



**CITY OF KINGSTON**  
**REPORT TO ENVIRONMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE & TRANSPORTATION POLICIES COMMITTEE**

Report No.: EITP-10-026

**TO:** Chair – Environment, Infrastructure & Transportation Policies Committee  
**FROM:** Jim Keech, President & C.E.O., Utilities Kingston  
**RESOURCE STAFF:** John Giles, Manager, Solid Waste Department  
**DATE OF MEETING:** 2010-07-13  
**SUBJECT:** Public Access at the Kingston East Landfill

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

The Kingston East Landfill is nearing its approved capacity and the trench used for public drop-off will be filled by the end of 2010. The site can either be completely closed to the public or temporary transfer facilities can be installed. Municipal trucks will fill the remaining capacity by the end of 2012. When the site is completely full it will be permanently closed to all users.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Kingston East Landfill be closed to the public when the public drop-off area is full and that the public be notified of this change through site signage, notices on the website, and mailings.

**AUTHORIZING SIGNATURES:**

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY PRESIDENT & CEO, UTILITIES KINGSTON <hr/> Jim Keech, President and CEO, Utilities Kingston
ORIGINAL SIGNED BY CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER <hr/> Gerard Hunt, Chief Administrative Officer

**CONSULTATION WITH THE FOLLOWING COMMISSIONERS:**

Cynthia Beach, <i>Sustainability &amp; Growth</i>	N/R
Terry Willing, <i>Community Services</i>	N/R
Denis Leger, <i>Transportation, Properties &amp; Emergency Services</i>	N/R
Jim Keech, <i>President and CEO, Utilities Kingston</i>	✓

*(N/R indicates consultation not required)*

## **OPTIONS/DISCUSSION:**

### **Background**

The Kingston East Landfill (KEL) operates under Provincial Certificate of Approval A381302 and is licensed to receive 'domestic, commercial, and non-hazardous solid industrial' waste from the City of Kingston. This site has been in operation since 1982 and is nearing its approved capacity.

The site is used by municipal trucks and the public. Approximately 1000 customers have used the site over the last year. The number of public customers varies by month with a high averaging 11 vehicles per day and low averaging 2 per day. Several days in the winter have no users at all. Highest volume days are Saturdays that have had as many as 31 vehicles.

The KEL operates in a trench-fill method, whereby trenches on the site are excavated, filled with waste, and then compacted and covered. By this method this site will maintain its original topography once all landfill activities are finished.

Filling was first completed in trenches that were accessed from roads running off a main east-west roadway. Once all the trenches were filled and capped, each of the access roads were excavated and backfilled with waste.

There are two unfilled access roads remaining: one for public drop off and one for municipal trucks. The two areas are kept separate for safety reasons.

### **Remaining Capacity**

A Landfill Capacity Study undertaken in 1997 indicated that the site had approximately 12 years of life remaining and would be filled by the end of 2009. The 2007 Annual Monitoring Report confirmed that the site may be filled by the end of 2009, however it was decided to fill the main east-west access road to extend the life.

The public drop-off area is anticipated to be full by the end of 2010. At that time the landfill will either need to be closed to the public or roll-off bins will need to be provided for drop-off with the waste being transferred and tipped into the municipal trench as roll off bins are filled.

Municipal trucks will continue to fill the final access road and the east-west roadway within the site. This capacity is expected to last until some time in 2012 at the current rate of fill, at which point the site will be closed.

### **Option 1 – Closure to Public**

Closing KEL to the public would result in operational savings as the landfill attendant would no longer be required and the scale could be removed. Weight of municipal trucks would be established after weighing in at the organics facility. Savings are estimated at \$38,000 annually based on re-deploying staff to another position through attrition and eliminating the need for scale maintenance, portable toilet rental, utilities and administrative supplies. The figure takes into account the loss of tipping fees and sale of scrap metal.

### **Option 2 – Roll-off Bins for Public Drop Off**

If roll-off bins are provided on site for public drop-off, additional costs will be incurred. Expenses are estimated at \$10,000 per year for renting and tipping the bins, with an additional \$20,000 capital improvement cost to create elevated areas for bin access, associated retaining walls, and turning circles. In addition, the scale house will require about \$6,000 in repairs as the floor joists have rotted to the point of needing replacement.

If the landfill lasts until the end of 2012 the additional annual costs would be approximately \$20,000 capital + \$6,000 repairs + \$20,000 for two years of renting roll-off bins and having them tipped, for a total cost of \$46,000 or \$23,000 per year on average.

**Recommended Option**

The additional annual costs to keep the site open for two additional years of public drop-off are estimated at \$23,000. The annual savings to close the site to the public are estimated at \$38,000. It will cost approximately (\$23,000 + \$38,000) = \$61,000 more per year to keep the landfill open to the public after the public drop-off area is full.

It is recommended that the site be closed to the public when the public drop-off area is full. This will result in operational savings, and given that local residents are already served by curbside pickup and that private facilities exist on McAdoos Lane, St. Remy Place and John Counter Boulevard for disposal of excess and oversized waste, the closure of KEL will not cause significant hardship to its current users.

If KEL is closed to the public there may be incidences of illegal dumping at the gate. This will be the case when the site is closed permanently in the future or if it is closed to the public only, as recommended in this report, and can be mitigated by public education, site signage, and enforcement. Illegal dumping is an unfortunate part of all waste management systems and can be expected to occur. The frequency of illegal dumping should decrease with time as the public adapts to the changes.

By-law No. 36-95 being a by-law to regulate and maintain a system for the collection, removal, and disposal of ashes, garbage, and other refuse, will be amended subject to the recommendation of this report being carried.

**Public Notification**

The Ministry of the Environment suggests that municipalities notify the public in advance of any landfill closures so alternative arrangements can be made. Signs detailing the closure schedule and alternative waste disposal facilities will be posted at KEL at least three months before the site is closed to the public. Notices will be posted on the website and mailed to the landfill customers.

**EXISTING POLICY/BY LAW:**

The Corporation of the Township of Pittsburgh By-law No. 36-95 being a by-law to regulate and maintain a system for the collection, removal, and disposal of ashes, garbage, and other refuse, as amended.

**NOTICE PROVISIONS:**

The city will notify users of the Kingston East Landfill about the public closure through signage, notices on the website, and direct mailings.

**ACCESSIBILITY CONSIDERATIONS:** Not Applicable

**FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:**

Installing roll-off bins for public drop-offs will incur a capital cost of approximately \$20,000, annual operating costs of approximately \$10,000 and repairs of approximately \$6,000.

Closing the site to the public would reduce expenditures by approximately \$38,000 annually.

**CONTACTS:** Not Applicable

**OTHER CITY OF KINGSTON STAFF CONSULTED:**

Heather Gough, Solid Waste  
Lyn Suggitt, Solid Waste

**EXHIBITS ATTACHED:** Not Applicable