



Durham/York Residual Waste Study

MEMORANDUM

TO: Joint Waste Management Group

FROM:

Mike Birett, Acting Director
Solid Waste Management & Administration
Environmental Services Department
The Regional Municipality of York

and

Mirka Januszkiewicz, Director
Waste Management Services
Works Department
The Regional Municipality of Durham

DATE: May 13, 2008

RE: Request for Alternate for Citizen Members of the JWMG

In the April 15, 2008 JWMG Minutes on page 12, Item 9 (a):

Request for Alternate for Citizen Members of the JWMG:

S. Perrella questioned if it was possible for the other citizen representatives to be given the same consideration as Councillors appointed to the Committee, and have alternates attend JWMG meetings in their absence. It was questioned if the EA Terms of Reference would have to be amended if only the Terms of Reference for the JWMG needed to be amended. It was the consensus of the Committee that staff investigate this issue and report back at the next JWMG meeting.

Discussion

Staff have reviewed the request for Citizen 'Alternates' and determined the current JWMG Terms of Reference do not include an option for Alternate participation for Citizen members of the Committee. Such a change would require changes to the JWMG Terms of Reference.

Considering the JWMG Committee meets regularly on a pre-scheduled monthly basis, the need for Alternates should be minimal. Members should be able to either alter their schedule or send their notice of impending absence to the Clerk with any potential comments or concerns they may want to have brought forward. For those occasional short notice emergency events, the likelihood of notifying an official Alternate in time would be difficult.

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Additionally, since many JWMG discussion items flow between meetings it would be difficult to expect Alternates to stay current based only on meeting minutes. Expecting productive input from an Alternate covering for a regular non-voting public member is optimistic given the complexity of the project.

Recommendation

Due to the relative infrequency of JWMG citizen member absence and the difficulty in keeping 'Alternates' aware, available and informed on the EFW project, it is not recommended that they be permitted. The committee attendance/participation by all voting and non-voting members to date has been excellent and there has never been an occasion where there were not enough members for a quorum.