

Delegation to Works
Item 7.1 b)
Quarter 1 2024 AMESA Staff
Memo (Sept. 13.24 CIP)

Linda Gasser

October 2, 2024.

Durham staff acknowledged Long Term Sampling for Dioxins & Furans would be conducted & included in 2008 EFW Business case

- A consultants report dated Dec. 18, 2014 on Continuous Sampling and Monitoring systems for Dioxins & Furans was submitted to Covanta.
- For reasons Durham staff did not fully explain, the AMESA sampling system was not in place at the time of the Fall 2015 Stack Tests, during which both boilers failed D & F tests.
- AMESA installed some time after that, in “fall 2015”.
- June 15, 2016 Report 2016-WR-8, Pg 2, Works Comm. Curtis wrote:
“AMESA system will be used to monitor Dioxins and Furans between the scheduled stack tests. This will provide an additional mechanism to better protect the public. However, based on current information more work has to be done.....”

Durham engaged consultant to assist with AMESA from fall 2015, still around in 2017

- AMESA is established technology and used in Europe.
- With consultants' and manufacturer's guidance, AMESA should have been operating more quickly than what seems occurred.
- Durham staff released NO AMESA data at all from 2015-19.
- For first time, monthly sampling summaries in 2020 ECA Annual Report.
- Quarterly memos started 2021, with NO underlying data to allow readers to verify the results reported, with many results arbitrarily invalidated.
- Wendy Bracken filed an FOI request in May 2019 asking for AMESA Work Plans and AMESA emissions data to end April 2019. Received some Work plans and emails but AMESA data denied.

I have appealed Durham's denial of my June 2024 FOI request for AMESA data between 2015-18.
Awaiting IPPC response

Subject:Decision - FOI Request 2024-129

Date:Mon, 24 Jun 2024 18:36:53 +0000

From:FOI <FOI@durham.ca>

To:Linda Gasser <gasserlinda@gmail.com>



Hi Linda,

Please find attached the region of durham's response to your access request 2024-129.

June 24, 2024 Durham to me:

Although the region has begun to publish some information regarding the AMESA results at the Durham York Energy Centre, **this activity was not being conducted during 2015-2018**, and the region was not physically collecting that information at that time. As such, we are not in possession of any responsive records.

Note sentence re “possession of the records”.
Two 2018 Work Plans DO contain AMESA monthly summaries from June 2017 to August 2018

Subject:Re: Question: Re: Decision - FOI Request 2024-129

Date:Thu, 27 Jun 2024 01:27:07 +0000

From:FOI <FOI@durham.ca>

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To:Linda Gasser <gasserlinda@gmail.com>



Hi Linda,

Thanks for your email.

My reference to possession of records includes any format of records, whether electronic, hard copy, or any other format. The region is not in possession of the records you requested.

2024 Q 1 AMESA Memo, page 3, states clearly where AMESA records held

- When submitting my FOI Request I described where the AMESA data would be kept, as REQUIRED by the ECA.
- In Sept. 13. 2024 Q 1 Memo Staff wrote:
- *AMESA results **are available at the site** when requested by the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) and reported to the MECP as part of the Annual Report required by ECA Approval Condition 15 and posted to the DYEC website.*
- Durham staff have stated numerous times they can view and thus access the records, which are kept at the DYEC of which Durham is majority owner!

No evidence of independent third party consultant oversight re AMESA monitoring

- Unlike ALL other DYEC monitoring/testing, from Durham & York staff responses and the limited documentation available, it appears there is no independent third party overseeing the AMESA monitoring.
- WHY NOT and especially over such important data and especially because of the numerous concerns around Dioxins & Furans emissions?
- According to staff – Covanta submits the cartridge to the lab, who then sends the results back to Covanta, who then do the calculations to produce a sampling result for the sampling period.
- While AMESA sampling is not required by the ECA for compliance, it is required for information and if conducted properly could be a more accurate representation of actual Dioxin and Furan emissions over longer periods.
- As Works Comm. Curtis wrote, the information from the LTS system would provide additional data between the semi-annual stack tests.
- The public is paying for this monitoring and should have access to complete data.

SUCCESSIVE WORKS COMMITTEES & COUNCILS HAVE NOT PROVIDED SUFFICIENT DYEC OVERSIGHT

- It would be instructive for Works Committee (and Clarington) to watch the Sept. 24, 2024 EFW WMAC at: <https://www.durham.video/>
- Note the WMAC committee questions around Wendy's two delegations and your staff's responses.
- Staff stated that night the update report that Works Committee recommended/requested June 5th, prior to proceeding with throughput expansion, is to be on the November Works agenda.
- I urge you to keep in mind the many concerns raised by Wendy Bracken and myself when you consider the upcoming report.
- THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION. QUESTIONS?