

Incinerator business case delayed

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By Reka Szekely

DURHAM -- The business case for the proposed Courtice incinerator will be released in late May, almost a month later than expected.

Originally, Durham Region scheduled a joint works and finance committee meeting for April 29 to consider the business case. On Monday afternoon the Region issued a statement announcing the meeting would be pushed back until May 21.

Jim Clapp, the Region's finance commissioner, said the different pieces of information required for the report didn't come together to meet the April deadline.

"It's a pretty comprehensive business case; there's a great deal of information coming from a lot of different folks," he said. He later added a lot of the work is consultant driven since they're doing the primary costing for the facility.

The business case is the next major milestone when it comes to getting the incinerator built. Should council reject the plan, the project could die, as the business case must be approved before Durham and York regions can put out a call for proposals to build the facility. The last major milestone was the selection in January of a Courtice site for the proposed plant.

Mr. Clapp said the case will compare incineration to the existing landfill situation.

"What will happen is you'll see what tax impact there might be and that sort of thing," he said. The business case will also show the costs over the incinerator's 20-to-25-year lifespan.

Mr. Clapp said he doesn't expect any further delays in releasing the report and said it will contain a staff recommendation.

"If the business case works from a staff perspective there will be some kind of recommendation in terms of proceeding or not proceeding."

If the business case is approved by the joint committee, it will go to Regional council on May 28.