

From: Kelly, Denis
Sent: July 3, 2008 3:16 PM
To: Price, Karin
Subject: FW: JWMG delegation - June 24 2008

Attachments: bertrand-jwmg-2008-06-24.pdf



bertrand-jwmg-2008-06-24.pdf (...)

-----Original Message-----

From: Heath, Jack [mailto:jheath@markham.ca]
Sent: Thursday, July 03, 2008 3:06 PM
To: Kelly, Denis; Mahoney, Erin
Subject: FW: JWMG delegation - June 24 2008

This is the other piece of correspondence from Joint Waste for our Solid Waste Committee.

Jack Heath
Deputy Mayor of Markham
905-415-7506 Cell 416-464-5517
jheath@markham.ca

-----Original Message-----

From: Louis Bertrand [mailto:louis@bertrandtech.ca]
Sent: June 25, 2008 9:38 AM
To: cheryl bandel
Cc: Linda Gasser; Jeremy Woodcock; Heath, Jack; Bonnie Littlely
Subject: JWMG delegation - June 24 2008

Hello,

Please find attached the text of my delegation to Durham-York JWMG to be added to the minutes of the meeting Tuesday June 24.

Thank you
--Louis

--
Louis Bertrand <louis@bertrandtech.ca>
Bowmanville ON Canada
905-623-8925

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Delegation to Durham-York Joint Waste Management Group
Tuesday June 24 2008

Louis Bertrand, P.Eng.
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905-623-8925

[Final text - June 25, 2008. Edited after hearing presentation by project team consultants and comments in response to making the delegation]

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, staff and the public, good afternoon.

I was disappointed at Durham region council's decision May 28 to refer the matter of baseline and ongoing health impact monitoring to this group. No offense intended, but my understanding is that the primary focus here is on engineering and project management. Chair Trim and Commissioner Curtis did correct me that health is also a concern of this group.

Baseline monitoring involves surveying the health of the ecosystem including plants, birds, animals, fish and humans in the vicinity of the designated site before construction, to establish a "before" snapshot. The ongoing monitoring after the incinerator goes into operation is needed to ensure there is no increase in the illnesses normally associated with incinerators: rare cancers, breathing impairments and cardio-vascular disease.

Health monitoring is important to this project. As many councillors have stated before, one of the most important questions -- if not the most -- to be answered before the incinerator is built is "Is it safe?". Last year's generic human health and environmental impact study did not answer that conclusively, nor will the site specific study. Those studies are not conclusive because they are simply estimates of risk based on computer models of dispersion of pollutants in the air. They don't account for bio-accumulation of specific toxins, nor do they even come close to modelling the synergistic effects of multiple pollutants -- working together to produce unexpected consequences.

I strongly recommend that this working group refer the matter to the regional medical officers of health, for both York and Durham. I also suggest that Durham's Health and Social Services committee and York's Health and Emergency Medical Services committee are the proper standing committees to deal with the issue and make recommendations to both councils. That Durham's Medical Officer of Health is involved is obvious because of the location of the incinerator within Durham. However, York's Medical Officer of Health should also be involved to ensure that York region, which plans to send material to the incinerator, does due diligence and pre-empts any future legal liability.

The subject of environmental and health monitoring is complicated, and so is the material presented today by the consultants. It is unrealistic for this group and the public to be able to understand and evaluate the scope and quality of what is being presented here in the time permitted. Such health monitoring can be expensive, and you only get one shot at it: both councils should ensure that the work is conducted by an experienced and credible team, and that the research protocol be independently reviewed beforehand by an impartial and reputable third party.

There are several approaches that would enable us to understand the long term effects. Dr. Ollson discussed using the results of Health Canada's comprehensive national health study. I would suggest that a detailed study using the same protocol as Health Canada would provide the necessary focus on the neighbouring population with a valid comparison with national data. This is a unique and valuable opportunity and should be enthusiastically pursued.

Another approach is to use statistical epidemiology as was done by the National Public Health Institute of France (InVS - Institut national de veille sanitaire), where incidences of cancer over 10 years were correlated with patterns of fallout from residential waste incinerators [1]. By capturing a baseline of incidences of cancer locally through health records at Lakeridge Health, there can be a follow-up later. Epidemiological studies do not show direct cause and effect, but high correlations are an indicator to direct further research.

Coming back to that May 28 decision to defer allocating funds to on-going health monitoring while preserving \$9 million for "enhanced architectural features", \$1 million for a "viewing gallery", and a half million dollars for an "education centre", I would like to conclude by quoting the motto of the York Region Police service:

"Deeds Speak".

Please implement the following recommendations:

- * Allocate part of the capital and operating budgets for the facility for comprehensive and rigorous environmental and health monitoring;
- * Refer the health monitoring to the respective regional medical officers of health and boards of health; and
- * Ensure that this monitoring be done by an independent agency, at arms length from the operator.

Thank you

[1] Institut national de veille sanitaire. "Incidence of cancers near municipal solid waste incinerators", Mar 27, 2008

http://www.invs.sante.fr/publications/2008/rapport_uiom/index.html