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NEC moves to ban escarpment landfill sites

By NORMAN NELSON

The Niagara Escarpment Commission (NEC) is trying to make it tougher for landfills to locate on the escarpment by removing them from the list of acceptable uses.

It would not affect numerous garbage dumps presently in

operation.

cil lent its support to the effort, at- Our Water and Kevironmental taching a small rider. It requested Resources) to prohibit waste disposal that waste management efforts operations within the escarpment designed to promote the so-called '4-Rs' (reduce, reuse, recycle and recovery) still be allowed, with the exception of incineration.

The NEC, which regulates use of the escarpment that stretches from Niagara to Ibrbermory, initiated the proposal a year ago after being approached by concerned municipalities and citizens groups.

Lobbying efforts included a resolution from Dundas council to ban landfills within 15 miles of the escarpment, and a presentation by the

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"Staff here were also considering what should be done about the landfill issue. We were aware of a couple (of landfill proposals) in the wings," said Cecil Louis, the NEC's manager of planning and administration.

The NEC is currently gathering comments before presenting its final proposal to the mandatory public hearing, expected sometime in late summer or early fall.

A hearing officer will then write a report, forwarding it to the province for a decision, which is not expected until early spring next year.

. The NEC intends to accomplish the task by changing the definition of one word - utility.

The definition is important because public utilities are considered .acceptable users of escarpment lands, and the definition of utilities presently includes facilities for "waste collection or disposal or management."

Other uses under the definition include water and sewage facilities, gas or oil pipelines, hydro lines, phone, lines, roads and broadcasting

By removing landfills from the category, it would force them to proceed through a much tougher bureaucratic route requiring, in ef-fect, an exemption from the Niagara

Escarpment Plan (NEP).
It's a subtle but effective difference, said Mr. Louis.

Although waste disposal proposals have their own set of complicated

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