

NEC plan amendment approved

Halton Region council, Wednesday, approved a proposed Niagara Escarpment Plan Amendment that would ban landfill sites from the escarpment, but a local environmental group says the amendment does not go far enough.

John Minns, a spokesperson for Protect Our Water and Environmental Resources (POWER) asked council at the Wednesday meeting to ban recovery-type facilities from the escarpment.

Recovery means nothing more than incineration, argued Mr. Minns. Incineration is a form of waste recovery because energy is recovered from the burning of

waste, explained Mr. Minns.

The amendment calls for the banning of any waste disposal plan along the escarpment that doesn't promote waste reduction, reuse, recycling and recovery. The amendment will go before the Niagara Escarpment Commission final approval July 5.

But "the Region's direction (on not outlawing recovery facilities) contradicts the province's ministry of environment guidelines so what's the point of bucking the system?" asked Mr. Minns, following the meeting.

Mr. Minns pointed to a December 1989 Regional staff report acknowledging that the

MOE had revised its 4 R's program to 3 R's. Energy from waste was eliminated from the program. The three R's are reduce, reuse and recycle.

"Take recovery right out of the amendment because it's not in line with the MOE's definition of the 3 R's program," Halton Hills Regional councillor Joe Hewitt argued in support of Mr. Minn's request.

But another town representative at the Region, Marilyn Serjeanston, argued "recovery doesn't just mean energy from waste." And a company couldn't build an EFW plant along the escarpment until the proposal was

subjected to an MOE environmental assessment, she said.

The Region's commissioner of planning and development, Rosh Mohammed, said the municipality was not thinking of allowing EFW plants on the escarpment when staff recommended the proposed plan. "I'm not totally aware of all the technology but my understanding is there exists technology for recovery without burning," he said.

Burlington Regional coun. Walter Mulkeewich argued in support of the amendment as is because the Region has come out and officially supported EFW plants and is obligated to build an EFW plant by 1996.

Hydro needs to repair wires to accommodate growth

To ensure Halton Hills residents will be able to operate their air conditioners in the summer and electric heaters in the winter, improvements are needed to some of the wires that carry the town's electricity, said Halton Hills Hydro Engineering supervisor, Dan Guatto.

"We're more vulnerable than I'd like to be," said Mr. Guatto after giving the town's five hydro commissioners an overview of Georgetown's five transformer stations.

But "before the end of 1991 the system will be as reliable as it can be and after that there will only have to be standard upgrading," predicted Mr. Guatto after the meeting.

He explained that some of the wires running through the town were built about 30 years ago. Some are now too small to properly handle the increased demand for electricity, said Mr. Guatto.

Some of the improvements, which have begun, were budgeted for in the hydro commission's 1990 budget. But money will be required next year to allow for all of the necessary upgrading, said Mr. Guatto. Hydro commissioners will start to consider their 1991 budget requirements near the end of this year.

Mr. Guatto told commissioners if growth in residential and commercial communities increases at four per cent yearly, and is evenly distributed throughout the town, then Georgetown's four transformer stations will reach capacity in about seven years. The transformer stations are the source of the town's electricity.

The town's total apparent power is about 34.1 megavolts. And the town's winter peak in which the public demand for power is the greatest, is currently about 26.2 megavolts, said Mr. Guatto.

Strike may hold up Region's construction

If the plumbers working on the \$28.7 million expansion of the Halton Region administration in Oakville continue to strike beyond the next two weeks then construction on the site will be delayed, said the project manager, Mike Duffy.

How long the delay would be depends on the length of the strike, said Mr. Duffy.

The plumbers were scheduled to start doing some work Monday so that the necessary steel girders for the addition of the administration building could go ahead. But Mr. Duffy called the next two weeks a slush period where construction activity can still continue without the plumbers.

"The plumbers, who have been on strike for the past month, and the contractors have put negotiations on hold, which isn't a good sign," said Mr. Duffy.

"But as more and more of the trades settle their contracts after a while they (the plumbers) will be the exception, and they will have to start talking in line with the other trades," speculated Mr. Duffy.

The concrete and construction workers on the Halton Region Centre settled their contracts this weekend, said Mr. Duffy.

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