

Dear Councillor Elgar and cc Kevin Flynn;

Subsequent to the public meeting on January 29, 2003, I have put together the following information, as you have requested. I regret that as a member of the public I do not have the time and resources to go any further with this at this time. If you have more public meetings, or a group of local residents want to discuss ideas please call and I may be able to help. Best of Luck.

This is intended to be an assist to residents who are responding to the public comment process in the Halton Water and Wastewater Master Plan Review. The Master Plan process consists of many inter-related plans. It is impossible to list all the options and variations. Ultimately the Ministry of the Environment will have to give approval. It is recommended that you check the most current document titled: **Class Environmental Assessment for Municipal Water and Wastewater Projects, by the Municipal Engineers Association**. Contact your Works Department to find out how you can read a copy or for a web address. You can also phone the Ministry of the Environment in your Region and ask for their assistance in the public response process and Environmental Bill of Rights process at any time.

Preamble:

**It is understood that water and wastewater servicing infrastructure is essential to all communities, however, the process of growth first, followed by efforts to correct the environmental damage later, have failed. This version of the Halton Water and Wastewater Master Plan Review will only enable further degradation of our communities and Lake Ontario, if we do not slow down and alter how we grow. The projects in this report require further impact studies.**

The two growth scenarios:

There are two growth scenarios that this 5 year review activates:

- 1) The "Build-Out" that puts land into development that has already been approved for growth in the existing Official Plan, (this may not be very contentious), and
- 2) The "Ultimate Build-Out" scenario which deals with growth beyond the next five years, (any increased Official Plan growth currently under review) and what has to be done in this 5 year period that will potentially make this happen. This should include new technologies, and treatment sites for infrastructure to service continuing growth, (as opposed to current sprawl over agricultural lands) in all Official Plan amendments and Master Plans for other towns and cities such as Milton, Georgetown, Burlington, Oakville, Halton Hills etc.

**NOTE: If you don't like the "Ultimate Build-Out" plan then you can also object to the sprawl and where population will go in the Official Plan Review for the Region, another process underway.**

### **The Environmental Assessment Master Plan Process**

To completely understand all aspects of this process it is recommended to read the most recent version of the manual: **Class Environmental Assessment for Municipal Water and Wastewater Projects**, by the Municipal Engineers Association, (it is 1995 or 1996).

In brief: All Environmental Assessments (E.A.s), have 5 Phases. A Master Plan sets out to resolve Phases 1 and 2 of a set of projects that constitute the whole plan. By the end of Phase 2 it is expected that all the Public Consultation and "Alternatives" to achieve the broad plan have been completed. After Phase 2, individual projects, such as the expansion of the Mid-Halton Sewage Treatment Plant will proceed to Phase 3 for design and alternative design assessment, Phase 4 for the final Environmental Study Report (ESR), to be submitted to the Ministry for Approval, and Phase 5 which is the actual construction of the facility. Phase 3 of the Mid-Halton Sewage Plant expansion project will also require some Public Consultation, but **this current Phase 2 input is the most crucial for controlling sizing of local options, placement of trunk sewers and pumping stations that will direct flows to specific destinations or not.**

The Water and Wastewater Master Plan process requires a 5 year review to evaluate and set plans for the next planning horizon. This would consider what might be coming in population increases and Official Plans in the Region, some as far ahead as 2020 and 2030. This is a five year review for the "Build-Out" period - already approved in Official Plans, and considers the infrastructure for the "Ultimate Build-Out" - into any current Official Plan amendments or the future.

Time line:

**February 7, 2003 - Deadline for comments to Halton Region.**

To: David Ohashi, P.Eng. Manager Special Projects, Halton Region  
Planning & Public Works Department, Engineering Services  
1151 Bronte Road, Oakville Ontario, L6M 3L1

e-mail: ohashid @region.halton.on.ca

Please send a copy of your submission to your Councillor and copy Councillors Allan Elgar and Kevin Flynn at Oakville Town Hall or e-mail respectively, [elgar@oakville.ca](mailto:elgar@oakville.ca) and [kflynn@oakville.ca](mailto:kflynn@oakville.ca)

¥ Along with your concerns, conditions of any approval, and recommendations to Council, one thing you should request, at a minimum is the **formation of an ongoing Neighbourhood Liaison Committee for the Mid-Halton Sewage Treatment Plant**. It may meet frequently at some times, or perhaps only once every other month when no work is being discussed or no construction is underway. It is OK to agree with some amount of expansion to accommodate this part of the “Build-Out growth scenario” and request that no more capacity or rating be requested or granted for the Mid Halton Plant, to meet “Ultimate Build-Out “ population, and that all other possible new sites are put on the table and assessed for providing this capacity before the next 5 year review.

