

## 2. Overview of the Environmental Assessment Process and Study Organization

This section of the EA Study Report provides an overview of the process used to carry out the EOWHF Landfill Expansion EA, describes the study organization, and provides the organization of the EA Study Report.

### 2.1 Environmental Assessment Process

The EA was undertaken in accordance with the requirements for an expanding waste landfill (as identified in Ontario Regulation (O. Reg.) 101/07, Section 4) under the OEAA, which are described in **Section 2.2**. The EA was conducted in accordance with the ToR dated July 2015, and approved by the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change in May 2017 (**Appendix A**). The ToR was the first step of a two-step OEAA approval process for the proposed undertaking, with the second step being the EA.

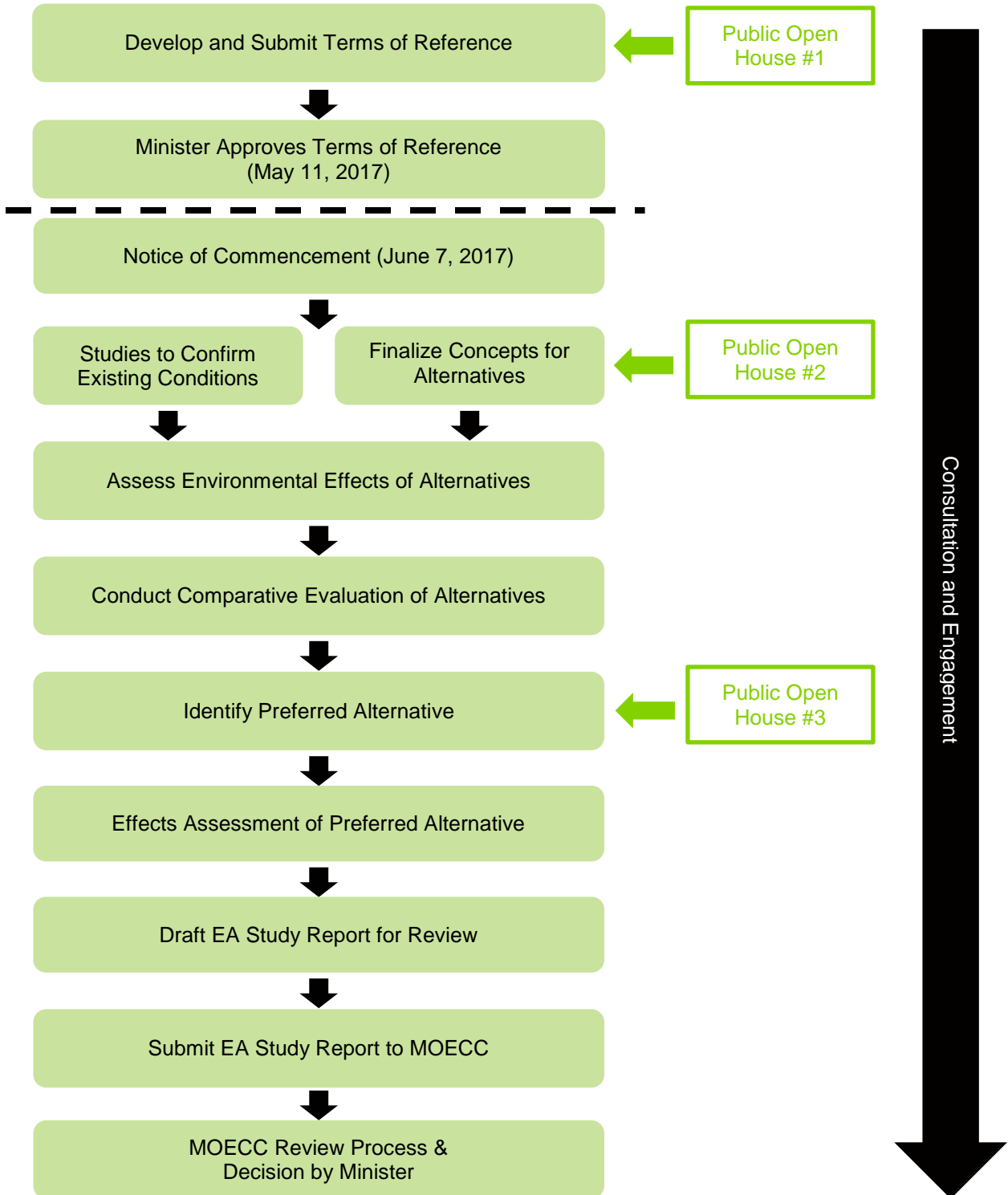
An overview of the EA process for the EOWHF Landfill Expansion EA is provided in **Figure 2-1**.

