

Highland Creek Treatment Plant Biosolids Management Schedule B Class Environmental Assessment

NEWSLETTER #1

MAY-JUNE 2014



What Are Biosolids?

The City of Toronto manages the wastewater generated by its 2.4 million residents and businesses using a collection system of gravity sewers, pumps and forcemains that convey wastewater to treatment facilities. Four treatment plants within the City collectively treat 1.1 million cubic metres of wastewater per day, and generate 226,000 wet tonnes of dewatered biosolids per year. Biosolids are a nutrient-rich organic material generated by the wastewater treatment process. Every household in the City generates enough biosolids to fill two wheelbarrows each year.



Highland Creek Treatment Plant

The Highland Creek Treatment Plant services an estimated population of 500,000 people in the eastern portion of the City. Currently it treats an average day flow of 170,000 cubic metres of wastewater per day and generates 41,000 wet tonnes of biosolids each year. Biosolids are managed at the Highland Creek Treatment Plant using two multiple-hearth incinerators, which combust the organic material in the biosolids at high temperature. The stable inorganic ash that remains is stored temporarily on-site in ash lagoons. The ash lagoons are emptied once per year and ash is currently disposed of in the City's Green Lane landfill. Alternate uses for the ash will be assessed during the undertaking of this project.

Why Are We Doing this Study

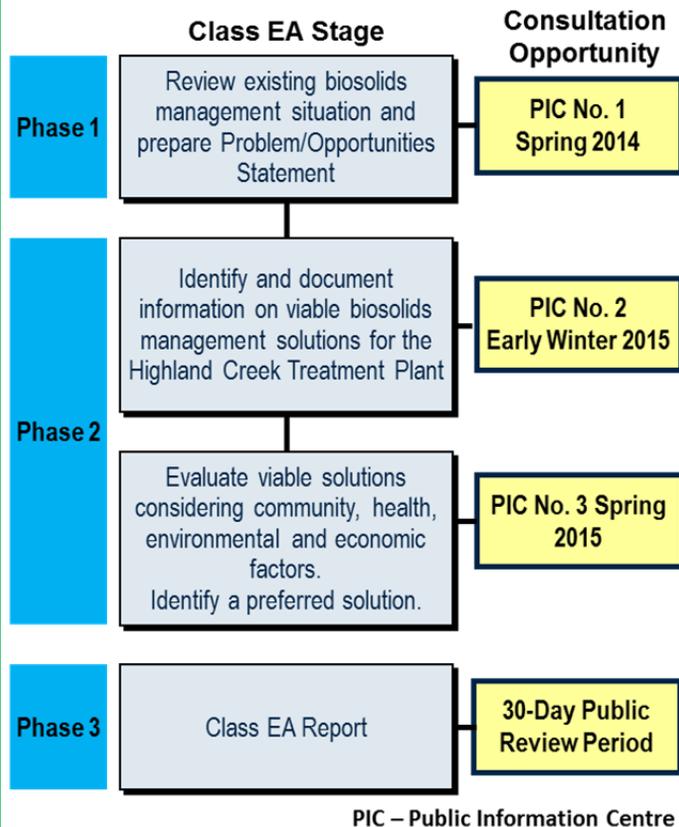
The Highland Creek Treatment Plant multiple-hearth incineration equipment has been operating for more than 35 years. The City is completing upgrades to the equipment so that it continues to provide effective service and meets all regulatory requirements. However, these upgrades will only extend the equipment life for a maximum of 10 years. There is a need to start planning to identify a new biosolids management solution now, to allow time for its implementation, including design and construction of new facilities. With this study, there is an opportunity to consider new technologies and new approaches to effectively manage the biosolids generated at the Highland Creek Treatment Plant.

The Class Environmental Process

To plan a long-term biosolids management solution for the Highland Creek Treatment Plant, the City must meet the requirements of Ontario's Environmental Assessment Act. A Class Environmental Assessment (EA) study, as defined in the Municipal Engineers Association Class Environmental Assessment document (October 2000, amended in 2007 & 2011), is the process used to plan municipal water, wastewater and transportation projects to meet the requirements of the Act.

The Class EA follows a systematic planning process to evaluate alternatives and identify a preferred solution.

Consultation with the public, relevant agencies and other stakeholders is an integral part of the study process, so that all views are taken into account in selecting a preferred solution. As shown below, 3 public information centres (PIC) are planned at key stages of this Class EA study for biosolids management at the Highland Creek Treatment Plant.



Highland Creek Class EA Process and Consultation Opportunities

Class EA for Biosolids Management at Highland Creek Treatment Plant

The Class EA for the Highland Creek Treatment Plant was initiated in April 2014, and will take approximately 14 months to complete. The study is being managed by a team that includes the following City departments: Toronto Water, Toronto Public Health, the Environment and Energy Division, Engineering and Construction Services, and Public Consultation and Communications.

This project will include the following key phases:

Phase 1: An assessment of the operations and technologies currently used to manage biosolids at Highland Creek and a determination of future biosolids generation rates.

Phase 2: A long-list of possible biosolids management alternatives will be identified. The impacts of each alternative on factors such as air quality and health impacts, greenhouse gas emissions, local traffic, odours, environment and cost will be documented. These impacts and others will be considered in evaluating the alternatives to select a biosolids management solution that is best for Highland Creek Treatment Plant.

Phase 3: A final Class EA Report documenting the study process, including the development and evaluation of biosolids alternatives, will be prepared. The report will include all documentation associated with public consultation and communications activities.

We Need Your Input

The first **Public Information Centre (PIC)** will be held to introduce the project and the biosolids management options that will be considered for the Highland Creek Treatment Plant. You are invited to this drop-in centre to find out more about the Class EA study:

Date: Monday, June 16, 2014

Time: Drop-in any time between 3:30 pm – 8:30 pm

Location: Royal Canadian Legion, 45 Lawson Road, Scarborough, ON

Get Involved

Visit the project website for more information or contact us if you would like to be placed on our mailing list.

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