

Wednesday, June 25, 2008

## **EFW criteria compromised according to councillor**

Councillor Brian Nicholson was unsuccessful in his effort to make sure the technology used in the proposed York/Durham incinerator is, in his words, "the best of the best".

Regional Council had to make decisions on a number of revisions to the Energy From Waste (EFW) Air Emission Criteria. The revisions were recommended by the Region's Works Department.

The Regions of York and Durham are currently involved in the environmental assessment for an EFW for a site in Courtice which was selected as the preferred site.

Nicholson attempted to amend the recommendation by replacing the word "a" by the word "the" in the paragraph which read, ". . . that the proposed EFW facility has continuous sampling of dioxins and furans using a state of the art monitoring system . . ."

According to Nicholson, a councillor from Oshawa, using "a" state of the art monitoring system, doesn't necessarily mean you are using the most effective state of the art monitoring system. "It doesn't say 'the' state of the art, it says 'a' state of the art facility," Nicholson said. "It's like buying 'a' hifi, not the best hifi. It is a subtle difference, but it is a key difference," he stated.

"Whether you're on the pro or anti incineration side, the one thing we agreed upon is the absolute commitment to the 'best of the best'," Nicholson said.

Nicholson introduced a motion at the January 23rd Regional Council meeting which stated, "that the Joint Waste Management Group of the Regions of York and Durham be requested to agree to protect the health and safety of the residents of Clarington and Durham by incorporating into the design and installation of the EFW facility the most modern and state of the art emission control technologies that meet or exceed the EU monitory and measurement standards." This motion carried unanimously in a recorded vote.

If that is our position, we must ensure that every way through the process we don't step back, and not keep the commitment we made to the people of Durham Region," Nicholson said at Wednesday's Regional Council meeting.

"Somehow the word 'a' which means, 'somewhere in the family of equipment', has crept in there," Nicholson Wednesday. "I'm only asking that we be consistent with our previous motion."

Nicholson's amendment was lost in a 15 to 10 vote on Wednesday. Clarington's Regional Councillor Mary Novak did vote in support of Nicholson's motion, Councillors Charlie Trim and Mayor Jim Abernethy did not.

Regional Staff are in negotiation with the Ministry of the Environment (MOE) to finalize the EFW emission limits. Once the operational limits have been accepted by the MOE the Regions can move to the next stage -- Request For Proposals -- from their list of pre-qualified vendors.