

Date: Dec 11, 2023	Time: 2:00pm – 2:30pm
SPAC Co-Chairs: Paulina Leung, Tom Wright	SPAC Secretary: Cameron Parrack
<p>Attendees:</p> <p><u>Service Provider Advisory Council Members:</u></p> <p>(Virtual) Paulina Leung, Emterra Group (Virtual) Dave Gordon, Association of Municipalities of Ontario (Virtual) Atif Durrani, City of Toronto (Virtual) James Ewles, Raw Materials Company (Virtual) Izzie Abrams, Waste Connections of Canada (Virtual) Clayton Miller, Quantum Lifecycle Partners (Virtual) Adam Moffatt, Ontario Tire Dealers Association (Virtual) Dave Yosif, Region of Peel (Virtual) Adam McCue, Northumberland County (Virtual) Ashley De Souza, Waste to Resource Ontario</p> <p><u>RPRRA Staff:</u></p> <p>(In-person) Frank Denton, Chief Executive Officer (Virtual) Mary Cummins, Registrar (In-person) Wilson Lee, Chief of Programs and Public Affairs (In-person) Cameron Parrack, Manager of Programs and Stakeholder Relations (In-person) Nandaraye Choi, Coordinator, Programs and Public Affairs</p> <p><u>RPRRA Board:</u></p> <p>(Virtual) Tom Wright, RPRRA Board Vice-Chair (In-person) Robert Poirier, RPRRA Board Chair</p> <p><u>MECP Representative:</u></p> <p>(Virtual) Krista Friesen, Resource Recovery Policy Branch (Virtual) Marc Peverini, Resource Recovery Policy Branch (Virtual) John Fox, Resource Recovery Policy Branch</p>	
<p>Regrets:</p> <p>Nicole Willett, GFL Environmental Josh Wiwcharyk, Loop Recycled Products</p>	
<p>Recording Secretary: Nandaraye Choi, Coordinator, Programs and Public Affairs</p>	

1. Introductions and Co-Chair's Remarks

- Welcome and opening remarks by the SPAC Co-Chairs.

2. CEO's Remarks

- RPRA's CEO provided opening remarks including noting RPRA's role as a regulator responsible for implementing government policy.
 - Although RPRA is not responsible for decisions on changes to regulations or legislation, the ministry does seek our advice on implications of options being considered. Therefore, although the ministry should be the primary focus of stakeholder advocacy on reform, we are interested in receiving stakeholder feedback on the potential impact of policy decisions, to support our advice to government.
 - Any advice to the ministry is confidential and RPRA is unable to comment on the ministry's policymaking process or decisions.

3. Discussion on MECP EPR consultations

- SPAC member expressed concern about the impact of new policy on their business operations and planning, as well as the impact on RPRA's strategic priorities and budget. SPAC members also asked if RPRA has considered these future impacts.
 - RPRA's CEO advised that RPRA develops its business plan based on current government directions.
 - If RPRA's assumptions about resource needs and priorities change due to actions by government, e.g., new direction or regulatory reforms, RPRA will seek board approval of a revised budget as appropriate.
- SPAC member asked whether the ministry has given any new direction or signals to RPRA.
 - RPRA's CEO indicated that RPRA has not been provided with any new direction from the ministry, and that any such direction would not be communicated by RPRA until the ministry authorized RPRA to do so.
- SPAC member asked how SPAC members and other businesses can support RPRA during the ministry's consultations on new RRCEA regulations.
 - RPRA's CEO shared that SPAC members and businesses should direct their advocacy related to regulatory changes to the ministry.
 - RPRA's CEO noted that once new direction has been received, RPRA's Registrar will work directly with the ministry and stakeholders on implementation matters.
- SPAC member asked whether the ministry would look for RPRA's advice following the EPR consultations.
 - RPRA's CEO noted that the ministry has historically sought RPRA's advice, and that the same is expected as part of the current EPR consultations.
- SPAC member expressed the challenge of meaningfully engaging considering the high volume of consultations by RPRA and the ministry given businesses' limited resources.
- SPAC member also made a request to RPRA that registry procedures being consulted on should not be finalized until the ministry's consultations on regulatory amendments have been completed and regulations have been finalized.
 - RPRA's CEO and Registrar indicated that RPRA needs to implement regulations that are in effect today and cannot operate on assumptions of potential new policy with uncertain timelines.
- SPAC members expressed a concern about the proposed format of RPRA's technical committees being comprised of regulated parties across the value chain, as participants would be hesitant to provide feedback given the commercial relationships between service providers and producers/PROs.

- RPRA staff noted that any feedback on items discussed during a committee meeting that is not able to be shared during the meeting could be sent directly to the Registrar or to RPRA staff.
- SPAC member sought clarity on the mandate of the RPRA technical committees.
 - RPRA staff indicated that the committees will be used by RPRA's compliance team to help gather input to better inform compliance decisions and mitigate program implementation challenges.

4. Discussion on deposit return system (DRS) – impact on Blue Box transition.

- SPAC members shared concerns on how the proposed DRS will impact the Blue Box transition.
 - RPRA's Registrar noted that there is no information available yet on the DRS and therefore RPRA cannot discuss how it may impact the Blue Box transition.
- SPAC member commented that Ontario businesses find it very challenging to operate in an environment of constantly changing policy and noted the constant change and uncertainty are not good for the environment or the economy.

5. Open Discussion

- SPAC member asked for further information about upcoming SPAC engagements with the Minister and the RPRA board.
 - RPRA staff indicated that RPRA can support the coordination of a meeting of a delegation of SPAC members with the Minister to discuss the work of the council.
 - RPRA staff also noted that a delegation of SPAC members will be invited to engage with the RPRA board in February.

6. Co-Chair's Closing Remarks

- SPAC Co-Chairs thanked the members for their participation and feedback.