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Subject: More time needed

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Subject: Comments re Proposed

Expansion of

Mid-Halton Wastewater Treatment Plant

Kindly distribute to all other Regional Councillors not copied above.

Re: Comments re Proposed Expansion
of Mid-Halton Wastewater Treatment Plant

As an Oakville resident, I wish to register concerns re Halton Water & Wastewater Master Plan and comment on proposed expansion of the Mid-Halton Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). Specifically, I request that impending decision on proposed expansion of Mid-Halton WWTP be deferred until the following conditions are satisfactorily met:

§ Completion of a comprehensive environmental assessment that

substantiates that the planned 8-fold increase in waste effluent can be processed without denigrating impact on neighbourhoods in proximity to the plant and the Lake Ontario shoreline. Effluent discharges into the Lake already significantly impact on odiferous algae conditions which negatively affect the enjoyment of living in proximity to the Lake and the use of lakefront amenities by both residents and visitors, as well as raising concerns re the potential health hazards to our community. The philosophy of 'smart growth', embraced by the Official Plan, should strive to better current conditions; the current proposed Mid-Halton plant expansion plan does not. Rather, the planned servicing of urban growth in the geographic areas of Milton, Halton Hills - #401 corridor and 'lands north of Dundas' unfairly penalizes other existing communities, specifically existing Oakville Wards 1, 2, 3 and 4. A comprehensive environmental assessment which fully addresses wastewater effluents and their impact on Lake Ontario inshore waters, biosolids handling, along with odour and air quality impacts on the entire community must precede decision on proposed Mid-Halton WWTP expansion.

§ Thorough evaluation of technology and plant processing alternatives must be undertaken before impending decision on Mid-Halton WWTP expansion. Alternatives identified, as considered by Regional staff, appear expedient and limited, overweighted by extrapolation of past planning decisions and preoccupation with 'gravity-fed' processing. Emphasis on 'gravity-fed' processing, which dates to the stone-age era, if extended, precariously places communities near Lake Ontario as recipients of all waste effluents generated in future from 'inland' urban growth centers. This makes no sense over the longer term. Technology and plant processing alternatives, such as application of membrane filtration, multiple mini-plants using closed systems, ultraviolet disinfection, outfall extension, and the like, have not been adequately considered. Rather, attention has been on the expedient: expand existing process and facility rather than dig up existing neighborhoods for construction of new trunk lines which have been perceived as disruptive and costly in the short term. However, such disruption and cost are really one-time, whereas over the longer term these factors may pose more serious disruption and cost to portions of the Oakville community on a permanent basis. A longer term view must be adopted which utilizes now the best technology for the enjoyment of our community by all in future.

§ Immediate establishment of a mediation process to ensure that the direction of future Regional wastewater management of both liquid effluents and biosolid residuals, and in particular the issues raised re proposed expansion of Mid-Halton WWTP, are resolved to the satisfaction of all stakeholder groups. It is envisaged that representatives from the Halton Official Plan Steering Committee and the Lake Ontario Shoreline Algae Action Committee (LOSAAC), along with the heads of selected resident groups participate in this mediation process.

It is imperative that decision be made which is best for the longer term interests of all. The correct decision(s) can only be made if the above conditions are adopted. I urge you to act accordingly. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Paul F. DeCarlo

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