To: The Mayor and All Members of City Council c/o the Clerk, others

Please include this in the next (publicly accessible) communication package for Hamilton City Council.

Since I am just a volunteer in this process, and I have other obligations, it is not often that I get to stop by and view the cleanup progress (or lack thereof) at the big toxic mess of PFCs/PFOS at the Hamilton International Airport.

While I have not had the time to formally quantify my sampling effort, I would estimate it at about one visit every week or two.

I am concerned that I have seen virtually nothing that would qualify as cleanup progress at the source of most of the PFC/PFOS contamination, the Hamilton International Airport fire fighting practice pad (location: 43.166886°, -79.939753°).

Since about last December, only once did I see (and photograph) activity at the pad itself: what appeared to be the drilling of a hole in the south central area of the pad.

If more work has been done, it would be useful if there could be some public release of the data. The last data that was released was collected about a year ago (June 2011). Since I would like to think something has been done since then, it would be helpful to the public discourse to see some proof of activity.

On May 24th, 2012 I stopped by and once again saw nothing that would qualify as clean up activity.

What I did see raises other concerns.

It appears that FARMING IS TAKING PLACE both near and IN THE TOXIC CONTAMINATED SITE ITSELF.

Please see attached photograph, DSCF0089. (I also have others.)

What the photo shows is that plowing of the land has taken place up to and in "Ditch 1".

Since data from the Ontario Ministry of the Environment indicates that Ditch 1 is in fact part of the toxic contaminated site (PFOS is present at toxic levels), farming in the toxic contaminated site at the Hamilton International Airport raises several concerns.

First, by plowing in the ditch and then out onto adjacent farmland, PFCs/PFOS are being spread over the farmland.

Second, by disturbing the toxic contaminated Ditch 1, migration of PFCs/PFOS may have been increased (either to surface water, or ground water, or both).
Third, by allowing farming to take place in a toxic contaminated site, whoever is responsible for the regulation of local agriculture is risking serious damage to the reputation of the quality of Hamilton's local agricultural production.

I do not know what was planted, but I do hope it was not a food crop.

Since I first raised concerns about farming in/near the toxic contaminated site at the Hamilton International Airport about a year ago, it appears that once again my concerns have been ignored.

In the past year, my concerns (carefully written down and sent to local regulators) have been ignored on several occasions, including:

1) The fact that the big toxic mess of PFCs/PFOS at the Hamilton International Airport was not noted in the Environmental Assessments for "Aerotropolis" (aka the AEGD). Government response: after I raised the concern, the EAs were rewritten. Result: Still no mention of the big toxic mess of PFCs/PFOS at the Hamilton International Airport in the EAs.

2) Concerns about occupational exposure to PFOS laden dust at the highly toxic contaminated FFTA pad itself (43.166886°, -79.939753°). Government response: police were allowed to continue using the FFTA pad. This use included allowing "perp" actors to be placed faced down in the dust. This practice only stopped after I spoke with the police.

3) Concerns about spreading contamination from the highly toxic contaminated pad (43.166886°, -79.939753°) around the airport property. Government response: nothing. Result: The airport operator then proceeded to use front end loaders to remove 1300 TONNES of RAP fill from the toxic contaminated Hamilton International Airport fire fighting practice pad and spread this material at the fence line next to neighboring residential properties (people's homes).


At a minimum, some responsible government agency (MOE? Agriculture?) needs to establish buffers around the toxic contaminated zones (including Ditch 1). I am shocked that this has not already been done. The fact that this area was contaminated with PFCs/PFOS has been known to regulators either since the 80s (when the toxic materials were first sprayed on the site) or at least since April 2010 (when the operators/regulators "remembered" what had happened at the airport). The public was told about this mess in March 2011 (not by the operators/regulators, but by me). The fact that farming is still being allowed in the toxic contaminated site is inexcusable.

Hamilton needs to move rapidly to ensure that buffers are established around the toxic contaminated zones. The reputation of Hamilton's agriculture is at stake.
With respect to the farming being done in toxic PFC/PFOS contaminated Ditch 1, Hamilton International Airport.

Please compare the following two photographs (one attached to this eMAIL, one attached to the next).

I apologize that I was not standing in the exact same spot when I took the two photos. Please draw a reference line from the tip of the barbed wire support on the fence to the left side if the fuel control building on the FFTA pad.

In this photo (ffpp) taken in February, please note that the majority of the flow down Ditch 1 is on or to the east (right) of the line.
Subject: photos part 2: farming in contaminated Ditch 1, Hamilton International Airport

Date: Tue, 29 May 2012 12:38:32 -0400
From: Joe Minor <jminor@cogeco.ca>
To: Joe Minor <jminor@cogeco.ca>

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> Ditch 1, Hamilton International Airport.
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> attached to the previous one).
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> the two photos. Please draw a reference line from the tip of the
> barbed wire support on the fence to the left side if the fuel control
> building on the FFTA pad.
>
> In this photo (hia01) taken last week (May 24th), please note that
> the
> plowing extends both up to and across this line to the left (west).

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Joe Minor