

## **Incinerator meeting should have been in Clarington**

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By: Metroland Durham Region Media Group

Imagine if a crucial information meeting regarding nuclear operations at Pickering or Darlington were held in, say, Kingston. What do you think the reaction would be?

That's a similar scenario to the one being played out right now with the proposed energy from waste (or incinerator) facility that would be built in Courtice and would deal almost entirely with Durham trash. The key information meeting for where the process currently sits will be held Tuesday in, wait for it, Newmarket.

Newmarket?

While it's true York Region is a partner in the proposal, it's commitment is only for 12 per cent of the trash and the incinerator will almost certainly be constructed far from the York Region border.

Not only is the meeting in Newmarket -- at the York Region Administrative Centre, 17250 Yonge St. -- but it begins at 1 p.m., not exactly the best time for the many people with a keen interest in this project.

By all rights this meeting, which will reveal the results of an evaluation to build an incinerator in Courtice, should take place in Clarington. No other community has more riding on the final decision of the committee and no other municipality has followed the process more intensely. If not Clarington, surely the meeting should at least be in Durham Region.

But it seems as though it will take place far from where the action is, at a time when few will be able to make it.

Those who have long been suspicious about the entire energy from waste proposal will merely have more fuel for the fire. They'll have some justification for believing such a meeting is merely window dressing and that their worries about incineration are not being taken seriously.

A full-blown meeting in Clarington starting in the early evening would have drawn a big crowd and would have allowed all those with an interest in the outcome a fair chance to express their views.

While it's true that there will be further meetings at each regional council to review the committee's findings, this was an important chance to hear the public. And it has been missed, which is a pity.