

Students must see both sides

In your editorial from January 20 entitled "Class conflict" you not only contradict yourself but you totally miss the whole point of my argument. On the one hand you agree with the school board's policy which protects our students from teachers' personal views but at the same time you state that students are thoughtful etc. and need no special protection for students will discover the weakness in the arguments themselves. You can't have it both ways.

The policy came about in 1979 when a taxpayer complained to the school board about my strong anti-nuclear views. The purpose of the policy, even though not clearly stated, is for teachers to present both sides of an issue. If one of our local high schools held an assembly and Dr. Morgentaler was the guest speaker, what do you think

the Brockville Right to Life would demand?

It is for that very same reason that it is not right to present only one side of the nuclear industry to our students. Frank Findley from AECL was there not only to promote nuclear power but to sell nuclear power. That is his job "sell nuclear power." You state in your editorial that students can think for themselves. This is partially true but at the same time our students are constantly being bombarded by our adult commercials. Teenagers especially girls are starting to smoke at the age of 14 and Elinor Wilson of the Council On Smoking and Health blames it on advertising. Advertisements and Frank Findley are identical for they both try to sell a product. In the same manner the Canadian Nuclear Association, with its \$20 million P.R. campaign has increased nuclear populari-

ty to 60 per cent.

Brockville's PUC boasted recently about the excellent year 1988 had been with its six per cent electrical growth. As a teacher I would tell my students that a six per cent growth rate is a disgrace for at that rate we would need another nuclear power plant. Does that view fit in with the school board's policy? Instead I would talk about Osaga, Iowa (Time, January 2/89) who cut its natural gas consumption by 45 per cent and reduced its annual growth in electricity demand by more than half, to less than three per cent a year.

Policy or no policy, I will continue stating my views for I agree with Lester Brown from the World Watch Institute who stated "We have not inherited the earth from our fathers, we are borrowing it from our children."

Bill Borger

Propped up by propaganda

The Canadian Nuclear Association (CNA) is an organization devoted to the promotion of nuclear energy in Canada and abroad. To this end, the CNA, of which both Ontario Hydro and Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd. (AECL) are members, is spending \$20 million in a massive publicity campaign designed to prop up this dying nuclear industry by convincing people of its benefits.

Recently, two people from Ontario Hydro spoke to a class of students at Ernestown High School, just west of Kingston. During part of their speech, they trivialized the dangers of PCBs and accused the

people of Augusta township of parochialism because of their opposition to the ENSCO incinerator. Fortunately for the students and for fair play, the classroom teacher had the foresight to invite an environmentalist to offer a different view of both PCBs and incinerators so that the students could see both sides of the issues at hand.

It is indeed unfortunate that some teachers at BCIVS and TISS do not share the philosophy of presenting both sides of controversial issues. No one can honestly deny that nuclear energy is a controversial issue. When a spokesperson from Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd. ad-

resses students in our schools, the information given out is most definitely slanted and biased because he is trying to sell nuclear energy. Our students are being brainwashed when they are being presented with a one-sided view.

The Recorder and Times editorial of January 20 expresses an extremely naive and simplistic view of politically-biased people addressing students. The editor has faith that students have the ability to determine both sides of an issue, but why then, do we need a policy to keep such teachers as Jim Keegstra out of the classroom?

The Recorder and Times can not have it both ways!

Peter Onstein

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Borger wants ENSCO barred

By DOUG McCANN
Staff Writer

MAITLAND — An American hazardous waste disposal company is blackmailing the Ontario government and holding Augusta Township hostage, says a citizens' coalition opposed to a proposed incinerator here.

Environmental Systems Company (ENSCO) of Arkansas is attempting to use its land purchase in Augusta township to win concessions from the Ministry of Environment, Bill Borger, a spokesman for People Opposed to the Waste Incinerator (POWI), said Monday.

"ENSCO's toying with our provincial government amounts to blackmail and Augusta township is the hostage. That is how we see it," said Borger, who reiterated his call for a cabinet order dissolving the sale and preventing ENSCO from building an incinerator anywhere in the province.

Richard Patten, minister of government services, conceded cabinet has such power

when he met with POWI representatives in Brockville last Tuesday.

However, Patten disagreed with that approach, saying it would set a precedent for other citizens' groups with similar requests.

ENSCO is using its Augusta land buy as leverage to secure environment ministry guarantees so it can build a permanent hazardous waste incinerator somewhere in the province, probably at Smithville, Borger said.

"The cabinet has the power to stop this nonsense immediately and now is the time to do it," he said.

"How can an American company come into this country and dictate what it wants to our provincial government while holding a municipality hostage? Where is democracy?" Borger asked.

On Friday, Augusta council reported that ENSCO seems to want MOE help in finding another site, as well as Augusta cash, in return for dissolving its 50-acre land buy in Augusta's industrial park last fall.

Exchange

making

Bill Borger continues environmental cause

By MIKE MORALIS
Staff Writer

Some things never change.

Long-time environmentalist Bill Borger is tireless in his efforts to advance his cause, currently as co-chairman of the public relations committee of People Against Waste Incinerator (POWI).

