

**Municipality of Hastings Highlands**  
**Class EA Septage Management Strategy**  
**Public Consultation Events**

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The following summarizes the key public consultation activities completed over the period June 2011 to October 2013. The Municipal Class EA planning and design process includes discretionary and mandatory points of contact with the public. The activities noted below (>) have been conducted. The municipality initiated the study in January 2011 in order to present a preliminary identification of a recommended solution in the summer of 2011 at Public Meeting #1. Due to public input additional investigation was completed on alternative solutions and alternative locations for a septage dewatering trench facility presented at Public Meetings #2 and #3. Public comments received as a result of the 3 Public Meetings have been compiled and answered in both draft and published format highlighted in **bold** below, copies are attached.

**2011**

- January 6 and 13, 2011 Notice of Study Commencement published in local newspaper and posted on municipal website
- June 8 and 9, 2011 Notice of Public Information Centre published in local newspaper and posted on municipal website
- July 5, 2011 Public Information Meeting #1 4-7 pm
- Preliminary Project File dated July 6, 2011 filed on public record with **summary of comments received**
- July 11, 2011 Members of Council and the public attended the Highlands East Septage Dewatering Trench site
- July 20, 2011 PLCA delegation to Municipal Council
- August 17, 2011 Jp2g Council Meeting Presentation with **draft summary of comments/responses** Council Resolution 350-2011 to defer investigation of Papineau site until Expression of Interest for private land completed and presented
- September 2 and 8, 2011 Public Interest Invited to consider private property as Candidate Areas published in local newspaper and posted on municipal website
- September 21, 2011 Municipal Council resolution that communications with PLCA are to be directed through their Lawyer
- November 18 and 24, 2011 Public Interest Invited to participate in Workshop published in local newspaper, posted on municipal website and sent to all cottage associations
- December 3, 2011 Workshop 10 am – 3 pm

**2012**

- February 8, 2012 Jp2g response to B. Ord email December 13, 2011, copied to all workshop participants
- Evaluation of Alternative Approaches Report draft February 28, 2012, dated March 12, 2012 filed on public record with **summary of comments/responses**
- Evaluation of Candidate Areas and Candidate Sites Report dated March 9, 2012 filed on public record with **summary of comments/responses**
- April 18, 2012 Municipal Council Resolution 198-2012 accepting the recommendation that septage dewatering trenches is the preferred alternative technology
- Draft Preliminary Hydrogeologic Report for Candidate Site 1 and 3 dated August 29, 2012 filed on public record
- Feasibility Study Report dated October 1, 2012 filed on public record
- \_\_\_\_\_, 2012 Notice of Public Information Meeting #2 published in local newspaper and posted on municipal website
- October 6, 2012 Public Information Meeting #2 with **draft summary of comments/responses** 10:00 am – 1 pm

## 2013

- February 20, 2013 Municipal Council Resolution 076-2013 to conduct investigation of Candidate areas in proximity to abandoned waste disposal sites
- July 17, 2013 Jp2g Council Meeting Presentation
- Evaluation of Candidate Areas and Candidate Sites Report dated March 9, 2012 revised July 2013 filed on public record
- Evaluation of Candidate Areas and Candidate Sites in Proximity to Abandoned Waste Disposal Sites Report dated July 2013 filed on public record
- Preliminary Hydrogeological Investigation Report for Candidate Site 1, 3B and 27 dated July 30, 2013 filed on public record
- \_\_\_\_\_, 2013 Notice of Public Information Meeting #3 published in local newspaper and posted on municipal website
- August 24, 2013 Public Information Meeting #3 9 am – 12 noon
- October 24, 2013 Compilation of Public **Comments/Responses** to include:
  - June 2011 to October 2011
  - April 2012 to October 2012
  - Draft August 2013 to October 2013

**Municipality of Hastings Highlands  
Class EA Septage Management Strategy  
Public Consultation June – October 2011**

**CLASS EA PROCESS ISSUES**

Questions/Comments	Response
Why weren't we informed about this sooner?	The Municipal Class EA planning and design process has mandatory points of contact with review agencies and the general public. The notice of study commencement was filed January 6, 2011 and published in the local newspapers. The notice of the public information centre was filed June 8, 2011 and published in the local newspapers. For studies of this nature one does not expect much public interest until a recommended solution is proposed which may have a direct effect on them.
Why do we have only 30 days to provide comments?	The reference to a 30 day review period in the June 2011 Notice is to advise interested persons that upon filing a Notice of Completion this minimum review period will be available.
Can I get a copy of the report?	Copies of the Preliminary Project File dated June 2011, revised July 6, 2011 were filed on the municipal website. Copies are also available at the Municipal Office. In addition, a copy of the 2010 Annual Monitoring Report Papineau Lake Waste Disposal Site dated March 2011 was posted on the municipal website.
Send copy of Council meeting minutes directing to staff to do EA	The initial evaluation of septage management options was conducted by The Greer Galloway Group Inc. in 2008 based on a February 2008 proposal which resulted in the report dated July 16, 2008. Through further consultation with the MOE and MNR the scope of work required to conduct the Class EA was developed.
Was Council advised when the Notice of Commencement was posted, and if so what meeting?	At the January 12, 2011 Council meeting accepted by resolution of Council was a staff report which advised that the notice of the Class EA was posted on the website and will appear in this weeks local newspapers.
Are there additional PIC's planned?	A draft Consultation Program prepared by Jp2g dated July 18, 2011 was filed with the municipality. The document will be reviewed at the August 17, 2011 Council meeting and finalized. Additional PIC and/or meetings with special interest groups are proposed.
Is the EA process in Phase 2?	The septage management strategy Class EA was initially commenced under the Schedule B requirements. As a number of potential solutions may be classed as Schedule C projects, a preliminary screening of candidate sites was conducted under Phase 2. The project has been defined as Schedule C.
When may Council decide whether Schedule B or C?	The Municipal Class EA document defines the minimum requirements for environmental assessment planning, and the proponent is to customize the process to reflect the specific needs of a project. The planning process is also iterative, whereby if additional information comes available the proponent can re-evaluate previous screening of alternatives or if due to the complexity of issues, voluntarily elevate from a Schedule B to a C process. In September 2011 Council accepted a work program to conduct a Schedule C planning and design process.
Has a Notice of Completion been posted?	A Notice of Completion will not be posted until the Final Project File for a Schedule B project, or an Environmental Study Report for a Schedule C project is finalized.

