



The Corporation of the City of Burlington

September 27, 1983

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File No.:

Mr. G. Mierzynski, P. Eng.
Regional Director
Ministry of the Environment
Central Region
150 Ferrand Drive
Suite 700
Don Mills, Ontario M3C 3C3

Dear Mr. Mierzynski:

SUBJECT: Environmental Assessment of the Landfill Component of
Halton's Solid Waste Management System, Interim Plans

Your letters of 1982-02-07 and 1983-03-25 directed to Halton Region on this subject were released to the Halton Region Solid Waste Management Committee as late as August 10, 1983.

I read both letters with interest. I would first like to make some observations and then ask some questions.

You acknowledge the "uncertainties and the planned delay" in the Walker Wright E.A.A. process. You then conclude that, presumably, because of this delay an "interim plan" must be available.

You then go on to assume that "it is apparent that additional approved capacity will be required at the Burlington site. As such, you must prepare an interim plan . . . ". In other words, you assume that this is the only alternative.

You indicate that "a moderate and straight forward expansion of the Burlington site should not make for a great deal of unnecessary expense." You do not make any reference to the environmental acceptability of any expansion.

You assume in your letter of 1983-03-25 that an interim expansion at the Burlington site would only be a "small change". You go on to say that your staff is of the opinion that "an interim expansion of the Burlington site should not be subject to an Environmental Assessment".

RECEIVED
A.M. _____ P.M. _____

SEP 28 1983
CHIEF ADMINISTRATOR
REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY
OF HALTON

I note that your letters were written back in February and, therefore, must be understood within the context of the information you were dealing with at that time.

I would summarize the following points of information with respect to developments since February, 1983.

1. The "Interim Plan" as prepared by Dillon, June 1983, and as presented by Regional staff in C.A.O. Report 219/83 is a four-year plan for all the Region's garbage. In other words, the plan before us is no longer a "small change" as you understood in February and no longer an "interim" as you understood in February. Therefore, the assumption that it should no longer be subject to an Environmental Assessment must be brought into question.
2. The City of Burlington, by resolution of City Council, has indicated its opposition to any further expansion of this landfill.
3. The citizens of the area have directly communicated to your Minister with a petition of 3,341 signatures opposing any further landfill in the area. (Solid Waste Committee, West Burlington Ratepayers Association, letter of April 29, 1983.)
4. The continued research of Dr. Cherry and the fact that this entire area did not come out as a "preferred candidate area" in the latest Walker Wright report underlines confirmed concern for basic environmental reasons.
5. Your Ministry has released its Blueprint for Waste Management in which one of the basic principles is minimization of landfill. Another, the Ministry of Energy, is encouraging energy from waste.
6. Alternatives to a four-year, four-phase expansion of the Burlington site are available. The most immediate and most attractive alternative is to export Halton's garbage as an energy resource to Occidental's Energy from Waste Plant in Niagara Falls, New York as part of a proposal initiated by B.F.I. This proposal has the endorsement of the City of Burlington, the local citizens, and is in keeping with your own Ministry's principles and aims.
7. The area in question is part of the Parkway Belt West Plan and therefore is subject to its requirements as well as that of the Official Plan of both Halton and Burlington.

I would appreciate your comments on the viability and desirability of an "interim expansion" as proposed in light of the additional information as I have outlined. I would appreciate your general comments as well as answers to the following questions:

. . . 3

Has the proposed "interim expansion" gone beyond being "moderate" or "small" and, therefore, must be seen as a further landfill site subject to the requirement of an Environmental Assessment?

Since the Region is in the position it is partly because of past Provincial Government decisions and since an Energy from Waste alternative is in keeping with your own policies, is the Ministry in a position to offer encouragement, financial and otherwise, to the Region to embark on this opportunity immediately?

Will you encourage or direct the Region to consider all alternatives in the light of continuing developments?

I would certainly be available for discussion of any of the points raised in my letter. I would also appreciate an answer by October 6 in that this matter will be dealt with at Regional Committees in the following week.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,



Walter Mulkewich
Regional Councillor
Ward 1

WM/lf

cc: Mayor Roly Bird
Michael Boggs, C.A.O., Burlington
J.N. Raftis, Chairman, Region of Halton
D.Y. Perlman, C.A.O., Region of Halton
G. Woodburn, Waste Disposal Manager, Region of Halton
R. Mohammed, Director of Planning, Region of Halton
J. Cowman, Alderman