### 2.2 Ontario *Environmental Assessment Act*

The overall purpose of the OEAA is to promote good environmental planning through the protection, conservation and wise management of Ontario's environment. The intent is to predict the environmental effects of proposed initiatives or projects before they are carried out. In order to achieve this, the OEAA ensures that environmental concerns and opportunities associated with a project are considered along with alternatives and that their effects are investigated and mitigated through the planning process, prior to implementation and construction. A key component of the OEAA, as well as good planning, is to ensure that reasonable and meaningful consultation opportunities for members of the public, agencies, and other key stakeholders are provided throughout the process.

As previously mentioned, the OEAA requires a ToR to be prepared and approved by the Minister of Environment and Climate Change prior to undertaking the EA. The ToR for the EA (approved May 2017) sets the framework, considerations, and commitments for how the EA will be undertaken and provides overall direction for the EA. **Appendix B** of this EA Study Report details how the EA has fulfilled the commitments made in the approved ToR.

Figure 2-1. EOWHF Landfill EA Process



The EA was prepared in accordance with the requirements set out in the approved ToR and the OEAA, and includes:

- a) A description of the purpose of the undertaking;
- b) A description of and a statement of the rationale for the undertaking;
- c) A description of and a statement of the rationale for the alternative methods of carrying out the undertaking;
- d) A description of the environment potentially affected by the undertaking;
- e) A description of the effects that might reasonably be expected to be caused to the environment by the alternative methods of carrying out the undertaking;
- f) A description of the actions necessary or that may reasonably be expected to be necessary to prevent, change, mitigate or remedy the effects upon or the effects that might reasonably be expected upon the environment, by the alternative methods of carrying out the undertaking and the predicted net effects of each of the two alternative methods;
- g) A description of the advantages and disadvantages to the environment as a result of the alternative methods of carrying out the undertaking;
- h) A summary of the rationale for selecting the Preferred Alternative; and,
- i) A description of consultation undertaken by GFL and the results of the consultation.

Further to OEAA requirements, GFL has utilized and complied with both of the MOECC's Codes of Practice for Preparing and Reviewing Environmental Assessments in Ontario (January 2014) and Consultation in Ontario's Environmental Assessment Process (January 2014) when completing the EA. GFL has also considered the MOECC's draft guide: Consideration of Climate Change in Environmental Assessment in Ontario (September 2016).

## 2.3 Undertaking by a Private Proponent

GFL is a privately owned company conducting business in the Province of Ontario. The EOWHF landfill has been in operation since 1999. The proposed expansion of the EOWHF landfill through the development of Stages 3B and 4 is consistent with the overall development concept for the site as outlined in the original EA. Consequently, GFL is looking to provide an ongoing landfill service at the EOWHF to its customers in the region as originally contemplated.

As such, and as described in the approved ToR, GFL completed the EA under subsection 6(2)(c) and 6.1(3) of the OEAA, which permits a proponent to "focus" the EA. The approved ToR provided justification for the Rationale for the Undertaking as well as selection of the Alternative To the Undertaking, which allowed the EA to commence at the Alternative Methods phase (i.e., alternative landfill configurations). Commencing the EA at the Alternative Methods stage is supported by the Code of Practice for Preparing and Reviewing Environmental Assessments in Ontario (October 2014) as follows:

*Cases may arise where proponents have previously considered alternatives during a separate planning or decision-making process. If the previous planning process had similar provisions to those of the Environmental Assessment Act*

*then the proponent may have sought and received approval at the terms of reference stage to limit the discussion of previously examined alternatives.*

Under the requirements of the OEAA, the proponent must include a description of the rationale as part of the EA documentation. GFL will describe the rationale for the undertaking, as outlined in Section 5 of the approved ToR (**Appendix A**) within this EA Study Report. **Section 3** of this EA Study Report provides a re-statement of the Rationale and provides additional detail on the benefits of the proposed Undertaking. This also includes a summary of the Alternatives To the Undertaking for context purposes.

