

Inquiries – January 2022

#	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	December 30, 2021	DYEC E-mail	<p>ATTN: To whom it may concern, I have read the Notice of Completion in today's newspaper and have the following questions:</p> <p>1. "The intent is to increase the capacity from 140,000 tonnes per year to 160,000 tonnes per year."</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How many years has the DYEC been in operation? - When was the last environmental assessment completed? - What tonnage was the subject of the last environmental assessment? - When the DYEC was first proposed to be built, what was the tonnage the public told the plant would handle per year? - Was the public informed, during the first public meetings, that the Region intended to slowly increase the yearly processing capacity at the DYEC and that approval could be granted through using The Environmental Screening Report, not individual Environmental Assessment? - How many complaints from the public has the facility received since opening? - What is the subject of the public complaints received? - Is there a public, yearly report/summary detailing all complaints received? - How many complaints remain outstanding? <p>2. "The additional capacity (140,000-160,000 tonnes) is needed to accommodate population growth, increase efficiency and produce more energy." Everyone knows that over time, the population will increase, and more energy will be needed. "The increase in capacity will not require any modifications to existing infrastructure."</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - With modifications to the existing infrastructure, what is the maximum tonnage capacity per year that the DYEC could process? - How many acres is the DYEC property? What percentage of that property is occupied by the processing plant, offices, etc.? - What is the long-term plan for this plant? <p>3. " The Screening process involved identifying and applying criteria for potential environmental effects."</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What are the Potential environmental effects identified? - What are the mitigation measures that would address each potential environmental effect? - How are environmental effects monitored? Frequency? - Who is responsible for identifying and monitoring the environmental effects at the DYEC? - Does the DYEC provide a yearly public report summarizing environmental effects and actions taken? 	Please see Response in Appendix A	January 7, 2022	RM

#	Date Received	Method Received	Comment Details / Description	Response / Remedial Action	Date Responded	Staff Initials
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How many times in 2021 has DYEC operated outside the limits set for the plant? - How many tons did DYEC process in 2021 as off November 30, 2021? <p>Those are my questions. Please respond to each question by return email.</p>			
2	January 12, 2022	DYEC E-mail	<p>If there are any tours planned for the future of Durham York Energy centre I would like to go through the facility. I have them post the emissions on a screen outside where the public can view the screen, can I access this online also. Thank you</p>	<p>Good Morning,</p> <p>Thank you for your interest in the Durham York Energy Centre (DYEC). Unfortunately our regional facilities remain closed to the public due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, tours of our facilities are postponed until further notice. An immersive 360-degree DYEC virtual tour and a process overview are available on the DYEC website. These videos provide a great opportunity to see how the facility works. In addition, the information that is posted on the board outside the DYEC is also available on the Real-Time Air Emissions Data webpage on our website.</p> <p>Please reach out if you have any additional questions.</p>	January 13, 2022	RM/DL
13	January 18, 2022	DYEC E-Mail	<p>Last night at Planning and Development Committee, a Councillor raised concern respecting a “spike” in PCB 118 concentrations reported in the DYEC’s 2021 spring source test. A component of this question to staff is about would contribute to the presence of PCBs in the DYEC’s air emissions? Is it possibly relating to residual waste removed from closed Regional landfills.</p> <p>Can you advise whether mined residual waste from closed landfill sites was being thermally treated at the DYEC at the time of the spring 2021 source test? Where there any other special / unique streams / sources of waste being processed at this time or was the DYEC receiving and thermally treating curbside collected residual waste and residual waste from Regional transfer stations at the time? Lastly, are you able to provide any updates with respect to the mining of closed Regional landfills? Has only the Blackstock Landfill been mined to date and over what period was the residual waste removed from the Blackstock Landfill processed at the DYEC?</p> <p>We greatly appreciate any assistance you can provide.</p>	<p>Despite the presence of an increase in the PCB-118 levels, which is a specific congener with a relatively high rate of occurrence, overall the DYEC remains well within its permit limits.</p> <p>To date, landfill mining activities have only taken place at the Blackstock site. Residual waste was transported off-site from the Blackstock landfill site for processing at the DYEC starting on November 1, 2018 until January 24, 2019. Approximately 5,700 m3 or 2,849 tonnes of residual waste was processed at the DYEC. No waste mined from the Blackstock landfill would have been processed at the DYEC during the 2021 spring source test. Additionally, no other unique streams of waste were being processed at this time, solely curbside collected residual waste and residual waste from Regional transfer stations at the time in accordance with the facility’s ECA.</p> <p>In regards to future plans for landfill mining, in December of 2019 and May of 2020, sub-surface investigations involving a geophysical survey, shallow test pits, and borehole drilling were conducted at the Scott landfill site to evaluate the feasibility of conducting a landfill mining operation at the site. No waste was removed from the site. The potential for a landfill mining operation at the Scott or other sites is currently under</p>	January 18, 2022	AE