#### **March Council Meeting**

The Works Department must prepare a “**Consolidated Reponse**” to all the comments received during the Phase 2 Master Plan Review. The Works Department will present this document together with their “Preferred Alternative”, for the Water and Wastewater Servicing needs of Halton, to Council for approval.

As members of the Public who have participated in this process you should ask for and receive a copy of this “Consolidated Response” and check to see if your concerns have been addressed. You should receive this before that possible March Council Meeting, in a timely way, i.e., at least a week before the meeting when it would be entered onto the Council Agenda and Councillors would also receive their copy, in preparation for the Council meeting.

If you are not happy with the “Consolidated Response” or the “Preferred Alternative” then you must phone, fax or e-mail your Councillor and express your problem before the Council Meeting date.

Councillors can put ‘Motions’ before Council and the Regional Council for their approval. Motions that pass Council will be included in the ‘Preferred Alternative’.

#### **Sample Motions for Councillors:**

- a) That Council requests the Region and the Works Department to initiate a study to identify alternative sites and technologies to service wastewater treatment needs in Halton Region, beyond the ‘Build-Out’ population and development currently approved and before the next Water and Wastewater Master Plan Review, (before the next 5 year review).
- b) That Council requests the Region to include a detailed study of strategies to prevent and hopefully reverse the effects of Halton Municipal sewage plant effluents

in the Near Shore area, specifically blue-green algae, thermal bars, phosphorus reduction measures, and current mixing zone problems.

c) That a long-term Biosolids Management marketing Plan be undertaken, to include diversification of both the biosolids products produced in the Region and diverse uses for biosolids outside the Region, such as acid mine-tailing remediation and revegetation projects. If this requires a pilot project - Council will undertake any necessary pilot projects to ensure a good end-use product management and land application, approved by any applicable Ontario Ministry.

d) That the Environmental Assessment has failed to put Odour in the evaluation for the expansion of the Mid-Halton sewage plant under socio-economic evaluation criteria. Council therefore requests a rerunning of the potential impacts of the 'Build-Out' scenario expansion of the Mid-Halton sewage Plant, and the specific modeling of Odour impacts for A) the summer months when people are outside enjoying their property, and B) and the costs of any odour mitigation required to bring the plant into compliance with the M.O.E. standard of no more than one odour unit beyond the plant site boundary.

etc.

If Council likes the Master Plan, likely they and the Region will submit the Master Plan to be posted on the Environmental Bill of Rights Registry on the Internet. It stays here for at least 30 days for public comments.

## **The Environmental Bill of Rights Registry**

All E.A.s and Master Plans, Including Phase 4 Environmental Study Reports, have to be posted on the Environmental Rights Registry for at least a 30 day mandatory comment period. Council can also convene to alter their Master Plan during this time, and the Region can revise and resubmit Amendments to the Phase 3, Environmental Study Report (ESR) at any time - They are the 'proponent'. If you are not satisfied with the Master Plan, as approved by Council, you can now request a 'Part 2 Order'

## **The 'Part 2 Order'**

This is an intervention in the E.A. process that re-opens Phase 2 of the E.A. process. You can restate your concerns and you can request additional Public Consultation on these matters, and changes to the original Phase 2 Report.

To request a 'Part 2 Order' you must write a letter, within the 30 day review period of the EBR posting on the WEB, to the Minister of the Environment and state that you are requesting a Part 2 Order.