In that capacity Borger spoke to the Kiwanis Club Tuesday and gave a speech similar to one he made to the group in 1978 as chairman of the anti-nuclear group People Against Nuclear Development Anywhere (PANDA).

POWI was formed earlier this year to oppose the a hazardous waste incinerator proposed for Augusta township.

After deposing the entire municipal council, POWI's "main priority is to get everyone on-side," said Borger, a high school teacher on sabbatical.

Things haven't changed to any great extent since 1978, except that he now has some grey hair and reading glasses.

But we still live in a "throw-away society" with mounting waste disposal problems, said Borger. In the days

of PANDA "it was hard slugging," but there was overwhelming public support for POWI.

Since the municipal election, "a whole lot of things are going on behind the scenes."

More public meetings are scheduled to raise public awareness, and "we want to know where everybody stands," said Borger.

He wants to find out where Nitrochem and Du Pont Canada stand regarding the proposal, and at the same time POWI is mounting campaigns to influence "school boards, industry, agricultural groups and (municipal) councils."

The group wants to be prepared for a long fight although "this could be a short battle" if the company that wants to build the incinerator backs down.

If the plant ever goes through, "we are going to be the toxic waste dumping ground in Ontario," he warned.

Meanwhile, Ontario Hydro and Atomic Energy Canada Limited are still promoting nuclear power, and the government still promotes use of chemicals without adequately examining long-term effects,

only to be hauled up short by public opposition.

Recently an agricultural herbicide used to kill weeds was banned, but Borger is irritated at waging the same battles over and over.

"Why do we have to fight the government over and over to get these things off the market?"

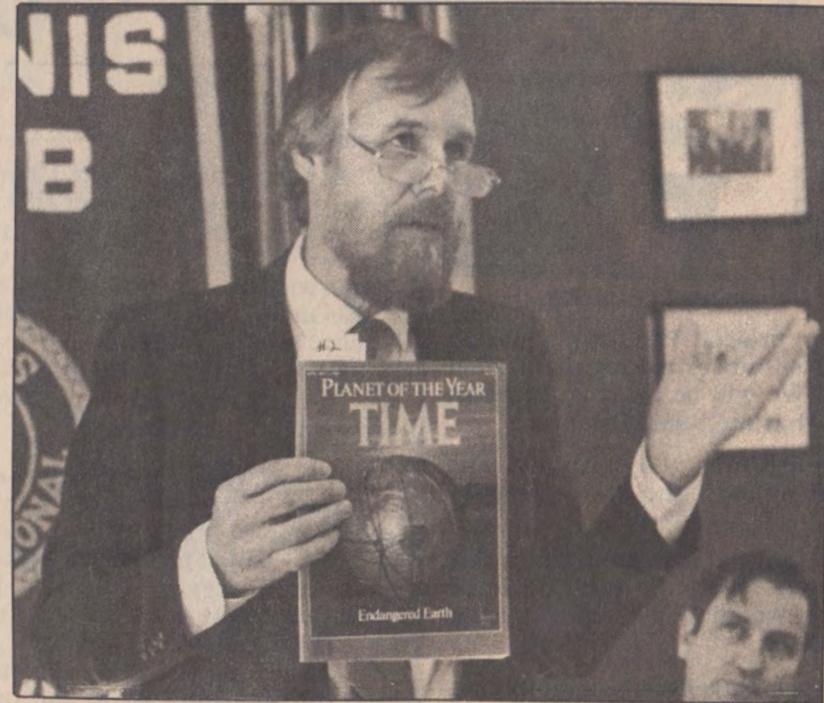
He said he is driven by two principles, the belief that "everyone has a right to a job, because a job means dignity," and the conviction that "everyone is entitled to live in a clean and healthy environment."

Since the 1962 publication of Rachel Carson's landmark book *The Silent Spring* environmental concerns have won increasing support, Borger said.

He ran through a list of books which he recommended to members of the club, and held up a recent *Time* magazine which stressed the need for people to change their lifestyles.

The buzz words have changed over the years and the current catch phrase is the "sustainable development," Borger said.

That means development



MIKE MORALIS/THE RECORDER AND TIMES

Bill Borger gives *Time* a plug for its issue about environmental hazards in a talk to the Kiwanis Club. "I never thought I'd do that," he said.

which "meets the needs of the people without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

Recent incidents such as the

Chernobyl nuclear power plant accident in the Soviet Union and the gas leak at the Union Carbide plant in Bhopal, India highlight the growing risks, Borger said.

Hazardous waste facility danger to students: board

By DOUG COWARD
Staff Writer

Public school trustees here said no to ENSCO Monday.

In a 12-2 recorded vote, members of the Leeds and Grenville County Board of Education made clear their opposition to the proposal by Environmental Systems Company (ENSCO) to build a haz-

ardous waste incinerator in Augusta township.

The board's opposition focuses on the possible impact of an incinerator "because of its possible detrimental effect on the health of the children in a large area surrounding the proposed incinerator," noted the resolution presented by Augusta Trustee Eleanor Filewod.

The board is adding its voice to the growing protest in the region over the ENSCO scheme.

"If there is an accident, there are a number of schools in the fallout plume based on prevailing westerly winds in the area," said Cardinal-Edwardsburgh Trustee Lawrence Levere.

