

The Regional Municipality of Durham

Minutes

Energy From Waste – Waste Management Advisory Committee

Tuesday, September 24, 2024

A meeting of the Energy from Waste – Waste Management Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday, September 24, 2024 in Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby, at 7:05 PM. Electronic participation was permitted for this meeting.

1. Roll Call

Present: G. Gordon, Whitby, Chair
M. Cannon, Oshawa
G. Baswick, Clarington
G. Best, Whitby
R. Fleming, Pickering
J. Vinson, Clarington

***all members of the Committee participated electronically**

Absent: P. Haylock, Clarington, Vice-Chair
K. Palinka, Oshawa
T. Shomar, Clarington

Non-Voting Members

Present: Councillor Elhajjeh, Local Councillor, Municipality of Clarington
B. Parayankuzhiyil, Facility Manager, Covanta

***all non-voting members of the Committee participated electronically**

Staff

Present: S. Ciani, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services
K. Dykman, Supervisor, Waste Services
A. Evans, Director, Waste Management Services
R. Inacio, Systems Support Specialist – Information Technology
R. Jagannathan, Commissioner of Works
L. Saha, Manager, Waste Services
D. San Juan, Environmental Health Specialist, Health Department, Durham Region
N. Williams, Project Manager, Waste Services
***all staff members participated electronically**

2. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

3. Adoption of Minutes

Moved by G. Best, Seconded by M. Cannon,
That the minutes of the EFW-WMAC meeting held on Tuesday, May
28, 2024, be adopted.

CARRIED

4. Presentations

There were no presentations heard.

5. Delegations

A) Wendy Bracken, Clarington Resident, re: Information Report #2024-INFO-55:
Durham York Energy Centre 2024 Compliance Source Test Update

Wendy Bracken, Clarington resident, appeared electronically before the Committee and provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding her concerns with Information Report #2024-INFO-55: Durham York Energy Centre 2024 Compliance Source Test Update.

Highlights from the presentation included:

- Pay Careful Attention to Statements Made in Reports
- Stack Testing Issues are Identified in STANTEC Oversight Report dated August 15, 2024, for the DIOXIN/FURAN Test
- Critical to Understand
- Durham York Energy Centre (DYEC) Emits Thousands of Pollutants but Just a Handful are Monitored at Stack Continuously
- Most Pollutants (Including the Most Toxic) are Stack Tested Less Than 0.5% of Annual Operating Time through Pre-Arranged Stack Tests Conducted Under Optimal Operating Conditions or are Not Monitored at All
- Unclear Whether CEMS Data was Also Excluded During Problematic Period of Low Steam Production
- STANTEC Auditing Process Involved, “Eliminating Data that May Have Been Influenced by Calibration or Purging Events that Took Place This Time.”
- Boiler 1 Temperature Below ECA Requirement, Boiler 2 Steam Production Below Criteria
- ECA: Absolute Temp Requirement of 1000°C
- Serious Concerns with Durham’s Reporting
- Conclusion

W. Bracken stated that in conclusion, better monitoring/reporting is needed that includes testing during other than normal operating conditions (OTNOC) conditions that is now required by the EU; and environmental monitoring (flora, fauna, and agriculture).

B) Wendy Bracken, Clarington Resident, re: the Durham York Energy Centre (DYEC) Long-Term Sampling System (LTSS) Quarterly Report Q1-2024 and Related September 13, 2024, Memorandum from the Commissioner of Works

Wendy Bracken, Clarington resident, appeared electronically before the Committee and provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding her concerns with the Durham York Energy Centre (DYEC) Long-Term Sampling System (LTSS) Quarterly Report Q1-2024 and related September 13, 2024, memorandum from the Commissioner of Works.

Highlights from the presentation included:

- Memorandum dated September 13, 2024, from Ramesh Jagannathan, Commissioner of Works, re: Durham York Energy Centre Quarterly (Q1 – 2024) Long-Term Sampling System Report
- Durham York Energy Centre Long-Term Sampling System Quarterly (Q1) Report January 2024-May 2024
- Table 1: AMESA Cartridge Replacement Schedule
- 7.1 Investigation
- More Issues at the DYEC with Dioxins/Furans: Long-Term (Monthly) Sampling of Dioxins/Furans Reporting is Very Incomplete, and it is Neither Traceable nor Transparent
- Many Hours and Months of Dioxin/Furan AMESA Data Have Already Been Invalidated/Omitted/Missing From 2020 to 2023
- DYEC has had Major Dioxin and Furan Emissions Exceedances
- ToxicWatch Study of Paris Incinerator; French Government Warns Millions Not to Eat Backyard Chicken Eggs
- More Concerns: DYEC 2023 Soil Testing Report Shows 2023 Dioxin Concentrations More than Double 2013 Pre-DYEC Levels

W. Bracken responded to questions from the Committee.

6. Correspondence

There were no items of correspondence considered.

