

Pickering says no to odour control facility

Executive committee opposes location here

Issue goes to full council on Monday

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PICKERING — A sewage odour control facility (OCF) doesn't belong in Pickering, Council said Monday after hearing from York Region consultants and staff, and residents opposed to its possible Cherrywood location.

The executive committee told York to consider alternate locations since the only sites ever looked at were in Pickering.

"I think that's a flaw in the process," said Ward 3 City Councillor David Pickles.

The OCF is part of the York-Durham Sewage System, which takes sewage from York to the Duffin Creek Water Pollution Control Plant in Pickering. The proposed new Southeast Collector Trunk Sewer - being built to handle York's growing population - will only service York.

A group, Stop the Stink, has collected about 1,000 signatures opposed to an OCF just south of the Cherrywood West subdivision (Altona Road and Concession 3).

"We know through history that chances are it's going to stink," said Rick Ni-



David Pickles

colussi, representing Stop the Stink.

Project manager Dave Beattie of AECOM, York's consultant, said there will be no odour impact since the bio-filter technology being used is of the highest quality and, if it falters, there will be a backup.

Mr. Beattie said York wasn't considered to host the facility because it has a higher risk of odour problems than Pickering and it would disrupt a number of its natural environmental features. Ward 1 City Councillor Jennifer O'Connell pointed out the OCF will go on Pickering's natural environmental lands, the Greenbelt.

York reports also say that since the odour is most prevalent in Pickering, it's better to have the OCF as close as possible to the source, and drawing odours to a remote location for treatment would be complex and less reliable.

"We all think (the odour is) generated in York Region," said Ward 2 City Councillor Doug Dickerson, who added it's time Pickering's MPPs get more involved in the issue since the decision will be up to the minister of the environment.

Residents were also concerned with the look of the OCF, which would be located in a brick farmhouse-style building with a chimney about 40-feet high.

Although happy with the executive committee's decision, Mr. Nicolussi is afraid of what Durham Region will decide.

"I think our battle is going to be one with the ministry of the environment through the Environmental Assessment process," he said, adding residents have been sending the minister numerous letters.