



THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF HALTON

Office of the Chairman  
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1983 11 30

Chairman and Members of Regional Council  
The Regional Municipality of Halton  
Oakville, Ontario

Dear Colleagues:

Re: Proposed Interim Waste Disposal Plan

I understand that this matter may be a subject of discussion at Regional Council on December 7, 1983.

For your information I am enclosing the following:

1. A copy of my comments at Regional Council on November 9, 1983, on this subject.
2. A copy of responses I made to comments made during debate at Regional Council on November 9, 1983.
3. My personal letter to the Honourable Andrew S. Brandt, Minister of the Environment.
4. A further letter in the ongoing correspondence on this subject between myself and Mr. G. Mierzynski, Regional Director of the Ministry of Environment.
5. A copy of an article from the Toronto Globe and Mail, November 11, 1983.

This latter article emphasizes that Ontario is simply not in the game of energy from garbage and that all we have done is talk for 10 years.

Members of Council will be aware that since 1976 I have fought for a waste disposal policy which consists of an Energy from Waste (EFW) plant, source separation/reduction, and a multi site landfill policy.

BURLINGTON  
639-4540

HALTON HILLS  
ACTON  
853-0501

HALTON HILLS  
GEORGETOWN  
878-8113

MILTON  
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There is a possibility that the Provincial Government could make a change in its policy and direction by proposing that it get into the game of energy from waste through an EFW plant in this area.

We all know such a plant would be five or so years down the road.

We have a problem today! There is an opportunity to get into the game today through a contract with B.F.I./Occidental.

I hope we are not seduced by future promises and forget that we have a problem today.

Rather, I would hope we could deal with the problem of today positively and realistically - as well as preparing for tomorrow.

If you have any questions, please be in touch with me.

Yours sincerely



Walter Mulkewich  
Regional Councillor  
Ward One, Burlington.

:sj  
att.

COMMENTS BY COUNCILLOR WALTER MULKEWICH AT THE MEETING OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL OF HALTON, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1983 WITH RESPECT TO THE PROPOSED INTERIM WASTE DISPOSAL PLAN.

Chairman and Members of Council:

SUBJECT:           Planning and Public Works Committee Report No. 34-83,  
                    Recommendation 15.8.1.1 to 15.8.4

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This latest act in the ongoing Halton garbage drama gives us a real opportunity. We have the opportunity to do the right thing, adopt a progressive policy, implement stated Regional objectives, and pull ourselves out of the quagmire of our decade long garbage dispute.

To grasp this opportunity we should defeat items 15.8.1.1, 2, 3, 4 and then positively embrace the "export option"..

I know that all members have come with local municipal Council votes on this matter. Hopefully, minds are not all made up.

While the issue has been before committees, this is the first debate at Council itself.

The "export option" gives us an unprecedented opportunity to pull the Region together and to a garbage solution. C.A.O. Report 319/83 was a positive and realistic document. I discussed the areas where I felt the report was wrong or misleading at committee. My purpose today is to deal specifically with the recommendations.

Item 15.8.1.1 is the central and operative recommendation. It asks that there be no tribunal hearing and, further, that the expansion of the Burlington site, now dubbed "the continuation", be the Interim Plan. I find both positions unacceptable. My aim is to explain my reasons and in the process explain why the "Export option" is preferable.

Need for Public Hearing Tribunals:

The law of Ontario says there must be a hearing. (We are clearly dealing with our Canadian heritage of due process of law now guaranteed by the Canadian Charter of Rights.)

Ministry of Environment staff have said that there are no legal, technical, procedural, or other grounds for waiving a hearing. I met yesterday with Mr. George Mierzynski, Regional Director, Central Regional, Ministry of Environment and he confirmed his written position in a letter to myself dated September 3, 1983. This letter is enclosed in your agenda materials. Mr. Mierzynski says, "The Ministry could not sanction plans to request approval of alterations of the Burlington site on an emergency basis and without a public hearing". Mr. Perlin acknowledges on page 20 of his report C.A.O. 319/83 that Ministry of Environment staff have reviewed the Environmental Assessment Act (EAA) and Environmental Protection Act (EPA) and have confirmed that a hearing is necessary at least under the EPA.

