

Inquiries – May 2020

#	Date Received	Method Received	Comment Details / Description	Response / Remedial Action	Date Responded	Staff Initials
-	-	-	The Regional Municipalities of Durham and York released a Notice of Commencement on July 3, 2019 for the Environmental Screening Process to increase the waste capacity from 140,000 tonnes of waste to 160,000 tonnes of waste per year at the Durham York Energy Centre.	Inquires received through the Environmental Screening Process will be addressed and reported to the MECP through the Record of Consultation for the Project.	-	-
1	April 30, 2020	DYEC Project Email	Can you inform me as to the fueling if the biomass plant? Is it supplemented by natural gas and wood?	<p>Good Morning,</p> <p>This email is in response to your question received on April 30, 2020 regarding the fuel used at the Durham York Energy Centre.</p> <p>The Durham York Energy Centre (DYEC) is a waste management facility that produces energy from the combustion of garbage. The DYEC safely processes 140,000 tonnes per year of residential garbage that remains after maximizing waste diversion programs – reducing, reusing, recycling and composting – in Durham and York Regions. While some biomass materials such as wood and food waste may be present in the residential waste stream, the Durham York Energy Centre does not burn biomass material as supplemental fuel.</p> <p>Natural gas is used during the start-up and shutdown of the boilers. The boilers must be warmed to a minimum of 1,000 degrees Celsius before waste can be introduced. Once the boiler reaches 1,000 degrees Celsius, waste is introduced, and natural gas is slowly decreased until the system is self-sustaining on waste. During normal operations, the system does not need supplementary natural gas. However, natural gas can be used as a short-term measure if there is a decrease in boiler temperature and will be used to control the</p>	May 6, 2020	DL/MN/AH

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				<p>boiler temperature during the shutdown process prior to facility outages.</p> <p>Please let us know if you have any additional questions.</p> <p>Regards, DYEC Project Team</p>		
2	May 20, 2020	DYEC Project Email	<p>Good Morning,</p> <p>I am the climate change coordinator with the Township of King. We are currently in the process of creating a basic baseline emissions inventory for our municipality as a part of a greater climate change action plan. I had a question for your centre regarding the possible emission factor for your facility in CO2 equivalent emissions per metric tonne of waste. Im not sure you have this factor but would love to chat a little but and see if there is some number that can be found, allowing king to estimate our downstream municipal solid waste emissions from the facility.</p> <p>Please let me know if there is anything I can do to help.</p>	<p>Hi Joshua,</p> <p>As discussed on the phone today please find attached a link to the provinces GHG reporting page.</p> <p>There is an excel file roughly mid way down the page – the DYEC is covered under line 282</p> <p>https://data.ontario.ca/dataset/greenhouse-gas-emissions-reporting-by-facility</p> <p>Hopefully this answers your questions, please let me know if there's anything else I can help with.</p> <p>Regards, Andrew</p>	May 27, 2020	AE
3	May 21, 2020	DYEC Project Email	<p>Dear Sir/Madam</p> <p>I am the Plant Manager of Hymopack Ltd in Toronto, ON, a manufacturer of both hi-density and low-density plastic bags for the retail and can liner industry. From time to time we generate plastic waste in the form of pellet resins (which we collect but cannot effectively reuse in our process).</p> <p>These pellets are comprised of the same hydrocarbon materials found in plastic shopping bags from local supermarkets or hardware stores. Being of a hydrocarbon origin, the plastic pellets have a high energy density that we believe would be an ideal material to consume in your waste to energy facility. On hand we have between 20 -25 cardboard totes of the material each weighing about 500kg to 750kg.</p> <p>I am reaching out with the hope that you may have an interest in this material and could use it in your facility. Please let me know if this is a possibility now or at any time in the near future.</p> <p>Kind Regards</p>	<p>Good Morning,</p> <p>This email is in response to your inquiry sent on May 21, 2020 regarding the disposal of high-density and low-density plastics at the Durham York Energy Centre.</p> <p>The Durham York Energy Centre is Durham Region's primary long-term disposal option for waste and only processes the household waste remaining after Durham and York Regions' aggressive composting, recycling and reuse programs. Our Certificate of Approval does not allow us to accept waste from any additional outside sources. As a result, we are unable take any materials from your business for disposal at this time.</p> <p>Please let us know if you have any additional questions.</p> <p>Regards, DYEC Project Team</p>	May 23, 2020	DL

