



Toronto Public Works and Infrastructure Committee
City Hall - 100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2
Sent Via Email: pwic@toronto.ca

February 19th, 2016

Re: AGENDA ITEM PW11.14 - Highland Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant - Biosolids Class Environmental Assessment

Dear Members of the Committee,

This letter is to indicate that the executive committees of the five Community Associations, located nearest to the Highland Creek Treatment Plant (HCTP), **stand in solidarity supporting Alternative 1 (a new fluidized bed incinerator) as the preferred solution for biosolids management.** Individual deputations will also be submitted by each association.

Our five community associations cover a large portion of the Ward 43 and Ward 44 study area in the Schedule B Class Environmental Assessment. Specifically we represent a contiguous area spanning:

- Guildwood Village: Approximately 3000 households in the south of Ward 43 from Lake Ontario to Guildwood Parkway and the railway tracks.
- Coronation Community: Approximately 3000 households in Ward 43/44 from Guildwood Station to Beechgrove (Highland Creek) and the railway tracks to Morningside Park.
- Centennial Community: Approximately 4,000 households in Ward 44 from Highland Creek to Port Union Road and Lake Ontario to Kingston Road.
- Highland Creek Community: Approximately 4000 households in Ward 44 from Military Trail and Morningside Ave. in the west to the convergence of Kingston Rd and the 401 in the east.
- West Rouge Community: Approximately 3000 households in Ward 44 from Port Union Road to Rouge Park and Lake Ontario to the 401.

All five residents associations have actively participated in the Environmental and Health Impacts Assessments by attending Public Information Centres (PIC), sharing information in our community newsletters, and attending stakeholder meetings. After reviewing the recently issued "TM-13 Evaluation of Biosolids Management Alternatives", the "Report from the General Manager" and other technical memoranda, we feel that the evidence-based findings clearly support Alternative #1, an incinerator upgrade at the HCTP.

The main findings of the evaluation of alternatives are:

- *Protect Public Health:* For all health related criteria, impacts associated with each alternative were negligible or equivalent. As a result, these criteria could not be used to distinguish between the alternatives, as all are considered acceptable for public health.
- *Minimize Impacts to the Environment:* There is no substantial difference in the alternatives for their ability to minimize air impacts and greenhouse gases.
- *Minimize Community Impacts:* We fully agree that community support is strongest for the new incinerator alternative. Both trucking options (Haul biosolids for off-site management / Pelletization and



haulage) have strong community opposition. The new incinerator option minimizes odours and maximizes HCTP working conditions, staff health and safety.

- *Minimize Cost:* The 25 year life-cycle cost is much lower for the new fluidized bed incinerator compared to the two trucking options (\$267 million for the new incinerator option vs. \$388/\$346 million for the trucking options). In addition, the incinerator option was identified as the most reliable of the three biosolids management alternatives.

After evaluating all the publicly-available materials, all five local community associations strongly support Alternative #1, the option to incinerate the biosolids waste. We fully agree that there is strongest community support for the new incinerator option (Alternative 1).

The HCTP began operations in 1956. The two incinerators currently in use are nearing the end of their service life and it is imperative that we move forward with a new incinerator to ensure long-term reliability. This is the third time that an Environmental Assessment has been conducted to identify a preferred solution for management of biosolids at HCTP. We are hopeful that this will be the last and our community will finally have a much-needed new incinerator.

Sincerely,

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- Cc: Mayor John Tory
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 Councillor Mary-Margaret McMahon, Vice-Chair PWIC
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 Councillor Stephen Holyday, PWIC
 Councillor Chin Lee, PWIC
 Councillor Anthony Perruzza, PWIC