

Garbage haul to mine site is 'best option'

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meeting next week, I don't see a problem with that. I just hope we get it settled by Oct. 26."

Rail Cycle North officials agreed to remove several contentious issues from Toronto's contract, including an unavoidable costs clause that left the city liable for expenses not outlined in the deal.

Toronto has agreed to pay Rail Cycle North \$51.02 per tonne, but details of York Region's contract have remained confidential. The deal is rumoured to be worth as much as \$350 million over 20 years, although there's a buy-out clause that can be executed after 10 years.

"If you get out of a deal early, you should expect to pay a (monetary) penalty," Landon said. "That's normal business practice."

Meanwhile, the region is not required to ship a minimum amount of waste each year, meaning an unlimited amount of recyclable material and compost can be diverted to a new waste transfer facility built in East Gwillimbury or Richmond Hill.

The provincial government has confirmed the Keele Valley landfill site in Maple will close by the end of 2002, while CN Rail will begin hauling trash to Kirkland Lake in January 2003.

A consortium of five companies, Rail Cycle North will use the former iron ore mine as a dumping site, incorporating a hydraulic system to pump leachate away from the local water stream for 120



GORD LANDON: Rail-haul of York Region garbage to Adams Mine "is the best option we have."

years.

Opponents fear contaminated drinking water will pollute Lake Timiskaming, which straddles the Ontario-Quebec border. Protesters have pledged civil disobedience to stop the garbage from arriving at their doorstep.

And the entire deal could still die if the federal government announces an environmental assessment for the mine before the end of next month.

If that occurs, Landon said the region will negotiate with American Ref-Fuel Co. and Republic Services of Canada Ltd., operators of American-based landfill sites.

"This has been coming for six years and it's the best option we have," Landon said. "Once we sign the contract, Rail Cycle North will be responsible for the trash and they have back-up plans in place."

"There may be protests but when you go against the law you have to expect the consequences."

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