#	Date Received	Method Received	Comment Details / Description	Response / Remedial Action	Date Responded	Staff Initials
				<p>evaluation by staff as part of Regional efforts to decrease or otherwise offset GHG emissions.</p> <p>It should be noted that similar to the case for dioxins and furans, the DYEC operates at temperatures above 1000 degrees Celsius which would contribute to the destruction of any PCB's which are fed into the system, given their prevalence this would include any PCBs present in organic materials such as food waste, given their widespread presence at low levels within the environment. This would also apply to any disposed residential materials containing PCBs which could have been present, however given the elapsed time since the ban on their use came into place this is relatively unlikely. There is also a possibility of formation given the presence of chlorine, alongside carbon in a high energy environment similar to that of dioxins.</p>		

Total Inquiries – January 2022

Inquiry Type	Total by Inquiry Type
Total Project Team Inquiries received this month by project web email / telephone:	3
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 2022 to-date:	0
Total Inquiries received in 2022 to-date:	3

If you require this information in an accessible format, please contact The Regional Municipality of Durham at 1-800-372-1102 ext. 3560.

Complaints – January 2022

#	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.	Complaints received through the Environmental Screening Process will be addressed and reported to the MECP through the Record of Consultation for the Project.	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Total Complaints – January 2022

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:	0
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 2022 to-date:	0
Total Complaints received in 2022 to-date:	0

