

Work Plan

New and Emerging Technologies, Policies and Practices

Three-Track Approach

The following document is designed to provide a summary of the “three-track approach” (i.e. (i) technologies, (ii) policies and practices; and (iii) siting) in connection with the development of new and emerging technologies, policies and practices. The document also carries information related to planning under the Provincial Environmental Assessment (“EA”) Act.

The document has been generated by staff of the City of Toronto’s Solid Waste Management Division. It has not been presented to the New and Emerging Technologies, Policies and Practices Advisory Group and does not represent a “work plan” developed by or adopted by the Advisory Group.

The subject of EA planning is scheduled to be before the Advisory Group at its meeting on April 9, 2003.

The following provides a short description of the three-track approach in connection with the development of new and emerging technologies, policies and practices. Also attached are schematic diagrams that visually describe the timeframe and key milestones for each track. These three schematic diagrams fit together to provide an overall snap shot of the process.

Track 1 Policies and Practices

An international review of policies and practices related to waste diversion, particularly from other jurisdictions that have set high diversion objectives. The purpose is two-fold:

- (1) identify diversion-related policies and practices that could be incorporated into Toronto’s diversion program in support of our stated targets; and
- (2) provide a context to review the current 60-40 split approved by Council between the amount of the waste stream to be managed by at source reduction, reuse, recycling and composting programs (60%) and that portion of the waste stream that will be managed through new and emerging technologies (40%).

Guiding principles and evaluation criteria will be developed in order to provide a screening mechanism for the review of new and emerging policies and practices.

Track 2 Technology Assessment

Comprehensive assessment of new and emerging technologies that are based on physical, biological or thermal based treatment (or a combination thereof), leading to a request for proposals process.

The technology assessment will narrow the field of potential classes and brands of technology through a series of progressively stringent evaluation criteria. The 'fit' of the technology with the composition of the future residue mix will be a primary evaluation criteria.

Track 3 Siting Inventory

The third track is the actual siting of one or more new and emerging technologies (or recycling facilities arising from Track 1). By initiating Track 3 at this stage of the process we can work to dovetail it with Tracks 1 and 2 without experiencing a major time delay.

The siting process has three major components:

- (1) an inventory of available publicly-owned or private sites based on an initial guiding principle screen;
- (2) the development and application of further sets of evaluation criteria as tracks 1 and 2 proceed; and
- (3) a merging of the technology and siting tracks as part of RFP.

Environmental Assessment Act Requirements

The Ministry of the Environment currently identifies the class of new and emerging technologies known as advanced thermal technologies ("ATT") as disposal not diversion.

As such, the siting of an ATT facility (whether through the public or private sectors) is currently subject to an individual environmental assessment under the Provincial Environmental Assessment Act. Only the Minister can authorize an exemption from individual EA process. An individual EA process can add one to two years to the start date of a facility.

The City of Toronto should seek from the Minister of the Environment a set of conditions that he would agree to that would allow him to provide an exemption of the project from the Environmental Assessment Act. Such an exemption process may include a multi-stakeholder public consultation process complete with developed evaluation criteria; documentation of regulatory and academic third party review of technologies; expert

analysis of proposed technologies; and a site specific review process prior to implementation.

The specific request for the conditions required for an exemption from an individual EA should be linked with planned discussions with the Minister on disposal contingency plans in the event of disruption of Michigan disposal.

It must be stressed that the City of Toronto needs the support of the Province for the technical review of New and Emerging Technologies and for clarity in the permit approvals process that will be required.

March 5, 2003