Trustee Bob Hartley was one of only two members to vote against the resolution, saying trustees should not be directly involved in matters not related to the school board.

Hartley, who represents Athens, Front of Yonge, Front of Escott and Rear of Yonge and Escott, said he would not be a critic of ENSCO or neighboring chemical plants or whatever moves through the region on the rail lines or highways.

Prescott Trustee John Emerton argued, however, that if there is a danger of contaminating the air then it would affect students in the area.

Trustee Elizabeth McGrath (Oxford, Wolford, Merrickville) agreed the board had to steer clear of municipal politics, but

Augusta council is now on record as opposing the ENSCO plan.

There are so many children in the area who could be affected that the board should state its opposition, she said.

"We have enough pollutants in this area already," Brockville Trustee Grace Wyatt added.

Trustee Don Davis (South Elmsley, Kitley) said the board should also consider its emergency preparedness planning, looking not only at individual schools but on a counties-wide basis.

Davis and Gananoque Trustee Larry Steacy also questioned Filewod's figures in the resolution, which claim that all residents with a 35-mile radius of the proposed waste incinerator could be adversely affected by the facility's operation or an accident.

Trustees supporting the resolution were: Filewod, Levere, Emerton, McGrath, Wyatt, Davis, Steacy, Doug Burns (Brockville), Mark Darroch (Brockville), Harold Emmons (Front of Leeds and Lansdowne), David Gordon (Kemptonville, South Gower), and board chairman Bob Flood.

Voting against the resolution were Hartley and Sam Fleming, trustee for Bastard and Burgess, North Crosby, Westport and Newboro.

Monster would wreak havoc

At our Edwardsburgh Citizen's Group's first public meeting with an MOE official two years ago, (about our illegal dump) we were told by him to think of him as a family doctor. Show him the problem he said, and he would try to cure it. This official worked out of the Kingston office, at the local level, and I think he was very honest.

After that first visit he was removed and replaced by his superior. As the troubles mounted, so did the levels of the officials who became involved in our problem. Our 'family doctors' rose in prominence. The highest level of participation occurred with the involvement of the Director of Southern Ontario. Now, this leads me to the meeting in Toronto's Ministry of the Environment's office, between ENSCO and MOE officials, concerning the siting of a toxic waste incinerator in Augusta Township.

Who was the 'doctor' at MOE headquarters in Toronto that time? Dr. Frankenstein, I presume. The problems in Augusta township have only begun, if your MOE 'doctor' is willing to allow an incinerator to be set up in this area. It just goes to show you, that the higher up the ladder the people are, who you have to deal with in government, the more 'tunne

vision' plays a leading role. Secrecy about the project seems to be the norm.

Let's hope that the MOE officials involved will come to their senses and rescind their permission to ENSCO to build a Frankenstein monster. The plant would be physically in Augusta, but the toxic fumes, pollutants and heavy metals will drift and spread over a very large area. This would include Edwardsburgh, Dundas County and the northern USA. Like Dr. Frankenstein, Ministry of the Environment officials cannot imagine what havoc would be wreaked, once the 'monster' gets loose.

Do we have to accept living with the dangers involved with this incinerator? It will belch out tons of toxic fumes and heavy metals over a period of

months. The real family doctors that I have spoken to seem to think that our health and that of our unborn children would be at risk. Does the provincial Ministry of the Environment want us to take these risks? I'm sure most of us do not want to.

Therefore, I advise the provincial government to set up and fund a private watchdog group, made up of citizens who would live by and understand the problems regarding landfill, to work in conjunction with MOE regarding the installation of landfill sites right from their inception. The use of these people would add a lot more credibility to decisions regarding the development of waste management facilities.

Robert Glenn for
Concerned Citizens
of Edwardsburgh Township

City and district



Ministry adopts hands-off policy in ENSCO debate

By MIKE MORALIS
Staff Writer

Tory MPPs got the brush-off from Environment Minister Jim Bradley in Queen's Park Wednesday when members Bob Runciman and Margaret Marland questioned him about the hazardous waste incinerator proposed for Augusta township.

Runciman called Augusta a "small rural council" that was "easy pickings" for Environmental Systems Company (ENSCO) when it was looking for land to buy for an incinerator plant.

And he accused Bradley's ministry of leaving the township in the lurch by adhering to the letter of the Environmental Assessment Act, waiting for a formal proposal from ENSCO, which is not expected for about a year.

The ministry is taking a "hands-off approach" to the situation until then, which didn't sit well with Runciman or Marland.

"If every time I did not like something or a ministry official did not like something that was about to be proposed, we said 'Don't bother proposing anything,' the province would, in effect, come to a standstill," Bradley told the legislature.

ENSCO's proposal will be evaluated once it is received, he said.

Runciman claimed ENSCO has breached the Environmental Assessment Act "by identifying only one site," although he conceded there is no legal requirement for the company to follow the act.

Runciman and Marland demanded to know if Bradley would require ENSCO to undergo environmental assessment hearings.

Bradley indicated that he would call environmental assessment hearings, which for private sector projects are at the discretion of the minister.

