

Manager not just for energy from waste, Region says

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By: By Erin Hatfield

DURHAM -- A job posting for a waste management manager raised questions with some residents at a recent public information session.

One resident at the energy-from-waste (EFW) public information session on Oct. 3 asked why, if an EFW incinerator isn't already a done deal, the Region would be looking for a manager.

Durham and York regions are investigating EFW as a way of dealing with waste here. The job posting, found on the Region Of Durham's website, indicates the person would manage, co-ordinate and administrate the implementation of the EFW project.

But, commissioner of works Cliff Curtis explained that it is just one line in a list of duties the new manager would be charged with.

"People think there's some sort of conspiracy, that we are already hiring for someone to run an EFW facility," Mr. Curtis said. "That is not the case."

The successful candidate would also oversee the implementation of new and emerging waste initiatives, special projects and programs, manage annual waste budgets and develop waste policies, among other things.

"One of the main duties would be to look after our landfills," Mr. Curtis said.

The Region has one active landfill in Brock Township and four or five more that are closed but need to be monitored, Mr. Curtis said.

He said it is a position the works department has been trying to get approved for three years because it has been under-staffed for sometime.

"We finally got approval, got through the internal process and got to a point that we can hire someone," Mr. Curtis said. "Basically we are trying to beef up our horsepower in the division a little bit."

Currently, there's one manager in the waste division, Peter Watson, who oversees operations and waste contracts.

"We would encourage anyone out there with the qualifications to apply because we would like to talk to them," Mr. Curtis said. "There are not many people out there that have experience in the waste field."