



March 22, 2017

Hon. Kathleen Wynne, MPP
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building, Room 281
Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

Dear Premier Wynne:

Re: Highland Creek Biosolids Class Environmental Assessment

We are writing to you today to express our community's concern about the eight months that has, to date, been taken by the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change to sign off on the approval of the Highland Creek Treatment Plant Biosolids Management Class Environmental Assessment, and to request that you expedite the approval of the Final EA report.

Collectively, our five community associations represent about 17,000 households in east Scarborough. Our communities are the most directly affected by this decision.

In May 2016, the Biosolids Class EA was approved by the City of Toronto Council by a vote of 30 to 12. The final report was then tabled for a 30-day review, and we understand that only one request for a Part II Order was received from a person who does not reside in the area of the plant.

The City first started studying the Highland Creek biosolids issue in 2002. Since that time there have been five separate expert reports to Council recommending that the aging 40-year old sludge incinerators at the plant be replaced with modern fluidized bed incinerators with state-of-the-art air emission control systems. In the preparation of the EA, the City staff have carefully followed all the requirements of the Class Environmental Assessment process, and have responded to all the issues and questions raised by Ministry staff. The recommended solution was also strongly approved by the local residents in the area of the plant, as well as by all five community associations.

In the last few months, a number of enquiries as to the progress being made on the Ministry's review have been made through our local MPPs, and to the Minister. However, the only response we have received to date is that the "complex concerns" raised by the Part II Order request are still under evaluation, and that once complete the Minister will "decide if an Individual Environmental Assessment is warranted".

The City has already undertaken an Individual Environmental Assessment dealing with this issue. All the issues and questions related to this project have been fully addressed in the EA, and it is now time to proceed with implementation of the recommended solution.

This project has been delayed long enough, and these delays have already resulted in the need for expensive temporary repairs to the outdated equipment, as well as in the escalation of the capital costs of the new thermal reduction technology. Any further delays will expose the community to the potential hazards that would be caused by a failure of the existing 40 year-old equipment.



Our five communities have worked on this issue for more than a decade. We have been frustrated again and again with opposition to the recommended improvements for our area being put forward by individuals who don't even live here.

The solution supported by Toronto City Council is **strongly favoured** by the 17,000 households in our respective communities. It is based on the best science, and careful and comprehensive work by qualified experts.

The proposed update, that will use the same safe and clean technology, that is currently used in the Regions of Peel, York and Durham, is long overdue for our area. We need it now!

We would urge your government to approve the EA so that the City may proceed with implementation.

May we hear from you shortly?

Sincerely,

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cc: Hon. Mitzie Hunter, MPP Scarborough Guildwood
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Hon. Brad Duguid, MPP Scarborough Centre
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Councillor Ron Moeser, Ward 44
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