"They will be required to follow the Environmental Assessment Act if indeed they ever put a formal proposal to the government of Ontario," he said.

Runciman said this morning he's happy to have that on the record, although it's "still fuzzy."

An exchange between Marland and Bradley was less conclusive.

"I do not know how the minister can assess something environmentally when he does not have a benchmark against which to measure the operation," Marland said.

Bradley pointed out that the hazardous waste incinerator for the Ontario Waste Management Corporation will be "right in my backyard, if you will, about 20 miles from my house as the crow flies."

That proposal, like the one ENSCO is expected to submit, will be evaluated according to criteria from the World Health Organization, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Environment Canada, Bradley said.

"We're not satisfied with the responses we got," Runciman said.



ENSCO must consider earthquake line: Borger

By DOUG McCANN
Staff Writer

MAYNARD — Earthquake tremors that shook houses in this area Friday night will definitely become an issue in fighting the proposed hazardous waste plant for Augusta township, if it ever gets to the Ministry of Environment hearings stage, plant opponent Bill Borger said Monday.

"We will fight to keep the proposal from ever getting to an MOE assessment stage, but, if it does, the dangers posed by our vulnerability to earthquakes will definitely become an issue," said Borger, a founding member of POWI (People Opposed to the Waste Incinerator).

A fault line running through the Iroquois area prevented establishment of an Ontario Hydro nuclear power station there about 10 years ago, recalled Borger, who was a founding member of People Against Nuclear Development Anywhere (PANDA), a citizens' coalition that opposed the station.

Friday's earthquake may indicate the fault line has widened to include the proposed Environmental Systems Company (ENSCO) incinerator on the Blue Church Road near Maitland, said Borger.

Discovery of the Iroquois area fault line prompted Ontario Hydro to scratch two proposed nuclear power station sites on either side of the community off its list of four proposed sites. The fault line meant an additional cost of at least \$100 million to Ontario Hydro to build the station near Iroquois, which wanted it at the time, Borger said.

The other two proposed sites were the Blue Church Road in Augusta Township and Edwardsburgh Township's landfill site, Borger recalled.

PANDA fought those two proposed sites by waging a public education blitz, then changing the minds of the two municipal councils when they realized the immense public opposition, he said.

SIMILAR CAMPAIGN

POWI will begin launching a similar blitz in its battle against the ENSCO incinerator, he added.

"PANDA proved the boom-then-bust aspect of a nuclear power station; the potential hazards outweigh the relatively insignificant economic benefits of a high-tech operation that creates very few jobs.

"The same applies to the ENSCO proposal. Fifty or 100 jobs, most of them high tech, do not outweigh the dangers of spills-in-transit or the furans and toxins spewed into the air from the burning of PCBs and other hazardous wastes," said Borger.

High profile events such as the POWI-WOW march on the Johnstown-Ogdensburg international bridge two weeks ago "are nice, but, now, the hard slugging begins," he said.

POWI will mount a public education blitz concerning the impact of the ENSCO incinerator upon the entire area, not just upon Augusta Township, he said.

"We will be approaching all local municipal councils to get their formal opposition on the record. So far, only Prescott council has done that. Brockville Council has not stated its formal opposition, although (Mayor Stephen) Clark has expressed his personal opposition," Borger noted.

"The work is just beginning," he added.

POWI will also attempt to pressure the MOE into forcing ENSCO to include the site selection process in its application for a hazardous waste incinerator permit.

If ENSCO had to undergo the expensive site selection procedure, "it would back off," Borger predicted.

"The Ontario Waste Management Corporation has never considered eastern Ontario as a possible site for a hazardous waste incinerator because it is a relatively low producer of hazardous waste and because of the lengthy distances between the region and southern Ontario, where most of it is produced.

"It is the mandate of the OWMC to select a proper site for an incinerator that will handle all of Ontario's hazardous waste," Borger added.

So far, Minister of Environment Jim Bradley has not responded to POWI's request for a meeting, he noted.

"I have a feeling Bradley is going to force us into an environmental hearing, which we do not need or want. It would be an easy fix for him to plunk an incinerator down in Augusta and take the heat off himself in his own riding, where a hazardous waste incinerator is also being considered," said Borger.

Who protects the environment?

I would like to respond to some of the comments made in your article of December 17, "Waste site clean-up proposal stalled by government".

Unfortunately, this whole article was written with input from the Ministry of the Environment only, and therefore, the net result is misinformation and a general trivialization of the problems suffered by the residents that live near the O.E. MacDougall Ltd. toxic waste dump. These people must put up with polluted wells, health problems, loss of enjoyment of their property, and the general uncertainties and apprehensions which go hand in glove with living next to a toxic waste operation.

For a public relations person such as Dan Cook to say that the problem has been blown way out of proportion for years, underscores the flippant, irresponsible attitude that the environment ministry has consistently taken towards toxic waste dumps. I'm sure Mr. Cook's attitude would change dramatically if he lived next to

the MacDougall site and were forced to drink the water from the wells in the neighborhood.

MOE has always followed the philosophy of ignoring a problem until it magically goes away. Mr. Cook may feel that the toxic chemicals (leachate plume) has dissipated (disappeared). Mr. Cook should get back in touch with reality. If there are no more toxic wastes to worry about, then why spend \$250,000 to clean up the site?

