Attendance:

Hamilton Contingent:

Councillor Phil Bruckler
Councillor David Mitchell
Councillor Art Samson
David Hart Dyke, Chairperson, Waste Reduction Task Force
Beth Goodger, Director, Waste Management Division, Public Works Department
Pat Parker, Manager of Solid Waste Planning, Public Works Department
Adrienne Press, Policy Analyst, Waste Management Division, Public Works Department

Niagara Contingent:

Councillor David Eke
Doug Symington, Waste Management Advisory Committee
Barry Friesen, Director, Waste Management Services, Public Works Department
Drew Berkelo, Program Manager, Waste Management Services, Public Works Department
Cheryl Crawley, Program Manager, Waste Management Services, Public Works Department (secondment, Jacques Whitford Limited)
Kimberlee Lambe, Business Partner, Public Works Department
Janet Pilon, Legislative Assistant

Consultants:

David Merriman, MacViro Consultants Inc.
Steve Plaice, Jacque Whitford Limited
Councillor D. Eke, who chaired the meeting, called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m.

In consideration of a lack of quorum the Joint Working Group agreed to hold the meeting and hear from the delegations in attendance at this time.

1. Adoption of Agenda:

Those in attendance agreed by consensus to adopt the agenda for the January 11, 2006 Niagara-Hamilton WastePlan, Joint Working Group meeting, as presented.

Carried.

2. Presentation on the Draft Report on the Selection of the Preferred Disposal System

Mr. Merriman, MacViro Consultants Inc. noted that the draft report on the selection of the preferred disposal system presents the consultant’s conclusion on the preferred disposal system for public consultation and that there will be no decisions made on the preferred disposal system at this time until comments are received from interested public, agencies and other stakeholders.

The Committee was advised that following a thorough analysis the consultants recommend System 2B, the Thermal Treatment of Municipal Solid Waste and Recovery of Energy followed by Recovery of Materials from the Ash/Char, as the preferred disposal system for Niagara and Hamilton.

Mr. Merriman provided the Committee with an overview of the Eight Step Evaluation Process: Selection of the Preferred Disposal System and the consultation process during the selection of the system. The consultants during their analysis reviewed high diversion programs around the world; examined the philosophy of a “Zero Waste” Society; considered potential for additional diversion for both Niagara and Hamilton, when in 2004 Niagara was at 46% with organics and Hamilton was at 28% with no organics diversion and concluded that there are no comparable municipalities who have achieved 65% diversion at this time and that a 65% diversion rate is a reasonable target for the planning of disposal needs, therefore, the projected waste quantities and composition was based on achieving 65% diversion.

Alternative Systems were then formulated to manage the remaining 35%. There were eight alternative systems evaluated through a “Net Affect Analysis”.

Mr. Merriman explained the evaluation methodology and results. The applied methodology utilized a qualitative approach that allows for a more reasoned explanation of decisions and results and avoids the debate that arises over the numbers and limits that define the data ranges/effects and better facilitates the review of the results and feedback by the general public compared to a quantitative approach. The consultants compared the Alternative Systems, through a “Pair Wise” comparison, which involved three levels of comparison of alternative systems in pairs. This approach allowed for due consideration to systems ranked between best and worst for comparative considerations. The detailed analysis of pairings can be found in Appendix 5 and 6 Table 8.1 which presents the comparison of the final pair of systems (the preferred landfill based system 1 and the preferred thermal based system 2B).
3. Delegations

Councillor Eke asked whether there were any individuals in the gallery who wished to be heard by the Joint Working Group on the Preferred Disposal System.

Mr. Franz Zaunscherb, City of Hamilton

Mr. Franz Zaunscherb, a resident of the City of Hamilton, who is a former member of the Waste Management Public Advisory Committee commended the Joint Working Group for the work that has been completed and that he is pleased to see that it is System 2B that is being recommended, which will include incineration.

Mr. Zaunscherb noted that incineration is used in Europe and Japan, and that the system in place in Japan was adopted from the system used in Vienna. The system in Vienna uses the residual heat for district heating, recovering 70% of the heat, they have 900 km of feed pipes in the ground and Niagara and Hamilton should be considering recovering the heat from this system as well, as we could replace the use of natural gas and have an environmental benefit.

