Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs #9)

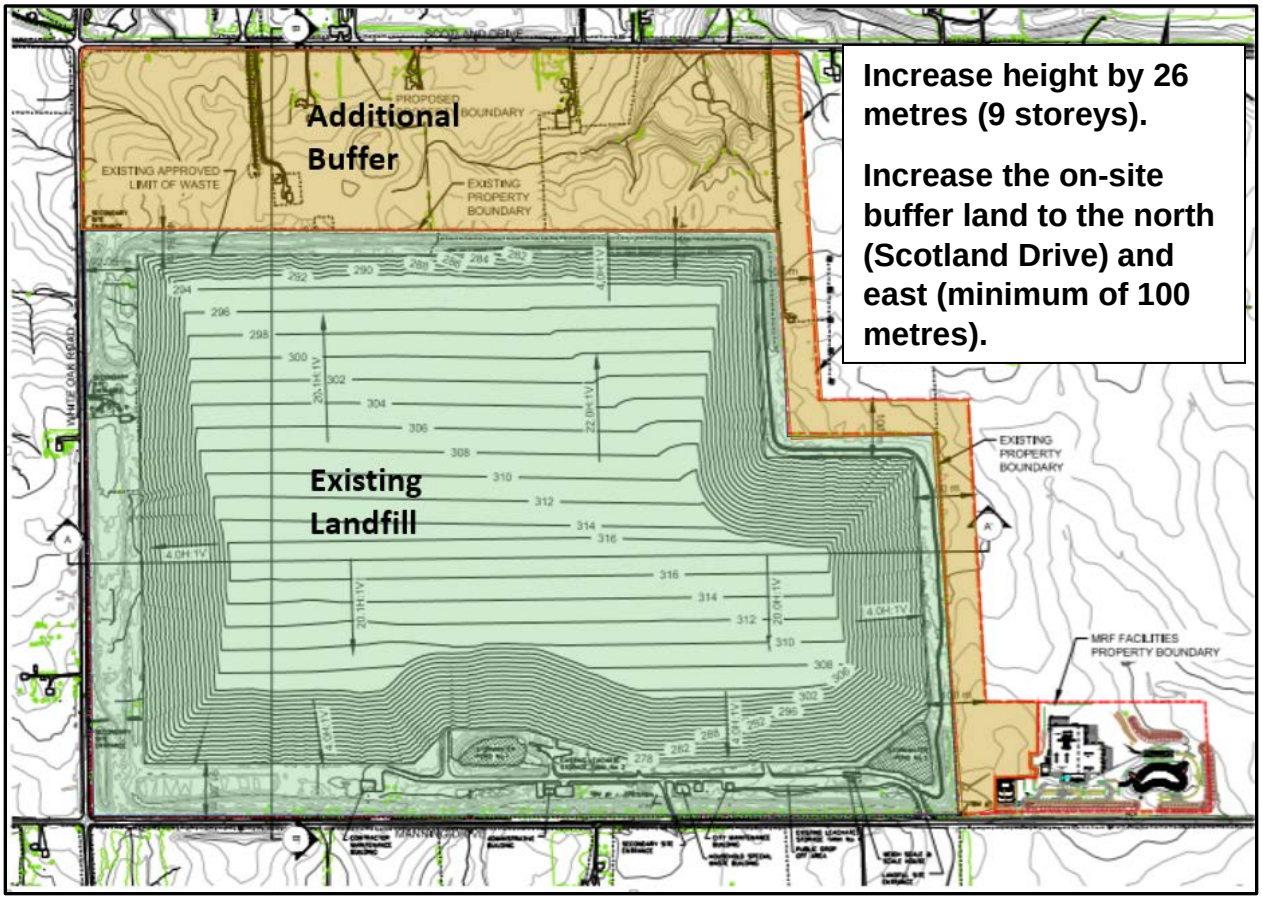
How much waste will the landfill expansion receive?

The design capacity for the proposed landfill expansion over the 25 year planning period is 9.9 million tonnes including 0.5 million tonnes from neighbouring municipalities (about 5%). The space required to hold the estimated waste quantities is approximately 13.8 million cubic metres.

For comparison purposes, the existing approved capacity of the W12A Landfill is approximately 10 million tonnes.

What is the preferred landfill expansion alternative?

