



MEMORANDUM

TO: Regional Chair Fisch
Mayor William F. Bell, Chair, Solid Waste Management Committee, and
Members of the Solid Waste Management Committee

COPY: Michael Garrett, Chief Administrative Officer

FROM: Kees Schipper, P.Eng.,
Commissioner of Transportation and Works Department

DATE: August 22, 2003

RE: **GTA Waste Management Initiatives**

Over the last few months, there has been an increasing concern with waste from the GTA being landfilled in Michigan. Michigan State and the federal government in the United States have been discussing draft legislation of ways to eliminate or reduce the amount of waste being imported from Canada.

Chair Fisch held a meeting on July 3rd with the Heads of Council and staff from the York, Peel, Durham and Toronto, and the Ministry of the Environment to discuss the possibility of a coordinated action plan on waste management in the GTA. Subsequent meetings were held on July 15th and 19th with staff and the MOE. These meetings were very constructive and positive, as all GTA municipalities are affected if there is a problem shipping waste to Michigan. The reality though is that there are no short-term solutions, as there physically is not capacity in Ontario landfill sites. There was a consensus that the solution is to increase waste diversion efforts and evaluate emerging waste management technologies to minimize the amount of residual waste requiring landfilling. It is also important to ensure that government officials in Michigan and Washington understand our issues and not close the border.

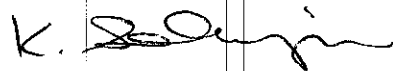
The following are the action plans agreed to by GTA staff:

1. York, Peel and Durham will evaluate new technologies through Toronto's current Request for Expression of Interest (REOI). All municipalities will share the cost of the review. It is further proposed that companies who are short-listed through the REOI review submit proposals for a technology demonstration pilot in York Region. It is expected that this short list of companies will be presented to York Region's Committee and Council in October so that an RFP could be issued by November.

2. York and Toronto will jointly issue an RFP for long-term source separated organic (SSO) waste processing. There is a total of 220,000 tonnes per year of SSO and it is expected that a minimum of three plants will be required. This RFP will be issued in September and will close in late November. Final results will be available for Committee and Council in January.
3. York, Peel, Durham and Toronto will jointly engage a communications consultant in Michigan and Washington to ensure our message is effectively stated.
4. York, Peel, Durham and Toronto require long-term yard waste and SSO compost finishing capacity. It was agreed that there needs to be a coordinated approach to this issue.

As a result of these initiatives, the GTA municipalities will be able to clearly demonstrate progress in finding a solution to minimize waste exports to Michigan. It is also expected that the MOE can be more effectively engaged to deal with any approvals of new technologies through this coordinated effort.

In summary, staff are moving quickly with the GTA municipalities to find a solution to minimize waste exports. The next meeting of the group is tentatively scheduled for September 30. Staff will report to Committee and Council in September.



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