MOE officials promised the residents that they would spend \$600,000 to clean up the MacDougall site, starting in 1987. Now, \$600,000 has become \$250,000, but nothing has been done yet. The excuse, that a missing document is preventing the clean-up, would be laughable if the issue weren't so important. The MOE is acting like a bunch of Keystone Cops.

People in our area should pay close attention to this ongoing three-ring circus saga. History has a way of repeating itself, and the MOE has been entirely predictable and consistent in its dereliction of duty with respect

to the interests of ordinary citizens. We have a toxic waste incinerator proposal to worry about in Augusta township. The MOE's actions in the MacDougall toxic waste area certainly don't inspire confidence that they will deal any more responsibly with the ENSCO proposal.

On Thursday December 22, there will be an Environmental Protection Board hearing held at the Elizabethtown Township Hall. O.E. MacDougall Ltd. wishes to operate 24 hours a day. At a previous hearing of this same board, O.E. MacDougall's hours of operation were set from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., yet he has consistently operated virtually 24 hours a day right from the start. The MOE refuses to interfere because they feel that the 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. ruling is unenforceable. Who, then, is looking after the interests of the people in the area? Just whose side is the MOE on, anyway?

People opposing the ENSCO toxic waste incinerator — beware!

Peter Onstein

BY GABBY TRIDEAU

A problem similar to ENSCO

I'd like to respond to Friday's CKWS news program concerning O. E. MacDougall's appeal for increased working hours which are necessary for the operation of his business; particularly, the plant manager's personal comment.

This has been the 21st year I have been a resident on the sixth concession road, therefore, I think I deserve the right to express my concerns.

Our problem may not be as enormous as ENSCO, and even though we lack support from other residents who are affected, it is similar, only in a smaller scale with less media coverage, as the situation in Augusta Township.

The sixth concession is not a non-residential area, as it was labelled when the M.O.E. permitted MacDougall to first put his operation in practice.

Thankfully, I have no working relationship with the company, therefore, my argument will not

be labelled as a personal vendetta, unless, of course, wanting the promise which has already been given to clean up the site granted immediately, not delayed next year or the following after that, is such a vendetta.

As for no other complaints, you just have to remember to open your ears and listen.

Although many are silent, just ask yourselves would anybody want or agree to live with a situation like this, whether they complain or not?

Cindy Beaudoin

Celebrating a nuclear Christmas

It is amazing how soon we forget. Right after the nuclear accident at Three Mile Island and Chernobyl the polls showed that the majority of people were opposed to nuclear power. Even the Decima Research poll of May 1987 showed only 42 per cent of people supported nuclear power. Today, according to Decima, 60 per cent of Canadians favor nuclear energy. Could this increase of support be due to the Canadian nuclear industry's \$20 million public relations campaign? It is sad that people have to be bribed by a public relations campaign to support nuclear power.

At the present approximately 50 per cent of Ontario's electricity comes from nuclear power, an industry that does not have a solution on what to do with its waste. The high level radioactive waste fuel bundles will release radiation for 500,000 years. As Canadians we use more energy per capita than any other country in the world. Ontario wastes over three-quarters of its energy. (McKay, 1983) The Porter Commission in the late 1970s recommended not to continue with nuclear power unless a solution to the waste problem was discovered. If no solution exists, which is feasible, maybe in 10 or 20 years the government might suggest that since we all use electricity each municipality should look after some of the waste in a type of mausoleum. The municipality would have to guard the waste for 500,000 years.

People who are in favor of nuclear power forget that accidents in the nuclear industry occur all the time. But the whole nuclear fuel cycle, starting with mining, emits radiation into the environment. In every single medical textbook, it says that no person should be exposed to any more radiation than is absolutely necessary. No level of radiation is safe. Every little bit of radiation increases your

chance of getting cancer. The problem with radiation is that you can't smell it, you can't taste it and you can't see it. It is silent, insidious and cryptogenic. The latest accident at the Chalk River Nuclear Laboratories (Dec.8/88), is a good example of how the nuclear industry releases radiation, tritium in this particular case, into the environment. The radioactive vapor was released into the atmosphere while the employees were confined to their offices for three hours. The rest of the radioactive water entered the Ottawa River. In both cases the government scientists stated that there was no danger to the public. But tritium is radioactive for 12 years and therefore for 12 years this radiation will be in our foodchain. Ask yourself, who is at the top of the foodchain?