The existing Burlington site is already an "interim expansion". At the 1980 Public Hearing, two of the neighbours asked what will happen if this "small interim expansion" is filled. Site F is not ready and the Region's then vague proposal for Resource Recovery is not ready. The answers are quoted in the Environmental Assessment Board Report and are relevant.

Need for Public Hearing Tribunals: (Continued)

The reply to Mr. Robert Elstone is on page 47: "Mr. Wells reported there was no intention to make further expansions to the Burlington site at the present time, however, if an expansion were considered at a later date, then another public hearing would be required at that time".

The reply to Mr. Walter Johnson is on page 50: "Mr. Johnson was advised that if such extension was applied for at a later date then another public hearing would be required at that time".

The Region was in attendance and did not dispute these assurances. The Environmental Assessment Board Report was tabled with Regional Council and Council did not object to these assurances. The neighbours should have these assurances maintained.

Therefore, if the Minister of Environment is to exempt this proposed expansion, now dubbed "continuation", he must go against past assurances to the neighbours and community by the Environmental Assessment Board and Regional Council, his own staff advice, his own legislation, and the principle of due process.

Why would the Minister grant an exemption? The only reasons that have been advanced are two, the site is small and the need is urgent. However, an examination of both these reasons shows they are not valid.

The proposed site expansion is not small! It has proposed capacity for 46 months (3 years and 10 months or almost 4 years) for the garbage of 265,000 people in four municipalities. The original expansion which had a hearing was for a capacity of 585,000 tons or approximately for 3 years for the garbage of the entire Region. This proposed small interim expansion is really bigger than the original small interim expansion which had a hearing.

The proposed site expansion is not urgent! It would only be urgent if there was no alternative. There is an alternative today - the "export option".

A public hearing is the accepted forum for protecting the local community and the environment. The committee and Council process has never taken the place of the hearing process. The statement has been made that the "best professional advice" has said that all four phases of the proposed expansion would have only a "minimal impact on the environment". However, we don't really know what "minimum" means. We can't accept on face value that the impact will be minimal because a professional engineer says so. The issue is more complex. That is why we have hearings!

It would be unfortunate, indeed an outrage and disgrace, if this Regional Council were to go on record saying that it approves the taking away of the rights of its citizens in any part of Halton to have the due process of a public hearing.

Should the Expansion be the Interim Plan?

No - not with the information before us in 1983!

In 1978-1980 when we put together the first interim waste disposal plan because the long term or permanent plan was not ready I agreed. The then interim plan was to give the Region time to put together its permanent plan. And, there was no alternative. There was no Occidental plant or B.F.I. proposal!

In 1976 when I first stood for election to this Council for Burlington's Ward 1, I stated in my election literature and platform that I would vote against Site F and that I would work for alternatives to landfill. I voted against Site F. I would vote against Site F today and tomorrow for the same reasons I did in 1976, 77 and 78. Today, the "export option" is what the opponents to Site F wanted and hoped for in 1976, 77 and 78. Today, the "export option" is the best hope to thwart an unneeded major landfill site in the Tremaine - Britannia area.

I also worked for alternatives to landfill, personally bringing before this Council and its committees proposals and information. Recently, a representative of GKN Birwelco Limited addressed committees of this Council. Sometimes I have wondered whether I should have followed the former Councillor Terry Mannell in his hot headed but courageous and now prophetic resignation from the Solid Waste Management Committee in 1980. Councillor Mannell resigned because this Regional Council refused to support a positive and aggressive program for garbage resource recovery as proposed by the Solid Waste Management Committee. Regional Council over the years has put many words on paper about resource recovery and E.F.W. and has used these words to get support for its landfill applications, especially Site F. However, in practice, Regional Council put all its eggs in one basket and then dogmatically and doggedly pursued Site F with all the confrontation that it entailed - until Council's course of action blew up in its own face. Now, there appears to be wide support on Council to repeat Site F history - this time with Site A. Now there appears to be support to switch the eggs from the Site F basket to the Site A basket, and to pursue this proposed expansion in the same dogged and dogmatic manner - and with the same potential to have it blow up in our faces. Should we not learn from our own history?