**Municipality of Hastings Highlands  
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**SCREENING ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES AND SITES**

Questions/Comments	Response
Why not take the septage to the Town of Bancroft Sewage Treatment Plant?	The screening of alternative approaches identified and evaluated this option. Based on past discussions with the Town, the Council of Hastings Highlands felt this option was too expensive, would be difficult to implement and in the end there would be no local municipal control. The Town has been circulated the Preliminary Project File for comment, the option has been re-evaluated February 2012.
Why should the municipality provide this service, and not private enterprise?	<p>The screening of alternative approaches identified this as the “do nothing” option. The Ontario government has since 2002 committed to eliminating the land application of untreated septic waste (septage). Compounding the problem of septage disposal are current regulations which prohibit unlicensed land application of septage, prohibiting land application on frozen fields and requirements for EPA approvals to license fields for land application.</p> <p>Although some private haulers have established storage and treatment facilities, all of the cost is borne by the consumer. If the Province implements regulations which require a municipality to have sufficient reserve sewage system capacity to permit development, the municipality cannot necessarily rely upon private haulers. The Municipality of Hastings Highlands have staff on the Provincial Septage Working Group (MOE and municipalities) to monitor provincial initiatives. That being said, if a private hauler comes forward with a viable solution it will certainly be considered.</p>
Why not locate on very isolated Crown land?	<p>The identification process for the selection of the 14 candidate sites was described in the Preliminary Project File (Section 5.0, page 13) and has been defined based on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- areas in proximity to existing landfill sites</li> <li>- areas in proximity to existing soil conditioning sites</li> <li>- available large vacant municipal landholdings</li> </ul> <p>Half of the sites were located on Crown lands.</p>
Why not locate on the soil conditioning site?	There is one soil conditioning site in the Municipality of Hastings Highlands, identified as Candidate Area 10. Based on the evaluation conducted up to June 2011 there was no lands other than active agricultural lands suitable in the area. Through recent consultation by members of Council with the landowner, no interest was given to establish a solution on the property.
Why not locate behind the Public Works yard located on Highway No. 62?	The identification of candidate sites must be based on locations with similar characteristics, and should not be arbitrarily selected. If lands close to Public Works Yards are to be considered then all sites in proximity to these yards within the geographical limits of the municipality should be identified and evaluated. Generally MTO or Public Works yards are not selected with any consideration to their hydrogeological setting to permit waste disposal, but have been located in central locations to deploy road maintenance equipment.
A number of private properties have been identified as potentially available for sale.	In response to public comment the Council agreed on August 17, 2011 to request private landholders to file an Expression of Interest to establish a dewatering trench facility. Four (4) submissions were received and included in the evaluation of alternative sites.

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**DEVELOPMENT & OPERATIONAL ISSUES**

Questions/Comments	Response
What area is required for the dewatering trenches?	The exact area will be dependent on site conditions. Proposing disposal of 3,660m <sup>3</sup> over 7 months will require 9 trenches, an area of approx. 0.8 ha (2 acres) would be needed.
How long and deep are the trenches?	As per the MOE Guide September 2008 trenches should be no longer than 75m long. They are 15cm deep, a dumping end gradually sloping to 1m deep.
How long will the trenches last?	During the operation only one trench is operation, and over a 12 month period the volume of septage should not exceed 5 times the trench capacity. After a year the trench can be dredged and re-used.
Can you guarantee there will be no odour?	If there is excessive odour the active trench will be immediately covered with soil, straw or geotextile cloth.
If there is odour, who do I call and how can it be addressed?	Typically the first contact is the municipality and if the problem persists, the MOE.
Risks associated with airbourne contaminants.	The disposal of septage into the trench will be controlled to minimize flow to reduce odour and release of contaminants into the air.
There will be significant truck traffic on the access road.	The municipality will generate an equivalent of 17.2m <sup>3</sup> /day. Truck capacity is typically between 15m <sup>3</sup> and 18m <sup>3</sup> .
Noise due to trucks backing up unloading septage.	There may be only 1-5 trucks per day.
Safety and security of persons and pets who may trespass.	The site will be fenced with a locked gate.
Approximately 4500 gallons per day delivery not including holding tanks, no limitations for maximum loads or indications related to potential site expansion.	4500 gpd is generally equivalent to 17.2m <sup>3</sup> , and this figure includes dwellings served with holding tanks. The dewatering trench operation limits the number (quantity) of septage load disposed. The Certificate of Approval for the site will limit to loads only from the Municipality of Hastings Highlands.
What are the costs associated with this project? How much have you projected for cost overrun? There are many hidden costs such as updating the existing roads, signage, increased personnel, etc.	No detailed costs have been determined for the project, although relative cost was considered in the evaluation of alternative solutions.
What are the proposed hours of operation? Will it be open on the weekend? Has reduced hours, say 9 to 4 weekdays been considered?	No specific hours of operation have been decided upon.
What steps will be taken to control disease-bearing flies?	The exposed septage in the operational trench could be covered with soil, straw or geotextile after each day the site is open.
What measures will be taken to prevent haulers from dumping in adjoining area if the site is closed?	The disposal of septage in a facility not licensed by MOE is subject to prosecution under the EPA.
Are there agricultural uses for this product?	If the dried septage residue meets the criteria for land application and the farm field is included as part of an approved Nutrient Management Plan.

