

March 18, 2009

Please consider this official correspondence to all Regional and Clarington Councillors, JWMG, SLC and Project Team for EFW, for consideration.

Please remember that our Central East LHIN area (including Durham Region) *ALREADY* has the **2nd highest asthma rate in Ontario** (2nd only to Central West LHIN region, which includes Brampton). Incineration by-products are known to be a contributor to asthma, especially in children.

Reference: ***The Burden of Asthma in Ontario - ICES Investigative Report***, published by the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences (ICES) © 2006
http://www.ices.on.ca/file/Burden_of_Asthma_Aug-07.pdf

Health and financial worries should be more than enough to have our Councillors take a second look and not rush this EA through to the Province for approval. Besides anecdotal evidence from around the world, there are plenty of health studies that do not seem to have been included or have been dismissed by the Region's consultants. In the absence of any newer studies that have definitive proof that incineration is safe and has no human or environmental effects, I believe it is prudent for Council to use the precautionary principle before giving their approval on the basis of consultant's reports (without independent peer review) and moving the project into the hands of others (Province).

I hope you will take some time to research the many MSW incinerators being closed worldwide, with many of those communities not replacing them with new incinerators, but instead moving toward zero waste with interim landfill capacity. Please also remember that the waste stream for incineration in Europe is much different than in Canada, with very strict restrictions on what can be incinerated or landfilled. The waste stream also affects emissions, so simply using their studies for ambient air, rather than doing our own, is not acceptable for a true measure of our local airshed or added effects on the already overburdened local area.

Please see attached Detroit Metro Times article:

Fired up

Detroit incinerator's long-simmering opposition

<http://www.metrotimes.com/archives/story.asp?id=12836>

and Detroit News article:

Detroit task force seeks to close incinerator

<http://www.detnews.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20090313/METRO/903130434/1361>

Thank you for your time. Please see short Detroit News article below. A copy of my comments and both articles are attached.

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The Detroit News

Friday, March 13, 2009

Detroit task force seeks to close incinerator

Jim Lynch / The Detroit News

DETROIT -- Members of the city's Environmental Justice Task Force are preparing an ordinance that they hope will lead to the closure of the waste-to-energy incinerator on Russell Street.

The facility, overseen by the Greater Detroit Resource Recovery Authority, takes in roughly two-thirds of the city's waste for incineration. That waste is converted into energy but residents have worried for years that the plant's emissions have contributed to **higher-than-normal rates of asthma in the surrounding neighborhoods.**

Last year, then-Mayor [Kwame Kilpatrick](#) announced the city was moving away from incinerating its waste in favor of a ramped up recycling program and the use of landfills. But despite that stance, the city may still wind up sending its waste to the incinerator due to **stipulations in contracts with the facility's operator** New Jersey-based **Covanta Energy** and owner Energy Investors Funds in Boston.

On Friday, City Councilwoman JoAnn Watson held a meeting of the Environmental Justice Task Force and discussed the status of two measures affecting the incinerator. In addition to the ban on city trash going to the facility, she is also pursuing an appeal of the \$300 trash fee currently imposed on city residents.

"They needed that fee to address the **ballooning payments on the incinerator bond,**" Watson said. "The bond to pay off the incinerator will be up in June 2009."

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<http://www.detroitnews.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20090313/METRO/903130434/1361>