



Highland Creek Treatment Plant

The Coronation Community Association is extremely pleased to learn that the Cities Public Works and Infrastructure Committee reviewed and accepted a report from staff that called for a new Environmental Assessment to be conducted on the Highland Creek Treatment Plant. This will close a previous decision by City Council that overrode a staff recommendation to upgrade the incinerators (and instead authorized the trucking of sludge).

The staff report states that Community Organizations and Residents living near the HCTP (Highland Creek Treatment Plant) consistently expressed opposition and concern with City Councils Decision to Truck Raw Sewage Sludge (coined Biosolids) through a predominantly residential community. Through public awareness and participation these concerns were expressed to the Ministry of Environment (MOE).

As a result, the Ministry of Environment asked the City to conduct a Schedule B Environmental Assessment (EA) on the Highland Creek Treatment Plant. City Staff are now preparing the terms of reference for the Request for Proposal (RFP) for the new Schedule B environmental assessment. Proposals are expected to be received from consulting engineers by the end of this year. The new Environmental Assessment will begin in January 2013 and will take approximately 9 months to complete and will again review all methods on the future of the plant (trucking of sludge, upgrading incinerator, etc.) and will include public consultation.

While we were not successful in getting City Council to reconsider its decision, Public concern was recognized by the Ministry of Environment who stepped in and as a result a new Environmental Study will be conducted for the Highland Creek Plant.

I would like to express our sincere appreciation to everyone who signed the petition, wrote to Ministry of Environment, took a lawn sign, and to members of the Highland Creek Treatment Plant Neighbourhood Liaison Committee who led this cause.

If you have a lawn sign, we will be taking them down before the end of the year. However, we must stay vigilant, as there will be future public consultation, as part of the new Environmental Assessment. Your Coronation Community Association will continue to advocate for the best solution to the Highland Creek Treatment Plant. We will support an option that is based on sound evidence-based research and decision making and is supported by the community. We will continue to ask for your input and support, particularly in 2013. We will consider placing the lawn sign out again in 2013, when the public consultation is being done, just to ensure that those preparing the Environmental Assessment are aware of our position.