There has been little in the history of the garbage disposal search in Halton to make the people of Halton really believe that the Region is really serious about alternatives to landfill. The "export option" is the first real opportunity the Region has had to put our own words into action. This "export option" is our opportunity to establish credibility with all the citizens of Halton, the Town of Milton, the Tremaine - Britannia Group, the City of Burlington, and the West Burlington Citizens Group.

Should the Expansion be Allowable from a Planning Point of View?

The contention that planning approvals would not be required for this proposed expansion for an almost four year period is questionable. Planning approvals may indeed be required. These planning matters have not been explored to determine whether the expansion could be allowed.

The proposed expansion is in the Parkway Belt West - that same "green belt" which requires the ordinary homeowner to go through multi hoops to add a simple porch to a simple house. Now the Region proposes a whole new and big pile of garbage - and without question or hoops.

The Parkway Belt West Act says in Section 5.1.3, "No municipality or local board shall carry out any undertaking that conflicts with the Plan, and no by-law shall be passed for any purpose that is in conflict with the Plan".

Map No. 2 of the Parkway Belt West Plan designates the areas for landfill. This proposed expansion is clearly outside the area so designated on the map. Nowhere in the text of the Plan does there appear to be a provision for an addition to designated landfill areas. Therefore, the intent and purpose of the Act must be to limit landfill to those areas designated. Therefore, this proposed expansion would require a full Amendment to the actual Parkway Belt Plan West with the full process of Committees and hearings as provided for in the Act. Or, the Minister could, pursuant to Section 5.1.3 declare the proposed undertaking to conform to the intent

Should the Expansion be Allowable from a Planning Point of View? (Continued)

and purpose of the Act. The Minister has not been asked to do so and there has been no indication that he would consider doing so.

The Regional Official Plan for the Region of Halton, Section G, refers to Environmentally Sensitive Areas (E.S.A.). The Plan designates 37 E.S.A.s. Indeed, we all saw a very nice display in the outside foyer with colour photographs describing our E.S.A. policy and environmental consciousness.

The Director of Planning for Halton has confirmed that E.S.A. 4 and 5 border immediately on the proposed expansion site - and indeed spill over into the site.

On September 28, 1983, the Region of Halton sent letters to all landowners in all 37 Halton E.S.A.s. This letter has been distributed to members of Council at my request. This letter says in part, "Our policy is to assist in maintaining the natural environment by requiring an Environmental Impact Assessment (E.I.A.) whenever a landowner within the E.S.A. proposes a development that may change or affect the natural features of the E.S.A. This also applies in the case of municipalities or governmental agency proposals".

This letter arrived at the homes of the neighbours of this proposed garbage site expansion 3 months after the original Regional Report of July 1983 proposed the Region endorse the Dillon 4 phase interim expansion. It is obvious that the proposed 4 phase expansion could change or affect the natural features of the E.S.A. The Regional Report of July 1983 said nothing of an E.I.A. The neighbours were not informed that the Region would be seeking an E.I.A. The neighbours were not informed that the Region would be seeking an E.I.A. or that the Region would propose exempting itself. Now, the suggestion today is that all hearings that were promised to the neighbours in 1980 would be exempted.

From the point of view of the citizens in the area all of this is contradictory, extraordinary, and completely beyond reasonable understanding.

The Regional Director of Planning, in a memo to myself dated yesterday, has indicated, among other things, that the Region has required 18 development proposals in E.S.A.s to undergo E.I.A.s or EAs since January, 1980.

We have asked others to adhere to our own Official Plan. To date this Council has not dealt with the E.S.A. issue. Approval of the proposed interim expansion without an E.I.A. or E.A. and without a public hearing would mean that we do not apply the same rules to ourselves as we apply to others - and that we would be in contravention of our own Official Plan.

If you wish to proceed amend the Plan, get rid of it or something. Certainly, take down the E.S.A. display in our own Regional foyer.