## 2.4 Canadian Environmental Assessment Act 2012

The *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act 2012* (CEAA 2012) is a piece of federal legislation that guides the EA process within Canada. It provides a framework for actions to be taken in order to protect vital terrestrial and aquatic environments throughout the EA process. A Federal EA may be required if a proponent proposes a specific undertaking listed on the CEAA 2012 Regulation Designating Physical Activities.

The alternative methods being considered in this EA do not appear on the list of Activities subject to CEAA 2012 as confirmed by the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency<sup>2</sup>.

## 2.5 Organization of the EA Study Report

This EA Study Report has been prepared in accordance with the following key documents:

- GFL (formerly Lafleche Environmental Inc.) Proposed Expansion of the Eastern Ontario Waste Handling Facility ToR (July 2015) as approved by the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change on May 11, 2017;
- Code of Practice - Preparing and Reviewing Environmental Assessments in Ontario (January 2014); and
- Code of Practice - Consultation in Ontario's Environmental Assessment Process (January 2014).
- Guide: Consideration of Climate Change in Environmental Assessment in Ontario (Draft, September 2016).

The EA Study Report comprises the following chapters, appendices, and technical reports/reference documents for addressing the requirements set out in the approved ToR:

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<sup>2</sup> Letter dated February 20, 2015 from Anjala Puvananathan, Director Ontario Region, Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency.

EA Study Report Section	
<b>Section 1</b>	<b>Introduction</b> Provides an introduction to and background information regarding the EA and the proponent, GFL Environmental Inc.
<b>Section 2</b>	<b>Overview of the Environmental Assessment Process and Study Organization</b> Describes the process used to carry out the EA, the OEAA requirements, and provides an overview of the overall EA Study Report.
<b>Section 3</b>	<b>Overview of the Undertaking</b> Identifies the purpose of and rationale for the undertaking, including the preferred Alternative to the Undertaking.
<b>Section 4</b>	<b>Description of the Environment Potentially Affected by the Undertaking</b> Provides an overview of the existing environmental conditions in both the on-site study area and off-site study area.
<b>Section 5</b>	<b>Alternative Methods of Carrying Out the Undertaking</b> Identifies and describes the alternative methods of carrying out the undertaking including two alternative landfill configurations for developing Stages 3B and 4.
<b>Section 6</b>	<b>Net Effects of the Alternative Methods</b> Identifies and describes the net effects for the alternative methods for each environmental component.
<b>Section 7</b>	<b>Comparative Evaluation of Net Effects and Identification of the Preferred Alternative</b> Provides the comparative evaluation of the two alternative methods and identifies the Preferred Alternative.
<b>Section 8</b>	<b>Net Effects Assessment of the Preferred Alternative</b> An assessment of the effects of the Preferred Alternative is presented and a description of any potential cumulative effects. Climate change considerations for the Preferred Alternative are discussed, and the advantages and disadvantages of the Preferred Alternative are identified.
<b>Section 9</b>	<b>Consultation and Engagement</b> Provides an overview of the consultation and engagement process and a summary of consultation and engagement activities undertaken.
<b>Section 10</b>	<b>Monitoring and Commitments for the Undertaking</b> Describes the commitments as well as the monitoring strategy and schedule for the preferred undertaking.
<b>Section 11</b>	<b>Approvals</b> Outlines the anticipated approvals required for implementing the preferred undertaking following OEAA approval.
<b>Section 12</b>	<b>References</b> Provides the references used in the EA Study Report.

