

Oakville, February 6, 2003

Mme. Anne Mulvale
Mayor
Town of Oakville

Mr. Allan Elgar
Councillor
Halton Region

Re.: Mid-Halton Water Treatment Plant Expansion

Dear Madame and dear Sir,

I have read with great concern the information regarding the expansion plan for the Mid-Halton Water Treatment Plant and its probable impact for our community. As a resident of the Town of Oakville, I believe that first and foremost, this project should be considered in the light of the town's primary objectives and without losing sight of the town's capacity to deal with the eventual risks that the project involves.

I believe that the Town's primary objectives should be clearly identified prior to the discussions regarding the plant's expansion to guarantee that any decisions adopted by the Council lead to achieving those objectives and that, as representatives of our community, the Councillors can act in line with the principles of the residents that they honourably represent. It is my conviction that the following objectives are shared by many Oakville residents:

1. Oakville should be a leading residential city in Ontario. We do not expect nor want Oakville to become an industrial district.
2. Oakville should have a safe environment for our families and our children.
3. Oakville should maintain adequate Hospital and Emergency facilities for the nature of the risks in our town.
4. Oakville should protect its environment.
5. Oakville should provide education in its schools with above average Provincial standards.
6. Oakville should promote the development of new businesses that can become a source of development and that are in line with the Town's principles and objectives.

These and other objectives that the Town of Oakville has surely already and clearly identified should serve as the basis for considering and voting the proposed expansion project. If the studies carried out so far cannot provide adequate and unquestionable evidence that the project will achieve the primary objectives, the deadline should be extended until such evidence can be provided to our Mayor, to our Council and to the residents of Oakville.

Furthermore, from the information reviewed, I find no analysis regarding the adequacy of our Town's Hospital and emergency services to cope with the eventual risks that the project involves. I believe that the Council should count with a thorough study of the losses and emergencies that have occurred in the past in similar facilities. Before approving a project of such an important impact in our community, we should be certain that we are properly prepared to deal with the potential crisis that it may involve to avoid sad losses for our Town and our families. I think that we should not take for granted our ability to cope with a situation that can become far more serious than the Walkerton water tragedy. Risks such as the transportation and handling of high volumes of chlorine or the disposal of toxic waste and other operations associated with the plant's expansion should be weighted against our capacity to manage an eventual crisis.

I believe that at this time, the proposed Water Treatment Plant expansion may not be in line with the primary objectives of the residents of the Town of Oakville and that the eventual crisis management studies may not have been properly completed. Consequently, I support the petition to extend the deadline 120 days so that the Council can adequately decide on this very important issue.

Yours truly,

Carlos A. Isaza
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