Is the Interim Expansion Acceptable Environmentally?

The answer to the basic environmental question in Mr. Perlin's C.A.O. Report 319/83 on page 13 is that "the best professional advice is that there will be no recognizable increase in long term environmental effect".

Nowhere has there been conclusive evidence that the proposed expansion would produce only minimal or recognizable effects or what the effects would be. We only have the "best professional advice", presumably using the "state of the art" knowledge in 1983 - and without the tough testing a public hearing would produce. That is why we have hearings.

Is the Interim Expansion Acceptable Environmentally: (Continued)

My own report to this Council on my concerns regarding leachate at the Burlington site, C - Report No. 11/83, October 21, 1983 is part of your agenda materials. This report, which has been accepted by this Council, underlines the concern that after 3 years of monitoring we know that there is a leachate plume and that leachate is being collected by the sewer system. But, the scary part is what we don't know after all this testing. We don't know where or how far this plume has got, what is in it, how fast it is travelling. We don't know exactly what chemicals are being put into the sewage system or whether they are being treated. We know that the professionals have at last and at least conceded that we need to put into place a program to get the answers. If this "best professional advice" does not know what is really happening underneath and inside and outside the existing site - then how can these professionals make the statement that the impact of the expansion would be minimal. This is contradictory advice!

I have examined the Dillon Report and so have the citizens in the area. Phase A is a minor expansion. Phase B is more significant. Phases C and D are major expansions with at least the potentiality for significant impacts. In previous committee meetings, Mr. Kreplin, a professional engineer, representing the citizens groups suggested that the height and weight of C and D would create a hydraulic pressure forcing leachate further and faster. We have had no professional advice from the Region on this concern. Phases C and D present the visual problem with regards to the Niagara Escarpment and the whole beautiful area. Phase D is an expansion into an area draining into the Falcon Creek valley (designated as a hazard area in the Regional Official Plan) and previously deemed unsuitable for garbage fill in the Regional reports of 1979 and 1980.

Can anyone here today say with any certainty that the expansion is environmentally acceptable?

Is the Alternative of the "Export Option" too costly?

Your answer will depend on your criteria and how you figure costs.

I have spoken about the "total costing method" in my report on leachate concerns and in our discussions on the Blueprint for Waste Management which endorses this full costing method. If you include all costs as part of landfill costs, including leachate treatment, after care, approvals - and the very high social costs to all concerned then landfill becomes much more expensive. If you use this total costing method the proposed interim expansion becomes much more expensive than the reports indicate. The social costs referred to in the City of Burlington report have not been considered yet.

However, even if with full costing the "export option" still would be more expensive in the short run. The figures from the report which does not include full costing suggests that the additional costs in 1984 would be \$24.25 per metric tonne of garbage or a total of \$4.2 million. This sounds like a lot and it is a lot! But, what does it mean? It means an increase of an average of \$33 per Halton household per year or 63 cents per week to bring an environmentally sound solution as well as Regional peace. And, remember we are dealing with high side figures.

Mr. H. Lanier Hickman, Executive Director, Governmental Refuse Collection and Disposal Association of the U.S.A. argues in a recent article that U.S. decision makers (like you and I) have not been willing to go for more expensive but necessary environmentally sound methods using available technology because they have looked at total costs rather than increased costs to the individual consumer. Mr. Hickman says, "The cost between doing a sorry job and the best job is not enough for the normal American family to notice in their monthly bills. We need to stop being so negative about the increased costs to build and operate today's solid waste management technologies and systems. In the last 15 years we have brought solid waste management out of the dark ages".

The cost to do the right thing in 1983 is at the most 63¢ a week.

What about the Alternative?

The people associated with Occidental E.F.W. in Niagara Falls as well as Garden City Disposals, St. Catharines, and B.F.I. have sought us and our garbage. They want our garbage. They need our garbage. They have a straight forward business proposal. The question should be how to negotiate the best deal.

