

Feb 5 2003

Recent local meetings have brought to our attention the proposed expansion of the sewage treatment plant in Oakville located off of the North Service Road just west of Third Line. The questions asked of plant officials and the rather technical responses serve only to raise concerns that the project is progressing full steam ahead regardless of the concerns of the citizens in the vicinity of the plant.

The proposal which suggests that there will be a 6 to 7 fold increase in waste being processed at this plant only serves to raise red flags and rather than alleviate fears that all of the consequences of the plan have not been fully thought through.

First Odour control and unknown environmental hazards which may arise by adding more pollution to Lake Ontario along with its impact on our drinking water and waterfront areas. Next the trucking of dangerous chemicals such as chlorine daily on our roads and the potential for accidents and spills further serve to raise fears that ecological disasters are waiting to happen. Dioxins and PCBs were mentioned (remember Love Canal) that would be hazardous to our health. Instead of cleaning up Lake Ontario the sewage will cause more sludge and algae and phosphorous. There is no talk of any protection plan for the residents of Oakville, especially for the residences in the immediate vicinity. Alternatives to the plan are needed to be put forward and the risks and benefits of each assessed. More time is needed for the residence of Oakville is needed to digest and to consider this expansion. The type of technology used at the plant needs to be reviewed since newer methods may be available now that were not available when the plan was initially conceived. Concentrated disposal of waste in fewer sites are not acceptable. The ecosystem can not handle such large concentrations. It may be more effective to distribute the waste over a wider geographic area giving nature a chance to absorb the resulting sewage and sludge, thus smaller more distributed plants may be the answer.

In addition to the above points, the facts and figures which support the current arguments the plant engineers are quoting are not totally convincing. Much of the numbers are mired in technical jargon, which does not appear to be supported by adequate controls and may contain biases in favour of the proponents of the plant.

Thus I would ask that before rushing through with the proposal, more time is necessary to address the concerns of the local residents. We would appreciate hearing from all our counsel representatives, mayors as well as our provincial and federal representatives, environmental protection agencies in this matter.

Regards

Joan, Gary & Gregory Salhany and future generations of Oakville

1233 Saddler Circle

Oakville, On L6M2X5

gsalhany@cogeco.ca (Gary)

jgsalhany@cogeco.ca (Joan)