Appendix A – Inquiry Response

#	Response / Remedial Action
1	<p>Thank you for your e-mail dated December 30, 2021. Please see the responses to your questions below in Blue; most of the answers to your questions can be found throughout the Environmental Screening Report or found on our website: www.durhamyorkwaste.ca. If you have any other comments, questions, or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out.</p> <p>1. "The intent is to increase the capacity from 140,000 tonnes per year to 160,000 tonnes per year."</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How many years has the DYEC been in operation? – The DYEC has been in operation since 2016. - When was the last environmental assessment completed? - The last Environmental Assessment (EA) that was completed in 2009 prior to the initial construction of the DYEC. Since there is no new construction or equipment associated with the requested increase in processing capacity and the 2009 EA considered the effects of processing up to 400,000 tonnes of waste per year, many of the conclusions reached in the 2009 EA remain valid for a facility operating at a much lower capacity of 160,000 tonnes of waste per year. A discussion of the multiple technical studies completed for the 2009 EA is included in Section 4 of the Screening Report: https://www.durhamyorkwaste.ca/en/facility-approvals/resources/Documents/2021%20Environmental%20Screening%20Report/20211217_DYEC_ESR_FINAL.pdf. Alternatively, you can review the initial EA Report on our website: https://www.durhamyorkwaste.ca/en/resources/Archived%20Documents/Amended%20Environmental%20Assessment%20-%20November%202009.pdf - What tonnage was the subject of the last environmental assessment? – The 2009 EA provided three scenarios that accounted for the facility operating at: 140, 000 tonnes per year, 250, 000 tonnes per year and 400, 000 tonnes per year. This allowed for a comprehensive review of what the DYEC would process and what was anticipated to process as the Region’s grow. - When the DYEC was first proposed to be built, what was the tonnage that the public was told the plant would handle per year? – When the DYEC was first proposed the 2009 EA capacity scenarios (i.e. 140, 000 tonnes per year, 250, 000 tonnes per year and 400, 000 tonnes per year.) were provided. The plant is designed and constructed to handle 160, 000 tonnes per year; anything beyond 160,000 will require a construction expansion. This is available in the Environmental Screening Report: https://www.durhamyorkwaste.ca/en/facility-approvals/resources/Documents/2021%20Environmental%20Screening%20Report/20211217_DYEC_ESR_FINAL.pdf and the 2009 EA Report: https://www.durhamyorkwaste.ca/en/resources/Archived%20Documents/Amended%20Environmental%20Assessment%20-%20November%202009.pdf - Was the public informed, during the first public meetings, that the Region intended to slowly increase the yearly processing capacity at the DYEC and that approval could be granted through using The Environmental Screening Report not an individual Environmental Assessment? – The 2009 EA purposed various scenarios that took into consideration that the DYEC would need to increase the capacity to accommodate the Region’s growing population. The intention is not to do this in slow increments; it is to be completed in stages as described in the EA in three scenarios. The increase to 160, 000 tonnes per year is completed as Environmental Screening Report due to the legislative guidance and requirements provided to the DYEC. -How many complaints from the public has the facility received since opening? – Since DYEC operations commenced in 2016, the Region has received 81 residents concerns. All concerns and inquires are investigated by Region/Covanta staff, in conjunction with the MECP and addressed accordingly. After the concern has been addressed, an answer is provided back to the resident. A copy of all these concerns and how we have worked to resolve them, can be found on the website: https://www.durhamyorkwaste.ca/en/operations-documents/complaint-inquiry-protocol-and-logs.aspx?_mid =1057 - What is the subject of the public complaints received? – Common inquires are concerning odor. When a resident in the nearby community experiences an odour, often a phone call or email inquiry is received by Region and/or Covanta staff at the DYEC. Any odour concerns that are received by DYEC staff are reported to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) by Covanta’s Environmental Compliance officer immediately, and with a written report as per the facilities Environmental Compliance Approval (within 3 business days for completion). When a concern has been reported, an investigation is completed using the available data; including wind direction from meteorological data, conditions of DYEC operations and a review of our odour inspections. Region staff may also go out into the community to investigate odours in the area of concern. Once the initial investigation is completed, Region staff will follow-up with the concerned resident and provide them the results and MECP environmental officer’s contact information. Once our investigation is complete, and the Provincial MECP environmental officer for the DYEC is satisfied that we are not the source of the odour in question, the complaint may then be passed to the local Clarington MECP Provincial environmental officer for further action as appropriate. Since DYEC operations commenced in 2016, all the odour investigations completed by the DYEC staff, in conjunction with the MECP, have concluded that the reported odour events have not been as a result of operations at the DYEC. Other common inquiries include: residents property value, additional information about the facility, tours, and job inquiries. - Is there a public, yearly report/summary detailing all complaints received? - Yes, summary logs for each month are posted are to our website. They can be found here: https://www.durhamyorkwaste.ca/en/operations-documents/complaint-inquiry-protocol-and-logs.aspx?_mid =1057. -How many complaints remain outstanding? – No, there are no outstanding complaints, inquiries or concerns. All concerns have been addressed. <p>2. "The additional capacity (140,000-160,000 tonnes) is needed to accommodate population growth, allow increased efficiency and produce more energy." Everyone knows that over time, the population will increase and more energy will be needed. "The increase in capacity will not require any modifications to existing infrastructure."</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -With modifications to the existing infrastructure, what is the maximum tonnage capacity per year that the DYEC could process? - With the increase for 160, 000 tonnes per year, there will be no infrastructure or equipment changes. The DYEC is capable of processing up to 160,000 tonnes of garbage annually without requiring any modifications or additions to the existing equipment or the building. Durham Region and York Region propose to utilize the additional waste processing capacity at the DYEC to make use of the existing equipment more efficiently while reducing the need to by-pass garbage directly to landfill disposal. - How many acres is the DYEC property? What percentage of that property is occupied by the processing plant, offices, etc.? – The DYEC is on 12.1 hectares and the entirety of property was built to accommodate current and future operations. 6.5% is currently being occupied by buildings which include the processing plant and offices.

