



March 19, 2013

The Regional
Municipality
of Durham

Works Department

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C.R. Curtis, P.Eng., MBA
Commissioner of Works

Regional Clerk
The Regional Municipality of York
17250 Yonge Street
Newmarket, ON L3Y 6Z1

Attention: Mr. Denis Kelly, Regional Clerk

Re: By-law 2011-56 – Regional Sewer Use Bylaw

Over the years, Durham Region staff have consistently advised against the use of food waste grinders. The research recently conducted by CH2M Hill as well as past investigations in 2005 and 2007 have demonstrated that increased total biological oxygen demand and solids loadings from food waste grinders would require increased capital and operating costs for the York Durham Duffin Creek Water Pollution Control Plant. In addition Durham staff have also cited impacts to odour control facilities that have been constructed and expanded to manage perceived odours.

During the design phase of the most recent expansion of Duffin Creek WPCP, energy harvesting from biosolid digestion was considered, but discarded at the time, due to little economic gain. With its current design, the plant is effective at reducing energy demands through steam generation for domestic and process heating.

The current Plant Superintendent is Cordell Samuels at the Duffin Creek Water Pollution Control Plant, which is jointly owned by the Regional Municipalities of York and Durham. He has over 30 years of plant operating and management experience, including 18 years at the Ashbridges Bay Water Pollution Control Plant in Toronto. He has also been actively involved in the wastewater industry having held leadership positions with the Water Environment Association of Ontario and the Water Environment Federation. Currently, Cordell is the 2013 President of the Water Environment Federation, which is headquartered in the United States, and has a membership of over 80,000 people.

As the superintendent of the Duffin Creek WPCP and as a professional within the field, Cordell and the plant operations team promote the efficient and cost effective operations of our wastewater treatment plants to maintain high quality effluent in a heavily regulated industry for the protection of water resources.

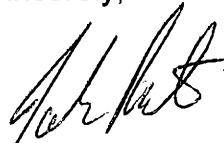
Durham Region has an aggressive plan to divert 70 percent of waste from disposal which relies heavily on its residential Green Bin and Home Composting organics source separation programs. The success of these programs has come from investments in the hundreds of millions of dollars by Durham Region and other Ontario municipalities over the last decade in developing collection systems, processing technologies and the end markets that return high grade compost to Ontario soils as well as the regulations that govern the growing Ontario composting industry. It has also come from the significant acceptance of Durham's residents which results in a high participation in these programs. Durham's investment in composting, since its program started in 2004 exceeds \$65 million. To allow the use of food waste grinders at this point will erode the supply of compost material and negate the significant investments that Durham, other Ontario municipalities and their residents have made to develop Ontario's growing composting industry and keep organic wastes out of landfill.

Durham Region is in the process of updating its Sewer Use Bylaw. Public comment and input was requested from August 21 to September 30, 2012. In addition, further meetings have taken place in order to meet with various stake holders. The proposed changes include the potential prohibition of new installations of food waste grinders for single family residential units within the Region of Durham which is subject to Works Committee and Regional Council approval. It is expected that the updated bylaw will be brought before Durham Region Council this year for their consideration and approval.

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We look forward to continuing our cooperative relationship with York Region to deliver sustainable wastewater services to our residents.

Sincerely,



John Presta, P. Eng.
Director, Environmental Services

Cc: Cliff Curtis, Commissioner, Works
Mirka Januszkiewicz, Director, Waste Management
Greg Lymer, Manager, Technical Support
Thom Soley, Manager, Plant Operations, Durham Region
Cordell Samuels, Superintendent, Duffin Creek
Erin Mahoney, Commissioner, Environmental Services, York
Laura McDowell, Director, Environmental Promotion and
Protection, Environmental Services, York Region