



PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Email: pwmanager@bonfieldtownship.com

REPORT TO CORPORATE SERVICES COMMITTEE

MEETING DATE: February 9, 2026
FROM: Alex Hackenbrook, Public Works Manager
SUBJECT: MECP Landfill Inspection

INFORMATION UPDATE:

The Bonfield Waste Disposal Site operates under Provisional Certificate of Approval #530702 issued in 1980. The Ministry of the Environment, Conservation & Parks (MECP) conducted an announced inspection on January 14, 2026, including a physical site review & records audit. The inspection assessed compliance with the Environmental Protection Act, Ontario Water Resources Act, & Ontario Regulation 347 (General Waste Management). Previous inspections in 2018 & 2021 identified minor issues that have since been addressed.

The 2026 inspection confirms that most operational, reporting & supervision requirements are being met. The MECP also noted that the current approval is outdated by modern standards & advised that requirements in the inspection report reflect typical conditions found in a modern Environmental Compliance Approval (ECA). The Ministry recommends the municipality plan for transition to a modern ECA within approximately two years.

Summary of Inspection Results:

The inspection found the site to be compliant in the following areas:

- Valid approval in place
- Annual reporting submitted & acceptable
- Groundwater monitoring program active through consultant
- Adequate staffing & on-site supervision during operating hours
- Proper waste screening & refusal procedures
- Complaint tracking & response procedures in place
- Adequate compaction equipment available & used
- Access roads & internal roads in good condition
- No evidence of major leachate outbreaks or boundary failures observed during inspection

Five non-compliance findings were identified requiring corrective action which are listed below.

Non-Compliance Findings & Required Actions:

Groundwater Flow Direction Survey:

The site consultant recommended completing a survey to establish groundwater flow directions to properly apply regulatory criteria. This has not yet been completed but staff have spoke with Pinchin to include for future inspections.

MECP Requirement: Written confirmation that a qualified consultant has been retained.

Deadline: March 31, 2026.

Staff Response: Obtain quotation & retain qualified hydrogeological consultant to complete survey during the 2026 field season.

Waste Cover Frequency:

Inspectors observed that waste deposited several days earlier remained uncovered. MECP expects more frequent cover application consistent with modern landfill practice.

Expectation: Regular cover application after active dumping to reduce vectors & litter.

Staff Response: Review and research ministry requirements and develop.

Vermin & Wildlife Control

Insufficient cover frequency is contributing to bird & bear attraction as well as windblown litter.

MECP Requirement: Submit a written vermin & litter control plan.

Deadline: February 28, 2026, with implementation within two weeks of MECP acceptance.

Staff Response: Prepare & submit a control plan including cover standards, litter patrol frequency & seasonal wildlife mitigation measures.

Site Access Control & Perimeter Security

While the main entrance gate is controlled, other site access points are reachable by ATV & snowmobile. Cameras are in use, but physical barriers are incomplete.

MECP Requirement: Install fencing or equivalent perimeter controls to prevent unauthorized access.

Deadline: August 31, 2026.

Staff Response: Assess boundary conditions & obtain cost estimates for fencing, barriers & controlled access points.

Scavenging Risk

Scavenging controls are partially effective but will require improvement through perimeter fencing & access restriction measures.

Staff Response: Address through perimeter control project noted above.

LOOKING AHEAD:

Operational Implications will need to be Implemented to meet MECP requirements. Public Works staff will implement the following changes into future landfill operating procedures:

- Increased frequency of daily or post-use cover application
- Documented cover & compaction procedures
- Formal vermin & litter control protocol
- Expanded routine litter patrols as required
- Consultant engagement for groundwater flow direction survey (Pinchin)

Financial implications will need to be addressed moving forward & budget estimates will be received to carry out the required work at the landfill site. These anticipated additional cost areas include:

- Hydrogeological survey & consultant reporting
- Additional cover material use & handling
- Perimeter fencing or barrier installation
- Potential engineering & consulting support for ECA modernization

Strategic & Regulatory Implications have been received & as advised by the MECP, the current 1980 approval is outdated & that the municipality should plan for transition to a modern Environmental Compliance Approval within approximately two years.

Early planning is recommended to:

- Define technical study requirements
- Forecast capital & consulting costs
- Align landfill planning with long-term waste management strategy

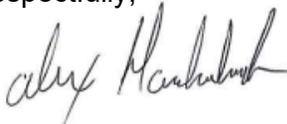
ANALYSIS:

While moving forward with the above recommendations from the MECP, we also must assess the risk considerations if we fail to complete the required actions within MECP timelines. Doing so may result in:

- Escalated compliance action by the Ministry
- Orders or enforcement measures
- Increased environmental & liability risk

Public Works staff have looked into future operational plans to implement & track the required documentation mentioned in the report. This includes future on site inspection sheets/reports, logbooks & staff training. Staff have also measured the required area needing to be fenced which was approximately 3,000 ft. This includes just the waste disposal site area, not the whole perimeter of the landfill property. As for the Groundwater Flow Direction Survey, Pinchin has been contacted to implement this in future site inspections.

Respectfully,



Alex Hackenbrook
Public Works Manager

I concur with this report,



Nicky Kunkel
CAO, Clerk Treasurer