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**DEVELOPMENT & OPERATIONAL ISSUES**

Questions/Comments	Response
<p>What are the economic losses to the community? Have you determined how the project will undermine tourism and how it will affect the municipal tax base?</p>	<p>The dewatering trench operation if located and managed to meet the MOE technical and regulatory requirements is no different than a typical small rural landfill site operation.</p> <p>Waste disposal sites are scattered across the municipality, the negative impact on tourism and the tax base would be if they did not exist.</p>
<p>What are the plans for disaster response? If there is an accident at the site or on the roadways leading to the site, what is your estimated time to respond? Can the local hospitals respond to such a tragedy? Will special training be provided?</p>	<p>The site will be controlled and monitored by municipal staff who will be provided with the appropriate training and safety equipment in accordance with the Occupational Health and Safety Act. The hauler is licensed by the MOE.</p>
<p>What plans are there to manage stormwater, how will you monitor surface water leaving the site?</p>	<p>Depending on site conditions there may be a requirement to collect and control surface water run-off from the site. These interceptor ditches/retention ponds (if necessary) would be considered sewage works under the Ontario Water Resources Act and require approval under that Act. If any sensitive watercourses are identified downgradient of the dewatering trenches which may be impacted, annual water quality monitoring will be required.</p>
<p>What plans are there to contain the accumulation of heavy metals, toxins and bio-active compounds on the site?</p>	<p>The primary purpose of dewatering trenches is to permit the controlled exfiltration of liquid into the soil. Prior to approvals a detailed hydrogeological study is conducted to characterize the soil and groundwater to ensure any contamination does not travel beyond the site boundaries above unacceptable levels.</p>
<p>How is the municipality going to monitor and regulate what septage comes onto the site?</p>	<p>Only MOE licensed haulers approved to use the site will be permitted access. The quantity of septage received at the site is recorded and reported annually to the MOE.</p>
<p>Will you be monitoring the quality of dried septage for concentrations of trace elements?</p>	<p>If the dried septage is to be used as a nutrient source for land application it must meet the Nutrient Management Act criteria.</p>

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**SITE 3 PAPINEAU LAKE WDS ISSUES**

Questions/Comments	Response
Why locate close to cottages and watercourses?	The site selection process applied a 500m setback from residential dwellings and watercourses, and if a potentially suitable area for dewatering trenches on 20 to 40 ha property could meet those criteria it was carried forward for further evaluation.
Which direction does the groundwater flow? Can you confirm that when the groundwater enters the bedrock it doesn't flow to the Lake	It is assumed the groundwater flow from the 'Proposed Trenching Area' shown on Figure 2 of the Preliminary Project File flows southerly. Detailed hydrogeological studies are required to confirm soil and groundwater characteristics to confirm whether the site is suitable.
You won't be able to extract sand and gravel if it is contaminated.	The final site location (if Site 3 is selected) will attempt to minimize impact on the sand and gravel deposit.
When could the septage trenches be operational?	At the PIC it was suggested by the consultant team that pending a successful detailed study of the recommended site that an application for approval could be filed with the MOE by the end of the year, or sooner.
This will affect the value of my property.	Based on our experience of locating new or expanding waste disposal sites in Eastern Ontario there is no depreciation of land values. The dewatering trench area is very small, will be located over 500m from any development and will be well screened from sensitive land uses on the Crown Lands.
This will affect the speckled trout fishing in Davis Pond.	A detailed hydrogeological assessment will confirm groundwater flow.
What is the current impact of the Papineau Lake waste disposal site?	The extent of investigation and monitoring at the Papineau Lake Waste Disposal Site is provided in the WESA reports.
What would be the impact if it received dried septage?	Prior to dried septage disposal at the Papineau Lake Waste Disposal Site, the MOE will be consulted to ensure the site is approved to receive it. Dried septage is classified as a municipal solid waste, and its impact on operations and environmentally will be reviewed.
Negative impact on a regional trail system.	The dewatering trenches will be located sufficient distance from the trail to minimize impact to the users. If it is located in the forested area trees would be maintained between the trenches to maximize exfiltration and minimize odour due to wind screening.
Close to Papineau Lake Public Beach	A detailed hydrogeological study will confirm groundwater flow and no significant impact on surface water features will be permitted.
Next to Papineau Memorial Cemetary	There will be no noticeable increase of traffic on South Papineau Lake Road at the cemetery, as it is assumed 1-5 trucks/day would haul to the site. A 100m setback is to be applied.
Close to sensitive wetlands and streams which could negatively impact cold water fisheries.	The MNR has been circulated the Preliminary Project File to comment on the designated wetland and cold water fisheries impacts. The MNR will be circulated the February 2012 report.

