

**Ministry of Environment,
Conservation and Parks**
*Drinking Water and Environmental
Compliance Division*

**Ministère de l'Environnement,
de la Protection de la nature et des Parcs**
*Division de la conformité en matière d'eau
potable et d'environnement*



Central Region

Région du Centre

York Durham District Office
230 Westney Road South, 5th Floor
Ajax ON L1S 7J5
Telephone: 905-427-5600
Toll-Free : 1-800-376-4547
Fax: 905-427-5602

Bureau de district de York Durham
230 route Westney sud, 5e étage
Ajax ON L1S 7J5
Téléphone : 905 427-5600
Sans frais : 1-800-376-4547
Télécopieur : 905 427-5602

December 28, 2022

Mayor Adrian Foster
Municipality of Clarington
40 Temperance Street
Bowmanville, ON, L1C 3A6

Dear Mayor Foster,

Thank you for contacting the ministry's York Durham District office to discuss concerns that are being raised at Clarington Municipal Council about topics specific to the local air quality in Clarington.

Ministry staff have previously met with yourself, Clarington councillors and community residents to discuss concerns related to air quality and emissions from the Durham York Energy Centre (DYEC). At a technical briefing in 2019, ministry air scientists presented information about air monitoring and sampling at the DYEC in response to concerns being raised.

The ministry assesses compliance at the DYEC through continuous air emissions monitoring, source testing and emission modelling. These are the same emission assessment and monitoring processes accepted by the ministry for all facilities that thermally process municipal waste. Ongoing compliance monitoring programs indicate that Covanta and the Regions of York and Durham are operating the DYEC in compliance with ministry emission limits, which are protective of human health and the environment.

The DYEC operates a separate emission sampling system (AMESA) that generates data for the specific use of Covanta (the operator) and the Regions to assess emission trends and the operational performance of the facility. The AMESA system is not used for compliance assessment, nor should the system results be compared to ministry standards, limits or criteria for the purpose of compliance. The system is used by Covanta and the Regions to assess trends and fluctuations in emissions from the DYEC. Covanta and the Regions are operating the AMESA system in compliance with the conditions of the Environmental Compliance Approval.

Thank you for suggesting that ministry staff attend future municipal council meetings. Ministry staff have resumed attending the Energy from Waste-Waste Management Advisory Committee (EFW-WMAC). As this committee has been established to discuss issues and concerns related to the facility, this forum may be better suited to ensure participation of those who have an interest in the operation of the facility.

In addition to responding to your specific concerns, I also wish to update you on action the ministry has taken to address ongoing concerns regarding ambient air quality in Clarington.

As you will recall, in July 2018 the ministry produced a memorandum summarizing the analysis of air quality data to observe possible trends, sources or patterns and to provide an overview of general ambient air quality throughout Clarington. This analysis, which included data from air monitoring stations operated throughout Durham Region from 2013-2016, showed that air quality in Clarington is similar to that of other communities in southern Ontario.

The ministry has updated the 2018 memorandum to include additional data from 2017 to 2020. The updated memorandum also includes air monitoring results from the mobile air monitoring Trace Atmospheric Gas Analyzer (TAGA), which was deployed in Clarington in July 2021 as a result of our commitment at our March 2021 meeting to conduct mobile air monitoring in the community and to assess the current ambient air quality in Clarington.

This updated analysis, which included data from air monitoring stations operated throughout Durham Region from 2013-2020, confirms the 2018 findings that air quality in Clarington is similar to that of other communities in southern Ontario. A copy of the technical memorandum and supporting infographic is enclosed. The memorandum will also be provided to the Regions, industry stakeholders and any interested community members.

The ministry remains committed to working with you to protect the air quality in Clarington. If you have any questions or comments, you can contact me at (905) 442-3105 or celeste.dugas@ontario.ca.

Sincerely,



Celeste Dugas
District Manager
York Durham District