



MONITORING PROGRAM

The County of Essex is responsible for a municipal solid waste landfill within southwestern Ontario. Waste at the landfill covers an area of 83 ha. The compliance monitoring program at the landfill site includes the measurement of hydraulic elevations, and the assessment of the quality of groundwater, surface water, and water course sediments. Results are reported annually.

LANDFILL COMPLIANCE

As an active landfill, Essex County Landfill No. 3 had a network of up to 188 groundwater monitoring wells, 13 drivepoint monitors, 13 baseflow monitors, 24 surface water stations, 23 sediment stations, 1 trench monitor, and 8 leachate collector system monitoring wells. This large monitoring network was necessary to comply with conditions on the Provisional Certificate of Approval, requests by the public liaison group and its consultants, and a commitment by the County to operate and eventually close the landfill in an environmentally acceptable manner.

The findings of the monitoring program have confirmed that the landfill is in compliance with groundwater, surface water, and sediment criteria as specified in the conditions of approval. Remedial measures are occasionally required to maintain the landfill compliance.

LONG-TERM MONITORING REDUCTION

Owing to a proactive approach in satisfying the compliance requirements and the public's concerns, monitoring at the landfill has been substantially reduced. There are now less than 80 monitoring wells and 3 surface water and sediment stations which are monitored, often with sampling on a biennial basis.