Three landfill expansion alternatives (vertical expansion, expansion to the north and expansion to the east) were considered. Vertical expansion was selected as the preferred expansion alternative.



What changes will be made to the landfill's operation and infrastructure?

There will be only minor changes to some of the daily operations (e.g., hours of operation, equipment being used, etc.). There will be major changes (improvement upgrades) to the landfill's infrastructure as summarized below:

Landfill Gas Collection and Flaring System:

- Gas collection system will go from using only vertical wells to having vertical wells and horizontal gas collection piping which will increase the amount of landfill gas captured and reduce odours,
- The existing flare will be replaced by two flares doubling the amount of landfill gas that can be combusted.

Stormwater Management Ponds:

- Two of the four stormwater management ponds will be enlarged,
- Sediment removal efficiency of all the ponds will be increased to 80% (some ponds currently only have 70% removal efficiency),
- Improvements to outflow structures and other pond infrastructure,
- Upgrades will further protect downstream watersheds.

Groundwater Protection:

- The perimeter leachate collection system in the older part of the existing landfill will be replaced/upgraded and stone drains installed in the waste to improve collection efficiency,
- The thick clay soils underneath the landfill are the primary groundwater protection measure and contaminant transport modelling shows no off-site impacts are anticipated.

Environmental Monitoring

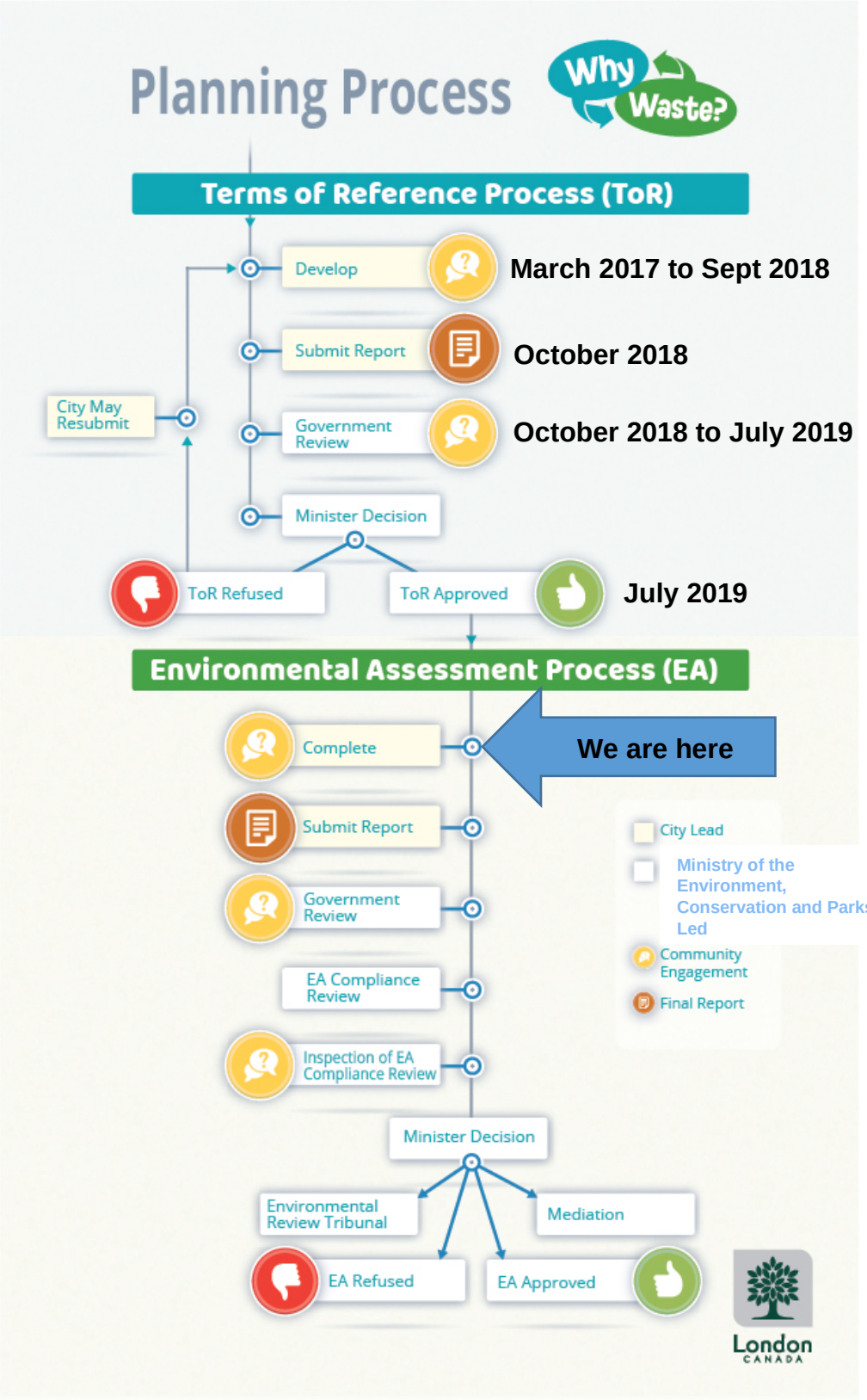
- Improvements, as required, to the existing environmental monitoring programs (litter, landfill gas, surface water & groundwater),
- Additional monitoring of noise and air quality have been incorporated.