Mr. Zaunscherb has visited the site in Vienna three times, the building was built as a landmark, it is beautiful, it is clean, it is located in the middle of the urban centre, so that the heat can be sent to hospitals, etc., the smoke stacks have indicators that tell the public at all times the emissions being emitted from them on an ongoing basis. They are open with information and citizens are aware of what they are doing, gives the public peace of mind.

Mr. Zaunscherb, advised the Committee that Vienna also has a recycling system in place and the recovery of metals is also in place. The ash from the incinerator, which by law is to be treated before it is landfilled, significantly reduces the landfill space required. The system in Vienna also burns sewage sludge and hazardous waste with stringent pollution control regulations in place, however, the system being proposed for Niagara and Hamilton will not be burning those items.

The term “incineration” is used and accepted in Europe, in Canada it is our experiences that have damaged the reputation and the public’s perception of the process, Mr. Zaunscherb feels that if it is explained properly people will be able to accept it.

Ms. Judy Schneider, City of Hamilton

Ms. Judy Schneider, a resident of the City of Hamilton was advised that the scientific rationale and the engineering studies utilized by the consultants to arrive at their recommended preferred disposal system can be found on the Niagara-Hamilton WastePlan web site.

Ms. Schneider was advised that the Emissions Study was completed by obtaining information on the standards from Europe, the United States and Canada and that any study used by the consultant is referenced through footnotes and a listing in the documents themselves.

The results from all of the Public Information Centres are included in the annexes of the report on the Selection of the Preferred Disposal System.

Ms. Schneider asked what would happen if the respective Councils refused System 2B as the preferred disposal system? Ms. Schneider was advised that at each of the milestones of the Environmental Assessment process, there has been a decision made to continue, if one of the Council’s was to turn down the recommendations, they would then decide if we move forward together (Niagara-Hamilton) or separately to pursue another alternative.
Ms. Schneider noted that the issue of siting an incinerator will be strongly debated in Hamilton.

The Joint Working Group was apprised of a question that arose from an individual who has to leave the individual asked whether the sewage sludge component was to be included in this process, the individual was advised that only residual municipal waste was to be included in this process.

4. Approval of Minutes from the December 8, 2005 meeting.

The Joint Working Group by consensus deferred the approval of the minutes of the December 8, 2005, Niagara-Hamilton WastePlan, Joint Working Group meeting, to the February 9, 2006 meeting.

5. Staff Report on the Impacts of Possible Border Closure

Pat Parker provided the Joint Working Group with an overview of the contents of the staff report, which recommends that Niagara and Hamilton Councils request the Province to revise the Environmental Assessment (EA) Process and adopt the recommendations of the Environmental Assessment Review - Waste Sector Sub-Panel as an interim step to facilitate the development of disposal capacity for Ontario and support the creation and implementation of a provincial waste management strategy that will enable self-sufficiency in Ontario.

Pat Parker noted an error on page 2 of the report and advised the Joint Working Group that the report will be reissued at the February 9, 2006 meeting.

6. Other Business
   a) Upwind Downwind: Cities, Air and Health Conference

The Joint Working Group was reminded of the Upwind Downwind: Cities, Air and Health Conference being held on February 27 & 28, 2006 at the Hamilton Convention Centre.

b) Liberty Energy Proposal

Pat Parker advised the Joint Working Group that the Liberty Energy Proposal in Hamilton will take biosolids and wood waste through an incineration process. Liberty Energy are currently going through an Environmental Assessment process, however, since they are in energy they are not required to go through the Environmental Assessment process Niagara-Hamilton WastePlan is going through.

The commenting period ends on February 6, 2006.

c) Next Regular Meeting - February 9, 2006

The Joint Working Group was advised of the next scheduled Joint Working Group meeting, will be held on February 9, 2006 at the Stoney Creek Municipal Service Centre.

7. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 am to meet again on January 16, 2006 at the Hamilton City Hall at 7:00 p.m. to receive delegations.