



QPCO (Managing Unique Excess Soil Challenges in the Capital Region)

With naturally occurring elements in the soil that exceed the generic Standards established in O. Reg. 406/19, managing excess soil in the Ottawa area has many challenges. We will highlight some of the issues from the perspective of municipal government and project leaders, qualified persons, and reuse sites. We will also discuss how the policies for the established generic Standards do not fit all scenarios, and how specific management options can be applied in many other areas of Ontario with similar naturally occurring element issues.

Moderator

Grant Walsom

Trace Associates Inc.

D. Grant Walsom is a senior remediation engineer with over 32 years of experience and a Partner and Principal Engineer at Trace Associates Inc. Mr. Walsom is a Professional Engineer registered in Ontario and Alberta, and a registered Consulting Engineer in Ontario. In addition, Mr. Walsom is a Qualified Person as defined by the Ontario Regulations (O. Reg.) 153/04 and 406/19. Mr. Walsom currently is the Past-Chair of the Board of Directors for the Ontario Environment Industry Association (ONEIA) and a past co-Chair for the Excess Soils Working Group. Mr. Walsom has also served on the Board of Directors for the Canadian Brownfield Network (CBN) President and now as an advisor. Grant proudly founded the Qualified Persons Community of Ontario (QPCO) and serves as the Council Chair and participates in many of the QPCO committees.

Erin O'Neill

City of Ottawa

Erin O'Neill is a geotechnical engineer and the manager of the Standards and Quality Management Branch at City of Ottawa. Since its implementation, Erin has played a key role in ensuring compliance with the City of Ottawa's regulatory obligations as a Project Leader under O. Reg. 406/19 and continues to develop the City's longer-term strategy for Excess Soil Management. Prior to joining the City in 2019, Erin worked as a consulting geotechnical engineer and project manager for over 20 years in Vancouver then Ottawa, with a focus on providing integrated geotechnical, environmental and hydrogeological solutions for municipal infrastructure projects.

Sean Sterling

Geofirma Engineering Ltd.

Sean Sterling, a registered Professional Engineer and Professional Geoscientist in Ontario, has 30+ years of specialized experience and expertise in site investigation and characterization pertaining to contaminant hydrogeology in soil and within deep bedrock settings. Since joining Geofirma in 2002, Mr. Sterling has played a key role in developing approaches to characterize and manage excess soil within Eastern Ontario and specifically with the City of Ottawa's preliminary Light Rail Transit project which pre-dated the MECP Excess Soil Regulations (O.Reg. 406/19). A key part of this work involved a study to establish elevated background (naturally occurring) metals concentrations in fine-grained soil.

Dave Carnegie

Malroz Engineering inc.

Dave Carnegie has participated on the MECP Excess Soil Engagement Group (ESEG) during consultations regarding the development of excess soil policies and eventually regulations and rules. He collaborated with other professionals on consultations with the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) to provide input on amendments to the Aggregate Resource Act (ARA). Dave was part of an Ontario Society of Professional Engineers (OSPE) working group that developed a scientific review and best management practice documents regarding the use of excess soil to rehabilitate pits and quarries. He also participated in an Ontario Environmental Industry Association (ONEIA) working group that developed a best management practice for qualified persons (QPs) regarding O. Reg. 406/19. Dave continues to be an active member of the Qualified Persons of Ontario (QPCO) excess soils working group that developed a Best Management Practice for Reuse Sites. Dave has worked with Project Area and Reuse Site Clients, and heavy civil contractors to review opportunities for beneficial reuse of excess soil where practical through the use of the Beneficial Reuse Assessment Tool (BRAT), sample averaging and statistical attainment methods outlined in the Soil Rules. As a component of this work Dave has referenced work done by the City of Ottawa and others to establish Regional background standards that are elevated relative to Table 1 due to the Champlain Sea Deposits.

Brent Loney

Dillon Consulting Ltd.

With over 30 years of experience as an environmental consultant, Brent Loney specializes in the risk-based management of contaminated sites, including brownfields and landfills, as well as the management of excess soils. His extensive background covers site assessments, remediation, risk assessment and contaminant modeling on hundreds of projects across Canada for both public and private sector clients.