

Thursday, June 25, 2009

For Immediate Release

York Regional Council approves EA submission for the proposed Durham-York energy-from-waste facility

Environmental Assessment will be submitted to the Province of Ontario for approval

NEWMARKET – York Regional Council today approved the final Environmental Assessment submission for the proposed Durham-York energy-from-waste (EFW) facility. The comprehensive submission, containing several years of study dating back to 2005, was approved by Durham Regional Council yesterday and will now be submitted to the Ministry of Environment for final approval.

“After many years of rigorous public consultation, research, analysis and hard work, we are pleased to see the Environmental Assessment moving forward to the Province,” said York Region Chairman and CEO Bill Fisch. “York Region is committed to safe and sustainable management of residual waste and the proposed energy-from-waste facility provides an important link in our long-term waste management strategy.”

York Region partnered with Durham Region on the Durham-York Residual Waste Environmental Assessment Study in 2005 to find a way to manage garbage remaining after reusing, recycling and composting efforts. The EA process identified the preferred site in the Municipality of Clarington, as well as a preferred vendor, Covanta Energy Corporation, for building and operating the facility.

“Diversion will continue to be our number one priority during and after the Provincial review of the EA submission,” said City of Vaughan Regional Councillor Mario Ferri, Chair of the Region’s Solid Waste Committee. “Diversifying our residual waste management options, while aggressively maintaining our diversion programs, will make us stronger in both the short and long term.”

York Regional Council is dedicated to increasing waste diversion and has committed to diverting 65 per cent of waste from landfill by 2010.

York Region’s commitment to the proposed 140,000-tonne-per-year facility will be 30,000 tonnes annually with an option for additional future capacity, if required. The proposed technology combusts residual waste at high temperatures. High pressure steam produced through the process generates electricity and/or hot water energy.

Subject to receiving all necessary approvals by early 2010, it is anticipated that construction of the facility could be completed in late 2013. If approved, York Region’s share of the estimated capital cost for the design and construction of the proposed EFW facility is \$50 million of a total estimated capital cost of \$235 million.

For more information on the Durham-York Residual Waste Environmental Assessment Study, please visit the Study’s website: www.durhamyorkwaste.ca or call the Study’s hotline toll-free at 1-866-398-4423.

For more information on The Regional Municipality of York, please visit www.york.ca

- 30 -

Media Contact: Kim MacGillivray, Corporate Communications, York Region
Phone: 905 830-4444 Ext. 1209 / Cell: 905 251-6412
Email: kim.macgillivray@york.ca

Media Backgrounder

Durham-York Residual Waste EA Study Project Timeline

Milestones achieved in 2005:	Month
York Region joins Durham Region in partnership on the Durham-York Residual Waste Environmental Assessment (EA) Study	April
Public consultation sessions/workshops on development of EA Terms of Reference held in York Region	May/June/ September/October
Milestones achieved in 2006:	Month
Study EA Terms of Reference approved by the Minister of the Environment	March
Public consultation on disposal alternatives and the proposed evaluation methodology	March
Public consultation on identification and recommendation of thermal treatment as the preferred disposal option	May
Alternative technologies evaluated and thermal treatment identified as preferred technology for project	June
Public and agency consultation on proposed methodology and criteria for facility siting	September
Milestones achieved in 2007:	Month
Short-list of potential facility sites approved at Durham and York Regional Councils. Public consultations conducted in York and Durham Regions	April
Generic Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessment public consultations conducted in York and Durham Regions	June/July
Consultants announce Clarington 01 as the recommended preferred site for a thermal treatment facility	September
Public consultations on recommended preferred site	October/November
Milestones achieved in 2008:	Month
Durham and York Regional Councils accept the preferred site in Clarington	January
Durham and York Regional Councils receive and accept short-list of qualified technology vendors	January
Site specific studies (Baseline Environmental, Archeological, Geotechnical, Natural Environment) initiated on preferred site	Spring/Summer
Durham and York Regions release Request for Proposal (RFP) for the design, construction, operation and maintenance of an energy-from-waste (EFW) facility	August

... Continued on Page 2

Milestones achieved in 2009:	Month
RFP Closes - Durham and York Regions receive four qualified vendor proposals and begin review process	February
Initial site-specific studies and assessments on preferred site released to the public for review	February
Report identifying Covanta as the preferred vendor accepted by Durham Regional Council	April
Draft Interim EA documents released to the public as part of the Durham/York Residual Waste Study	April
Remaining site-specific studies and assessments on preferred site released to the public for review	May
Public consultation in Durham Region on draft EA submission	May
Report identifying Covanta as the preferred vendor accepted by York Regional Council	May
EA submission for the Durham/York EFW facility approved by Durham and York Regional Councils	June

Future plans in July 2009 and beyond:	Month
EA submitted to the Ministry of the Environment for approval	July
EA review period	Summer 2009 to late 2009
Provincial EA comments back to Durham and York Regional Councils	Early 2010
Decision on final award of contract for the preferred vendor by Durham and York Regional Councils	Early 2010
Commencement of facility construction following regulatory approvals	Mid 2010

For more information on the Durham/York Residual Waste Study, please visit the Study's website: www.durhamyorkwaste.ca or call the Study's hotline toll-free at 1-866-398-4423.

