

Stop sugar coating incineration

December 9/07

To the Editor:

In the Durham Works fall and winter newsletter, many important questions are asked regarding the proposed energy from waste facility but the answers are disturbing. For example:

Q: Will this facility release dioxins?

A: The dioxins emitted annually for each household's waste is equivalent to that household burning approximately 15 logs in a fireplace.

What size of logs are we talking about here and are we supposed to be lulled by picturing each family burning 15 logs on a welcoming hearth? Take the number of households in Durham and York regions and add in the households from Peterborough as well because the energy from waste facility may take their garbage too. Now think of them each burning 15 logs and that is one big fire and a lot of pollution.

It is not reassuring to tell us that dioxins are also emitted by other sources. Is that supposed to mean it is fine to add more?

Another question posed is "will this facility process hazardous wastes" to which the answer is given, "Many common household wastes contain hazardous materials such as lead, mercury, and cadmium... All residents are urged to do their part in keeping our neighborhoods clean and safe by bringing household hazardous wastes to a licensed drop-off depot."

There are many people who simply have little or no regard for our environment. I've seen car batteries left beside a creek in a beautiful greenbelt area. Does the waste management department really believe everyone is going to comply with their request to bring hazardous wastes to a drop-off depot when we can't get them to stop littering or illegally dumping garbage on our country roads? The municipality has a hard time getting some residents to sort garbage for the blue box. Are we now going to trust these same irresponsible people to sort hazardous wastes out of their garbage before it is sent to be burned emitting toxic chemicals into our air?

Stop trying to sugar-coat this toxic pill and shove it down our throats. Give us some honest discussion about the pros and cons of EFW facilities and alternative solutions.

Sharon Thompson,

Courtice