The proposal is not to truck garbage down the highway to the U.S.A. The proposal is to truck an energy resource - to export energy. How is this any different from exporting natural gas or oil or electricity produced by Ontario Hydro. It would be only for an interim period. It would become a learning experience and incentive to develop facilities here to use garbage as an energy resource.

The plant is there. The plant needs garbage. We have the garbage.

They want to negotiate an agreement with all the guarantees that we might require.

Yet, I hear Councillors saying we should continue with an outdated and dangerous landfill method that endangers one community, pits parts of the Region one against another, while we continue to talk and talk about E.F.W. in Halton.

Sooner or later we will have to bite the bullit and do the right thing. Sooner or later we will have to bring Regional peace to our discussions. Sooner or later we will have to embrace environmentally and socially sound methods - even though they are more costly.

The opportunity has not been here before. The opportunity is now! Sometimes opportunity knocks only once!

November 10, 1983

RESPONSE BY COUNCILLOR MULKEWICH TO COMMENTS MADE DURING DEBATE AT  
REGIONAL COUNCIL, REGION OF HALTON, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1983 RE:  
THE PROPOSED INTERIM WASTE DISPOSAL PLAN.

1. Re: Problem of possible border closing:
  - This is only supposition and guessing and likely a red herring that masks other feelings.
  - We would negotiate firm contracts.
  - The proposal is only a 3 year proposal.
  - If the worse situation happened we would be in no worse situation than we are now anyway - and in the process we would have bought some time. And we need that time now.
2. Re: Concerns about air pollution:
  - E.F.W. technology is here, proven, and in use today. It is not tomorrow's technology. Tomorrow there will be further technology. Plants all around the world are meeting very strict standards.
  - Occidental plant meets the New York State Air Quality Standards.
3. Re: Concern that garbage should not be compared to selling oil, natural gas or electricity:
  - They are the same in terms of being an energy resource.
  - They are different in that oil and natural gas are non-renewable resources and there is another whole set of rationale there.
  - Garbage is a renewable resource which should not simply be buried and if there is an opportunity to use it as a resource regardless of where, we should take it. It makes more sense to generate electricity from our garbage in New York than burying it with no return but only the expense and danger in Halton.
  - Garbage is a product of society and there will always be a social cost and disposal cost associated with it. It is far better to at least do something useful with the garbage we generate.
4. \$14 Million is a lot of money and there are Better Uses for it:
  - This position disregards the approach suggested in my presentation of analyzing from the point of view of increased costs to individual consumers.
  - This \$14 Million is going towards a better environment by decreasing ground water and surface water pollution - and in the long run Great Lakes water quality. It is starting on the road to sensible garbage disposal policy.
  - This argument does not take into account full costs of approvals, after care, leachate treatment, and social costs.
5. Re: Regional Perspective:
  - What is a Regional perspective? Lately some have defined it as seeing things through the eyes of their own area.
  - In a real sense the export option is the true regional option in that it allows us all in the Region to work together and end confrontation.
  - But, the real issue is to move our garbage policy to a positive and environmentally sound position.
6. Re: We have a long term commitment to Non Landfill or E.F.W. and should work it out here in Halton:
  - That's idealism of the highest order which ignores reality of a problem today and totally ignores taking an opportunity presented.
  - How serious are we in the long term? If we can't bring ourselves to pay the price today, why should anyone believe you will do it tomorrow?



The Corporation of the  
**City of Burlington**

November 14, 1983

*City Hall:*  
426 Brant Street, Burlington, Ontario, Canada  
*Mailing Address:*  
P.O. Box 5013, Burlington, Ontario, Canada L7R 3Z6

Telephone:

File No.:

The Honourable Andrew S. Brandt  
Minister of the Environment  
135 St. Clair Avenue West  
Toronto, Ontario  
M4V 1P5

Dear Mr. Minister:

SUBJECT: Region of Halton Request for Exemption from Public  
Hearings re Expansion of Burlington Landfill Site.

I have a copy of the letter from Mr. J.N. Raftis, Regional Chairman, Region of Halton, 1983-11-10 on this subject!

