Soil Management Update Sustainable Management of Subsurface Materials Board Meeting – January 21, 2009 FRONToronto



Designated Waterfront Area as a Global leader for sustainable management of subsurface materials

Environmental

Social

•Economic

## **DWA Environmental Background**



DWA has been "**Man Made**" and is covered by fill materials of variable environmental quality.

# Fill Environmental Quality: A question of Manageability?



## **The Real Environmental Impact**

Factors	Landfill Disposal	Sustainable Soil Management
Truck travel (km)	75,000,000	2,500,000
Carbon Emissions (tonnes of CO2)	77,000	3,500
Road traffic injuries**	15	2
Other Impacts –Costs –Road maintenance –Traffic Accidents	<ul> <li>Traffic Congestion</li> <li>Landfill capacity</li> <li>Replacement Aggregate</li> <li>Residual Environmental Liability</li> </ul>	

\*\* Source: Statistics Canada and Transport Canada, 2003 5 |

## Soil Management Plan

- Proceed with Risk Assessed, Risk Managed approach
- Establish Designated Waterfront Area ("DWA") approach
  - Use best practices and latest technologies to treat soil within waterfront
  - Include soil management facility for processing and treating soil
  - Minimize the need to export contaminated soil and import fill materials

## Soil Management Issues

- I. Risk Assessment Capping Principles
- 2. DWA single site designation by MOE
- 3. New Environmental Standards
- 4. Interim Soil Treatment Facility location and approval
- 5. Long term Soil Treatment Facility location and approval

## I. Risk Assessment Capping Principles

- MOE approved Risk Management measures require that all pathways linking contaminated soils to potential receptors be severed.
- Pathways are severed through the introduction of barriers; which may include a capping layer of clean fill amongst other acceptable treatments
- Current WT designs and budgets are based upon the implementation of capping layers designed to meet MOE principles

# I. Risk Assessment Capping Principles – Cont'd

- Increased capping thickness may provide additional worker protection in specific applications including
  - Where workers may breach narrower barrier on a regular basis and be exposed to harmful contaminants
  - Where protective clothing is required due to contamination below the barrier and cannot be reasonably donned prior to breaching the barrier
- Additional capping requirements applied inconsistently when combined with new MOE standards – will have significant financial impact on WT
  - Estimates for EBF Parks range to \$2.5 M in additional costs
  - Cost of expanded capping layer at Interim Sports Fields = \$1.5M

# 2. DWA Single Site Designation by MOE

- Proposal to MOE (through Minister Gerretsen) that MOE:
  - Treat the Designated Waterfront Area as a single site for MOE assessment purposes
  - Collaborate with WT on MOE standards interpretation on waterfront sites
- Facilitate transportation to and stockpiling of excavated materials on treatment and storage site(s)

## 3. New Environmental Standards/Processes

- Proposal to MOE (through Minister Gerretsen) that MOE designate Director/Team to:
  - > work with WT and its environment consultants to review environmental data and solutions prior to formal submission
  - Identify trial sites to develop risk management principles and test RA process
  - > Attempt to achieve consensus prior to submission
  - Provide MOE feedback on implementation of standards

# 4. Interim Soil Treatment Facility

- Several Portlands locations under consideration based on size, location, current use, zoning and other factors
- Intent is to minimize treatment volumes in order to not trigger EA process and obtain Part 5 MOE approval if DWA is not considered a single site
- Approval timeline to commence soil treatment once site is selected is 18 months
- Approval timeline to commence stockpiling is 6 months landfill disposal is required pending approval to stockpile
- Stockpile site is also required pending approval of the treated soil receiving site (proposed to be Lake Ontario Park)

# 5. Long Term Soil Treatment Facility

- Address larger volume and longer term needs waterfront wide, including the re-naturalization of the mouth of the Don River
- Environmental Assessment process required
- Multi-year approval process anticipated
- Lake Ontario Park remains proposed receiving site for soils not used in the re-naturalization
- Anticipate soil deficit for Lower Don Lands Precincts overall

## **Soil Receiving Site**

- Proposed for Lake Ontario Park (LOP)
- Phase I Funding for LOP is required to complete work necessary to prepare site to receive soils
- 24 month timeframe for design, RA/RM and approvals prior to acceptance at receiving site
- Access agreement conditions may limit planning, design and due diligence process

#### **Current Risks**

- Landfill disposal will be required for next 6-9 months until stockpile site is identified and approved
- Stockpiling is required for subsequent 18 months pending Soil Management Facility and Lake Ontario Park approvals
- Costs of remediation and excavation may be increased due to potential requirements for increased capping dimensions and new MOE standards
- Agreements and approvals required for any proposed soil treatment options

## **Next Steps**

- Agree on capping layer criteria
- Submit comments on new MOE standards for soil through Environmental Bill of Rights process
- Meet with Environment Minister Gerretsen

Pursue DWA as one site

- ➢ Identify MOE Waterfront "Champion"
- Identify preferred site to locate interim soil management facility
- Assess EA solution for larger long term facility