The Peterson government who promised change, such as no more nuclear power plants, is now looking at another nuclear power station. Yes, the same government who allowed ENSCO to buy land in Augusta Township for a toxic waste incinerator. Peterson's argument for more nuclear power is based on the increase of electrical consumption. For the 1987-88 year, Brockville's electrical growth will be approximately six per cent compared to the 1986-87 year of only 1.1 per cent growth. There are two major problems that exist with Peterson's argument for needing more electricity. The first deals with the lack of conservation of electricity. Ontario Hydro's aim is not to conserve electricity, for if that was the case we would all be conserving electricity and Brockville would not have a six per cent rate of increase of electricity for 1988. Neither Brockville's population nor its industries expanded by six per cent in 1988. The second concern deals with peak power consumption of electricity. Ontario Hydro bases its demand for

electricity on peak power. Peak power demands generally come early morning or late afternoon. Brockville's peak for the month of January 1988 was 6:15 p.m. I phoned the local Ontario Hydro office to see whether Ontario Hydro still had a policy regarding a time that Christmas tree lights should be turned on. Several years ago there was a policy that stated Christmas tree lights should be turned on after peak hours. That policy no longer exists, Hydro explains, "we do not have a peak problem anymore." Then why is Peterson saying we need another nuclear power plant? Also, what time does Brockville's 'Symphony of Lights' and downtown Christmas lights of 30,000 bulbs (10 watts each) get turned on? What time do you turn your Christmas lights on? Remember 50 per cent of all those lights get their energy from nuclear power.

There are many similarities between the construction of more nuclear power plants and the present ENSCO toxic waste incinerator proposed for Augusta. Our whole society is based on economic growth. As a society, if we wish to continue this process we must then accept more nuclear power plants and construct toxic waste incinerators. Politicians are pushing this growth ethic regardless of the consequences to the environment. The easy route out for our elected members is the "quick fix method", for example, build a nuclear power plant to produce more electricity or build toxic waste incinerators. Alternative solutions do exist, such as defined by the United Nations Report, Our Common Future 1987, which recommends, "that the goals of economic and social development must be defined in terms of sustainability."

William Borger

Augusta introduces bylaw to scrap deal with ENSCO

By ALEXIS MANTELL
Staff Writer

MAYNARD — Augusta township council gave a bylaw two readings Tuesday night that will recind the original bylaw authorizing the deal to sell industrial land to ENSCO, the American company wanting to build a hazardous waste incinerator.

Third and final reading will come after the rescinding bylaw is reviewed by the township solicitor, said Deputy Reeve Adrian VanSchie. It could be ready for final passage by the February 7 meeting, he said.

"We had a resolution last meeting declaring the purchase agreement null and void. This is really a housekeeping item to clean up the bylaws," VanSchie said after the meeting.

At its inaugural meeting December 6, the new council declared the controversial sale agreement for 50 acres of industrial land with Environmental Systems Company (ENSCO) of Arkansas made by the former council to be illegal and void. The new

council claims the old guard missed a November 15 deadline, when the purchase agreement was to have been re-executed.

Tuesday's bylaw to rescind the October 5 bylaw authorizing the land sale came the same night council received a letter from the group opposing the planned incinerator, POWI (People Opposed to the Waste Incinerator).

On behalf of POWI, Prescott lawyer Peter Adams offered council a pre-worded draft bylaw rescinding the original ordinance.

Both the POWI letter and council's bylaw cite the same reason why it ought to be struck from the books.

They state the original bylaw is illegal because it makes no mention of the requirement in the Ontario Municipal Board Act that an outgoing council may not saddle an incoming council with heavy financial burdens without board approval.

The letter and the draft bylaw refer to costs that would be incurred by the township to upgrade the Blue Church Road to Highway 401 interchange status.

The original bylaw 2060 includes no provisions for even conditional OMB approval, and was passed without OMB approval, reads the rescinding bylaw.

The bylaw also states that a condition of the sale agreement was that ENSCO pay for

and secure provincial funding for the construction of a new Highway 401 interchange at the Blue Church Road.

However, additional costs associated with the new interchange — such as surveying and upgrading the existing road to handle the extra traffic volume — would have to be borne the township.

Such expenses would mean seeking government funding, money that otherwise would be requested for other township projects such as road improvements or a new truck, said VanSchie.

Though the POWI letter and rescinding bylaw are similar in argument, VanSchie said

Tuesday was the first time the council had seen the POWI letter, dated December 30.

The deputy reeve wouldn't speculate if the rescinded bylaw will land the township in court.

"This council doesn't want to go to court, but we will do what we have to do."

Andrew Gransden, head of the POWI legal committee, said he would have preferred a full three readings of the bylaw, but indicated the township's cautious attitude was not unexpected.

"It's very encouraging, at such short notice, that we got first and second reading."

Four arrested after foot chase

PRESCOTT (Staff) — Four Ottawa youths have been charged with possession of a stolen car following a chase on foot by a lone Prescott police officer early today.

Constable Gary Sluytman was on patrol shortly before 1 a.m. when he began following a suspicious vehicle, which turned into a Water Street apartment building parking lot.

Four people jumped out of the vehicle and began running, with Sluytman pursuing them on foot. The suspects stopped after fleeing for about a block

and gave themselves up without incident.

"I just kept chasing until they stopped," said Sluytman.

"I guess it was too cold to keep running," he added.

He arrested one 18-year-old male adult and three young offenders. Police are withholding the name of the adult, pending an appearance in provincial court at Prescott by all four accused on January 12.

They have all been charged with possession of stolen merchandise of a value exceeding \$1,000. The vehicle had been stolen from an Ottawa owner.

Augusta ready to close books on ENSCO

accepted the withdrawal settlement, he said.

When asked if details of the settlement represent good news, Coons answered "It's as good as we're going to get."

The \$50,000 settlement figure "could be less and it could be more," said Coons.

