

## **Waste solution not easy**

Mon Sep 24, 2007

To the editor:

Re: Anti-incineration voices tiresome, Laurence Cutner letter, Sept. 21.

We'd all be relieved if the answer to waste were an easy one. In fact, it's a very complex issue and requires a more complex solution than throwing garbage into a fire rather than a dump.

The solution must be well thought-out and put our people and our environment first. It also requires much foresight because this incinerator will affect surrounding communities for at least its 35-year life span.

Consider DDT. Although banned in the 1970s, DDT is still found in our environment almost 35 years later. Toxins and other poisons don't miraculously disappear; they go into the air, the water and us.

Europe does not hail incineration as a solution. The European Union is trying to reduce incineration because of pollution. Their solution? Diversion: reduce, reuse, recycle. And yes, we should look into government regulations. It would be expedient to do so before we build a \$250-million taxpayer-funded incinerator, not after.

There is solid evidence incineration poses real health and environmental threats. Why would we ignore that?

Bruce Rutherford

Clarington