

**Metroland News**

## **Don't leap at sites or chosen technology based on price, say consultants**

### **Clarington opts to delay comments on EFW to Region for a week**

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***By Jennifer Stone***

CLARINGTON -- Don't leap into site selection until technology is chosen and ensure the best possible -- not necessarily one that simply meets requirements -- technology is used before acting as a willing host to an energy-from-waste, or waste incineration, facility, consultants told Clarington councillors Monday.

This came as welcome news to **the 200-300 protestors** who took to the streets around Clarington's town hall prior to the meeting. Many chose to state their concerns directly to councillors.

The first three hours of a marathon General Purpose and Administration meeting, which didn't wrap up until after 2 a.m., were taken up by three consultants hired by Clarington to independently review the work done to date by the regions of Durham and York on the Environmental Assessment (EA) into the proposed facility.

Dr. Tony Van der Vooren, of AMEC, spoke on the subject of air quality and said it's imperative Clarington get assurance that the best possible technology -- not simply technology that will meet Ministry of Environment guidelines -- be chosen. He likened it to buying a vehicle, saying it's legal to buy an enormous SUV but it may be more ethical to buy a smaller, more environmentally friendly vehicle.

"The real challenge here is not can the technology do better (than Ministry guidelines stipulate) because we know it can," he said. "The question is how do we get the regions to get the technology that will do better."

Both he and Steven Rowe, who did an analysis of the site-selection process, indicated there may be some issue with choosing the site absent a technology being chosen.

The original terms of reference for the EA indicate "it's best not to finalize site selection until you know what the technology will be and they (the regions) seem to have drifted away from that a bit," said Mr. Rowe, suggesting it might be best to carry two sites forward into the technology selection process.

"We don't absolutely know that when they've found the final preferred exact technology, that it will be valid," he said.

Only two of the 25 listed delegations spoke in favour of the project.

The process has been "flawed from the very beginning, by the lack of sufficient study of the alternatives to the waste disposal process," said Barry Bracken, who has grandchildren who

live in Clarington. "From the beginning, the focus has been on incineration as the preferred solution."

Given issues raised by both the consultants and the public, councillors chose to put off by a week submitting the reports to the regions as Clarington's official comments.

"It's just a way of letting us as councillors hear the reports and giving us a little bit of time to mull it over and make sure we're satisfied with the report going to the regions," said Regional Councillor Charlie Trim.