

GLEN ABBEY RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

DRAFT REPORT ON OUR CONCERNS ON EFW

A proposal has been made by Petro-Sun, Inc. to build an Energy from Waste (EFW) Plant in our neighborhood. This plant is proposed to be built North of the North Service Road, West of Third Line at the Mid- Halton Treatment Plant. This site is situated in the Greenbelt area beside the Fourteen Mile Creek and is adjacent to the Western boundary of Glen Abbey. Our approved official Town Plan shows that 3,000 to 4,000 people including a town house community is planned within a one kilometre radius of the site and some of the homes will be as close as 1,200 feet from the plant. Construction on these homes could begin as early as 1986.

The following are a few of the grave concerns we have about this proposal that we feel have not been properly addressed:

Emissions:

1. We know that dioxins will be a biproduct of incinerating these waste products, but we are unable to find the exact amount of dioxins that will be in the emissions and the significance of this to the residents.
2. Up until this proposal, a stack height of 600 feet had been considered a necessity by the Ministry of the Environment, supposedly to place the emissions above the temperature inversion layer for the safety of the residents. Now Petro-Sun propose a 150 foot stack. Where does that put the emissions and how safe are the residents? These type of contradictions worry us!

3. Obviously, there will be other contaminants in the emissions. These will be difficult to monitor because they never know what they are burning. There will be sulphur dioxide, chlorine gases, and other dangerous contaminants released in the emissions and we question the effect of these and other yet undefined contaminants on the residents of Glen Abbey in particular and Oakville in general. We are told that the waste will not be inspected prior to incineration. What if explosives are present in some of the waste? What guarantees do we have that dangerous toxic waste would not be present? Would there be any smell to the emissions due to rotting garbage?

Smell of the Plant in General

1. Garbage will be delivered to the plant 5 days a week approximately 6 to 8 hours per day and burned 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. The garbage brought in on Friday may not be burned until early Monday. What will the plant smell like then?
2. We are told that if the plant is properly managed, the smell will be insignificant. What guarantee do we have that the plant will be properly managed?
3. If it is not, what recourse do we have? The Ministry of the Environment's record on this point has not been good.
4. What happens if there is a strike? What if it is shut-down because of thermal inversion or pollution levels? What if it is shut-down because of breakdown of equipment? Does the garbage pile up?

Noise and Traffic:

1. To obtain 400 tons of garbage per day will require approximately 100 garbage trucks per day. Our roads are already overburdened, especially the roads leading in and out of the community and the Service Roads. I don't believe there are 100 trucks a day coming into the community for construction and the few that there are cause traffic problems, noise and terrible dust.
2. At this time, garbage pick up in Glen Abbey is one (1) day a week. The trucks are terribly noisy wherever they are in the community. You can hear them several streets away. Now we can look forward to these sounds five (5) days a week?

Expansion of Site:

1. This plant is planned to be built in a modular form which means it could be expanded to any size necessary at any time by adding new modules. What might be a 400 ton per day plant today, could grow into a 600 TPD or greater in the future if the need arose. What Limitations will be placed on this growth.
2. What controls will the community have on this growth?

Parkway Belt:

1. The location of this site is within an area designated "Public Open Space and Buffer Area" in the Parkway Belt West Plan. The intent of this plan is to maintain the integrity of this agricultural area. There is no mention of industries permitted in the Burlington-Oakville Minibelt Link. When industries are permitted in other areas of the Parkway Belt, such industries are restricted such that the maximum total coverage is 25%.
 - NO USES ARE PERMITTED which might create OBNOXIOUS SOUNDS, ODOURS, FUMES OR VIBRATIONS.
 - Buildings or structures for industrial purposes do NOT EXCEED A MAXIMUM OF 1 STORY IN HEIGHT, and buildings and structures for associated office uses do not exceed a maximum of 2 stories.
 - Also, NO OUTDOOR STORAGE OF GOODS OR MATERIALS is permitted.

It is our understanding that the proposed and existing uses by the Region are not in accordance with Parkway Belt Planning and Development Act, Statutes of Ontario 1973.

2. What recourse do we have to protect this greenbelt area?
3. Can a private company build anything they like at the request of the Region without going through the OMB?