ENSCO has spent about \$50,000 in real estate commissions, legal fees and other expenses associated with the October 5 purchase of 50 acres in Augusta's industrial park from the former council, ENSCO spokesman Robert 'Jay' Marsh said last week. The company wants to be reimbursed for no more than what it has already invested, Marsh said.

ENSCO and New Environmental representatives are not expected to attend Saturday's news conference, Coons said Tuesday.

Council and POWI are still deciding where to stage the conference.

The small Augusta township

municipal office at Maynard would be sufficient if only reporters attend, but organizers are expecting several members of the public to attend and rejoice over the long-hoped-for withdrawal settlement, said Coons. For that reason, the Maitland Community Hall is being considered as a possible site for the announcement, he added.

Council, which was elected in a landslide victory last November for the express purpose of killing the ENSCO incinerator deal and retrieving the Maitland area site, will breathe a sigh of relief when the settlement is finally unveiled, said Coons.

"We'll get back to running the township, for a change," he said.

The first action he will recommend council take, however, is to remove the special industrial zoning that attracted ENSCO to the site in the first place, said Coons.

"We're going to plug that loophole to make sure no other ob-

noxious industries try to come in," he vowed.

Council's second move will be to consider selling the same 50-acre site to an interested businessman who has already said he is willing to pay \$100,000, the same price ENSCO agreed to pay, said Coons.

He declined to give any details, but assured the proposed use will be an industry that is acceptable to the community.

The township paid about \$48,000 for 179 acres of farmland to create its vacant industrial park a few years ago, Coons recalled. If the township sells the 50-acre site for \$100,000 after paying ENSCO about \$50,000 for its return, it will have recouped its investment of about \$98,000 and still have about 129 acres of industrial land to sell, he said.

Even after paying off ENSCO, the township should not be out any money, he said.

In the meantime, however, council had already budgeted for

about half of the ENSCO settlement payment in its current 1988 operating budget, which it approved last week, and it has the rest in reserve funds, said Coons.

He does not expect heavy public criticism of the ENSCO financial settlement because the majority of Augusta residents attending a number of protest meetings last fall said they would pay anything to stop the incinerator.

Coons said the former Augusta council made a poor judgment call by selling the land to ENSCO, but he harbours no animosity.

"The former council did what it thought was right and we'll have to live with it. Luring industry to an industrial park is the most competitive cutthroat business in Ontario today. We need industry and we need a Highway 401 access ramp to the industrial park.

"I can see why they (former councillors) did it and I have no animosity toward them."

ENSCO waiting for the storm to pass

In the Recorder and Times of March 8 you published a report on the efforts of Mr. Meredith of ENSCO to allay any fears that local school boards may have regarding the proposed incinerators in Augusta Township. Just how naive does Mr. Meredith take

Ontarians to be?

On October 6, 1988 it was announced in The Recorder and Times that ENSCO would develop an area of 100,000 square feet on which \$45 million would be spent resulting in 100 jobs and an annual payroll of \$1.7 million. Three

chemical incinerators would be built, the first to cost \$25 million. In addition ENSCO would contribute to the cost of a cloverleaf at the junction of Blue Church Road and the 401, further, ENSCO would pay the full cost of building an interchange and access road into the industrial estate. All this expenditure for what Mr. Meredith says will be two or three truckloads of waste each day; on October 19 he said there would be about half a dozen loads daily! On that day also he said that the Augusta Township councillors — “aren’t patsies,” presumably all other Ontarians are.

It would seem that ENSCO is waiting for the storm of public

opposition to die down, doubtless the Ministry of the Environment is hoping for the same. I suggest that it would be timely for The Recorder and Times to reprint the series of reports written by Mike Moralis from El Dorado, Arkansas, in October 1988 with special reference to the environmental violations alleged against ENSCO in 1981, '82, '83 and 1987.

If ENSCO is allowed to proceed with its plans, God help the St. Lawrence for it seems obvious that the government and the Ministry of the Environment are loath to do so.

H. John Field
Maitland

Deerbury

No deals made with ENSCO

Recent articles and letters in The Recorder and Times have suggested that the Ministry of the Environment is not open; that it makes deals with private corporations; that it provides no assistance to opponents of projects such as ENSCO's; and that it has the power, but refuses to exercise it, to stop the ENSCO proposal.

None of these points are true.

Firstly, the Ministry of the Environment, has and will continue to maintain a position of openness on proposed projects such as that of ENSCO. Our role in administering the Environmental Assessment Act is to provide a sound and thorough evaluation of such proposals. This act provides the ground rules for reviewing and deciding on significant environmental projects such as ENSCO's proposed incinerator.

If the company decides to go ahead with the submission of a proposal, the Ministry of the Environment will ensure that the provisions of the Environmental Assessment Act and the Environmental Protection Act are followed; it will provide a technical review of the proposal; and it will provide for financial assistance to those who wish to bring evidence to oppose the project.

There are certain things that the Ministry of the Environment will not do because it is not permitted in the legislation. It will not stop the proposal now or at any time within the process; no one has the power to do this since all decision-making in the process is restricted to the powers set out in the legislation, nor is the ministry a co-proponent. The only provincial effort is the Ontario Waste Management Corporation.

