

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Delegation To Durham Regional Council
Re: **Energy From Waste and Health Concerns**

As Councillor Jordan's motion to ensure a financial commitment to monitoring of health prior to and during the operation of an EFW (incinerator) facility was referred to JWMG rather than being supported as it should have been here at the Region if health is truly at the forefront of concern by Councillors, and since the Site Specific Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessment presently underway is NOT scheduled to undertake baseline human health studies, but instead will be an **estimate** of possible impacts to human health based upon **assumptions**, I hope you will read and take into account last week's appeal **from over 33,000 doctors in the EU and worldwide.**

We have been told repeatedly that there is little or no opposition to incineration in the EU, that residents there are very comfortable with it, even those living close by, and that it is clean, safe and economical and poses no unacceptable health risks. I fear Councillors have been shielded from the protests on their European trips or have not done their due diligence on this matter and have seen only what the "industry" wants you to see. Besides the overwhelming number of physicians against incineration in Europe, there are many, many organized groups with ever-increasing numbers of citizens protesting incineration and any newly proposed incinerators all over Europe.

No one that I know doubts what the results and recommendations will be from the Site Specific HHERA. They will be based upon the same assumptions last year's Generic study was based on, and results will be more of the same. Don't worry be happy. Acceptable Risk. Yet concerns raised by our own Durham Region doctors have gone unheeded, as well as concerns of residents and documented information brought forward reflecting those well-founded concerns. Council instead seems more than willing to even accept the proclamations from Deloitte (an accounting firm) in their business case that the EFW facility that is being proposed is "A healthy and safe solution" and is "safe for the environment", but for some reason discounts the **42 or more Durham Region doctors** who I know have spoken up against this project.

Now, Doctors' associations representing over **33,000 physicians** sent an open letter to the European Parliament on **Wednesday (June 11)** in objection to new proposals which include classing newer "efficient" incinerators as "recovery" plants if they produce a certain amount of usable energy in comparison to the resources burned.

The critics include the International Society of Doctors for the Environment - which represents organizations in over 35 countries, including 30,000 doctors worldwide.

French environmental health organizations CNMSE and ASEP - which represent over 3,000 doctors - have also signed up, together with the Association for Research on Treatments against Cancer (ARTAC), UK health group body Medact, numerous Italian health associations and individual physicians.

Their concerns include claims made by industry officials and by the rapporteur of the Waste Framework Directive that the health effects from incinerators are negligible.(1) Several recent studies of wide samples of population continue to reveal the threat that incinerators pose to human health in Europe and around the world.(2) Ultrafine particles emissions are still not monitored anywhere in Europe, even though the danger these particles pose is well documented.(3)(4)

They are also concerned about the image that the EU is giving to the rest of the world by being a resource-burning economy, which is exactly where Durham Region is headed with this proposal.

Since the EU is being used as a model by our Council, please read the appeal I included in my June 13 letter to all councillors (and which should be included in correspondence in today's agenda) and give it serious consideration. Things are not as rosy in the EU as has been portrayed to both the public and to Councillors here in Durham. It can't be easy to ignore over thirty-three thousand physicians when you continue to tell us that your first priority (as is ours) is that it be SAFE.

Thank you for your time.

Kerry Meydam
Courtice, Ontario

Appeal from the health and healthcare sector against the reclassification of incineration in the WFD

11 June 2008

In view of the upcoming vote on the Waste Framework Directive (WFD) we, the undersigned physicians and Associations, would like to ask the plenary of the European Parliament to take into account health considerations when voting in the WFD and therefore **oppose the reclassification of “efficient incineration” as recovery.**

We are concerned the efficiency formula which reclassifies incineration only takes into account energy efficiency considerations and not health or environmental repercussions. The current proposal upgrades incineration, which we believe is the wrong signal to send to the European citizens.

More waste burnt means more man-made toxics in the ecosystems, more fine particles in the air and more bottom ash and fly ash in the ground. We regret that we are going to see the amount of waste being incinerated increasing in the next years which would put even more fellow Europeans under risk.

