

**THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF YORK**

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**REPORT NO. 3  
OF THE REGIONAL  
COMMISSIONER OF TRANSPORTATION AND WORKS**

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**For Consideration by  
The Council of The Regional Municipality of York  
on May 24, 2001**

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**1  
CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL AMENDMENT APPLICATION  
KEELE VALLEY LANDFILL SITE - AVONDALE AREA**

**1. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that:

1. Regional Council not object to the amending of the City of Toronto's Provisional Certificate of Approval No. A230610 for the Keele Valley Landfill Site, to permit the continued operation of the Avondale leaf and organic yard waste composting facility, subject to the following conditions:
  - 1.1 The operation is for a one-year period only, to expire on May 31, 2002.
  - 1.2 The City of Toronto submit to the Commissioner of Transportation and Works, at three-month intervals, sufficient records to document the amount of leaf and organic yard waste material accepted by the facility, including:
    - The amount of material received and processed at the facility, categorized by type.
    - The municipalities of origin of the above categories.
    - The amount of material required to be transferred to the landfill for disposal.
    - The fees, if any, charged to deposit material at the composting facility.
2. The Regional Clerk forward copies of this report to the Clerks of the Cities of Toronto and Vaughan, and to the Ministry of the Environment.

## **2. PURPOSE**

This report responds to a request from the Ministry of the Environment for comments on the City of Toronto's application for an amendment to its Certificate of Approval to permit the continued operation of the Avondale composting facility at the Keele Valley Landfill Site.

## **3. BACKGROUND**

The City of Toronto has made application to the Ministry of the Environment (MOE) for an amendment to its Provisional Certificate of Approval No. A230610 for the Keele Valley Landfill Site. The main purpose of the amendment is to renew the approval for the Avondale leaf and organic yard waste composting operation for an additional two years and seven months, to expire on December 31, 2003. The current approval expires on May 31, 2001.

In its application, Toronto has also requested that the requirement to process Christmas trees within four days of delivery to the site be reconsidered. This requirement stems from provincial regulations which state that leaf and yard waste may not be stored for more than four days before it is composted. However, in its application, Toronto explains that Christmas trees do not have the ability to decompose quickly and produce offensive odours like other materials. Therefore, Toronto would prefer to allow the Christmas trees to accumulate and then process them at one time, which would allow for a more efficient use of their staff resources over the winter months.

The Acting Manager of the MOE's York-Durham District has issued letters to York Region and the City of Vaughan, requesting comments regarding the application.

## **4. ANALYSIS**

### **4.1 Materials Received in 2000**

The Avondale facility received approximately 57,600 tonnes of leaves, brush, Christmas trees and other organic yard waste materials in 2000. The majority of this material originated from the curbside collection programs carried out within the City of Toronto. The portion of the total generated in York Region was approximately 1,200 tonnes. It is noted that approximately 3,600 tonnes of residue from the composting operation was disposed of at the Keele Valley Landfill Site in 2000.

### **4.2 Vaughan Council's Position**

The City of Toronto is required to receive zoning approval from the City of Vaughan for the same time-frame that coincides with the Provisional Certificate of Approval. On October 31, 2000, the City of Toronto submitted Zoning By-law Amendment Application Z.00.099 to allow the implementing by-law to permit the continuation of yard waste composting at the Avondale Site and accessory waste management uses in the Primary Buffer Area of Keele Valley from June 1, 2001 to December 31, 2003

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On January 8, 2001, Vaughan's Committee of the Whole Public Hearing for Zoning By-law Amendment Application Z.00.099, under the *Planning Act*, was held and the recommendation to receive the Public Hearing and forward a comprehensive report to a future Committee of the Whole meeting was ratified by Vaughan Council on January 15, 2001. The comprehensive report to consider the continuation of yard waste composting and accessory waste management uses was approved by the Committee of the Whole on April 23, 2001. The following recommendation from the Committee of the Whole was then ratified by Vaughan Council on April 30, 2001:

"THAT Zoning By-law Amendment Z.00.009 (City of Toronto), BE APPROVED to allow the implementing by-law to permit the continued accessory waste management uses in the Primary Buffer Area at the Keele Valley Landfill Site, and yard waste composting at the Avondale Clay Extraction Site, for a temporary period of one year from June 1, 2001 to May 31, 2002."

#### **4.3 Recommendation for a York Region Position**

Notwithstanding Toronto's application for a renewal that would allow it to operate until December 31, 2003, it is recommended that the Region take a position similar to the City of Vaughan's and advise the MOE that it does not object to the continued operation of the Avondale facility, subject to the condition that the operation is for a one-year period only, to expire on May 31, 2002.

It is also recommended that the Region not object to the MOE waiving the requirement that Christmas trees be processed within four days of delivery to the site. This is a minor operational change and Regional staff feel that it would not result in any problems.

In commenting to the MOE on Toronto's previous applications for the Avondale facility, the Region has consistently requested a standard condition regarding a requirement for reporting on material types and quantities. This allows the Region to monitor the operation. Accordingly, it is also recommended that the Region's position be subject to the condition that the City of Toronto submit to the Commissioner of Transportation and Works, at three-month intervals, sufficient records to document the amount of leaf and organic yard waste material accepted by the facility, including:

- The amount of material received and processed at the facility, categorized by type.
- The municipalities of origin of the above categories.
- The amount of material required to be transferred to the landfill for disposal.
- The fees, if any, charged to deposit material at the composting facility.

#### **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

#### **6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT**

There are no local municipal implications associated with this report.

**7. CONCLUSION**

This report responds to the MOE's request for comments with respect to the City of Toronto's application for an amendment to its Certificate of Approval to permit the continued operation of the Avondale composting facility.

It is recommended that the Region not object to the amendment, subject to the operation being for a one-year period only, and the City of Toronto submitting records to the Region as outlined in this report.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**May 17, 2001  
Newmarket, Ontario**

**K. Schipper  
Commissioner of  
Transportation and Works**

*(Report No. 3 of the Commissioner of Transportation and Works was adopted, without amendment, by Regional Council at its meeting on May 24, 2001.)*