

## NEWALTA HAMILTON LANDFILL LIAISON COMMITTEE

### HEALTH SUB-COMMITTEE

#### Report Regarding Possible Health Study

March 5, 2011

##### Background

In accordance with Condition No. 98 of the Ministry of the Environment's Amended Provisional Certificate of Approval for a Waste Disposal Site, Number A181008, issued April 16, 2008 to Newalta Corporation, a health sub-committee of the Newalta Hamilton Landfill Liaison Committee ("NHLLC") was struck in March of 2011. The sub-committee consists of community representatives Brad Hart and Randy Valchuk and company representative Greg Jones. Hamilton Public Health Services was also invited to participate, as required in sub-condition 1.3, and Rob Hall or his designate agreed to play an advisory role to the sub-committee.

As set out in Condition No. 99 of the same Provisional Certificate of Approval, the health sub-committee, as its first order of business, set out to consider the necessity of a possible health study to be undertaken by the company reflecting the recommendations of the Expert Panel report of October 2000.

The NHLLC and health sub-committee discussed the background regarding the recommendations of a health study, as well as the pros and cons, implications and effectiveness of a potential health study, in its meetings of June and September 2011. A number of questions arose from the group for Hamilton Public Health Services ("HPHS") at the June meeting, which HPHS representative Matthew Lawson addressed at the September meeting.

Additionally at the September meeting, the committees asked HPHS to review Newalta's annual Community Health Assessment Review, which analyzes ongoing monitoring data related to air quality, leachate, groundwater and surface water and evaluates the cumulative impacts of these parameters over time.

The health sub-committee met with Matthew Lawson on November 30, 2011 to hear the HPHS assessment of Newalta's annual analysis and to learn its recommendations regarding the necessity of a health study. Details of the HPHS assessment and its recommendations are included as an attachment to this report.

##### Recommendation

Based the factors noted below, **the health sub-committee believes that a health study is not necessary and recommends that it not proceed.** Following are the reasons for this conclusion:

- Hamilton Public Health Services and its expert staff in the field of health issues and research believe a health study is unnecessary and should not proceed (*see related documentation – HPHS letter dated February 29, 2012*).

- Newalta's ongoing annual analysis is comprehensive, effective and indicates no scientifically significant or measurable impact to human and environmental health as a result of the landfill.
- There have been no public concerns raised among the community immediately surrounding the landfill of any adverse health or environmental impacts.
- Any new original study would have little ability to make causal links between health issues and the landfill because there is no baseline data and the local population has changed significantly over the life of the facility.
- The cost would be extremely high to execute a study with limited effectiveness.

Signed,  
Members of the NHLLC Health Sub-Committee




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Brad Hart

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Randy Valchuk



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Greg Jones

**NEWALTA HAMILTON LANDFILL LIAISON COMMITTEE**  
**Health Sub-Committee**