

Metroland

Oshawa councillor urges Clarington not to host incinerator

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By Jillian Follert and Jennifer Stone

CLARINGTON -- An Oshawa councillor says his city should also have a say in whether an incinerator is built in Clarington.

On Monday, the City's strategic initiatives committee will consider Coun. Brian Nicholson's motion for Oshawa to tell the Region it is not a willing recipient of any waste discharged into the air from a proposed incinerator in Clarington

"They're only consulting with Clarington, but it's not like there's a bubble over it," he said. "A lot of the fumes and materials from an incinerator in Clarington will fly over Oshawa, I think it's important that this council take a position on this."

Coun. Nicholson's motion also urges Clarington to indicate it is not a willing host municipality for an incinerator and asks the regions of Durham and York to commit to a protocol that would not allow an incinerator to be built in a community that is not a willing host.

Coun. Nicholson said he's been against the idea of an incinerator from day one. He believes councillors have been fed some bad information on the safety of burning trash, including the idea that 95 per cent of what comes out of smoke stacks at the top of an incinerator is water vapour.

"They don't tell you that the other five per cent could kill you," he contended Wednesday.

That it could be located so close to Oshawa is a concern, said Coun. Nicholson.

"No one's asking the neighbour municipalities," he said. "This is located on the Oshawa - Clarington townline and Oshawa isn't being consulted."

It's time for the Region to take another look at how it's going to handle waste management, he said.

"Is this the best we can do? I don't think it is," he said of the incineration proposal.