I wish to express strong opposition to the request in the letter and to question some of the analysis in the letter

I enclose for your information a copy of comments I made at Regional Council on November 9, 1983 when this subject was debated.

I have been a member of the Region of Halton Solid Waste Management Committee from its inception and so I am aware of the serious situation Halton has been in with respect to garbage disposal. I am also Chairman of the City of Burlington Solid Waste Management Committee and, therefore, am aware of the position of the City of Burlington. Hopefully, you will be receiving further communication from the City of Burlington.

I am also the elected Regional Councillor for Burlington's Ward one where the proposed expansion would take place. I know that the Solid Waste Management Committee of the West Burlington Citizens Group has corresponded with you in the past and have lodged with you a petition. I believe they will also communicate with you on this subject.

I want to make three main points:

First, the environmental and social acceptability of the proposed expansion is questionable. The community and immediate neighbours have every right to expect a hearing where this acceptability can be proven or disproven.

Second, there is no emergency situation. There is an alternative, - the "export option".

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November 14, 1983

Third, the "export option" is an opportunity to implement stated Regional policy and stated Ministry of Environment goals. I would hope that the Minister would be able to lend support to an implementation of principles stated in the Blueprint for Waste Management and other Ministry statements as well as to implement a progressive and environmentally sound waste disposal policy.

Therefore, I would hope that the Minister would insist that the Minister would insist that the full process of full hearings, preferably under the E.A.A., would be held for all four phases of the Dillon proposal.

I am prepared to personally meet with yourself and your staff on this matter. I know that representatives of the Citizens Group and neighbours would also be willing to so meet.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Walter Mulkewich  
Regional Councillor  
Ward 1

WM/lf

enclosure



Ontario

Ministry  
of the  
Environment

Ministère  
de  
l'Environnement

Central  
Region

Région du  
Centre

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1983 11 17

Mr. Walter Mulkewich  
Regional Councillor  
Ward 1  
City Hall  
426 Brant Street  
P.O. Box 5013  
Burlington, Ontario  
L7R 3Z6

Dear Mr. Mulkewich:

Re: Environmental Assessment of the Landfill Component  
of Halton Solid Waste Management Systems  
Interim Plans

I was pleased to meet with you on Tuesday, November 8, 1983, to discuss your letter to me of October 12, 1983.

We agreed in our meeting on a number of points that you have raised with me, primarily on the issue of interim options that the Regional Municipality is to identify for the Ministry's consideration in advance of the completion of the environmental assessment process for the landfill component. This process will not be completed on a schedule that would permit the Regional Municipality to continue landfilling of its wastes without choosing some options to look after those wastes before the new facilities are in place. Options available, as identified so far, include export of the wastes outside of Regional boundaries and/or some expansions at the Burlington facilities, now reaching capacity, or a combination of both.

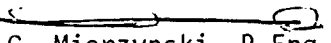
With the above in mind, it is necessary for the Regional Municipality, which has the responsibility for waste management, to plan interim works and not wait until the landfill capacity is used up, such that an emergency situation is not created. Since we know well in advance that an emergency situation is likely to occur, proper planning to prevent an emergency is a necessity.

This letter, as agreed, is intended to clarify the Ministry's position with respect to how it will deal with the options which the Regional Municipality, under its responsibility, must identify.

Whatever option is selected by the Regional Municipality will be looked on by the Ministry from a technical and regulatory aspect applicable to that option.

In summary, and without going into details of our lengthy discussion, I want to emphasize that the Ministry will deal with the Regional Municipality on the matter of its preferred option on the understanding that: it is the Regional Council's responsibility to look after waste management within the Region; the Regional Municipality must select its interim plans to satisfy the waste needs in the Regional Municipality during the time that the environmental assessment process for the selection of a new landfill site to look after the solid waste component is underway and until such time as that new site is selected and approved.

Yours very truly,

  
G. Mierzynski, P.Eng.  
Regional Director

cc: J.N. Raftis, Chairman, Region of Halton  
D.Y. Perlin, C.A.O., Region of Halton

G/Ake  
NN11/83

# Wasted

## Ontario 'not in game' of energy from garbage

By RUDY PLATIEL

Ontario has fallen behind the United States and other countries in getting rid of garbage by incinerating it for energy and there is little to suggest an improvement without provincial Government encouragement.

