
Heritage Resources Self Assessment

Toronto Zoo
Anaerobic digester

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Heritage Resources

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Purpose

This report is provided as part of the Renewable Energy Approval for the proposed 500kW anaerobic digester to be constructed at the Toronto Zoo. An archeological report prepared by the Toronto Region Conservation Authority is to be submitted separately.

1.2 Project Location

The location of the proposed 500kW biogas plant is shown on the drawing in Appendix 1. The land required is currently part of the zoo's composting operation and will occupy an area of approximately 50m x 100m (5000 sq. m. or 1.3 acres) of the site. The digester will replace the zoo's current composting operation.

It is located on the east side of Meadowvale Road, south of Beare Road and is described as Lot 3, Concession 3.

The site is located on an isolated peninsula of land located between wooded slopes down to Meadowvale Road on the west, the existing composting operation and a hydro corridor in the valley to the south and the Rouge River valley to the east. See also the air photo located in Appendix 1. To the north is a vacant field used for overflow parking and further north are overflow parking lots associated with the zoo.

The site of the Biogas plant is located on part of the lands now graded and used for the composting operation. It is flat and devoid of vegetation cover. The area slopes slightly to the south and is over 200 meters from the water's edge of the Little Rouge River.

1.3 Surrounding Land Uses

The nearest structure is a restored brick farmhouse (Pearce House) located some 250m to the north east and is used as the Rouge Valley Conservation Centre. The nearest residential area is located 850 meters to the south west on the opposite side of Meadowvale Road. The nearest home is located 320 meters to the west. Appendix 1 demonstrates the land use within 300m of the site. Lands immediately to the north of the site have been graded and are used for overflow parking for the Zoo.

2.0 Table 19 Heritage Assessment

As part of the Renewable Energy Approval for the anaerobic digester to be constructed at the Toronto Zoo the authorizations required in Reg. 359/09 s.19 table were obtained.

Copy of O. Reg. 359/09, s. 19, Table.

Item	Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Document	Appendix
	Description of property.	Person or body whose authorization is required.	Type of authorization required to be submitted.		
1.	A property that is the subject of an agreement, covenant or easement entered into under clause 10 (1) (b) of the Ontario Heritage Act.	Ontario Heritage Trust.	Authorization to undertake any activities related to the renewable energy project that require the approval of the Ontario Heritage Trust pursuant to the easement or covenant.	Letter Ontario Heritage Trust May 2, 2011	2
2.	A property in respect of which a notice of intention to designate the property to be of cultural heritage value or interest has been given in accordance with section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act.	Municipality that gave the notice.	If, as part of the renewable energy project, the alteration of the property or the demolition or removal of a building or structure on the property is proposed, consent to alter the property or demolish or remove the building or structure.	Toronto Email March 31, 2011	3
3.	A property designated by a municipal by-law made under section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act as a property of cultural heritage value or interest.	Municipality that made the by-law.	If, as part of the renewable energy project, the alteration of the property or the demolition or removal of a building or structure on the property is proposed, consent to alter the property or demolish or remove the building or structure.	Toronto email March 31, 2011	3
4.	A property designated by order of the Minister of Culture made under section 34.5 of the Ontario Heritage Act	Minister of Culture.	If, as part of the renewable energy project, the alteration of the property or the demolition or removal of a building or structure on the property is proposed,	MTC Letter April 4, 2011	4

	as a property of cultural heritage value or interest of provincial significance.		consent to alter the property or demolish or remove the building or structure.		
5.	A property in respect of which a notice of intention to designate the property as property of cultural heritage value or interest of provincial significance has been given in accordance with section 34.6 of the Ontario Heritage Act.	Minister of Culture.	If, as part of the renewable energy project, the alteration of the property or the demolition or removal of a building or structure on the property is proposed, consent to alter the property or demolish or remove the building or structure.	MTC Letter April 4, 2011	4
6.	A property that is the subject of an easement or a covenant entered into under section 37 of the Ontario Heritage Act.	Municipality that entered into the easement or covenant.	Authorization to undertake any activities related to the renewable energy project that require the approval of the municipality that entered into the easement or covenant.	Toronto Email March 31, 2011	3
7.	A property that is part of an area designated by a municipal by-law made under section 41 of the Ontario Heritage Act as a heritage conservation district.	Municipality that made the by-law.	If, as part of the renewable energy project, the alteration of the property or the erection, demolition or removal of a building or structure on the property is proposed, a permit to alter the property or to erect, demolish or remove a building or structure on the property.	Toronto Email March 31, 2011	3
8.	A property designated as a historic site under	Minister of Culture.	If, as part of the renewable energy project, the excavation or alteration of	MTC Letter April 4, 2011	4

Regulation 880 of the Revised Regulations of Ontario, 1990 (Historic Sites) made under the Ontario Heritage Act.		the property of historical significance is proposed, a permit to excavate or alter the property.		
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3.0 Regulation 9/06 Analysis

Section 2 of the regulation states that: *A property may be designated under section 29 of the Act if it meets one or more of the following criteria for determining whether it is of cultural heritage value or interest:*

1. *The property has design value or physical value because it,*
 - i. *is a rare, unique, representative or early example of a style, type, expression, material or construction method, **The subject property is a flat vacant, open field used as a compost operation for the zoo. The compost operation is not of heritage significance. This criteria is not met.***
 - ii. *displays a high degree of craftsmanship or artistic merit, or **The subject property is a flat vacant, open field used as a compost operation for the zoo and contains no structures. This criteria is not met.***
 - iii. *demonstrates a high degree of technical or scientific achievement. **The compost operation is significantly below the environmental and operational standards currently applicable for such installations. There is no significant period technology at this site that should be protected for heritage purposes. This criteria is not met.***
2. *The property has historical value or associative value because it,*
 - i. *has direct associations with a theme, event, belief, person, activity, organization or institution that is significant to a community, **This site directly associated with the manure handling process of the Toronto Zoo which is a significant institution in Toronto and beyond. However the composting process is not significant to the community and it in fact is considered to be detrimental. This criteria is not met.***
 - ii. *yields, or has the potential to yield, information that contributes to an understanding of a community or culture, or **The composting operation on the site does not meet this criteria. It does not contribute to the community or to culture***
 - iii. *demonstrates or reflects the work or ideas of an architect, artist, builder, designer or theorist who is significant to a community. **The composting operation on the site does not meet this criteria.***
3. *The property has contextual value because it,*
 - i. *is important in defining, maintaining or supporting the character of an area, **The compost operation does not support the character of the area which is a mix of wooded and open fields and parking lots.***

ii. is physically, functionally, visually or historically linked to its surroundings, or **While the compost operation is linked functionally to the Zoo because it processes the waste from the Zoo, it does not contribute to the contextual value of the area. In fact it detracts from the environmental quality of the area visually and due to its surface water impact.**

iii. is a landmark **The compost site is not a landmark as the site is not highly visible and sheltered from the view of the public.**

4.0 Heritage Impact Assessment

This analysis indicates that there are no heritage resources on the site of the project. In addition there are no heritage resources in the immediate vicinity of the proposed project. As a result the proposed Renewable Energy Project will have no heritage impact on the subject property or lands in the vicinity. As a result no mitigation measures are required.

The Toronto Zoo, the operator of the area and the TRCA, the owner of the land, both have not indicated any concerns with respect to heritage resources. As the site is relatively remote public access to the area will be limited.

Appendix 1

Location Plan

Appendix 2

Ontario Heritage Trust

Appendix 3

City of Toronto

Appendix 4

Ministry of Culture