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What is an Environmental Management Plan?

The Port Lands Flood Protection project team has developed a series of plans to ensure we minimize potential impacts to the environment during construction. These potential impacts were noted in the [Don Mouth Naturalization and Port Lands Flood Protection Environmental Assessment](#). As construction progresses, these plans may be modified to reflect new information or challenges encountered on the construction site.

What is the Air Quality and Noise Monitoring Plan?

As part of Port Land Flood Protection, we'll be digging a new river valley and spillway. Much of the soil in the Port Lands has been contaminated by various industrial activities. When we excavate, we will monitor air quality on site and at nearby locations to ensure any release of contaminants does not negatively impact air quality. We will also minimize dust and noise. Noise thresholds have been designed to ensure safety of workers and minimize disturbance to the surrounding area in accordance with City by-laws and Noise Pollution Control Guidelines published by the Ontario Ministry of Environment, Climate and Parks. Air quality thresholds have been established using Ontario's Ambient Air Quality Standards to ensure safety of workers and visitors to the project area. We have a separate odour monitoring plan to track and mitigate odours caused by dredging and excavation.

This plan monitors and protects against:

- Dust
- Emissions from vehicles and construction equipment
- Contaminant release from exposed soil and groundwater



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How does the Air Quality and Noise Monitoring Plan work?



We're monitoring air quality at locations around the perimeter of the site, both upwind and downwind of our work.



Real-time monitoring is also being done on-site using a handheld photo-ionization detector.



Noise is being monitored in and around the site using sound level meters.

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Before construction, we:



- Measured existing air quality and noise at multiple locations in and around the construction site.
- Identified the criteria, means and methods for monitoring air and noise during construction.
- Outlined the actions that will be taken if monitoring finds that levels exceed the criteria.

During construction, we are:



- Measuring air quality and noise and comparing results to existing levels established before construction.
- Monitoring noise and air continuously – daily, weekly or monthly depending on the construction stage and weather.
- Responding to reports and input from members of the public.



What will we do if our tests show an impact?

- We have set very conservative thresholds for noise levels and changes in ambient air quality.
- A change in air quality readings of only 2 ppb average (measured upwind and downwind of the project area) will trigger additional testing. In this circumstance, a sample is sent for laboratory analysis to ensure levels of volatile organic compounds are within Provincial standards.
- Continuous noise monitoring measures sound in dBA (A-weighted decibels) and are meant to measure sounds in a manner as perceived by the human ear. If noise is found to be above a set threshold, we conduct an investigation to determine the construction activities occurring on site.
- If noise or air quality exceeds our criteria, we will immediately investigate, review the controls in place at the construction site, and implement new mitigation measures as appropriate. This might include increasing personal protective equipment for construction crews.

Questions?

- Access our online form at tiny.cc/PLFP or email plfp@ellisdon.com

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Air Quality Monitoring Locations