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**SITE 3 PAPINEAU LAKE WDS ISSUES**

<b>Questions/Comments</b>	<b>Response</b>
The costs to perform the necessary studies are more prohibitive than those associated with finding a more appropriate site.	In order to obtain approval under the EPA the extent of study and documentation would be generally similar for any location.
What will be the speed limit to the site? Who will enforce it?	Speed limits are set by the municipality.
Why not put a separate road into the site from Highway 62?	The final decision on site access has yet to be determined, however it is assumed that a separate access is not merited for the limited traffic generated by the operation.
What is the depth of cover over bedrock?	To be confirmed through detailed hydrogeological study.
If leachate doesn't flow to the lake it will flow into Papineau Creek then the York and the Madawaska.	The regional drainage pattern will be reviewed to assess the risk of impact to sensitive waterbodies.
Will sewage trucks be allowed to drive to the site before opening hours or clog up the road by the cemetery?	Traffic will be minimal.
As the intersection of Papineau Lake Road South and Highway 62 drains into Mud Pond, the impact of an accident involving a sewage truck turning left would be considerable. The beach would have to be closed. Are there plans for a left turn lane?	There are no plans for a left turn lane.
That a full environmental assessment be conducted on the existing Papineau Lake Waste Disposal Site before proceeding with any new development. It is legacy site.	The Papineau Lake Waste Disposal Site is licensed under the EPA, and has recently been subject to MOE review. Any changes to site operations and/or increase in landfill capacity up to 40,000m <sup>3</sup> does not require an EA.
What happens when you clear the forest for this proposed sewage dump? Impact on wetland, wildlife and fisheries.	If the dewatering trenches are located in a forested area, the intent would be to maintain the vegetation between trenches.

**Municipality of Hastings Highlands  
Class EA Septage Management Strategy  
Public Information Meeting #2 April – October 2012**

**CLASS EA PROCESS ISSUES**

Questions/Comments	Response
If in July 2011 the decision was made to put septage trenches at Papineau what was the purpose of the December 2011 meeting	Due to public input Council instructed the consultant team to re-evaluate the alternative approaches and sites. The Stakeholder Workshop was intended in part to define more comprehensive environmental screening criteria to evaluate sites. The number of sites were increased from 14 to 17 through the request for interest of private landowners.
Why was the number of participants limited for the December 2011 Workshop?	Council felt that the PLCA would be well represented at the workshop with 1-2 members, the hope was to attract representatives from throughout the municipality. In fact, 6 landowners from the Papineau Lake area attended the workshop, others were from Lake St. Peter, Maynooth, Baptiste Lake and Kamanisseg Lake areas.
What instructions were given to the Consultants with respect to site selection when the Class EA was initiated January 2011.	The Jp2g/Greer Galloway consultant team were not provided any specific site selection instruction. The criteria presented in the July 2011 report reflected standard criteria to evaluate alternative sites. At the December 2011 Workshop a more comprehensive list was presented, based on public comments. This list, used in other site evaluation projects, was refined for this project.
What difference in the EA process does it make if the site is close to a WDS or not?	The proximity to a waste disposal site (WDS) was one of the criteria used in the identification of Candidate Areas. Other selection criteria included close to a soil conditioning site and large municipal landholdings. Later sites were introduced through the request for public interest. It makes no difference in the EA process, but does have potential positive or negative implications for final approvals.
If the Ministry requires a Part II Order, what does this entail and what would the approximate cost for this be?	Upon filing the Notice of Completion of Environmental Study Report a minimum 30 calendar day period is provided to request that the Minister of the Environment make an order for the project to comply with Part II of the Environmental Assessment Act. Depending on the decision of the Minister the cost would vary.
What is Optional Formal Mediation	If a request is filed for a Part II Order with the MOE, a copy of the request must also be filed with the proponent. The proponent (municipality) may voluntarily initiate mediation with the requestor before the Minister's decision.
If the Papineau WDS closed does this mean the septage dewatering trenches are now subject to a Schedule "C" process? If the dump has never undergone a Municipal Class EA or the assessment is found faulty does the septage site require a Schedule C process?	The initial evaluation of alternatives was conducted under Schedule B. Current reporting and consultations for the septage management strategy are being completed under the Schedule C process. A landfill site is subject to a different EA approvals process, the Papineau WDS has existing MOE approval.
It seems unlikely the Province will ban septage application on fields given the fiscal environment, limited enforcement capacity, and associated costs downloaded to rural municipalities. Given this context the urgency to develop a temporary solution appears unwarranted.	<p>The Province has already banned sewage and septage land application between December 1 and March 31, and designated septage a waste rather than a nutrient material under the Nutrient Management Act. The County of Hastings Official Plan will more than likely be adopting the servicing policies in the PPS, which may restrict development without 'reserve sewage capacity'.</p> <p>The only land application license for septage in the municipality expires June 9, 2013. It was re-issued to expire June 19, 2018.</p>

Note: The Municipal Class EA allows ten (10) years from filing the ESR to Implementation subject to Notice of Filing an Addendum.

