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# Province orders more oversight of Newcastle fill site



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Susan Brown / Metroland

*CLARINGTON -- Carmela Marshall, from Scugog, talked to council about the top ten risks of the new fill operation in Newcastle on April 4. April 4, 2011.*

Oshawa This Week

By Jennifer O'Meara

BOWMANVILLE -- A fill site on Morgans Road will have to stop accepting soil after April 15 until independent soil testing can be done, after a provincial order from the Ministry of the Environment was issued.

"We have been in touch with the property owner who seems quite willing to let us onto the property to do some testing," said Clarington Mayor Adrian Foster, who added MPP John O'Toole has been a great help in dealing with the issue.

The provincial order calls for a qualified person to collect weekly audit soil samples from trucks that represent each source site coming into the Newcastle property. The person will also review the log for each source site and confirm in writing the soil being received is acceptable for use at the site. There will also have to be an on-site independent qualified person to confirm in writing that the material being received is acceptable for the site.

Concerned neighbours of the Morgans Road site went to council on March 28, asking the municipality to protect their properties, roads and well water.

There has been no evidence of contaminated fill being taken into the Newcastle site.

Clarington council asked the Morgans Road property owner to give permission for Clarington and the Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority to take shallow groundwater samples to establish the background water quality and random soil samples.

Clarington is also asking the owner to keep -- and share the details of -- a log of every truck that dumps material on the property and the source of the soil. The municipality also wants the owner to agree to address the damage caused to Morgans Road by the trucks leaving the property.

The operator has until April 29 to submit the report from the qualified person on all the dumping activities at the site to this point. The operator will also have to submit any environmental site assessment or soil work done.

There will also have to be a plan for further environmental site assessments, including testing of exactly how extensive any contamination is and study of the groundwater.

By April 15, the operator also needs to hand in a plan for how it will manage noise, dust and truck traffic from the site.

Meanwhile, Carmela Marshall of the Scugog Lakeridge Citizens for Clean Water recently spoke to Clarington council, calling for tougher bylaws to protect citizens and the environment from contaminated soil.

"It's our groundwater that is at stake here. Once contaminated it is very difficult and expensive to restore it -- if it can be restored," said Ms. Marshall at an April 4 meeting.

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