Where are we in the Process?

The EA process is expected to take approximately four to five years to complete (from the start date of March 2017).

The first phase was to develop the Terms of Reference that is the work plan or framework for completing the EA. This has been completed and was approved by the Minister of the Environment, Conservation & Parks.

The City is currently completing the Environmental Assessment Study Report (EASR). The Draft EASR is out for stakeholder feedback. Following the review period, the Draft EASR will be updated to address comments received and then submitted to the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) for approval. The steps in completing the EA study are listed on page 4.



The completed EA must be approved by the Minister and Cabinet before the project can proceed.

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the remaining steps in completing the EA study?

Completion of the EA study will be undertaken in a series of nine steps, which are described below. The steps are described fully in the Terms of Reference. We are completing Step 9 at this time

Step listed in Terms of Reference		Description/Explanation
1	Characterize the existing environmental conditions	Complete technical studies (e.g., groundwater, surface water, traffic, air quality, archeology, etc.) on the area. **Complete**
2	Identify the 'Alternative Methods' of landfill expansion	Develop different vertical (higher) and/or lateral (northern or eastern) expansion alternatives. **Complete**
3	Qualitative or quantitative evaluation of 'Alternative Methods'	Determine the potential impact of each of the different expansion alternatives on the study areas. **Complete**
4	Compare the 'Alternative Methods' for landfill expansion and identify the preferred alternative	Select the expansion alternative that has the least overall impact. **Complete**
5	Determine the net effects of the preferred alternative	Detailed assessments will be completed on the potential impacts from the preferred expansion alternative. **Complete**
6	Describe the preferred 'Alternative Method' for landfill expansion	Prepare a detailed description of the preferred expansion alternative and confirm how leachate (water that has contacted garbage) will be managed. **Complete**
7	Consideration of climate change	Look at how climate change (e.g. larger rainfall events) may impact the project and how to reduce the project's contribution to climate change. **Complete**
8	Cumulative Impact Assessment	Consider the cumulative impact of expansion of the W12A Landfill with other facilities or activities in the area. **Complete**
9	Preparation of the EA Study Report	Prepare the EA Study Report for review by stakeholders. **We are currently completing this step and seeking feedback on the Draft EASR.**

Frequently Asked Questions

Where can more details about the Environmental Assessment and the landfill expansion be found?

More information can be found the project website (*getinvolved.london.ca/WhyWasteDisposal*). All key documents and technical studies can be found on the project website.

What other approvals are required?

If the EA for the proposed expansion of the W12A Landfill is approved by the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, there are still other regulatory approvals that will be required before the landfill can be expanded. These approvals are:

- **Environmental Protection Act** (design features and operations related to waste management, air and noise)
- **Ontario Water Resources Act** (stormwater management features)
- **Ontario Planning Act** (zoning amendment)
- **Conservation Authorities** (permits for construction may be required)

Questions? Comments?

Jay Stanford, M.A., M.P.A.
Director - Environment, Fleet & Solid Waste
Phone - (519) 661-CITY (2489) ext. 5411
Fax - (519) 661-2354
E-mail - jstanfor@london.ca

Wesley Abbott, P. Eng.
Project Manager
Phone - (226) 376-2311
Fax - (519) 661-2354
E-mail – wabbott@london.ca

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