

## **Clarington host community agreement may be delayed until fall**

Sun Jun 08, 2008

By Reka Szekely

DURHAM -- It may not be until the fall before the Region of Durham and the Municipality of Clarington finalize a host community agreement for the proposed incinerator.

Originally, Regional councillors were to consider endorsing the agreement at committee meetings on June 10, however, Durham works Commissioner Cliff Curtis said there's still no consensus.

"Staff couldn't come to an agreement between Clarington and Durham staff, so it will need some political direction," he said. He added Clarington has a council meeting on Monday, so staff may get some direction then.

Once the negotiations are complete, Clarington and Regional council would both have to approve it,

"It likely won't happen until the fall because the last (Regional) council meeting is a week from next Wednesday," said Mr. Curtis.

Even if Clarington was to approve an agreement on Monday, Mr. Curtis doesn't think Regional councillors would be ready to endorse it on Tuesday.

"This is something I wouldn't want to do as a handout report to councillors, it's not fair," he said.

If it's not approved by committee, the agreement wouldn't go to the last council meeting before summer break on June 18.

The negotiations have been confidential and Mr. Curtis said he doesn't expect the public to get a look at the agreement until it's been approved by both councils.

Clarington Mayor Jim Abernethy said his council will continue to meet every other week until July 14 and he's hoping the issue will be resolved as soon as possible. He added, if necessary, Clarington could hold special council meetings to deal with the issue, outside of the current schedule.

"It's an ongoing negotiation and there are some items that both sides are working on," he said.

Both Mr. Curtis and Mayor Abernethy said they couldn't discuss the contents of the agreement since the negotiations are confidential.

Mayor Abernethy also said Clarington was negotiating under the assumption that the site-specific human health assessment, to be released in spring 2009, would have a positive result.

"I suppose you can say if it's not positive, there won't be a project and if there's no project, there won't be a need for a host community agreement."

In January, Clarington council passed a motion declaring the municipality an unwilling host for the incinerator. The host community negotiations have been underway for about a year.