

Premier Rae bending to public pressure?

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 have argued since day one that Environment Minister Ruth Grier has the authority to reject RSI's proposal immediately, before it reaches an expensive hearing, if she deems the dump not to be in the public interest.
 Last year at a Queen's Park POWER rally, Grier emphatically stated that it is RSI's right to have its application processed completely, including a hearing.

But now, Landry believes the Premier to be bending to public pressure by reviewing the legal powers of Grier.
 "I don't think Rae likes to be yelled at, and it looks like we finally made (him) think that there actually might be a problem," she said. "I believe he's sincere about this, because he did ask Grier to sort it all out."
 Ministry of Environment policy advisor Linda Pim confirmed in an

interview Friday that FOAD's documents are being reviewed by their lawyers.
 "The Ministry's lawyer made an offer to FOAD to hear their legal arguments on this issue," Pim said. "We want to see if their arguments are valid, but our legal counsel says (Grier) does not have the powers...I understand FOAD made a brief presentation to the Premier about the quarry, and he expressed an interest

to our office on whether their arguments have any legal basis...We hope to have the results of the review quite soon."

Landry rejected criticism levelled at her group for being so vocal about the dump issue, noting that they have "nothing to lose" if the proposal ends up in a hearing.

"If it goes to a hearing, then it's out of the NDP's hands — we'll have nothing left to do," she added. "Even when Grier announced her ban on incineration, we ragged her to death before that, too. She actually thanked us for making her job easier. If she means that me being a "fruitloop," as some journalists in this town have stated, works, then I'm going to keep doing it."



POWER and FOAD activist Rita Landry wore a toilet seat around her neck to demonstrate her concerns about the proposed Acton dump when Premier Bob Rae was in town last month.

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Region keeping mum on dump strategy

During a closed door session Wednesday, Regional councillors accepted a confidential report on Halton's strategies for dealing with Reclamations Systems Inc.'s (RSI) proposal on turning the Acton quarry into a landfill.

Chairman Pete Pomeroy refused to discuss the details of the report, noting the decision will be made public after next week's Regional Council meeting.

Rita Landry, member of two local citizens' group, FOAD (Furiously Opposed to the Acton Dump) and POWER (Protect Our Water and Environmental Resources) was expected to make a short presentation to the councillors prior to the closed door session, but circumstances beyond her control prevented her appearance, she said.

Landry noted that she wanted to urge Regional Council to "play hardball" with United Aggregates (UA), the company quarrying the Acton site.

"Maybe if the Region would start forcing UA to be a good corporate citizen maybe we could all avoid a hearing — they should be playing hardball," she added. "They should force Grier to follow the law and reject it, or force UA to back down — make it difficult for them to operate under the law...Maybe a few bylaws should be considered to be enforced, like no gravel trucks on certain roads...."

"This whole situation has become lawyered to death. Unfortunately, it seems everyone's fallen asleep and allowed the lawyers to do the talking."

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