**Municipality of Hastings Highlands  
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Public Information Meeting #2 April – October 2012**

**EVALUATION OF ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES**

Questions/Comments	Response									
A more modern approach to dewatering septage in the form of dewatering trucks by private haulers should be considered	The option of private haulers to provide a solution was considered in the evaluation; none have come forward with a solution. Dewatering trucks were also considered in the Evaluation of Alternative Approaches report. Besides the technical and scheduling constraints of arranging cost effective collection, the septage would still need to be disposed of or stored as part of the overall strategy.									
No solution is required at this time, when the Province demands the implementation of a septage management strategy ask them for the funds. In the interim save for the ultimate solution, a sewage treatment plant.	The 'Evaluation of Alternative Approaches' report recommend dewatering trenches as the best short term solution and when the population growth is sufficient to support a treatment facility it will be re-evaluated. Council has stated publically that they are aware and are planning for a long term solution.									
At the December 2011 meeting what figures were used to compare dewatering trenches to alkaline stabilization trucks?	<p>The figures presented at the workshop and in the 'Evaluation of Alternative Approaches' report March 2012 presented the following:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="727 884 1516 982"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="727 884 979 919">\$</th> <th data-bbox="979 884 1247 919">Trench</th> <th data-bbox="1247 884 1516 919">Truck</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="727 919 979 947">Capital</td> <td data-bbox="979 919 1247 947">\$200,000-250,000</td> <td data-bbox="1247 919 1516 947">\$500,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="727 947 979 982">Operations</td> <td data-bbox="979 947 1247 982">\$220,000-240,000</td> <td data-bbox="1247 947 1516 982">\$274,500</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Of note, the truck does not provide for the disposal or storage component of a septage management strategy.</p>	\$	Trench	Truck	Capital	\$200,000-250,000	\$500,000	Operations	\$220,000-240,000	\$274,500
\$	Trench	Truck								
Capital	\$200,000-250,000	\$500,000								
Operations	\$220,000-240,000	\$274,500								
The Evaluation of Alternative Approaches document does not reflect feedback, alternatives and concerns of the participants. Is there minutes of the meeting?	<p>The results of the workshop assisted the consultant team in redefining the evaluation criteria and weighting.</p> <p>The participants all wished that the documentation indicate that dewatering trenches would be a short term solution if the growth of the municipality increases significantly.</p>									
It is understood new development will be taking place in Bird's Creek, has the municipality any assurance that the province would accept dewatering trenches?	For long-term growth in Bird's Creek the municipality will look at a sanitary sewer collection system and treatment facility. In the short term, dewatering trenches provides a cost-effective approach. Initial consultation with MOE indicated their acceptance. The MOE will receive the ESR for review and comment.									

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**DEVELOPMENT AND OPERATIONAL ISSUES**

Questions/Comments	Response
The recent draft report corrected the number of haul trucks to reflect the site is open 5 days per week. Shouldn't it be recalculated to reflect the majority are seasonal residents?	The Class EA assumes the majority of pump outs will occur in a 6 month period during the weekdays the equivalent of approx. 128 days. The calculation of 28.6m <sup>3</sup> /day is based on pumping the 4570 systems every 5 years (initial proposal by the Province). Any modification to the schedule changes the design of the facility, if reduced the site would have capacity for limited growth.
Does the operation of a dewatering trench site require on-going monitoring of the water table to maintain minimum 1.5 m distance from the bottom of the trench?	The preferred location should provide over 2 to 3 m depth to the water table. When the site is operation the monitoring program will include measurement of water levels and water quality sampling.
What is the composition of the solids left over in the trench, does it pose a long term environmental hazard if left to decompose?	The solids can be used as a nutrient source in land application to agricultural fields or mixed with soil as final landfill cover.
What will compel septage haulers to use the dewatering trench site?	Haulers will seek the most cost effective means to dispose of the load for their customers. Septage haulers must dispose septage on a field or at a facility issued on Environmental Compliance Approval (formerly CofA) by the MOE. Application to fields is restricted when they are frozen and under production.
How many septage dewatering trenches are active in Ontario?	In 2007 MOE conducted a survey of Ontario haulers and completed a review of dewatering trenches. Jp2g has initiated consultation with Kara Wells, MOE Senior Policy Analyst to obtain current records to answer these questions if possible
How many have been decommissioned in favour of another method?	
How many have failed and what was the nature of their failure?	
How many septage dewatering systems are publically or privately owned?	
In the event of a failure what is the worst case scenario for Papineau Lake?	Dewatering trench failure may involve but not be limited to two (2) key design features. If the soil does not allow infiltration at a suitable rate either due to low percolation rate or a high groundwater table, operations would need to cease. If contaminant concentration levels exceed those predicted at the downgradient property line, operations would cease. Neither would result in significant environmental impact as the monitoring program would detect these pending failures before they are a liability.
Are there plans for how to deal with site failure? Who would be liable?	
How many households do not have a septic system and do not require pumping?	All homes would have some sort of sewage disposal system.
Will the municipality undertake at their expense the following: a) weekly water quality testing b) disclose the results to the public c) accept all financial and environmental responsibility	The standard water quality monitoring program for waste disposal sites involves a spring, summer and winter event. Results are filed with the MOE annually and can be disclosed to interested parties and the public. The municipality is responsible as owner and operator under the EPA.
If the municipality proceeds with dewatering trenches (as a temporary solution) before the province introduces regulations (if and whenever that may happen) how will ratepayers be impacted?	The municipality has not yet decided upon a fee schedule to use the facility.
Has anyone conducted air quality testing at other trench sites?	To our knowledge, no. Odour and dust emissions can be minimized.