<p>What is the long-term plan for this plant? - An overview of the long term plan for the DYEC is outline in the Screening report (posted to the website). If you are looking for any more information as well as Durham Region comprehensive long term waste management plan you can find a copy of it here: https://www.durham.ca/en/living-here/resources/Documents/GarbageandRecycling/Long-Term-Waste-Plan/Durham_Region_LTWMP_FINAL_DRAFT_AODA_20210910.pdf</p> <p>3. " The Screening process involved identifying and applying criteria for potential environmental effects."</p> <p>- What are the Potential environmental effects identified? - The potential environmental effects of this plant are found in Section 4 of the Environmental Screening Report: https://www.durhamyorkwaste.ca/en/facility-approvals/increasing-capacity-to-160000.aspx</p> <p>- What are the mitigation measures that would address each potential environmental effect? The mitigation measures that address each potential environmental effect can be found in Section 4 of the Environmental Screening Report: https://www.durhamyorkwaste.ca/en/facility-approvals/increasing-capacity-to-160000.aspx</p> <p>- How are environmental affects monitored? Frequency? Who is responsible for identifying and monitoring the environmental effects at the DYEC? – The DYEC operates in accordance with a strict environmental monitoring program. All monitoring plans for the DYEC have been developed in consultation and approved by the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP).</p> <p>Components of the environmental monitoring program include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air Emissions Monitoring through source (stack) testing (on-site) • Ambient Air Monitoring (off-site) • Groundwater & Surface Water Monitoring • Noise Monitoring • Odour Monitoring • Soil Monitoring <p>Each monitoring program has its own requirements, so frequency will vary based on the type of program. The DYEC environmental monitoring programs are evaluated and monitored by Regional Staff, Covanta and third-party consultants. Additional information can be found on our website: https://www.durhamyorkwaste.ca/en/environmental-monitoring/environmental-monitoring.aspx</p> <p>-Does the DYEC provide a yearly public report summarizing environmental effects and actions taken? – Yes, annually there is a facility operating report posted to the website which can be found here: https://www.durhamyorkwaste.ca/en/operations-documents/facility-operations-reports.aspx?_mid_=1062#Facility-Operations-Annual-Reports. In addition, environmental monitoring reports are also posted to the website. https://www.durhamyorkwaste.ca/en/environmental-monitoring/environmental-monitoring.aspx.</p> <p>- How many times in 2021 has DYEC operated outside the limits set for the plant? – The DYEC has been within full compliance of ECA and EA approvals.</p> <p>- How many tons did DYEC process in 2021 as off November 30, 2021? The DYEC received a temporary Emergency Amendment on April 22nd, 2020 allowing an increase in the maximum thermal treatment rate from 140,000 to 160,000 tonnes. In 2020, DYEC received 145,343 net tonnes of waste. A copy of this report can be found here: https://www.durhamyorkwaste.ca/en/operations-documents/facility-operations-reports.aspx?_mid_=1062#2020 All DYEC processed tonnages for 2021, will be reviewed and be made publicly available once the report is written, reviewed and posted in accordance with our Environmental Compliance Approval.</p>