7. Administrative Matters

A) EFW-WMAC Work Plan (2023-2024) – Working Group Appointments

A. Evans reminded the committee members of the three areas of the workplan that could be further investigated:

1. Plan and Program Implementation (as it relates to the Long-Term Waste Management Plan, Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), and changes and enhancements to the Region's Organics Program);
2. Diversion Program Assessment (review and assess opportunities for the Region to optimize and increase diversion opportunities within Durham Region); and
3. Technology and Facility Review (reviewing key technologies which are or may be utilized by the Region in delivery of waste management services).

Discussion ensued regarding whether a working group should be formed with respect to standardizing procedures regarding the testing and reporting at the DYEC.

Further discussion ensued regarding reviewing the materials presented by the delegate in order to have a more fulsome discussion at a subsequent EFW-WMAC meeting.

8. Other Business

A) Update by Lipika Saha, Manager, Waste Services, the Regional Municipality of Durham, regarding 2024 Community and Outreach Activities

L. Saha highlighted community and outreach activities across the Region such as the 50th anniversary of the Region and the Open Doors event held at the DYEC, as well as 2 curbside giveaway days, that were all well attended.

L. Saha advised that on October 19, 2024, staff will focus on in-house food waste production, and they have a few more events in the works for the remainder of the year.

A. Evans advised that battery collection week will occur October 7-11, 2024, and that the batteries can be placed on top of the green bins now instead of the blue bins.

B) Update by Andrew Evans, Director, Waste Management Services, the Regional Municipality of Durham, regarding Extended Producer Responsibility

A. Evans advised that the Region transitioned on July 1, 2024, and that the Region is no longer collecting directly and that it has moved over to the producer organizations where Green for Life (GFL) and Miller have been contracted within the community for collection. He advised that there was some backlog initially but that the transition went well overall. He further advised that staff remain very engaged in the local business communities with respect to how the transition will affect the local businesses in the BIAs and downtown cores.

- A. Evans responded to questions from the Committee regarding what will happen to the local businesses that will now have no recycling pick up; and when Durham's transitional recycling pick-up will stop.
- C) Update by Andrew Evans, Director, Waste Management Services, the Regional Municipality of Durham, regarding Expanded Green Bin Program
- A. Evans advised that the expanded Green Bin Program rolled out July 1, 2024, and that it went relatively well. He advised that staff talked to the service providers regarding the material coming in and were advised that the materials were a bit wetter than in other jurisdictions, which was expected for the program, and that it will take some time to build momentum.
- A. Evans advised that staff would provide a more detailed update to the Works Committee and the EFW-WMAC towards the end of the year, and that staff will continue a promotion campaign to ensure residents know that additional green bins are currently on sale at a reduced rate.
- D) Update by Andrew Evans, Director, Waste Management Services, the Regional Municipality of Durham, regarding Automated Cart-Based Garbage Collection Pilot Project
- A. Evans advised that the Automated Cart-Based Garbage Collection Pilot Project occurred in mid/late July 2024 and that the residents are currently going through their 3rd/4th pick-up with the cart system. He advised that staff are continuing to educate residents on how the carts work and will be reaching out to the residents in the next couple of months to collect additional feedback through various pre, mid, and post surveys.
- A. Evans also advised that staff will be looking into completing time and motion studies to see how the collection efficiency has changed, and how fast the bins can be picked up and put in the truck as opposed to manual collection.
- E) Update by Andrew Evans, Director, Waste Management Services, the Regional Municipality of Durham, regarding Durham York Energy Centre
- A. Evans advised the Committee that the requests to elevate the expansion application to a full Environmental Assessment were denied and was presented to the Works Committee where there were additional questions from members of the public. As a result, the Works Committee asked staff for an update report that will be presented to the Works Committee in November 2024.
- A. Evans advised that the source test results from the first quarter are now published to the website and that there were no issues from a plant perspective with respect to meeting the compliance limits. The ECA limits were also met during the tests with no violations.

Detailed discussion ensued regarding whether there was a way to receive the reporting data in a less technical manner so the public can better understand the information being released.

9. Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the EFW-WMAC will be held on Tuesday, November 26, 2024, in Council Chambers, at 7:00 PM, Regional Headquarters, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby.

10. Adjournment

Moved by R. Fleming, Seconded by M. Cannon,
That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:19 PM.

G. Gordon, Chair, Energy from Waste – Waste
Management Advisory Committee

S. Ciani, Committee Clerk