Using today’s challenge to improve the community

Atlas Remediation Fact Sheet:
What waste will the Atlas landfill accept?

What kinds of waste will the Atlas landfill accept?

The Atlas landfill will only accept soil-like non-hazardous solid waste, such as:

- Soil from brownfield site clean-ups
- Soil from excavations for foundations, pools and other structures
- Soil from underground storage tank removals
- Spill clean-up residue
- Industrial process waste that is soil-like (foundry sands, slag, emission control dusts, treatment residues)
- Sediment from dredging operations
- Finished compost that does not meet quality standards for use as a soil amendment
- Rubble and fines from construction and demolition projects and/or recycling operations
- Concrete and bricks
- Asbestos waste

What does the landfill contain now?

The landfill received wastes only from the steel manufacturing operations at the former Atlas Specialty Steel site. The wastes currently landfilled include:

- electric arc furnace slag
- spent acids
- electric arc furnace dust
- concrete & refractory brick
- waste oils
- residues from the waste acid treatment process

Evaluating soil from brownfield sites

- The MOE establishes how to determine if a site is “clean” through a “Record of Site Condition” under Regulation 153/04.
- A Record of Site Condition must be completed by qualified professional engineers or geoscientists.
- Reg. 153/04 sets the quality standards for soil, groundwater and sediment for the specific land use (e.g., industrial is different from residential).
- Soils that meet the standards may be left in place when a site is redeveloped.
- Soils that don’t meet the standards must be removed from the site and managed as waste.
- Waste soil may be received at the Atlas landfill once it is confirmed to be non-hazardous (see fact sheet: What is non-hazardous waste?).

What is a brownfield site?

Brownfield sites are derelict or under-used industrial, commercial or institutional sites that are contaminated from previous uses. They offer an opportunity for redevelopment as they are usually on municipal services (sewer and water) and in good locations. The Rogers Centre in Toronto was constructed on an old brownfield site.

How long will it take to fill?

The landfill is estimated to take between seven and ten years to fill.

And after it’s full: park land

Once properly closed, the landfill will become park land for the perpetual enjoyment of all Welland residents.

Who determines what waste is non-hazardous?

- The Ministry of the Environment defines hazardous waste through Regulation 347, General Waste Management.
- Reg. 347 is made under the Environmental Protection Act.
- Each generator is responsible for classifying their waste.
- The MOE published a Guidance Manual to assist with waste classification.

Please see Walker’s “What is non-hazardous waste?” fact sheet for more information on the classification of non-hazardous waste.
Better understanding waste composition

Soils from excavations
- Excess material that cannot be managed at a construction site
- It could be clean but the customer does not want the potential liability of managing it as inert fill

Storage tank removal
- Fuel stations or industrial sites that are replacing or removing underground storage tanks. Generally when a tank is pulled, soil and stone must be removed for disposal.

Spill clean-up residue
- Highway accidents create soil containing fluids from the vehicle’s operating system or from the load contained in a transport vehicle
- Spills occur within industries that require clean-up to prevent the spilled material from entering the environment
- Spill residues can include socks and booms from containing the spill and soil and rubble from scrapping the surface
- Hydraulic oil spills are a common source of spill residue, as are home heating oil spills

Handling Asbestos
Asbestos is a non-hazardous solid industrial waste. Ontario Regulation 347 establishes the rules for the handling, transport and disposal of asbestos waste to ensure it is packaged and does not become airborne.

Construction and Demolition waste
Refractory waste
Foundry sand
Refractory brick