



July 15, 2020

For Immediate Release

Proposal for Largest Waste Transfer and Bio-Gas Plant in Ontario Opposed by Southeast Scarborough Community

The community of southeast Scarborough is surrounded by natural beauty. Bounded to the east by the Rouge National Urban Park, to the south by Lake Ontario and the Scarborough Bluffs, to the west by Highland Creek, and to the north by the Toronto Zoo, our neighbourhood features some of Toronto's greatest natural and cultural treasures.

Unfortunately, as we move forward with recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and enjoy the outdoor spaces in our neighbourhoods, we now find our community threatened by a proposal to build the largest waste transfer and bio-gas plant in the Province of Ontario in our midst at 633 Coronation Drive, Scarborough, ON. To learn more about the proposal, please visit www.ccranews.com and www.change.org/westhillhealth.

We are concerned that our community is being considered as a "sacrifice zone" as we are living near an industrial park that presently includes a wastewater treatment plant and seven chemical plants operating on or near Coronation Drive. The significant emissions from these facilities (cancerous or non-cancerous) are among the highest in Toronto according to [ChemTRAC 2019 report](#).

If the proposal for a large-scale waste transfer and bio-gas plant moves forward, the following environmental, health, and social harm could come to our community:

- Traffic conflicts and accidents on local streets because of the increase in truck traffic;
- Waste spillage in the local area from open air trucks servicing the plant;
- Deterioration of the air quality in our community which could result in increased incidents of asthma, allergies, and other breathing difficulties for both children and adults;
- Odours, noise, and gases polluting our local parks and making the Waterfront Trail undesirable;
- Contamination to our drinking water supply due to leakage from the plant into the nearby water treatment plant which serves hundreds of thousands of residents in Toronto; and,
- Harm to local animal species from emissions and gases generated by the plant and the truck traffic to service the plant.

This proposal will create a large-scale waste processing and bio-gas plant that will:

- Add heavy truck traffic through local streets in the order of 200 trucks per day, 24 hours a day;
- Add noxious gases into the environment including one particular gas that exceeds Provincial limits by more than 300 percent; and,
- Add over 10,000 tons of Greenhouse Gases into the environment just from Truck emissions alone.

In 2015 the community worked with the City of Toronto to modernize the existing wastewater treatment plant located not far from this proposed development. The City listened to the concerns of



the community, and after completing health and traffic studies, chose an option that avoided the need for five waste trucks leaving the plant each day, as it had the least impact on the environment and the health, safety and welfare of local residents.

This current proposal, which will involve between 20 to 40 times as many waste trucks per day, is being considered through the provincially mandated Environmental Compliance Approval process. We are asking the Provincial Government to consider the concerns of our community, including environmental and health concerns. We request that the Provincial Government work with the City of Toronto to find a more appropriate place for this waste disposal facility and ensure that it is not located in a residential neighbourhood.

The Community Associations of southeast Scarborough, along with local residents, are working together in opposition of the proposed large-scale waste processing and bio-gas plant. We ask residents to encourage local politicians to stop sacrificing our neighbourhoods. There are more appropriate places for dangerous and harmful facilities than southeast Scarborough.

Residents are invited to sign the petition opposing the proposal at www.change.org/westhillhealth. Additionally, comments and concerns should be submitted to the Environmental Registry of Ontario through their website at <https://ero.ontario.ca/notice/019-1444> and <https://ero.ontario.ca/notice/019-1446> before the commenting deadline of July 23, 2020.

For more information about this matter, please feel free to contact the undersigned.

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