

## Harrietsfield Remediation Project Update – April 2021



Contamination from the former RDM Recycling site in Harrietsfield has been a problem for far too long. The province has committed to remediating the site and protecting the local environment. This project will contain and restore the soils on the 10-hectare former landfill and debris disposal site. It is an important first step in improving water quality in the community.

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### What has been completed to date?

The project has reached multiple milestones, in addition to managing additional work items that arose as the work unfolded.

Derelict buildings on site were deconstructed/disposed of and the existing landfill soil cover has been removed. A soil berm was constructed, and the south slope of the landfill was brought to grade. A soil berm was constructed, and the south slope of the landfill was brought to grade. The soil berm would be constructed to direct surface water runoff in a controlled fashion.

Existing buried debris which had been discovered outside of the containment cell but in pockets around the site, was excavated and the materials were managed and disposed of at a Nova Scotia Environment Approved Facility. Anything considered construction and demolition debris was disposed on site within the onsite landfill. All other material (approx. 55,000 tonnes) were disposed off site at a Second-Generation Landfill site.

The groundwater interceptor trench has been installed. The purpose of this trench is to divert all groundwater flow away from the existing landfill cell. This coupled with the synthetic cap will virtually remove any potential surface or groundwater impact from the landfill cell permanently.

The site “soil borrow source areas” have been closed. In simple terms, borrow is clean fill that is taken from one excavation area to another. The clean fill would be used to backfill the excavation void left from removal of buried debris outside of the landfill cell.

On site roadway ditching and other site improvements are essentially complete at the site.



October 2019



October 2020

### **What is the projected completion date for the clean-up?**

Our current schedule shows project completion in June 2021. All the site work has been completed except for the cap and closure turf installation. This work is scheduled to begin in the coming days.

### **How much is the total cost?**

The project budget had to be adjusted to account for more than estimated buried debris which had to be taken off-site for disposal. The total project estimate to complete is \$17.9 million, inclusive of Long-Term Monitoring and Maintenance.

### **What will be done with the site after cleanup?**

The active landfill site of 10 hectares will be a managed site and carries a budget for Long Term Monitoring and Maintenance under the Nova Scotia Lands umbrella. No further active industrial work will occur on this site.

### **Will this make well water safe for residents to drink?**

Once completed our engineers, who designed the project, and NSLI staff feel that the properly closed landfill cell will no longer present a risk to off-site surface water or groundwater quality.

### **Will you require HRM to extend municipal water service to those homes so they will have clean drinking water?**

That is not within our authority to comment upon. Providing residential water service is a decision of HRM.



March 2021

### **What work remains?**

The bulk of the project is behind us. A challenge that remains is the Closure Turf, a technical aspect, which has been hampered by weather conditions at the site this time of year. There are essentially six pieces of work left to complete, and they are all related to the Closure Turf.

1. Construction of Levelling Layer – this piece is, as of today, about 70% complete and allows for the installation of the synthetics to follow on the capping.
2. Construction of Liner Subgrade – this prepares the cap for the synthetic closure cap aspects to be installed.
3. Closure Turf Liner Installation – prepares the cell for the installation of the Closure Turf itself, this liner gets welded so acceptable weather conditions is a critical aspect.
4. Closure Turf – Turf Installation, this work will happen concurrent with the Liner Installation.
5. Closure Turf Passive Vents Installation – this will happen concurrent with the above.
6. Closure Turf Sand Infill – this will happen concurrent with the above.