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February 16, 2017

Mirka Januszkiewicz, P. Eng.
Director, Waste Management
The Regional Municipality of Durham
605 Rossland Road East
Whitby, ON L1N 6A3

Laura McDowell, P. Eng.
The Regional Municipality of York
Director, Environmental Protection and Promotion
17250 Yonge Street
Newmarket, ON L3Y 6Z1

**RE: 2015 Soil Testing Report- WSP Response to Ministry Comments
Durham York Energy Centre
Environmental Compliance Approval #7306-8FDKNX (ECA)**

Dear Ms. Januszkiewicz and Ms. McDowell:

The ministry's technical staff have reviewed the letter prepared by WSP Canada, dated September 12, 2016 with the subject heading "*Durham York Energy Centre - 2015 Soil Testing Report Response to MOECC Comments Project No. 111-26648-00-100-162401*". This letter was prepared in response to the ministry's comments of July 28, 2016.

The following comments are provided for your consideration and are organized according to the subheadings used in the letter.

1. Discrete Soil Samples from Subplots

The ministry agrees that discrete sampling within the 100 m² plot area would provide limited additional information for evaluating the influence of the facility on soil quality.

2. Use of Acetone and Hexane Wash

The ministry recommends that soil probes be treated with acetone followed by hexane after being cleaned with detergent and de-ionized water or equivalent to mitigate cross contamination.

3. Potential Off-Site Sources

The ministry agrees that the 2015 results can be used as a baseline to assess the potential influences of the facility on soil quality in subsequent years. The ministry acknowledges the potentially confounding influence of off-site sources, including highways and secondary roads. The WSP letter states that: "*slight variations in soil chemistry, based on the two routine sampling events, are not unexpected and are not attributed to the operation of the facility*". It is unclear what evidence was used

to support the conclusion that observed variability in soil contaminant concentrations was not related, at least in part, to the operation of the facility. Please provide information used to support this conclusion.

If you have any questions, please contact Philip Dunn at Philip.dunn@ontario.ca or 905 427 5627 or Sandra Thomas at Sandra.thomas@ontario.ca or 905 427 5623.

Regards,



Celeste Dugas
District Manager
York Durham District
Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change