

The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

ENERGY-FROM-WASTE SITE LIAISON COMMITTEE

Tuesday, November 25, 2008

A meeting of the energy-from-waste Site Liaison Committee was held on Tuesday, November 25, 2008, in the lower level boardroom (LL-C), Regional headquarters building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby, ON, at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Councillor Novak
Councillor Foster
C. Curtis, Commissioner of Works, Region of Durham
J. Szwarcz, Senior Planner, Special Projects, Municipality of Clarington
R. Walli
M. Clayton
G. James
C. Wedge
M. Ashcroft
J. Vinson
T. Ali
K. Coupland
J. Szwarcz

Absent: R. Yates, with regrets

Also

Present: Regional Chair Anderson
Mayor Abernethy, Municipality of Clarington
Councillor Trim, Works Committee Chair
J. McKay, Jacques Whitford Ltd.
D. Payne, Jacques Whitford Ltd.
Dr. C. Ollson, Jacques Whitford Ltd.

Staff

Present: M. Januszkiewicz, Director, Waste Management
G. Anello, Manager, Waste Planning and Technical Services
G. Borchuk, Project Manager, Waste Management
T. Laverty, Communications Officer, Corporate Communications
E. Lockett, Operations Technician, Waste Management
M. Smart, Administrative Assistant, Works Department (Recording Secretary)

ENERGY-FROM-WASTE SITE LIAISON COMMITTEE

Mayor Abernethy introduced the Chair of the energy-from-waste Site Liaison Committee, Mr. Richard Walli, appointed by Regional Chair Anderson and himself. Mayor Abernethy introduced Mr. Walli as a long-time resident of the Municipality of Clarington who has an extensive background as a consultant in environmental industries. Mayor Abernethy then passed the floor to Mr. Walli and the energy-from-waste Site Liaison Committee team.

Mr. Richard Walli introduced himself and informed the group that he has enjoyed living in the Region of Durham, and working for 25 years as a consultant. He is looking forward to acting as Chair of the energy-from-waste Site Liaison Committee and being a liaison between committee and public.

Mirka Januszkiewicz, Director, Waste Management, introduced herself, Region of Durham staff and Municipality of Clarington staff present, including name and title, including:

Gioseph Anello, Manager, Waste Planning and Technical Services
Greg Borchuk, Project Manager, Waste Management Services, Region of Durham
Tania Laverty, Communications Officer, Region of Durham
Bunny Lockett, Operations Technician, Region of Durham
Councillor Trim, Works Committee Chair
Councillor Novak, Municipality of Clarington
Councillor Foster, Municipality of Clarington
Melodee Smart, Administrative Assistant, Region of Durham

The energy-from-waste Site Liaison Committee voting members then introduced themselves as follows:

Richard Walli
Margaret Clayton
Geoff James
Tracey Ali
Kathy Coupland
Clarence Wedge
Mark Ashcroft
Jim Vinson

PRESENTATION BY GIOSEPH ANELLO, MANAGER, TECHNICAL SERVICES AND WASTE PLANNING, REGION OF DURHAM

Gioseph Anello presented the environmental assessment process (Attachment 1) which included the requirement for establishment of the energy-from-waste Site Liaison Committee. The environmental assessment Terms of Reference were also presented and clarified (Attachment 2).

Councillor Novak requested that the future meetings be scheduled on the same day of the week for consistency. Councillor Foster requested a commitment that agenda and material be provided two weeks ahead of the next meeting. David Payne introduced himself as the senior project manager from Jacques Whitford Ltd. and explained that the scheduling of meetings to follow would depend on the timing of the reports. David Payne also stated that he would be presenting a suggested timeline closer to the end of the meeting.

PRESENTATION BY JIM MCKAY, JACQUES WHITFORD LTD.

Jim McKay made a presentation on an overview of the project, highlighting the energy-from-waste environmental assessment process as a most rigorous and full individual assessment (Attachment 3). The first step of this process was to develop the Terms of Reference which provided unique guidelines of the project to the Minister of the Environment. The first of two undertakings addressed the need to evaluate technologies while the second addressed the site to be chosen. A detailed environmental assessment was prepared and submitted to the Ministry of the Environment.

