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Winds of Change **Developing a 21st Century Energy from Waste Facility in Ontario**

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Background

Currently, over 70% of the non-hazardous solid waste generated in Ontario is disposed of in landfills. Approximately 45% of Ontario's waste is disposed of in landfills located in Michigan. Disposal of residual waste in Ontario is undergoing a major shift. Pursuant to agreements made in 2006 between Ontario municipalities and federal and state representatives of Michigan, waste from Ontario municipalities will no longer be disposed in Michigan landfills post 2010. That has put enormous pressure on Ontario municipalities to seek alternative disposal solutions for the waste remaining after they reduce, reuse and recycle.

Municipalities within Ontario have taken different approaches to meeting this pending sea change in managing their long-term solid waste management needs. Toronto, for example, purchased a remote landfill to meet its residual disposal requirements. The Regions of Durham and York, on the other hand, are looking to implement a locally-based solution to their residual waste management requirements. In 2004, the Regions began the planning process that culminated in 2007 with the issuance of a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for vendors to design, build and operate an Energy from Waste Facility under a long-term agreement. That was followed with the issuance in August, 2008 of a Request for Proposals (RFP) to the five (5) prequalified Proposers (Covanta, Green Conversion, Urbaser, Veolia and Wheelabrator) to design,

build and operate a 140,000 tonne per year Energy from Waste state-of-the-art facility (Facility).

The focus of this presentation is on how the final strategic recommendation of the Region's Waste Management Plan, "to consider an energy-from-waste type facility for residential residual waste after maximized recycling and composting" has been addressed.

History

Under the Region of Durham's mandate, the Region is responsible for the transportation and processing of all residential waste materials within its borders. The Region also provides residential collection services to six (6) of the eight (8) municipalities under its jurisdiction.

The Region had historically managed its residual waste stream via landfilling. As local landfills filled up, it became increasingly clear that alternatives were needed. In 1999, Durham adopted a "Long Term Waste Management Strategy Plan: 2000 to 2020" to investigate technically feasible waste reduction and waste disposal opportunities in an environmentally and financially responsible manner.