VIGOROUSLY
OPPOSE WASTE MANAGEMENT’S LATEST MEGA-DUMP PROPOSAL IN NAPANEE**

The Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte (MBQ), the Township of Tyendinaga, and concerned citizens are vowing to vigorously oppose Waste Management’s proposal to establish a new mega-dump immediately beside the company’s existing Richmond Landfill in Napanee, Ontario.

Waste Management recently announced that it is applying for environmental approvals to construct the Beechwood Road Environmental Centre (BREC), which will feature a new landfill to accept 8 million tonnes of municipal waste over 20 years.

“The Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte are downstream of the Richmond Landfill and the proposed BREC landfill, and our environment is at risk of negative transboundary impacts from both facilities,” stated Chief R. Donald Maracle of the MBQ. “Ontario’s Minister of the Environment must act to protect the environment and the people by rejecting the proposed BREC landfill as soon as possible.”

In 2006, in light of unresolved environmental concerns, Ontario’s Minister of the Environment refused to approve Waste Management’s previous attempt to expand the Richmond Landfill. In 2009, the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario recommended the immediate closure of Richmond Landfill for environmental reasons. Last month, the Ministry of the Environment issued an updated approval that requires Waste Management to cover and close the Richmond Landfill, commencing with closing Phase 1 of the landfill by September 30, 2010.

“In our view, the hydrogeological characteristics of this area – such as highly fractured bedrock, thin soil cover, and proximity to watercourses – make this location fundamentally unsuitable for the establishment of the BREC landfill,” declared Margaret Walsh, Reeve of Tyendinaga Township.

“The previous expansion proposal was correctly rejected by the Minister for environmental reasons, and it is regrettable that Waste Management has returned with another unacceptable proposal,” said Richard Lindgren, a CELA lawyer who represents local citizens. “In my opinion, ‘no means no’; it does not mean ‘come back and try again’.”

For more information, please contact:

Chief R. Donald Maracle (613-396-3424)
Richard Lindgren (613-385-1686)

Reeve Margaret Walsh (613-396-6021)