

# **Nova Scotia Environment and Labour (“NSEL”)**

## **Environmental Assessment Approval**

**Approval Date:** *Original dated September 2, 2005*

### **Biomedical Waste Treatment Facility**

**Medical Waste Management Inc., Proponent**

**Burnside Industrial Park, Halifax Regional Municipality,  
Nova Scotia**

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The Biomedical Waste Treatment Facility (the “Undertaking”), proposed by Medical Waste Management (the “Proponent”) to be located at 45 Wright Avenue, Dartmouth, Halifax Regional Municipality, Nova Scotia is given environmental assessment approval subject to the following conditions and obtaining all other necessary approvals, permits or authorizations required by municipal, provincial and federal acts, regulations, by-laws, guidelines, policies or standards before commencing work on the Undertaking. It is the responsibility of the Proponent to ensure that all such approvals, permits or authorizations are obtained before commencing work on the Undertaking.

This Environmental Assessment Approval is based upon the review of the conceptual design, environmental baseline information, impact predictions, and mitigation presented in the Registration Information.

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### **Terms and Conditions for Environmental Assessment Approval**

#### **1.0 General Approval**

- 1.1 The Environmental Assessment Approval for the project is limited to the project as described in the registration document. Any proposal by the Proponent for expansion, extension, modification or relocation of any aspect of the project from that proposed in the registration document must be submitted to the Environmental Assessment Branch for review and may require an environmental assessment.
- 1.2 The Environmental Assessment Approval shall expire within two years of the date of its issuance unless the Proponent commences work on the Undertaking by the end of the two year period, unless granted a written extension by the Minister.

- 1.3 The Proponent shall not transfer, sell, lease, assign or otherwise dispose of this approval without the written consent of the Minister. The sale of a controlling interest of a business or a transfer of an approval from a parent company to a subsidiary or an affiliate is deemed to be a transfer requiring consent.
- 1.4 The Proponent shall implement all mitigation and commitments in the Registration Document, unless approved otherwise by NSEL.

## **2.0 Materials to be Treated**

- 2.1 The Proponent shall not handle animal waste, unless otherwise approved by NSEL.
- 2.2 The Proponent shall handle only the types of waste, excluding animal waste, indicated in the Registration Document at the proposed facility, unless otherwise approved by NSEL.
- 2.3 The facility shall only treat yellow bag, biomedical waste as described in the Registration Document, originating from within the Province of Nova Scotia.

## **3.0 Treatment Process**

- 3.1 The Proponent shall treat biomedical waste using the technology described in the Registration Document. Any deviation from this technology or process must be approved in writing by NSEL.
- 3.2 The Proponent shall submit to the Central Region NSEL office the test results for the commissioning phase of the facility.

## **4.0 Disposal of Treated Waste**

- 4.1 The Proponent, as part of the application for Part V Approval under the *Environment Act*, shall provide Central Region NSEL with confirmation of acceptance of the treated solid waste streams by an approved municipal landfill.

## **5.0 Building Modifications**

- 5.1 The Proponent, as part of the application for Part V Approval under the *Environment Act*, shall provide for review and approval a plan of proposed building modifications, including:
  - ▶ construction of a security fence around the property

- ▶ execution of various health and safety related modifications
- ▶ installation of a dedicated refrigerated area for temporary storage of the biomedical waste which would be acceptable to NSEL
- ▶ installation of a security alarm system

5.2 A signed offer of lease for the building shall be provided with the Part V Approval Application.

## 6.0 Facility Operation

6.1 The Proponent shall be required to obtain Part V Approvals under the *Environment Act* for Construction, Operation and Reclamation of the facility.

6.2 All discharges from the site must meet the NSEL requirements.

6.3 The Proponent, as part of the application for Part V Approval under the *Environment Act*, shall provide inspection and monitoring programs for the following:

- a) incoming waste
- b) refrigeration units
- c) autoclave process conditions
- d) verification of autoclave treatment effectiveness
- e) verification of reusable container decontamination
- f) radiation levels
- g) liquid effluent sampling of the sanitary sewer discharges
- h) air emissions monitoring
- i) landfill bound waste

6.4 The Proponent shall provide details on the handling capacity of the facility, including the treatment capacity of the autoclave, the capacity of waste storage and refrigeration areas.

6.5 The Proponent shall screen all incoming wastes for radiation.

6.6 The Proponent shall provide an acceptable backup power supply to run refrigeration units and the autoclave, or alternate acceptable contingency

6.7 The Proponent shall perform on-going validation testing of the autoclave performance during the operational stage of the project.

6.8 The Proponent shall implement a computerized waste tracking system which automatically tracks wastes from the point of arrival through to final disposal.

## **7.0 Public and Worker Safety**

- 7.1 The Proponent shall provide all staff with training in accordance with the 1992 CCME "Guidelines for the Management of Biomedical Waste in Canada. The Proponent shall implement a plan for public and worker safety measures, that includes:
- a) a comprehensive two-week training program for all personnel working in the receiving and processing areas of the facility
  - b) training in St. John's Ambulance First Aid and CPR, Workplace Hazardous Material Information System (WHIMIS), Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act, contingency plans, the operations and maintenance manual and the terms and conditions of environmental approvals
  - c) arrangements for all workers, who have the potential to be exposed to waste which includes blood or blood products or who are at risk of sharps injury, to receive full immunization against Tetanus and Hepatitis "B" before biomedical waste is handled at the facility. Immunization of new workers shall commence immediately upon employment.

## **8.0 Transportation**

- 8.1 All drivers transporting biomedical wastes to the facility must be certified and trained in transportation of dangerous goods.
- 8.2 All vehicles are to be secured when biomedical waste is present or being transported. All vehicles are to have daily inspections.

## **9.0 Public Consultation**

- 9.1 The Proponent shall prepare and implement a complaint response procedure.

## **10.0 Contingency Planning**

- 10.1 The Proponent, as part of the application for the Part V Approval under the *Environment Act*, shall provide for review and approval a contingency plan as per the requirements as outlined in the NSEL Contingency Planning Guidelines (September 2004).

- 10.2 The Proponent, as part of the application for the Part V Approval under the *Environment Act*, shall provide for review and approval an Emergency Response Plan. This plan should cover, but not be limited to, incidents such as equipment breakdowns, fires, explosions, loss of power, alternate backup disposal and storage, and labour disputes.

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Kerry Morash  
Minister of Environment and Labour