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Incineration cheaper than landfill, says business case

UOIT professor says the report is acceptable

By Reka Szekely

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DURHAM -- Although it would cost more up front, incinerating Durham's garbage is the best available long-term option, says the Region's business case for the project.

The business case, released Friday, compares energy-from-waste (EFW) to using a landfill site outside the region, somewhere in Ontario. The EFW project comes out ahead, the financial analysis by Deloitte and Touche said, because it removes the risk and uncertainty surrounding fuel costs and the shortage of landfill capacity in the province.

"What it will do is bring a solution to the waste disposal situation on a long-term basis," said Region finance commissioner Jim Clapp.

And a UOIT professor said the report was acceptable, though he had a few questions.

Ibrahim Dincer, a UOIT professor and engineer specializing in sustainable energy systems, said while the emissions limits in the report are acceptable, he would have liked to have seen what specific emission controlling technologies would be used.

"There are certain technologies, quite costly, in terms of emission control that are very effective," he said.

As well, he said he would have liked to have seen a life-cycle assessment for the EFW facility to see projected costs over the plant's whole life com-

pared to landfill.

Dr. Dincer raised concerns about sorting out hazardous materials, such as batteries, which could affect emissions

from the plant. Many people put such material in the garbage and it needs to be sorted out before it gets to the plant, he said.

"At the final point, sorting out is very difficult and very costly," he said.

The facility, which would be located in Clarington near

Courtice Road and Hwy. 401, would cost \$198 million to construct, with Durham Region

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Street dedication



Photo by Sheena Ouder Kirk

CLARINGTON -- Last June, Trooper Darryl Caswell was killed in Afghanistan and now his mother, Darlene Cushman, and Pvt. Frank Dollo from the Irish Regiment of Canada attended the street dedication in his honour. For full story see page 2.

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