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4	May 27, 2020	DYEC telephone	A resident called the DYEC line and asked about disposal opportunities.	Staff advised that only residential garbage from Durham and York Regions, collected by our contracted vendors, can be received and processed at this facility. Therefore, the DYEC is not able to accept garbage from other municipalities, sectors or private haulers.	May 27, 2020	AE
5	May 29, 2020	DYEC Project Email	As I'm sure you know, York Region and Durham Region operate a few public drop-off waste depots. The depots accept recyclables and, as stated on their websites, they accept "Dedicated/Mixed Loads of Garbage". A few questions: 1) Assuming such loads are dry and non-hazardous, is it correct to say that such loads end up at the Energy Centre and are incinerated? i.e. garbage dropped off at a waste depot is burned (energy-from-waste). (This would be good news.) 2) As a second question, what happens if a load contains a small quantity of broken glass or ceramics? For example, flower pots, or broken plates or pottery, which technically doesn't burn. What happens to unburnable material? 3) It is my understanding that clean, untreated wood can be recycled. On the other hand, I believe York Region classifies "treated" (chemically preserved) wood as "garbage". Rightly or wrongly, it has been said that treated wood is hazardous and "should not be burned". Is this true? Or is high temperature incineration an acceptable form of destruction for treated wood? Does the Durham-York Energy Centre incinerate/burn treated wood? (If so, good news.) What about non-recyclable "plasticized" wood products like Formica or wood laminates? End of questions (for now). Thank you. May I look forward to hearing from you. DH	Good Morning, Thank you for your inquiry dated May 29, 2020 regarding waste disposal at the Durham York Energy Centre (DYEC). The DYEC is Durham Region's primary long-term disposal option for waste. Durham Region delivers up to 110,000 tonnes of garbage/year and York Region 30,000 tonnes of garbage/year. The DYEC only processes the household waste remaining after Durham Region's and York Region's aggressive composting, recycling and reuse programs. This non-hazardous household waste can come from both curbside black bag garbage and non-hazardous/non-divertible garbage received at the public drop-off depots. You are correct that household residential wastes commonly contain some materials that are non-combustible (such as the broken ceramics and glass noted in your email) – although broken glass should be set out separately as 'sharps' in a marked container to protect collection workers. This material will pass through the facility and will make up part of the bottom ash. Ferrous and non-ferrous metals are removed from the bottom ash for recycling, while the remaining ash is sent to landfill as alternative daily cover. Treated wood is collected in designated bins at the public drop-off depots and diverted from the DYEC for recycling. However, the DYEC can safely process treated wood and non-recyclable plasticized wood products. The DYEC uses specialized air pollution control equipment to cool and clean the combustion gases before they are released into the atmosphere. This equipment operates under stringent environmental regulatory standards. Continuous emissions	June 4, 2020	DL/AE/SD

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				<p>monitoring devices monitor stack emissions on a continuous basis to ensure compliance with air quality standards established by the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks through the facility's Environmental Compliance Approval.</p> <p>Please let us know if you have any additional questions.</p> <p>Regards,</p> <p>DYEC Project Team</p>		

Total Inquiries – May 2020

Inquiry Type	Total by Inquiry Type
Total Project Team Inquiries received this month by project web email / telephone:	5
Total Covanta Inquiries received this month:	0
Total Durham Region Council / Committee Inquiries received this month:	0
Total Durham Region Call Centre Inquiries received this month:	0
Total Inquiries received from York Region this month:	0
Total Inquiries received from previous months in 2020 to-date:	10
Total Inquiries received in 2020 to-date:	15

Complaints – May 2020

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-	-	-	The Regional Municipalities of Durham and York released a Notice of Commencement on July 3, 2019 for the Environmental Screening Process to increase the waste capacity from 140,000 tonnes of waste to 160,000 tonnes of waste per year at the Durham York Energy Centre.	Complaints received through the Environmental Screening Process will be addressed and reported to the MECP through the Record of Consultation for the Project.	-	-
1	May 27, 2020	Durham Regional Council	Delegation to Durham Council re: 2020-INFO-37: Durham York Energy Centre Operations Emergency Amendment to Environmental Compliance Approval. Delegation raised concerns regarding the authorization and process, rationale and messaging to the public.	No staff action required at this time.	May 27, 2020	-
2	May 27, 2020	Durham Regional Council	Delegation to Durham Council re: 2020-INFO-37: Durham York Energy Centre Operations Emergency Amendment to Environmental Compliance Approval. Delegation raised concerns regarding the authorization and process, rationale and messaging to the public.	No staff action required at this time.	May 27, 2020	-

Total Complaints – May 2020

Complaint Type	Total by Complaint Type
Total Project Team Complaints received this month by project web email / telephone:	0
Total Covanta Complaints received this month:	0
Total Durham Region Council / Committee Complaints received this month:	2
Total Durham Region Call Centre Complaints received this month:	0
Total Complaints received from York Region this month:	0
Total Complaints received from previous months in 2020 to-date:	5
Total Complaints received in 2020 to-date:	7