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**EVALUATION OF ALTERNATIVE SITES**

Questions/Comments	Response
<p>The application of a 300 mm setback from surface water is not consistent with the 500 m setback for a 20 to 40 ha site.</p>	<p>The screening of the 17 Candidate Areas applied a 500 m setback from major surface water features. If a 3 ha site not affected by the setback resulted on the 20-40 ha Candidate Area it was considered further.</p> <p>Further refinement of local wetland limits and a nitrate contaminant model for the Candidate Sites determined that a 300 m setback was satisfactory.</p>
<p>It is time to move to the third piece of land (Site No. 17), the property is at a reasonable cost and contains significant gravel resource that could be used for roads or sold to recoup costs.</p>	<p>The 'Evaluation of Candidate Areas and Candidate Sites' report dated March, 2012 as revised March 27, 2012 ranked Site No. 17 third based on MNR comments and re-evaluation of a wetland on Site No. 15. The municipality has received a letter from the owner September 27, 2012 withdrawing the site from further consideration.</p>
<p>Which sites will Jp2g be recommending for septage trenches? What are the advantages and disadvantages of the sites?</p>	<p>The Candidate Site Feasibility Study applied the environmental screening criteria on Site No. 1 and Site No. 3B. The consultant team has not selected the preferred site, but has presented the advantages and disadvantages.</p>
<p>Why was the swamp on South Papineau Lake Road not used in the initial evaluation? Figures in the reports are not consistent.</p>	<p>The identification and application of a 500 m setback from local wetlands was not applied in the Preliminary Project File July 2011 or the Evaluation Report March, 2012. There was discrepancies with County mapping, MNR review comments to consider and site reviews to be completed for Sites 1, 3 and 5.</p>
<p>Candidate Site 3B had 11.2 ha available on Figure 2.4 of the August 2012 report, why were the seasonal wetlands beside Highway 62 shown in Figure 5.2 of the same report not taken into consideration? This would have completely eliminated Site 3B.</p>	<p>All water bodies and wetlands shown on LIO mapping when the above was considered, applied the 500 m setback. The seasonal waterbodies were identified through aerial photography and site visits and the 300 m distance setback applied to satisfy RUPO.</p>
<p>Map 5.2 shows Site 3B is within 300 mm of and visible from the cemetery.</p>	<p>The Candidate Site Feasibility Study has identified the cemetery as approximately 250 m (the MOE criteria is 100 m). Site 1 does not have any potential impact on a cemetery.</p>
<p>Why was all the hydrogeologic fieldwork (area of investigation) at Site 3A and you are recommending Site 3B?</p>	<p>Site 3A is located at the transition of shallow till and rock ridge to glacial spillway. Test pits were needed to determine if a suitable location with sufficient depth to bedrock and the watertable could be established in that location.</p> <p>Site 3B is situated on a thick sand and gravel deposit, the adjacent WDS monitoring wells provide the information to locate a potential dewatering trench. Confirmation of groundwater flow is needed.</p>
<p>How was Candidate Site 17 rated third with a 9.2 ha flat topography more than 500 m from wetland, yet Site No. 3 rated first which only has 2.04 ha and is closer than 500 m to wetlands?</p>	<p>The comparison of the 5 Candidate Sites applied the 500 m setback to major watercourses, and generally the larger site ranked higher than others although the March 2012 report also identified advantages and disadvantages. The identification of a proposed 2.04 h a trench area was applied taking into consideration local and seasonal waterbodies and a 300 m setback to satisfy RUPO.</p>

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**CLASS EA PROCESS ISSUES**

Questions/Comments	Response
<p>Having information back in 2010 would have allowed us the proper time to educate ourselves on all the options including dewatering trenches.</p>	<p>A similar comment was made in July 2011 from landowners in proximity to Site No. 3 when it was presented as a potential Candidate site. Unfortunately public interest into studies of this nature does not typically occur until a recommended solution may have a direct impact on them. Copies of all documentation is posted on the municipal website. The Class EA process allows for public input throughout the study, and it is hoped the Question/Response summary address most issues.</p>
<p>The PLCA has provided input over the past 3 years and this process of studying sites has taken way too much time.</p>	<p>The continued investigation of Candidate Site No. 3 in comparison to other Candidate areas/sites has been conducted at the request of the public to identify if there are more suitable locations. These included a request of public landowners and adding Crown lands in proximity to abandoned WDS. In addition monitoring and evaluation at the WDS has confirmed the direction and flow of groundwater in the area away from Papineau Lake. This is to be considered in comparison to the other 3 Candidate Sites</p>
<p>All the money spent on the study could have been spent on a new septage treatment plant or use of Bancroft plant.</p>	<p>The identification and selection of a new or use of an existing setpage treatment plant is also subject to the requirements of a Municipal Class EA. Based on the consultants' experience the technical and economical justification for either option would require extensive study, consultations and assessment of design options.</p>
<p>The August 2013 meeting was too informal.</p>	<p>The Council of the Municipality of Hastings Highlands decided that an 'open house' format would provide the best opportunity for the general public to view the information and provide input.</p>
<p>I am unsure what step of the Class EA process we are currently at.</p>	<p>Initially the Municipal Class EA Study proceeded as a Schedule B Project. Due to agency and public input and comments the study was elevated to a Schedule C Project. The identification and evaluation of approaches was carried out in Phase 1 and 2, and the evaluation of candidate areas and sites is being carried out as Phase 3. Phase 4 will involve the preparation of an Environmental Study Report (ESR).</p>
<p>As I understand it the purpose of the study is to find a temporary solution to the septic system which includes waste from Birds Creek, Maynooth and the surrounding area. This is being done to expand Birds Creek.</p>	<p>The purpose of the study is to identify a septage management strategy for the entire municipality and includes all septic system waste generated by all the permanent and seasonal residents, businesses and institutions. The potential of expanding Birds Creek is being studied and is intended to direct residential and commercial growth there. If a certain population or development threshold is realized the potential of a septage treatment plant could be considered.</p>
<p>How will I and others be informed of the Council meetings regarding discussions and a decision about the septage site?</p>	<p>All Council meeting agendas and minutes are posted on the website. Before the ESR is finalized an appropriate notice procedure will be established to ensure the public and particularly seasonal residents are advised.</p>

