

Dear Mr. Ohashi,

As residents of Oakville, we wish to register our concerns about the enormous expansion of the sewage treatment plant in our town. Below you will find listed our comments:

The public comment period must be extended as people are just beginning to find out about this issue. We understand that one extension was already granted, but that extension was during the Christmas holidays when residents were busy with family matters. The region's public information process may meet the "standards" but it has not been successful in alerting people about big changes that are being proposed for their neighbourhoods.

Before Halton commits to expanding the mid-Halton plant, we believe that other solutions to the treatment and operation of sewage should be considered. The phosphorous content of the discharge from the sewage plants encourages algae in Lake Ontario and therefore increases the smell from the lake. We believe that more studies must be done to learn about sewage by-products and algae growth in Lake Ontario before increasing the size of this plant.

Even though the sewage treatment plant expansion is the result of growth, development charges would not cover the millions of dollars required for the plant expansion. We understand that growth will raise taxes for residents in the next 10-15 years. Why are development charges not covering the cost of this plant?

It is our understanding that the Mid-Halton Plant does not have sufficient 'Buffers' for their 'Build-Out' or 'Ultimate Build-Out Scenario'.

Technologies may address the expansion for the current 'Build-Out' but there is no evidence that the existing site has sufficient distance between the sewage plant and the residents, recreational Golf Course, the Sports Bar Restaurant west of the plant or even land uses south of the QEW to prevent degradation of economic, residential, or commercial activity in the area.

It is our understanding that "odour" is not one of the criteria in the Environmental Assessment to be studied before the approval of this plan.

Why not?

How will the biosolids be disposed of?

Milton should treat its own sewage. Why are Oakville residents being forced to take Milton's waste? If Milton's plant can't handle its community's waste then why did Milton approve its growth plan?

The Region has recently spent a lot of money and effort to promote the date changes for the blue box programme, but it appears that it has not done the same to inform residents of the far more important plan to expand the sewage treatment plant. Why not?

If alternative ways of handling sewage were studied, in particular, the technology used by Zenon Environmental Inc.), why were they rejected?

Please provide the documents showing all the alternatives and the reasons that they were rejected.

There are many unanswered questions and very serious concerns regarding

odour, algae, health concerns, and truck traffic that need to be addressed before moving on to the next stage. Considering that there was capacity crowd attendance at two public forums, but no answers to the many questions, the public deserves answers before any move to the next phase is considered.

We believe a citizens' committee should be established to allow for further research and citizen participation in this decision process.

After all comments are received and a "consolidated response" is prepared for presentation to Council, we would like to receive a copy of the "consolidated response." (If your comment has not been adequately responded to, you should let your regional councillor know before the Council meeting date to discuss this issue.)

Thank-you for your attention,
Carol Ward and Andrew Herbert