The Ministry of the Environment will not make the decision on the approval of the ENSCO proposal. The Environmental Assessment Board, an independent tribunal well represented with individuals of technical and environmentalist backgrounds, will determine the fate of the proposal after hearing evidence from all who wish to make submissions, though the ministry will defend environmental interests during the environmental assessment and at the hearing.

Normally proposals from private companies are not bound by the Environmental Assessment Act and the act's comprehensive requirements and hearings; however, the Minister of the Environment decided some time ago that this and all other proposals for incineration of hazardous and liquid industrial waste will be subject to this act in order that there will be a full, complete and public process for review of such a significant proposal.

Ministry staff met initially with officials of ENSCO on July 28, 1988. The purpose of the meeting was to advise the company of the requirements that they would have to meet for such a proposal in Ontario, including the Environmental Act aspects mentioned above.

The ministry has stated several times that there has not been nor will there be any "deals" with the company over this issue. The initial meeting was a routine one which the ministry has from time to time with many proponents of projects of various types within Ontario in order to explain our regulatory requirements. The ministry maintains on-going but infrequent contact with the company as it does with POWI and the Augusta Council.

When the ENSCO proposal became an issue in Augusta Township last fall, the ministry offered to meet with POWI representatives but they declined in favor of a meeting with the minister. Meetings with the minister's staff and representatives of both POWI and the Augusta Township Council have been held earlier this year. The meetings have been fruitful in clarifying the concerns and viewpoints of all parties. While POWI and the council have expressed disappointment that the ministry cannot "pull the plug" on the ENSCO proposal, it is my impression that after both meetings, the majority of the representatives of POWI and the council have left with a clearer understanding of why the ministry has handled the ENSCO matter as it has and as it must.

No discussion of this topic is complete without considering the future waste management strategy of the ministry which will, I believe, affect this and all other proposals of this type. Last week, the Ontario Minister of the Environment announced a plan to reduce total garbage produced by 50 per cent within the next 11 years. He also announced the means to see this happen with a proposal for \$225 million to cover grants and other incentives to companies and private individuals who initiate projects to reduce garbage. As well he made it clear that if the incentives do not succeed he may introduce legislation to make recycling, reduction, and reuse mandatory. Hopefully, there will be a lot less waste around to be disposed of at incinerators such as ENSCO's, wherever they may be located.

D. W. Guscott
Regional Director
Southeastern Region
Ministry of the Environment

Augusta taxes may increase five to 10 per cent

AUGUSTA TWP. LIBRARY

MAYNARD (Staff) — Augusta ratepayers could see a tax increase of five to 10 per cent this year, largely due to provincial downloading, predicts Reeve Adrian VanSchie.

The chief culprit is the cost of OPP policing, VanSchie said.

"We're getting grants to offset some of the expenses but we're still looking at significant costs over last year," he

said.

Council's budget in 1997 was about \$4 million, including \$2.8 million for education.

Based on estimates of \$90 a household, OPP service will cost council about \$225,000 this year and the next. That cost will increase to about \$550,000 when the province shifts the full cost of policing to municipalities in 2000.

Whether the township stays with provincial police then has not been decided.

Residents will get the same level of protection — the equivalent of 1½ officers patrolling the township on a 24-hour basis.

"This is not an enhanced service we will be paying for."

The township faces other new costs for items such as ambulance service, social ser-

vices, and public health. VanSchie estimates additional costs to the township of about \$1.5 million, more than eating up the \$1.4 million the township gains in "tax room" through the province assuming half the municipal tab for education.

The 1998 budget might not be ready until late summer, VanSchie said.

Township to limit cost of brush chipping

By MARK CALDER
Staff Writer

MAYNARD — Fearing ballooning costs, Augusta township council has capped the amount of money it will spend for brush chipping in the wake of January's ice storm.

The contract signed Wednesday with L.A. Knapp Construction Ltd., limits the cost of the program to \$257,000, said Reeve Adrian VanSchie. About \$137,000 has been spent since April.

A performance clause guar-

antees the work will be finished by June 19, or the payment drops to \$90,000.

"We felt we had to do something because the cost to the taxpayer was becoming prohibitive," VanSchie said Wednesday.

While township expenses are expected to be recouped through the federal-provincial ice-storm relief fund, VanSchie said that doesn't matter because the money all comes from the same taxpayer.

There are no guarantees the relief fund will cover all expenses submitted, he

added.

The agreement was struck during a special council session Wednesday with company owner Lawrence Knapp. Council expressed concern last week over the growing cost of the program, which some feared could exceed \$300,000.

The contract involves the chipping of brush along township roads and rights of way, as well as the Maynard landfill site and all township parkland.

Contractor Lawrence Knapp says a new piece of

equipment will allow him to meet the deadline. A new \$400,000 Vermeer tub grinder to be delivered Monday will replace the three chipping teams.

Unlike the chippers, the new machine is self-loading, with a hydraulic arm that a worker operates from an air-conditioned cab.

The machine will reduce Knapp's overhead because he can complete the work with a two-man crew, a truck driver and operator, rather than the six used to operate the chip-

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