

Discussions get off ground on private landfill proposal

Despite a request from company officials for a favorable or unfavorable reaction, Halton region councillors have coolly authorized further discussions of a proposal by National Sewer Pipe Ltd. to establish a 68-acre landfill site in rural Burlington where some 3 million tons of garbage from across Halton could be buried.

Some members of the region's Solid Waste Management Committee (SWMC), however, wanted company officials told in no uncertain terms that any costs related to the development of National's shale quarry for landfilling would have to be borne by the company itself.

Others contended that the

studies already conducted by National consultants and soon to be undertaken by the provincial ministry of environment would suffice without any expenditure of regional funds on a third exploratory study.

Nevertheless, the SWMC recommendation which will come before regional council this week would see discussions continue at three levels involving the committee the city of Burlington, the company and Kilborn Ltd., the consulting firm currently preparing a comprehensive solid waste management plan for the region.

NATIONAL PROPOSAL

The National proposal, involving the simultaneous use of a shale quarry adjacent to the existing Burlington and Bayfield landfill sites for landfilling and mining, would be investigated within the context of Kilborn's final plan, once complete, after the SWMC has determined whether further hydrogeological studies are needed. The hydrogeological safety of the site is of prime importance, regional solicitor Dennis Perlin warned in a report to the SWMC.

"The National proposal should not be considered at this point in time as THE answer to the region's sanitary landfill problems," he said. "There is a long, long road to go before the proposal could come to fruition and be of some assistance in the region's waste disposal program."

Under consideration since early summer, the National proposal would ultimately require the region to enter into an agreement with the company enabling it to bury all garbage for a period of 10 to 14 years.

The proposal, outlined in detail for the SWMC Friday, represents one alternative to Site "F", the 246-acre garbage dump proposed for rural Milton and still the subject of a legal confrontation between the region and the town of Milton, backed by affected citizens.

Recalling that the Tremaine-Britannia Citizens Group, which he represents, once urged the region to examine the Burlington landfill sites closer, lawyer David Estrin asked the SWMC last week to reconsider its plan to retain Professor John Cherry of the University of Waterloo as an independent hydrogeologist to review studies already conducted by National's consultants, Morrison-Beatty.

RESULTS EXAMINED
Pointing out that Morrison-Beatty's results will also be examined by the ministry of environment, Mr. Estrin advised against hiring a consultant who was previously "associated" with Gartner Lee Associates Ltd., another consulting firm previously retained by the region.

Because of the fact that

Grant Anderson of Gartner Lee contacted Professor Cherry for ratification of some results being reviewed at the recent Ontario Municipal Board hearing on Site "F", Mr. Estrin said, the professor is no longer "independent".

Mr. Perlin downplayed Professor Cherry's role in the hearings and stressed that the region must be sure of its hydrogeological data.

Among the features of the landfill site proposed for establishment on the National lands north of Highway 403 are a 500-metre wide "monitoring zone" south of the dumping area where operators will run regular checks on groundwater and leachate movement, a "natural" leachate collection system which would rely on the shale bedrock and other existing features, and a back-up collection system of underground pipes which the company hopes will never be needed.

Licensed to extract shale at the site for the next 20 years, National proposes to landfill in the areas where mining is completed, gradually filling the site with garbage on a sequential basis.

The National landfill site would be entirely independent of the Burlington and Bayfield sites on either side. Tests run to the south of both existing sites, consultant Brian Beatty told the SWMC, have assured the company that leachate contaminants would be prevented from moving too far south toward Lake Ontario.

LEACHATE COLLECTION

When Mr. Beatty referred to the need to augment the proposed back-up leachate collection system by installing a larger sewer pipe at the adjacent Burlington site than had been planned, he was told by Milton Mayor Don Gordon that any such additional costs which arise must be borne by

National. Regional chairman Jack Itafis conceded that there would have to be some "commercial trade-offs" between the region and National if the proposal is approved, but other committee members maintained that Halton taxpayers should have to pay nothing for a landfill site which promises to net National millions of dollars.

"I got too many answers too late on Site 'F'," Mayor Gordon complained. "Let's lay some ground rules here: the taxpayers are to pay nothing, and if National Sewer Pipe doesn't like it, they can go home."

Milton Coun. Bill Johnson indicated his continuing content for long-term landfilling "anywhere" and expressed hope that National's proposal would not limit the region's effort to develop a resource recovery system. Mr. Rafits agreed that National should consider "at least the first phase" of resource recovery for implementation at its site.

NEWSPAPER MARKET
"We know there's a newspaper market available," he said. "Now is this proposal going to be Mickey-Moused into a landfill site?"

The initial reaction from the company indicated that no consideration has been given to resource recovery because of the expense involved. One official assured the SWMC that the company's attitude does not, however, constitute "a closed door".

Councillors Johnson and Russ Miller of Halton Hills advocated the use of a baler at the site which would compress solid waste, creating more space for landfilling and reducing the possibility of leachate seepage. The suggestion was again downplayed, but taken under advisement, by company spokesmen.



CWL FASHION SHOW

Ashley was one of the models who displayed the latest in women's and children's fashions for fall and winter at the Catholic Women's League fashion show. The show was held last Wednesday at Holy Cross auditorium.

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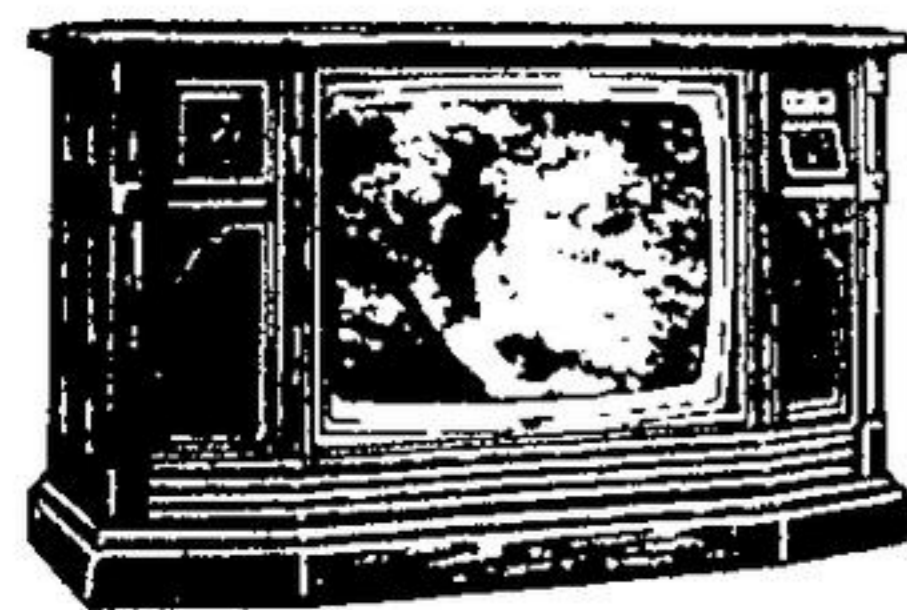
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