Moreover, we are sadly surprised that the rapporteur of the Waste Framework Directive, Ms Caroline Jackson, claims that the health effects from incinerators are negligible.(1) Several recent studies of wide samples of population continue to reveal the threat that incinerators pose to human health in Europe and around the world.(2) Ultrafine particles emissions are still not monitored anywhere in Europe, even though the danger these particles pose is well documented.(3)(4)

We are also concerned about the image that the EU is giving to the rest of the world by being a resource-burning economy. We believe the current Waste Framework Directive falls short in ensuring that the waste will be properly separated and making sure the best waste management option will be applied. Progressive recycling targets are needed to redirect waste away from incinerators into cleaner processes.

We therefore ask the European Parliament to reconsider its decision regarding the reclassification of incineration and **stick to its first reading position**, which we believe will do far more to preserve children’s health and the health of future European generations. **We, the undersigned organisations, represent over 33,000 doctors.**

Signed,

ISDE International Society of Doctors for the Environment, representing 30,000 doctors worldwide
President Professor C. Vyvyan Howard. MB. ChB. PhD. FRCPath.
Bioimaging Research Group - Centre for Molecular Bioscience University of Ulster - Cromore Road - Coleraine BT52 1SA

Italian physicians and healthcare associations

Dr. J.Andreas von Lutterotti - Ordine dei Medici della Provincia di Bolzano, Italy
Dott. Giuseppe Miserotti - Presidente Ordine dei Medici Piacenza
Dott. Giovanni Ghirgha Pediatra - Portavoce per il Lazio del Coordinamento Nazionale dei Medici per l'Ambiente e la Salute
Dott. Patrizia Gentilini Oncologo Portavoce per l' Emilia Romagna del Coordinamento Nazionale dei Medici per l' Ambiente e la Salute
Dott.ssa Gabriella Filippazzo Igenista Direttivo Nazionale Arcidonna Italia
Dott.ssa Laura Ridolfi Oncologo Forlì
Dott Valerio Gennaro Epidemiologo Genova
Dott. Giovanni Vantaggi GP Gubbio
Dott. Giuseppina Abbate Psichiatra Palermo
Dott. Celestino Panizza Medico del Lavoro Brescia
Dott. Michelangiolo Bolognini Igenista Pistoia
Dott Ruggero Ridolfi MD Oncologist, Endocrinologist - Medicina Democratica
FB-Franco BORGHI Intn'l Trading & Consulting
Paolo Paolucci - Direttore Dipartimento Integrato Materno Infantile, Scuola di Specializzazione in Pediatria, U.O. di Ematologia, Oncologia e Trapianto di CSE.
Azienda
Ospedaliero-Universitaria, Policlinico di Modena, Italy Prof Federico Valerio,
Environmental Chemistry Lab. National Institute for Cancer Research, Genoa
Dott..sa Francesca Cigala Psichiatra Ferrara Medicina Democratica o.n.l.u.s
Dott Michelangiolo Bolognini - Medico Igenista - Piatonia
Mr Jerzy Ziaja – Chairman National Recycling Business Council (OIGR)

ARTAC - Association for Research and Treatments Against Cancer, France
Professor D. Belpomme MD. Oncologist, PhD. Paris.

Collectif des médecins de Clermont Ferrand - Coordination Nationale Médicale Santé Environnement (CNMSE), France - representing 3,000 doctors
Docteur Jean-Michel Calut

Association Santé Environnement Provence (ASEP), France – representing 400 doctors
Docteur Pierre Souvet

References

- (1) <http://tinyurl.com/657usk>
- (2) 2008 *Etude d'incidence des cancers à proximité des usines d'incinération d'ordures ménagères* [French epidemiological study, 2.5 million people] - Pascal Fabre, Côme Daniau, Sarah Gorla, Perrine de Crouy-Chanel, Pascal Empereur-Bissonnet
- (3) <http://tinyurl.com/5r92mj> (pdf)
- (4) <http://www.noharm.org/details.cfm?ID=1841&type=document>