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**EVALUATION OF ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES**

Questions/Comments	Response
<p>There is a 5 year approval for the Neuman field why conduct this study to find another solution.</p>	<p>On April 18, 2012 municipal Council Resolution 198-2012 accepted the recommendation that septage dewatering trench is the best solution based on the report entitled 'Evaluation of Approaches' dated March 12, 2012. The report identifies septage management alternatives in the event the Province decides to ban the application of untreated septage on agricultural fields. In addition the Province or the County may limit approval for growth and development if a septage management strategy isn't in place. The Neuman field "Use of Private Hauler" option evaluated in the March 2012 Report was not considered to be a dependable solution.</p>
<p>There is 40-50% capacity at the Barry's Bay sewage treatment plant</p>	<p>The Madawaska Valley Wastewater Treatment Plant has been designed and upgraded to accept the sewage generated in Barry's Bay and the septage from the rural portion of the Township. The cost of the plant upgrade was \$8 million. It is not approved to accept septage from other municipalities.</p>
<p>From the screening of approaches each option was treated separately and rated as an individual option. Was consideration given to adopting 2 options such as a dewatering truck combined with storage at Bancroft or Barry's Bay or even a combination of both?</p>	<p>A combination of alternatives would have been considered if there was a final treatment/disposal option which ranked higher than septage dewatering trenches. Generally the more capital intensive options did not rank as high as dewatering trenches. The option of private haulers to invest in dewatering or lime stabilization trucks is always available, but not considered economical at this time.</p>

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**EVALUATION OF ALTERNATIVE SITES**

Questions/Comments	Response
Why and when were more sites added?	August 17, 2011 Council approved an Expression of Interest to private landowners which resulted in Candidate Areas 15, 16 and 17. February 20, 2013 Council approved the investigation of potential sites in proximity to abandoned WDS which resulted in Candidate Areas 18 to 27.
How could testing and monitoring be equal if the Little Papineau Lake Site was added in 2013?	When the 10 new Candidate Areas were added to the existing 17, each areas was re-evaluated equally based on the Initial Screening Criteria. New information was considered for the initial 17, and the evaluation conducted on the new 10 areas. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 500m setback dwellings and major watercourses</li> <li>- 100m setback to a cemetery</li> <li>- 45m setback from Provincial Highway or municipal maintained road</li> </ul> The resulting Candidate Sites 1, 3, 15, 16, 17, 18, 25 and 27 were subject to further screening. The Candidate Sites 1, 3B and 27 had field testing conducted, and in October 2013 addition fieldwork to obtain a greater understanding of the hydrogeological setting for the 3 sites.
The evaluation of sites does not consider the effects on property values and on the tax base.	The application of a minimum 500m setback in accordance with MOE Guidelines to identify Candidate Sites, and the siting and development of a septage dewatering trench operation to maximize the separation distance and maintain vegetated buffers along roadways is intended to minimize land use incompatibility. This considers potential effects on property values. The consultant team is willing to accept any studies or examples where property values have been impacted by waste treatment/disposal facilities to consider their relevance.
Fieldwork at Site 27 during the wettest spring in 30 years, compared to the others in dry season doesn't produce comparable data.	Fieldwork completed in October 2013 has involved the installation of piezometers in the potential dewatering trench areas. These pipes allow for water level monitoring to record changes in the water table during the year.
I would like to see Council meeting minutes regarding candicy for Site 27. It seems the larger populated sites have pressured Council into targeting a smaller voter and tax base.	February 20, 2013 Council Meeting approved the investigation of 10 locations in proximity to abandoned waste disposal sites (Candidate Areas 18 to 27).
Hope that a thorough investigation done before preferred site is selected. Should be where it would least affect the community and environment.	A comprehensive list of screening criteria have been established to comparatively evaluate the candidate sites for septage dewatering trenches. The criteria includes over 30 factors to consider as it relates to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Public Health and Safety</li> <li>- Natural Heritage Features and Areas</li> <li>- Social and Cultural Considerations</li> <li>- Technical and Cost Considerations</li> </ul>

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**DEVELOPMENT AND OPERATIONAL ISSUES**

