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Monday, May 18, 2020

I am extremely concerned about this proposal to build a large-scale waste disposal site, processing and transfer facility at 633 Coronation Drive, which is 2.5 km from my home. On a selfish note, I am truly dismayed that a hundred or more huge transport trucks are going to go past my home every day, leading to increased noise, pollution, and traffic. This will have a negative impact on the food that I grow in my backyard and the naturalized area my husband and I created for birds and wildlife (our yard is recognized by the Canadian Wildlife Federation as a Wildlife Friendly habitat) as well as our quality of life. I am concerned that I won’t be able to enjoy sitting out in my lovely backyard and that the value of our home is going to suffer as a result of this facility.

I also have grave concerns about the environmental and community impact of this proposal. The operator has not sought community involvement in the creation of this proposal. There have been no public meetings to address the concerns of the many communities that will be affected.

The environmental impacts of this proposed facility are extremely worrisome:

* The facility will emit several toxic and greenhouse gases, as will the transport trucks. Prevailing winds will take the odours and emissions across large areas of residential neighbourhoods, putting the health of all at risk. Have wind studies been done to measure the potential impact on air quality of nearby residential and natural areas?
* There is risk of contamination to our drinking water: every transport route takes the waste over waterways and the site itself is close to marshes, wetlands, Lake Ontario and a recognized Important Bird Area for migratory birds and waterfowl. What procedures will be in place to prevent or mitigate against any unwanted spills? Do we even know exactly what type of waste will be processed and stored here? What will the operator do to ensure that the waste being received is acceptable and doesn’t contain banned substances?

Furthermore, regardless of the actual route, every truck must travel through residential areas to get to and from the site and Highway 401. Depending on the route, these trucks will pass directly by homes, plazas, elementary and secondary schools, a university and a college, churches, community centers and libraries. The roads are not appropriately sized for these large trucks, which are typically 50 to 75 feet long, making it difficult to operate the trucks safely. Furthermore, these same roads are shared with cyclists, pedestrians and public transit vehicles. The significantly increased truck traffic will lead to increased congestion, increased risk to pedestrian and cyclist safety, increased noise and air pollution, increased wear and tear on our roads, and an increase in the amount of litter. Also, during peak operational times, there will be a large number of trucks arriving and departing at the same time. Will the site have the appropriate space to accommodate a large number of trucks without impacting the public roads?

The communities affected by this proposal are composed largely of single-family dwellings, owned or rented by people looking for a safe place to raise their families. These communities are already exposed to increased air pollution and odours from the Highland Creek solid waste incineration plant operated by the City of Toronto. The additional burden of this proposed large-scale waste disposal, processing and transfer facility will further diminish the liveability of these communities by increasing air and noise pollution and concerns over health. Property values will decrease and the desirability of these neighbourhoods to new buyers will decline. Has there been any analysis done regarding the number of households that will be negatively affected by this proposal in exchange for a small number of jobs?

Finally, I do not believe that creating one large-scale centralized facility is the best way to address the management of organic waste in the Province of Ontario. Decentralizing waste management facilities spreads the negative impacts over a wider area, reducing the actual scale of the impacts on hosting communities. Smaller scale facilities have less truck traffic and congestion, thus lowering noise and air pollution, reducing the impact to other road users and reducing the damage to roads and other infrastructure. More stations provide more jobs, and more spin-off industries. Also, if there are multiple small-scale facilities, there are backups in case of an emergency closure or scheduled shut down of another station. Finally, given the impacts of climate change, and the need to decrease our reliance on fossil fuels, I think it is irresponsible to even consider a centralized waste processing situation that relies solely on transport truck shipments of inputs and outputs.

With all due respect, I ask that you extend the consultation period beyond May 24th, 2020, and that several virtual public meetings be held to address the concerns of the many residents and businesses that will be impacted by this proposal.

Thank you very much for your consideration of my concerns and my request.

Karen Heisz