For more information on The Regional Municipality of York, please visit www.york.ca

- 30 -

Media Contact: *Kim MacGillivray, Corporate Communications, York Region*
Phone: 905 830-4444, ext. 1209 or Cell: 905 251-6412
Email: kim.macgillivray@york.ca



Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Recover: Managing our waste

The Regional Municipality of York provides safe and sustainable waste diversion and disposal programs and services to a population of over one million residents. York Region's responsibilities in our community include:

- Planning, processing and marketing of Blue Box, Green Bin, yard waste and other programs
- Management of public dropoff depots for reusable, recyclable and disposable items
- Transportation and disposal of municipally-collected garbage

Each of the nine local municipalities in York Region are responsible for residential curbside collection of waste, Blue Box recyclables, Green Bin organics and yard waste. They are also responsible for the sale of Blue Boxes and Green Bins to residents.

York Regional Council is dedicated to achieving a minimum of 65 per cent waste diversion from landfill by the end of 2010 and 75 per cent waste diversion in the long-term through our waste diversion programs.

NEW - Community Environmental Centre

York Region will open its first Community Environmental Centre in the City of Vaughan in July 2009. The new facility at 130 McCleary Court in the City of Vaughan provides residents with a convenient location for reuse, recycling and disposal. Materials accepted include styrofoam, shredded paper, furniture, building supplies and bulky recyclables such as wood, drywall and scrap metal. Project partners Habitat for Humanity York Region and Goodwill Industries ensure quality reusable materials are returned to the community and given a second life. For hours of operation, please visit www.york.ca/waste or call 1-877-464-9675.

Blue Box Recycling

York Region's recycling program is "co-mingled", meaning residents can place all recyclables in the same Blue Box without sorting. Items accepted include rigid plastic food and household cleaning product containers, aluminum foil, cans and trays, steel cans, plastic and glass bottles, milk and juice cartons, cardboard, boxboard and paper. Blue Box recyclables collected by the local municipalities are delivered to York Region's Waste Management Centre in the Town of East Gwillimbury where they are sorted, baled and sent to recycling markets.

Green Bin Organics

The Green Bin program allows residents to divert household organics from landfill. Items accepted include food waste, pet waste, diapers, household plants and soiled paper products such as paper towels, facial tissue, pizza boxes and microwave popcorn bags. Residents are currently allowed to use plastic bags to line their containers, but are encouraged to make the switch to environmentally-friendly certified compostable bags to reduce even more waste. Once Green Bin organics are collected by the local municipality, they are transported to one of two Ontario composting facilities under contract to York Region.

Household Hazardous Waste (HHW)

York Region manages four HHW depots where residents can properly dispose of hazardous materials found at home, free of charge. Items accepted include compact fluorescent light bulbs, paints, pesticides, batteries, medicine, household cleaners, nail polish, needles and syringes. For depot locations and hours of operation, please visit www.york.ca/waste or call 1-877-464-9675.

Electronic Waste (e-waste)

York Region provides public dropoff depots for recycling and proper disposal of e-waste. Items accepted include TVs, computers, monitors, printers, cell phones, electronic games, stereos, VCRs and DVD players. For depot locations and hours of operation, please visit www.york.ca/waste or call 1-877-464-9675. Additional e-waste dropoff locations are also available throughout Ontario. For more information, please visit www.dowhatyoucan.ca

Dongara

The Regional Municipality of York has a long-term contract with the new Dongara facility in the City of Vaughan. As a customer of the new plant, York Region will be sending 100,000 tonnes of residual waste to Dongara annually. Dongara manufactures an engineered fuel product from residual waste. This fuel product can be used as an industrial energy source, such as an alternative to coal. This local solution will be used to manage waste remaining after our continued diversion efforts and will reduce our need for landfills.

Durham/York Residual Waste Environmental Assessment Study

York Region has partnered with Durham Region on the Durham-York Residual Waste Environmental Assessment Study to find a safe, long-term solution for managing residual waste remaining after our diversion efforts. A final project submission proposing an energy-from-waste facility at a location in the Municipality of Clarington was approved by York and Durham Regional Councils in June and will be submitted to the Ministry of the Environment for final approval. York Region could potentially send 30,000 tonnes of waste per year to the proposed 140,000 tonnes per year facility. For more information, please visit www.durhamyorkwaste.ca

For more information on York Region Solid Waste Management programs and services, please visit www.york.ca/waste



For more information please contact:
York Region Corporate Communications
tel: 905 830-4444 / toll free: 1-877-464-9675 ext, 1234

Visit us online:
www.york.ca