Appendices	
<b>Appendix A</b>	Approved Terms of Reference
<b>Appendix B</b>	Terms of Reference Commitments Table

Supporting Documents	
<b>Supporting Document 1</b>	Existing Conditions Reports
<b>SD 1-1</b>	Air Quality Existing Conditions Report
<b>SD 1-2</b>	Odour Existing Conditions Report
<b>SD 1-3</b>	Noise Existing Conditions Report
<b>SD 1-4</b>	Geology and Hydrogeology Existing Conditions Report
<b>SD 1-5</b>	Surface Water Part A: Water Quantity Existing Conditions Report
<b>SD 1-6</b>	Surface Water Part B: Water Quality Existing Conditions Report
<b>SD 1-7</b>	Natural Environment Existing Conditions Report
<b>SD 1-8</b>	Socio-Economic Environment Existing Conditions Report
<b>SD 1-9</b>	Cultural Heritage Existing Conditions Report
<b>SD 1-10</b>	Transportation Existing Conditions Report
<b>SD 1-11</b>	Land Use Existing Conditions Report
<b>SD 1-12</b>	Landfill Design and Operations Existing Conditions Report
<b>Supporting Document 2</b>	Conceptual Design Report
<b>Supporting Document 3</b>	Net Effects Assessment Reports
<b>SD 3-1</b>	Air Quality Effects Assessment Report
<b>SD 3-2</b>	Odour Effects Assessment Report
<b>SD 3-3</b>	Noise Effects Assessment Report
<b>SD 3-4</b>	Geology and Hydrogeology Effects Assessment Report
<b>SD 3-5</b>	Surface Water Quality Effects Assessment Report
<b>SD 3-6</b>	Surface Water Quantity (On-Site Quality) Effects Assessment Report
<b>SD 3-7</b>	Ecological Environment Effects Assessment Report
<b>SD 3-8</b>	Socio-Economic Environment Effects Assessment Report
<b>SD 3-9</b>	Cultural Environment Effects Assessment Report
<b>SD 3-10</b>	Transportation Effects Assessment Report
<b>SD 3-11</b>	Land Use Effects Assessment Report
<b>SD 3-12</b>	Landfill Design and Operations Effects Assessment Report
<b>Supporting Document 4</b>	Record of Consultation and Engagement

The requirements set out in the approved ToR and the location where each is addressed in the EA Study Report and/or reference documents are provided in **Table 2-1**.

**Table 2-1. Requirements from the Approved Terms of Reference and Where Addressed**

Terms of Reference Requirement	Section / Document Where Addressed
A description of the purpose of the undertaking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EA Study Report Section 3</li> <li>• Approved ToR Section 4</li> </ul>
A description of and a statement of the rationale for, (i) the undertaking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EA Study Report Section 3</li> <li>• Approved ToR Section 5</li> </ul>
A description of and a statement of the rationale for, (ii) the alternative to the undertaking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EA Study Report Section 3</li> <li>• Approved ToR Section 6</li> </ul>
A description of and a statement of the rationale for, (iii) the alternative methods of carrying out the undertaking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EA Study Report Section 5</li> <li>• Supporting Document 2 to the EA Study Report</li> <li>• Approved ToR Section 7</li> </ul>
A description of, (i) the environment that will be affected or that might reasonably be expected to be affected, directly or indirectly, by the undertaking, the alternatives for the undertaking and the alternatives to the undertaking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EA Study Report Section 4</li> <li>• Supporting Document 1 to the EA Study Report</li> <li>• Approved ToR Section 8</li> </ul>
A description of, (ii) the effects that will be caused or that might reasonably be expected to be caused to the environment by the undertaking, the alternative methods of carrying out the undertaking and the alternatives to the undertaking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EA Study Report Sections 6 &amp; 7</li> <li>• Supporting Documents 2 &amp; 3 to the EA Study Report</li> </ul>
A description of, (iii) the actions necessary or that may reasonably be expected to be necessary to prevent, change, mitigate or remedy the effects upon or the effects that might reasonably be expected upon the environment, by the undertaking, the alternative methods of carrying out the undertaking and the alternatives to the undertaking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EA Study Report Section 6</li> <li>• Supporting Documents 2 &amp; 3 to the EA Study Report</li> </ul>
An evaluation of the advantages and disadvantages to the environment of the undertaking, the alternative methods of carrying out the undertaking and the alternatives to the undertaking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EA Study Report Section 8</li> <li>• Supporting Document 3 to the EA Study Report</li> </ul>
A description of any consultation about the undertaking by the proponent and the results of the consultation. 1996, c. 27, s. 3.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EA Study Report Section 9</li> </ul>