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Diener's"
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02/04/2003

Subject: Sewage Treatment Plant

Expansion -

06:31 PM
Please respond
to ddieners

Extend comment period, please!

[IMAGE]

Dear Mr Ohashi,

The public comment period must be extended. The residents of Oakville are just beginning to find out about this issue. I understand that one extension was already granted, but that extension was during the Christmas holidays when we were busy with family matters. The region's public information process may meet the "standards" but it has not been successful in alerting people about big changes that are being proposed for their neighbourhoods. Please remember, not everyone subscribes to a local newspaper.

Before Halton commits to expanding the mid-Halton plant, other solutions to the treatment and operation of sewage must be considered. The phosphorous content of the discharge from the sewage plant will encourage even more algae in Lake Ontario, increasing the smell from the lake. More studies must be done to learn about sewage by-products and algae growth in Lake Ontario before increasing the size of this plant. What do other regions do?

Even though the sewage treatment plant expansion is the result of growth, development charges would not cover the millions of dollars required for the plant expansion. I have heard that growth will raise taxes for residents by approx. 50% in the next 10-15 years. Why are development charges not covering the cost of this plant?

Apparently the Mid-Halton Plant does not have sufficient 'Buffers' for their 'Build-Out' or 'Ultimate Build-Out Scenario'. Technologies may address the expansion for the current 'Build-Out' but there is no evidence that the existing site has sufficient distance between the sewage plant and the residents, recreational Golf Course, the Sports Bar Restaurant immediately west of the plant or even land uses south of the QEW to prevent degradation of economic, residential, or commercial activity in the area.

It is our understanding that "odour" is not one of the criteria in the Environmental Assessment to be studied before the approval of this plan. Why not?

How will the biosolids be disposed of? I surely hope they won't be dumped in fields! We haven't even begun to understand what effect this practice will have on our health in the future.

Milton should treat its own sewage. Why are Oakville residents being forced to take Milton's waste? If Milton's plant can't handle its

community's waste then why did Milton approve its growth plan?
The Region has recently spent a lot of money and effort to promote the date changes for the blue box programme, but it appears that it has not done the same to inform residents of the far more important plan to expand the sewage treatment plant. Why not?
If alternative ways of handling sewage were studied (for example, the technology used by Zenon Environmental Inc.), why were they rejected? Please provide the documents showing all the alternatives and the reasons that they were rejected.
There are many unanswered questions and very serious concerns regarding odour, algae, health concerns, and truck traffic that need to be addressed before moving on to the next stage. Considering that there was capacity crowd attendance at two public forums, but no answers to the many questions, the public deserves answers before any move to the next phase is considered.
Acitizens' committee should be established to allow for further research and citizen participation in this decision process.
After all comments are received and a "consolidated response" is prepared for presentation to Council, we would like to receive a copy of the "consolidated response."

Doris Dieners
Oakville Resident for 16 years.