Questions/Comments	Response
<p>How much septage could be dumped on one site vs the others based on soil conditions, minimal environmental impact, safety and least cost for the long term?</p>	<p>The Evaluation of Alternatives Approaches Report dated March 12, 2012 estimates the total septage to be received at the dewatering trench site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 4570 septic tanks (assume 4000/litres) pumped every 5 years = 915 pumps/year for 3660m<sup>3</sup>/year</li> <li>- based on week day haulage over a six (6) month period provides 128 days = 28.6m<sup>3</sup>/day</li> </ul> <p>The Candidate Sites and the eventual preferred site location, have been identified based on their favourable soil conditions, setbacks from environmentally sensitive features and domestic wells, and relative cost to develop and operate.</p>
<p>Dewatering Trenches:</p> <p>How long will they be needed? What months will they be used? What do you do to close the facility? What happens to the land when it is decommissioned? Who, when and how will the groundwater be tested when in operation?</p>	<p>A trench can receive a maximum of 5 times the trench holding capacity over a year. After the maximum holding capacity is reached, the trench is not used for a year, then dredged to expose natural soil for re-use.</p> <p>The majority of septic tanks are pumped during the 6 month summer season. In the event of emergencies the site could accept septage in a trench during frozen ground conditions. Closure of the facility will involve removal of all dried septage and backfilling the trenches. The lands will be revegetated.</p> <p>During operation and post-closure of the septage dewatering trench facility the municipality will retain qualified professionals to monitor the groundwater and surface water quality. The results are filed with the MOE annually.</p>
<p>Have studies been done to assess the safe distance from sand point wells as opposed to dug or drilled wells?</p>	<p>The MOE and the Ontario Ministry of Agricultural and Rural Affairs has established setback distances from domestic wells for the land application of septage/sewage. A sand point is basically considered a dug well.</p>
<p>In reference to Preliminary Hydrogeological Report the Reasonable Use calculations appear to account for dilution due to infiltration volumes. The MOE Design Guidelines for Sewage Works – Chapter 22 (2008) allow for dilution due to infiltration only.</p>	<p>These calculations apply a methodology used in the preliminary assessment of waste disposal sites. Further consultation with the MOE and detailed analysis will be required to support an application under Section 39 EPA.</p>

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**SITE 1 LAKE ST. PETER WDS ISSUES**

Questions/Comments	Response
<p>Early in the study the site was identified as environmentally protected with poor drainage on Highway 127 and considered unsuitable. Was the criteria changed so this location could qualify?</p>	<p>The criteria didn't change however the difference in the County mapping and LOI mapping confirmed the extent of the wetland area north of the Candidate Area. A site visit confirmed a potential location for septage dewatering trenches west of the WDS.</p>
<p>The community and the lake downwind and downhill from the site resulting in odours and effect on water quality.</p>	<p>The proposed dewatering trench area is located over 1.3 km from the shoreline development on Lake St. Peter. The site would not be approved if there was potential to negatively impact the water quality beyond it's downgradient limits, which will be Highway 127. Local experience at the Highlands East Septage Dewatering Trench site which has residential development within 500m of the site is there has been no odour concerns.</p>
<p>If we can smell burning garbage from the dump how will we tolerate open sewage in July heat?</p>	<p>See above</p>
<p>The effluent receiving stream is used for a private cold water fishery farm, and discharges into the lake.</p>	<p>It is recognized that Papineau Creek is a designated cold water fishery and sensitive to nutrient (phosphorus) loading.</p>
<p>This is a highly populated tourist area including a provincial park.</p>	<p>The proposed septage dewatering trench site is located over 200m behind the Lake St. Peter WDS and will not be accessible or visible to the public.</p>

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**SITE 27 LITTLE PAPINEAU LAKE ISSUES**

Questions/Comments	Response
Very wet spring, the road was washed out in 2 places and the Madawaska Road is in terrible shape now.	The condition and upgrade/maintenance cost of the access to Candidate Sites is considered in the comparative evaluation.
The sand based road has many blind spots. There are many pedestrians and ATV use. Who will monitor trucks for speed and safety?	Public health and safety concerns are considered in the list of screening criteria applied. A gravel road which creates dust (poor air quality) for residents along the haul route would be considered a negative impact relative to a paved haul route. The length and condition of the road will also be considered from a safety point of view.
There are no monitoring wells at Site 27, no elevation survey, and the groundwater flow direction is unknown.	The Preliminary Hydrogeologic Report dated July 30, 2013 summarized the data and fieldwork completed in July 2012 at Site 1 and 3 and in May 2013 at Site 27. The hydrogeologic data for Site 1 and 3 referenced the adjacent WDS monitoring wells and elevation survey data to assist in the determination of groundwater flow. In October 2013 additional fieldwork was completed at all 3 sites to better characterize the hydrogeological setting at all 3 sites. There are groundwater level monitoring wells tied into survey points at all 3 sites.
Why is this site being considered when the dump site servicing of 22 cottages closed over 10 years ago?	The selection of potential locations for dewatering trenches at the start of the study, included Candidate Areas considered in proximity to the existing 9 operating waste disposal sites in the municipality, 1 existing soil conditioning site, and 4 large vacant landholdings. The operational status of the dump is of little consequence, the consideration of the 10 abandoned waste disposal site areas provides a geographical location to investigate.
The area has many marshes and swamps which the maps don's show.	We have reviewed the air photo and topographical mapping to estimate the limits of the wetlands along Hawk Creek. Any final design consideration will require field checking the wetland limits.
There has been clear cutting and the proposed site is in this area. Without the trees what's to stop odours from spreading. What happens to water flow?	The site development will maintain as much of the natural vegetation as possible. We are awaiting for the Ministry of Natural Resources to provide further details on the proposed forestry operations around the 3 Candidate Sites.
The local lodge conducts ATV runs through this area which brings revenue.	Any final design will consider impact on the existing recreational trails, the site location will attempt to maintain a vegetated buffer for screening.