Framing concerns in requesting a Part 2 Order:

## **State your reasons for this request**

- Try to organize your concerns as 'Conditions of any approval'
  - Request the establishment of a Neighbourhood Liaison Committee to deal with the ongoing operation and implementation of any work at the Mid-Halton or other proposed project sites.
  - Be as specific as possible about:
    - other Regional Plans you are aware of that are effecting the E.A., such as unfinished Official Plan Reviews and amendments,
    - current water shortages that would beg why you need sewage treatment at this time (gives time to rethink)
    - Other Master Plans from other Municipalities in Halton, such as Georgetown, Milton, and Halton Hills, that impact what must be ÔscopedÕ in this Phase 2. etc.....
- ¥ Request to be notified in writing of the Ministry response.

### **After the Ministry Review**

Once the 30 days have collapsed, the Ministry of the Environment will draft their response. It will either approve or disapprove of all or parts of the Master Plan Review and its 'Preferred Alternatives'. It is the experience of the Public, however, that most plans are approved without major changes, but - that the Conditions that the Ministry attaches to the Approval can be very good at meeting at least some of the public concerns. These may include more studies (on specific Lake water quality impacts ) or, as you may request - that new sites to service additional sewage treatment needs in the future be sought during this 5 year period to meet the needs of the next 5 year review, (this would have the effect of providing an alternative to too much flow being directed to the Mid-Halton Plant in the future - beyond the immediate 5 year plan). Ask for whatever you feel is necessary to satisfy your concerns.

## **Approval by Ministry of Phase 2**

If the Ministry approves a Part 2 Order, as requested by the public, then hopefully most, if not all of the concerns of the respondents of the EBR posting will have additional Public Consultation, more 'Alternatives to the Undertaking' will be included in the Master Plan Review process and a more acceptable 'Preferred Alternative' will be put together for submission to the Ministry.

At the end of the Part 2 Order process the Master Plan should be posted again on the EBR for another minimum 30 day comment period or if all concerns are met the Master Plan could move on to phase 3 and 4.

**NOTE:** It is not exactly clear what the process or processes that could occur out of this Master Plan Review are, as this Master Plan includes Water and Wastewater and Biosolids Plans. It would be possible to have some parts of this plan move forward into Phase 3 and 4 as individual Class Environmental Assessments for

**water supply for example, and only have the wastewater part of the Master Plan held back for a rethink. Inquire as to options in the process?**

**After Phase 2 and possible 'Part 2 Order' compliance is achieved, the Master Plan will be submitted to the Ministry of the Environment, and individual projects within the Master Plan will proceed to Phase 3 and 4. Some projects will proceed under 'Class A or B' Environmental Assessment. Other projects that require a lot of expansion and site approvals, and technology alternatives, will become a 'Class C' Environmental Assessment. Expansion of the Mid-Halton Sewage Plant would be expected to become a Class 'C'. Also the new water supply plant on the waterfront, for example. Pumping stations and trunk sewers may be Class A or B Assessments depending on size and potential disruption to surrounding development etc.**

### **End of Phase 3 (Alternative Design Concepts for Preferred Solution) and Phase 4 ( Environmental Study Report)**

**Each project within the Master Plan will complete Phase 3 and 4 of the Environmental Assessment Process. At the end of Phase 4 the Works department and any Engineering Consultants will produce an Environmental Study Report, (ESR). This Report will be submitted to the Ministry of the Environment for 'Approval'. If you have made comments and submitted your contact information you are entitled to receive a 'Notice of Completion of the Environmental Study Report'. This notice also advises the public of their right to request an ' Order' to address outstanding issues. This could take the form of a request for a 'Mediation' or a Full Individual Environmental Assessment, and will state exactly how this request must be made and to whom it must be sent - must include the Minister of the Environment, and the deadline for submission. All Environmental Study Reports, from the individual projects will be posted on the Environmental Bill of Rights Registry for comment, as after Phase 2.**

**You must repond to the Region before February 7, 2003!**

**In a Master Plan process Phase 3 and 4 moves from the broad plan to specific sites and specific built capacity. By this time it is too late to make important change. The only thing that can be changed here are some technologies. Different technologies may be discussed, odour control may be discussed, but they are all variations on the approved capacity.**

**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.**