While some Southern Ontario municipalities are beginning to look at exporting waste to U.S. incinerators in order to solve landfill problems, Ontario's only major energy-from-waste operation is a 12-year-old Hamilton incinerator converted to energy production a few years ago.

"In comparison to the United States where some 91 energy-from-waste plants are operating or in the process of being built, Ontario is not in the game," said Kenneth Wilk, vice-president of Tricil Ltd., the company that manages the solid waste energy incinerator owned by Hamilton-Wentworth Region.

Ontario's Energy Ministry says 380 energy-producing incinerators are operating around the world, mainly in European countries, Japan and the United States.

But Mr. Wilk said that the problem facing Ontario is clear — if the switch is just left to happen, it won't.

What is needed, he said, is the creation by the province of an infrastructure and initiative to help municipalities and companies overcome the financial and regulatory hurdles.

In the past 10 years, two Government-financed waste-recovery plants have been built; one in North York to demonstrate separation and recycling and the other in Hamilton. The Hamilton plant, which recovers metal and produces steam by incinerating other garbage, is now operated by Tricil.

"Both have proven their point . . . neither has been duplicated in Ontario," Mr. Wilk said.

"Of 10 projects with any likelihood of proceeding in Ontario, two have been talked about for more than 10 years, five for more than five years, one for three years and two . . . for two years."

The advantage of energy-from-waste incinerators, as they're called, is that the cost of garbage disposal is offset by the production of energy — usually steam — used to operate factories, generate electricity or heat institutions.

But the high capital costs of build-



Kenneth Wilk

ing these units has intimidated municipalities when they compare them with the relatively cheap cost in the past of dumping garbage in pits or old quarries.

However, increasing environmental horror stories about ground-water pollution and the imposition of tougher provincial controls are leading to a garbage disposal crisis in some municipalities.

### Encouragement sought for disposal solution

But the idea of using U.S. incinerators to solve the garbage crunch here has caused some Ontario municipal politicians to warn that it creates the potential for Ontario towns to be "held to ransom" with rising fees if they have no alternative.

Mr. Wilk said in an interview that the problem is not energy-from-waste technology, which is well advanced. What is needed, he said, is a partnership between municipalities, private companies with the expertise, and the provincial Government, which would provide some incentive financing similar to roads and sewage treatment grants and streamline the approvals process.

He said the present long process

increases the risk for municipalities and companies by inducing them to continue with the original plan even though final engineering plans may suggest an alternative.

"Rather than risk the expense of new hearings to approve a modified design, projects can be forced to proceed along a path which could easily lead to significant problems in the future," he said.

The provincial Energy Ministry has a program to encourage energy-from-waste incineration.

But so far no project has reached the stage where the province can talk financial aid, said Roger Higgin, executive co-ordinator for alternative and renewable energy for the Ministry of Energy.

Mr. Higgin says that under current environment legislation ministers and others are forbidden to make any financial commitment until a project has cleared all environmental hurdles and proved that it meets project criteria.

To qualify, he said, projects must show they have a secure source of garbage, use totally proved technology, have secure markets for the energy produced, be proved economically and financially viable, have a sound ownership and management structure and meet all relevant environmental regulations.

While a couple of projects are nearing the final approval stage, Mr. Higgin said that none have reached the stage where the ministry or the minister can offer financial help to the municipalities.

Ontario has developed proposals for future waste disposal in a document called A Blueprint for Waste Management. When public hearings on it are completed, recommendations will be prepared for the Environment Minister.

But Mr. Wilk said that the Blueprint seems to contain much more emphasis on recycling alternatives than incineration for energy.

Yet incineration is the only practical technique that can make a major dent in the mountain of garbage. An incinerator can reduce disposal volume by 80 per cent, Mr. Higgin said.

Other methods, such as material separation and recycling, reduce garbage volumes by only 15 or 20 per cent, leaving 80 per cent still to be handled.