

Dioxin issue raised at EFW talks

By CHRIS AAGAARD
Herald Staff Writer
Any plans to build an incinerator for Halton's garbage shouldn't ignore the dangers of dioxin pollution, an Oakville resident told a regional sub-committee last Wednesday night.

"The region should declare a moratorium on its search for an 'energy from waste plant' in Halton until the dioxin question has been answered," Paul Taylor said.

Halton has been considering a municipal

incinerator - or energy from waste plant - as a solution to its garbage disposal problems.

Private companies have been invited to comment on how they could use an EFW to produce steam and electricity for their own purposes.

But in two recent federal reports, municipal incinerators are identified as principal sources of dioxin pollution.

CANCER RISKY
A particularly toxic chemical, dioxin comes

in 75 varieties, and has been blamed for causing cancer in laboratory animals. It's found in pesticides, wood preservatives and transformer oils, among other industrial uses.

Studies on dioxins haven't conclusively determined their effect on humans, although some scientists suspect they may lead to genetic defects.

"I'm not certain this is a real danger," Mr. Taylor said. "But I'm not sure Halton should make a decision to build

an EFW plant two years down the road when it may take several years to assess the dioxin threat."

Chronic emissions problems at Hamilton's 12-year-old SWARU incinerator, prompted that city's council to ask Hamilton-Wentworth region to shut down the facility where one-third of the region's trash is burned.

Incinerators are believed to spread dioxins over wide areas through particle-laden emissions.

BURIED ASH
Buried ash residue from the incinerators is also believed to contribute to dioxins in land-fill sites, one of the federal studies says.

Mr. Taylor said he was making his comments as a concerned Oakville homeowner. He is the executive director of the Recycling Council of Ontario.

Officials from the province's energy and environment ministries maintained at the meeting that a watch is being kept on dioxin emissions and that close tabs will be kept on incinerators planned in London, Ontario and Toronto.

Burlington Coun. Walter Mulkeewich, a member of Halton's solid waste management sub-committee, said comparing Halton's and other EFWs planned for the future with the SWARU operation is "grossly unfair".

"Yes, there are problems there," Coun. Mulkeewich said. "But

I'm aware of dozens of other EFW plants that are working within emission standards more stringent than those of the province of Ontario. The technology is available."

Ontario has set some tentative allowable dioxin levels which will be in use when London's Victoria Hospital opens its incinerator in 1988, the ministry of environment's Mike Pratt said.

NEW TECHNOLOGY
The technology for testing for dioxin is relatively recent, he added, so its effect on public health hasn't been completely determined.

The SWARU plant hasn't been using state of the art anti-pollution equipment, regional chief administrative officer Dennis Perlin said.

"Nobody is trying to tell anybody that the EFW operation will be pollution-free," Mr. Perlin said. "But I can't believe that we have to stop our EFW search at this point."

Industrial land needed in town's urban areas

By CHRIS AAGAARD
Herald Staff Writer
Town councillors should concentrate on building up an inventory of industrial land in the town's Acton and Georgetown urban areas, not in the surrounding countryside, a consultants' report to the region maintains.

"You've got a real problem here," Carolyn Kearns told Monday night's town council meeting as she forecast a growing demand for industrial land with sewers and water services which the town may not be able to meet.

Right now, she said, the town could use 583

acres of serviced land to have enough variety of locations to interest investors.

Ms. Kearns noted that about 400 acres are already envisioned in new areas of land taken in by Georgetown's expanded urban boundary.

There's another 750 acres sandwiched between Steeles Avenue and Highway 401.

But that's seen as set aside for "dry" - un-serviced - industries (like warehouses) in the town's official plan. The study, authored last year by Peter Barnard Associates, suggests the town save this land for

full servicing which may come in the future.

With full servicing, that land would be more attractive to heavier industries which tend to employ more people.

"Don't expect the demand for rural industrial land to increase," Ms. Kearns said. Town officials should work on reducing the amount of rural industrial land in the official plan and concentrate on getting more provincially-approved serviced land in Acton and Georgetown.

Nevertheless, rural industrial land should still have an important,

if smaller, share of the town's total industrial inventory, she said.

An excellent area for rural industrial development is along Trafalgar Road between Sideroad 15 and the Highway 7 junction, the study says.

While it may not be serviced with sewers from Georgetown, it could one day tap into the community's water supply.

The availability of water is important not because of the heavier industrial uses it would allow, but because it would reduce the cost of fire insurance for rural industries, Ms. Kearns said.



BUNDLED UP

It was colder than a polar bear's nose over the weekend, even cold enough to make Dean Bagley's nose crinkle up at the crispy weather. The 3-year-old was out with his friend Shawn Anderson braving the elements, but well clothed for the occasion Saturday afternoon.

Break-in

A break-in at Ferro Structural Steel on Georgetown's Armstrong Avenue resulted in the theft of \$2,100 worth of cutting equipment and acetylene regulators.

Thieves entered by smashing a window on the west side of the building sometime between Saturday and Monday.

Fire heat

A fire in the basement of a home on Norton Crescent caused \$40,000 damage Saturday afternoon.

Believed to have started when a space heater was knocked over near a basement chair, the fire took two hours to put out.

Thanks to the smoke detector, a sleeping man, Henk Rensink, and his sleeping baby escaped the smoke that was spreading throughout the house. Nobody was hurt.

A construction deficiency in a chimney flu was responsible for \$1,200 worth of smoke damage to an Acton home on Churchill Road North Thursday, according to the Halton Hills Fire Department. The chimney fire took place at 9:19 a.m. at the home of Roy and Heather Knapton.

The smell of something burning brought firefighters to an apartment at 21 Raylawn Crescent Thursday night. Forgotten in the oven of the residents was a pizza, a very blackened pizza.

Sheldon argues against Glen modification

Property north of Willowood Road in Glen Williams should be included in the Glen's secondary plan, town councillors reiterated Monday night.

They supported a proposed modification to the plan which would allow developers owning about 43 acres in the area to go ahead with subdivision plans.

But Esqueping Coun. Pam Sheldon argued that council's support of the modification should be delayed, at least until the town has reviewed the results of transportation study now underway.

Before any further consideration of the property for development purposes is considered she said, council needs answers on how it would affect traffic flow in the area.

Planning director Ian Keith told council that he didn't believe the development would be large enough - at about 60 lots - to have an effect on the wide-ranging traffic patterns the transportation study is addressing.

Once the plan of subdivision is filed, a more detailed traffic study of the development will likely be required, he noted.

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