

See incinerator proposal through to the end, says Scugog's mayor

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By Chris Hall

SCUGOG - When it comes to choosing a tactic to deal with the region's waste, Durham should continue down its current path towards incineration and see where it ends up, says Scugog's mayor.

Addressing the issue at the March 3 council session, Scugog Mayor Marilyn Pearce informed her colleagues that Durham's look into the controversial incineration project is now in the environmental assessment level -- a consultation stage that will probably take until the end of April or May to complete.

It's not expected that any final approvals for the project will be hammered out until the fall or end of the year, added the mayor.

It's estimated Durham residents put close to 150,000 tonnes of garbage out on the curb each year, with about 120,000 tonnes of that refuse shipped southwest along Hwy. 401 to Michigan, said Mayor Pearce.

However, with the American state refusing to accept waste after 2010, that could pose a significant challenge, she said.

"The problem is, if there is no landfill capacity... either we have to go ahead with energy-from-waste (incineration) or then do an environmental assessment for a new landfill site, which would probably take five to seven years to complete and I'm sure we'd get the same concerns," said Mayor Pearce. "It's best to fulfill the process."

The mayor noted an incinerator would still be needed even if the Region's municipalities, as a whole, achieve the 70 per cent diversion rate that Durham is striving for by 2010.

"If we have to throw the whole (incineration) concept away... we've still got 30 per cent of our waste to deal with and no landfill capacity."