PRESENTATION BY DR. CHRIS OLLSON, JACQUES WHITFORD LTD.

Dr. Chris Ollson made a presentation outlining his involvement in the energy-from-waste project as an independent party (Attachment 4). He explained that the chosen technology and site must prove that human health will not be adversely affected. In May 2008, Regional Council provided clear objectives to be met and/or exceeded. This mandate provided regulatory requirements that would assist in determining model versus actual. Environmental surveillance involves a hierarchy of monitoring programs, studies and surveys. Health studies are able to provide specific outcomes and assist in determining reasons for such occurrences. In turn, health studies can provide reasons why better technologies should exist or be used. Health surveys are a more time consuming procedure where data is collected and paper based results are reviewed by accredited doctors and health professionals. Biomonitoring can be an invasive procedure where a physical sample is requested from someone or thing and is analyzed for its chemical content.

Early in January 2009, Dr. Ollson will be providing an options analysis report. The options analysis will be brought to the Region of Durham's Joint Health and Works Committees meeting and Regional Council.

Mr. Wedge inquired about the final report and recommendations to which Dr. Ollson replied that the final report is not a part of the environmental assessment. It is an addition to the assessment and is being completed parallel to the environmental assessment. Mr. Wedge also inquired if the cement plant located down the road from the chosen site would be monitored. Dr. Ollson informed the Committee that all results will be included in part of the report but the Ministry of the Environment will determine minimum air, soil, vegetation and water monitoring requirements.

PRESENTATION BY GREG BORCHUK, WASTE PROJECT MANAGER, REGION OF DURHAM

Greg Borchuk presented the Request for Proposal process and its current status (Attachment 5). The process started in 2007. This project is 'DBO' which means that the winning contract will be responsible for design, build and operation of the facility for approximately 30 years. The proposal will be weighted more environmentally than financially. Part of the process included confidential meetings with the prospective vendors. Several addendums have been issued concerning the closing date with an extension provided from January 15, 2009 to February 19, 2009. Evaluation criteria were developed to evaluate proposals.

Questions

Councillor Foster inquired as to the number of public meetings that were held in the Municipality of Clarington during this process. Jim McKay did not have a record of the meetings and would therefore provide the number at a later date. Councillor Foster was also concerned that the technology would be guiding/driving the vendors. Jim McKay explained that if this was the case, the vendor would not be able to meet the minimum requirements set out concerning the facility. Councillor Foster inquired about the Request for Proposal and what would be the determining factors to provide the monitoring program best value as set out by Regional Council and the resolution that was passed.

Richard Walli inquired about the monitoring models being used to collect data. Jim McKay explained that a model was being developed, the vendor would provide the information to be made available and the model would be run with the data. In using a number of sources available for collecting meteor data, including the 10 m tower that was placed on-site, a 30 m tower close to the site which was there prior to the site being determined, Ministry of the Environment and Environment Canada data that is accessible and private sources such as Ontario Power Generation (Darlington). Richard Walli inquired about the length of time that the above systems have been collecting data. Jim McKay confirmed 16 months for the Clarington 01 tower, two years for the 30 m tower and longer than two years for the others.

Margaret Clayton asked if other industries in the area of the facility site have been accounted for in the methods of emission testing and control and if so, what is the baseline. Jim McKay confirmed the conditions being tested today would be used as the model/baseline.

Geoff James stated that the border would be closing in 2010 and was wondering where waste would be going. Greg Borchuk confirmed that the shortfall has been recognized and an interim solution will be provided.

Richard Walli requested that the next meetings be scheduled. David Payne provided a proposed schedule of meetings for 2009 and the Committee agreed on the following dates:

Wednesday, January 14, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. at Region of Durham Headquarters

Wednesday, April 29, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. at Region of Durham Headquarters

Wednesday, June 10, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. at Region of Durham Headquarters

A meeting for September 2009 is to be determined.

Richard Walli thanked everyone in attendance at the first energy-from-waste Site Liaison Committee meeting and the meeting was adjourned.