

April 26, 2011

Good Morning Councillors, Staff and Members of the Public:

My name is Kimberley Milliard and I am part of the Bennett Beechgrove Community Group. My family and I reside within 1 km of the Highland Creek Treatment Plant.

Incineration of our biosolids is a serious concern to our local community do to the large amounts of pollution the plant releases each year. The Highland Creek Treatment Plant contributes to smog, greenhouse gases and toxic releases. Even if the plant is upgraded with pollution control technology, the plant's emissions will continue to have a negative impact on our health and environment.

The community of Ashbridge's Bay agreed that the beneficial use of biosolids was a better alternative to incineration. Their community's attitude towards a greener approach reflects responsibility to the environment.

There are concerns about biosolids and land application. The possibility of pathogens and toxins entering our food chain and ground water through farm fertilizer application is a serious concern. Our community does not want to move from one problem to another.

Should incineration of our biosolids continue, we must do so with the most advanced technologies available. We need to invest in anaerobic digestion and methane gas capture.

The plant must be able to adapt to newer technologies in the future. We need to increase our emission standards to reflect the higher standards of the United States. We need to educate the public about what goes into our drains at the start of our pipes effects the environment with what comes out. We need to question the allowance of local chemical companies discharging their toxic industrialized waste waters into our local water treatment plant. We need to ask ourselves why Freedom of Information requests are needed to find out what toxins are entering our city run plant from these local chemical companies.

I agree that our community streets are already overloaded with truck traffic from local chemical companies. However, 5 truckloads of human waste per day from our water treatment plant is far less of a concern compared to the hundreds that already travel daily carrying dangerous and toxic substances to and from these local chemical companies. I would be more concerned with the co-ordination of truck travel through our local streets. I would also be very concerned with the Truck Route Review and where it states that “biosolids will primarily be directed to landfills simply because the supply greatly exceeds the demand for beneficial use”. Should incineration continue at the Highland Creek Treatment Plant, will more truck loads of biosolids travel to us from Ashbridges Bay for incineration?

I feel it imperative that our community be consulted about future decisions made with regards to the Highland Creek Treatment Plant. I also feel that current reports available

about the plant are difficult to comprehend as they are very technical. Perhaps we can simplify information so community members can find it easier to understand. I feel it important that these reports continue regularly to keep the public well informed. I feel there is a great importance to regulate the timing of truck traffic in our community and consultation is needed in this area. Most important, I feel it mandatory that the improvements made to the Highland Creek Treatment Plant meet the highest pollution control standards using the most advanced technology available. The city of Toronto needs to role model for a healthier, greener Canada. We need to hold the highest regard for our environment and show the World that Toronto, Canada is responsible and accountable. When making your decision about the Highland Creek Treatment Plant, please consider our future generation with regards to their health and their environment. Let us not pass the buck and leave our children to handle our mistakes in the future because our decisions now reflect cutting costs. Let's make the right decisions now to promote our children's healthier and greener future.