

J. M. Anderson
685 Inverness Ave.
Burlington, Ontario
L7T 3S9

August 8, 1985

Ministry of the Environment
135 St. Clair Avenue West
TORONTO, Ontario
M4V 1P5

Attention: The Honorable James Bradley,
Minister of the Environment

Dear Sir:

PROPOSAL FOR A HALTON REGION LANDFILL SITE

I am writing to you with regard to the process under which the Region of Halton is undergoing at the present time to obtain a long term landfill site. As you recently met with various representatives from the Region, you are no doubt aware of the long search that has been taking place.

The West Burlington Citizens Group has been involved for several years now and would like to take this opportunity to advise you, the new Minister of the Environment, of our concerns regarding the process that is taking place, and in particular, the selection of Site F as the Region's choice for a long term landfill site.

To state our case briefly, the proposed site, adjacent to a dump which was closed in 1972, is leaking, and indications are that we have a right to be concerned. In addition, the proposed site is also adjacent to the present landfill site, and there is leachate coming from here too. All of these areas are located on the slope of a hill, just below the Niagara Escarpment, traversed by streams which flow into Burlington Bay a short distance away.

Since 1981 we have made our case to the Provincial Government that this site should not be considered for yet another landfill site for another 20 years. In 1983 we submitted a petition with 3,400 names of residents which stated there must be no more landfilling here.

We formally opposed the expansion of the present site at the Environmental Protection Act Hearing in June 1984. At that time the Region of Halton was hoping to by-pass the hearing process on the basis of urgency, in spite of the fact that it had procrastinated time after time.

We are very concerned that the Region might claim urgency again as time drags on with the Environmental Assessment process; and time is running out for the present landfill site. We believe there is sufficient evidence

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to show that Site F is not environmentally suitable, and therefore urge that a full, proper hearing be carried out.

In addition, we are extremely concerned that the owner of this site (National Sewer Pipe), who has submitted proposals to operate a private landfill site here, will be allowed to proceed without a proper environmental hearing. At the Environmental Protection Act Hearing, hydrogeology experts stated that this site should never be chosen as a landfill site.

We would also like to discuss the role of the Ministry of the Environment as we have observed it in the past. Namely, its role until now has been to remain neutral, never bringing out any concerns at Hearings. It appears that someone in the Ministry makes the decision as to what the role will be and their lawyers carry this out. Unless subpoenaed, Government experts have not played an active role. Our argument is, that if the role of the Ministry of the Environment is to protect the environment, it should become active and participate, making experts available.

We might argue that citizen's groups such as ours, are taking on the role of what should be the Government's role. With very limited funds at our disposal, we cannot hire the experts necessary to argue our case.

As well as our attendance at hearings, and City and Regional Councils, we have continued to act as watchdog at both the old and present sites. We have reported many infractions and have continued to press for proper reports on the monitoring of these sites. Why is there such poor performance on these matters?

We respectfully submit these comments to you for your consideration.

Yours very truly
WEST BURLINGTON CITIZENS GROUP

(Mrs.) June M. Anderson
President