

## **NOPE is operative word on incinerator**

Letters to the Editor

Jan 18, 2008 08:03 PM

Re: Incinerator site approved, Jan. 10.

Your article on the incineration site approval in Clarington quotes Richmond Hill Regional Councillor Vito Spatafora as not liking what he hears about incineration and wanting to go through the process.

The process from the get go has been to sell us incineration. Period.

The folks in East Gwillimbury must be happy as claims that a site in Clarington has been chosen, but there is a new phrase replacing NIMBY, it is NOPE – Not On Planet Earth!

Instead of reducing garbage further, thereby ending the need for an incinerator entirely by dealing with the waste from restaurants, shopping malls, grocery stores, businesses and multi-unit dwellings and banning Styrofoam and excess packaging, York and Durham regions instead are hell bent on incineration.

With everyone chanting the mantra of sustainability, including York Region, the triple bottom line approach should have been the 'process' by which the burning question went through.

This would have included assessing the environmental and social impact of incineration and seriously exploring more environmentally sound solutions.

The economic cost of health care and environmental degradation are too high a price to pay for an unacceptable, quick fix solution to waste management.

Dr. Paul Connett, a professor of chemistry and world-leading expert on waste management published a paper entitled Municipal Waste Incineration: A poor solution for the 21st century.

The title says it all. His zero waste approach is not to seek ways of destroying garbage, but to stop making it in the first place. A pretty logical way of walking the talk of sustainability.

Even with the cleanest incineration technology there is no question that the toxic cocktail of emissions.

York and Durham regional councillors need to have a mind and conscience of their own and stop rubberstamping the hard sell of staff and consultants who lack vision and creative problem solving ability.

Gloria Marsh  
Chair, York Region Environmental Alliance