

It's sad mayor has faith in incinerator environmental assessment

Thu Jan 31, 2008

To the editor:

During Monday evening's Clarington council meeting, Mayor Jim Abernethy desperately clung to the irrational belief that the environmental assessment for the proposed York-Durham waste incinerator must proceed to completion before we can determine if the project is safe. Why should we have faith in the process

The last two critical steps have been passed despite flaws in the consultants' report and without ever looking at the big picture. Last summer, a generic health and environmental study was approved despite Clarington's own expert reviewers finding flaws in the consultants' assumptions and methodology.

The reports for the latest step, choosing Courtice as the preferred site, were also challenged by experts and citizens alike. The process appears rigged to get to a yes with no alternatives.

We should consider the very real scenario of the perfect garbage storm at the end of the process: dodgy environmental studies, a shaky business case, the border closing, no Plan B and the bogeyman of new landfills.

Then -- presto! -- the incinerator becomes the magic solution. When a stage magician flim-flams us, we're willing participants because it's just entertainment. When the incinerator proponents do the same to our mayor, it's just sad.

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