

Public information sessions to detail site selection for incinerator

Tue Oct 02, 2007

By: By Jennifer Stone

CLARINGTON -- Two upcoming public meetings in Clarington, including one this Wednesday, Oct. 3, will provide an overview and information on the consultant's preferred site for a potential incinerator.

The Region's consultant has named an area in Courtice, near Courtice Road and Hwy. 401, as the recommended preferred site for the incinerator to handle trash left over after diversion. Durham and York's Joint Waste Management Group have accepted the recommendation but it has not yet gone to Regional council.

The first public information session will be held Oct. 3 from 2 to 11 p.m. at the Garnet B. Rickard Recreation Complex, 2440 King St. W. in Bowmanville. From 2 to 8:30 p.m., there will be an informal drop-in session, followed by a more formal presentation and question and answer session at 9 p.m.

The relatively late timing of the presentation and question and answer session had come under fire by many residents who questioned whether the time was meant to discourage public participation.

"There are an awful lot of people who won't be able to go at 9 p.m.," Kerry Meydam told Clarington's General Purpose and Administration Committee Monday. "It's a weeknight. A lot of people commute to Toronto or beyond and have to leave very early in the morning."

That the consultant's presentation, recorded during last week's Joint Waste Management Group, will be played on a constant loop during the seven-hour meeting doesn't help, she said.

"The question and answer is really the most interesting part," she said.

The timing was meant to help accommodate people who don't get home until later in the evening, Regional Chairman Roger Anderson said last week.

The Oct. 3 meeting had originally been the only consultation scheduled for Clarington during this part of the process. However, after urging from residents and some Clarington councillors, there will now be a second meeting.

"I know that holding another public meeting will probably cost a lot of money and a lot of the people we've heard from haven't changed their opinions since day one no matter what they hear from health studies," but still, there will be another meeting, said Mr. Anderson.

It will be held Tuesday, Oct. 9, from 2 to 10 p.m. at Faith United Church, 1778 Nash Rd., Courtice. The informal drop-in session will be held from 2 to 7:30 p.m. The formal presentation and question and answer session is slated for 8 p.m.