

WastePlan to take nine month break ***Time will be used to follow up on new developments***

STONEY CREEK, August 9, 2007 – At today's meeting, the Joint Working Group (JWG) of the Niagara-Hamilton WastePlan agreed to a nine month recess on the joint Environmental Assessment (EA) Study. This break in the Study will allow staff to continue to focus on waste diversion efforts and follow up on new developments that have occurred since the preferred disposal system technology, thermal treatment of waste with metal recovery, was presented in December 2005. The group agreed to reconvene in May 2008 to consider next steps.

This direction follows extensive public consultation and review by the JWG members on the merits of the preferred disposal system technology. Based on the analysis, the consultant's Addendum Report recommended that three systems be kept for further consideration: stabilized landfill (System 1), thermal treatment with metal recovery (System 2b) and thermal treatment of alternative fuel (System 2c). The full copy of the Report is available at www.wasteplan.ca

"There are circumstances that have changed since this process began – the most significant of which was that Niagara is in the process of securing an additional 20 years of landfill capacity which would bring ours on par with the life of Hamilton's landfill," said Welland Mayor Damian Goulborne, WastePlan Co-Chair. "The Region has always stressed the importance of a solution that was economically feasible and one that allows the ongoing improvement to waste diversion efforts and results. We will continue to work toward that goal."

"The Joint Working Group is satisfied that we can take this break and resume the EA Study next year if everyone is comfortable moving forward at that time," said Hamilton Councillor Russ Powers, WastePlan Co-Chair. "Hamilton continues to have an interest in alternatives to landfill."

Both municipalities maintain that they will continue to work to seek a long-term solution, be it together or independently, however, waiting offers them the opportunity to ensure they are moving forward with the best environmental solution. In the meantime, both Niagara and Hamilton have stressed that they will continue to implement diversion programs to meet their targets of 65 per cent diversion from landfill.