

Harrietsfield Landfill Remediation Project

Public Open House Comments and Responses



Nova Scotia Lands Inc. is leading the remediation of the former RDM Landfill site in Harrietsfield. Remediation work on the site is expected to begin in late fall 2019 and be completed by summer 2020. To share details of the project with local residents, NS Lands and consulting firm AECOM held an Open House at the Harrietsfield Williamswood Community Centre on Sept. 24, 2019.

The table below outlines the questions and comments received during the Open House, including questions that were asked verbally and those that were submitted via written comment form. The column on the right highlights Nova Scotia Lands' responses to the questions and comments.

Comment	Response
Government was involved to deposit the contaminant in our area. A Bandaid patch isn't the way to fix the problem. Dig the crap out and dispose of it properly then remediate the site. If the mess stays onsite, the problem will always be there to fester into another problem.	As part of the study we looked at three possible solutions, including removing all material onsite. Opening the existing landfill, removing all material and trucking it offsite would create several environmental and safety risks, including releasing gases and odour into the community and creating a drastic increase in truck traffic in the community for the length of the project. The proposed solution will remove leachate (liquid) from the existing cell and install a better cap to prevent leachate from building up in the cell again. This approach has proven to be successful in similar remediation projects.
What will be done to control rodents onsite during the cleanup?	We will be assessing if rodents are an issue onsite, and taking measures to address the problem if necessary, before deconstructing any of the buildings onsite. In similar instances on other projects, we have contracted professional pest control service providers to manage rodent issues.
Will air quality be monitored during the cleanup?	At present we don't plan to monitor ambient air quality. In the event odours or issues arise that require monitoring, we will adjust our oversight to include ambient air monitoring. We have air monitoring expertise within our team and this can be mobilized quickly if needed.

Will wells within 500 metres of the landfill site be monitored during the cleanup?	As part of the conditions of the Nova Scotia Contaminated Sites regulations, we have a duty to explore and address any third-party impacts from the site, meaning other areas that might be affected by materials from the site. Our immediate focus is on containing and managing the waste onsite. Once that is complete, we will be sampling to determine if there are any impacts outside the site that need to be addressed.
Will areas outside the landfill site like the plume and Shea's Lake be cleaned?	Please see the answer above about well monitoring. The same approach will be applied to other offsite areas.
What will happen to buildings onsite?	Buildings onsite will be deconstructed and all materials will be recycled wherever possible, or otherwise disposed of in an environmentally safe way.
Will you update us on the progress of the project?	Yes, updates will be provided on the Nova Scotia Lands website (nslands.ca) and through other means as appropriate.
What will the hours of work be on the site? Will there be work on evenings and weekends?	Work will typically take place between 7 am-7 pm on weekdays. If unusual circumstances arise that require evening or weekend work, the community will be notified.
Once the cleanup is complete, will the capped area be fenced in?	Yes, the plan is to fence in the capped landfill site to protect the synthetic turf surface from potential sources of damage such as ATVs and motorized vehicles. Unfortunately, this type of damage has been an issue in the past on similar projects.

Thank you to community members who attended and participated in the Open House.

For future updates, please visit nslands.ca/projects