

## Committee backs Clarington incinerator site

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An incinerator to dispose of York and Durham's trash should be built in Clarington, a committee decided today.

The Durham/York Residual Waste Study Joint Management Group has voted to accept a consultant's recommendation to build the facility at the corner of Hwy. 401 and Courtice Road.

The short list of sites that was considered included one in East Gwillimbury and four in Clarington.

The committee that included members of York and Durham councils, voted to accept the site after a presentation from Jim McKay, a consultant with Jaques Whitford. Before the vote, the group also heard from residents, all of whom opposed to the incinerator.

Among the advantages for choosing the Clarington site is the fact that it is the shortest route for the transportation of waste from the two regions and there are the least number of residences within a 1 km radius of the site, Mr. McKay said.

He noted, however, that it's close to Hwy. 401 and heavy traffic already makes air quality an issue in the area.

While this would not be an issue at the East Gwillimbury site, Mr. McKay said the remoteness of that site makes transporting waste there less efficient.

Residents who spoke out did so against the idea of the facility rather than the sites that were chosen.

"I'd like us to pause for a moment and reconsider the wisdom of this tact," Uxbridge resident June Davies said.

Clarington resident Linda Gasser believes the energy from waste study has been skewed toward incineration from the very beginning.

"This very public infatuation with incineration could make us vulnerable to vendors, and more easily taken for a financial ride," she said.

Prior to the vote, Markham Regional Councillor Jack Heath raised concerns over some residents' claims the proper process had not been followed and expressed a desire to have the questions answered before the committee approaches regional council for a vote on whether or not to accept the Clarington site.

"What are we going to do to bend over backwards to make sure we minimize those process issues?" he asked the committee.

"There will always be people who object to the process because they're not getting the answers they want," Durham's Works Commissioner Cliff Curtis responded.

A public meeting will be held in Newmarket to discuss the recommendation Oct. 23, from 4 to 10 p.m. with a formal presentation to begin at 7 p.m. at Roman Palace Banquet Hall, 1096 Ringwell Dr., Newmarket.