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NEWS: Iqaluit January 22, 2014 - 10:17 am

## Iqaluit council: incinerator must be built now, not later

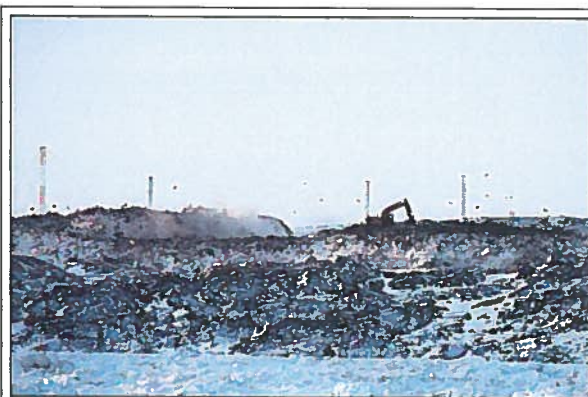
### Waste site plan sent back for second review

PETER VARGA

Iqaluit City Council has ordered that an incinerator immediately be included in the city's new waste management plan, to be commissioned when the next waste site opens.

The Jan. 21 decision advances council's demand for an incinerator by one year, to 2015 at the earliest.

Council also held off on accepting the waste plan's composting element, ordering that the city's department of engineering redraft the plan to "phase in" composting only on the condition that it is proven to work in Iqaluit.



Iqaluit's West 40 garbage dump – pictured here Dec. 12, after the city contained a fire within the waste pile – is overdue for replacement. City council plans to include an incinerator at the community's next waste site, which is expected to open in 2015, at the earliest. (PHOTO BY PETER VARGA)

With that, council sent the city's director of engineering, Meagan Leach, back to the drawing board to redraft the city's solid waste management plan, which it stopped just short of adopting on Dec. 10.

Council's order to include incineration within the plan now means garbage collection fees will have to increase by about 63 per cent, instead of just 30 per cent as called for under the original solid waste management proposal, according to Leach.

The increased fee would cover the cost of an incinerator, which is estimated at about \$5 million. The total cost of a new waste site, with incineration, would be about \$14 million.

"Obviously you can choose to split that over different years, or over different funds," Leach told council. "But it certainly has to be planned for."

Leach cautioned that council's late changes to the city's solid waste management plan would add much more work and costs to the project, while the city's past-due West 40 landfill continues to receive the city's garbage.

"We need to have this project up and running as soon as possible," Leach said. "We're adding a lot of work so that it's going to be a very large undertaking for staff. We already have a lot of large projects on the go. I'm concerned about frontloading so many things."

The city's urgent need to approve and begin the new waste plan is also under close watch by Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada, Coun. Kenny Bell said.

The federal agency, which administers the Nunavut Waters and Nunavut Surface Rights Tribunal Act, had called on the city to submit its waste plan by Nov. 30, 2013, Bell said.

"It's been in the hands of administration, and they have apparently been working towards a fix," Bell said.

The problem, he added, is that he and other city councillors did not know anything about the deadline until Jan. 14, when council learned about it in an in-camera meeting closed to the public.

City administration's rush to push the project through almost squeezed out council's ability to call

for an incinerator to be included in the project, he said, adding that councillors, like many citizens, have always favoured incineration.

"I've believed that this has been rushed since the beginning," he said.

Coun. Mary Wilman also faulted city administration for not providing complete information on the waste plan.

"I feel that we're not being fed adequate information," she said. "I'm not pointing fingers, but I am very frustrated, because this council is not really respected."

The city's new waste plan involves opening a new waste site 8.5 kilometres northwest of the city centre, known as the Northwest site.

Iqaluit's department of engineering completed a project proposal after two years of work, which included information presented in three public consultations, three newsletters to residents and a website describing the plan's progress.

Despite this, councillors said they were dismayed that the final draft, put to council for approval, did not include an incinerator.

"We've got to keep the stuff out of the landfill site, and incineration is, in my opinion, the most appropriate way," said Coun. Terry Dobbin.

"The key is diversion," Dobbin said, adding that without an incinerator, he feared that the Northwest site "is going to be just another landfill."

Plans call for the Northwest site to include composting, separation of recyclable material and hazardous waste, as well as a re-use centre and end-of life vehicles program.

Coun. Bell said he doubts that composting would work in Iqaluit.

"Personally, I would like to see composting tested out," Bell said. "We haven't been provided with information that says that it actually works."

Other councillors agreed. With that, they decided on a "phase-in" approach to composting, on the condition that it is proven to work in the community.

Leach will adjust the city's waste management plan and present it to council for discussion at the next council meeting, Jan. 28.













 COMMENT ON THIS STORY

## (8) Comments:

### #1. Posted by Bert Rose on January 22, 2014

Council has the perfect resource and proof of the success of composing in Iqaluit right beside the present landfill. The Bill MacKenzie Humanitarian Society and its champion Jim Little have been trying to talk about successes in composting in Iqaluit to anyone who would listen for more than five years!

### #2. Posted by Bob on January 22, 2014

"We've got to keep the stuff out of the landfill site, and incineration is, in my opinion, the most appropriate way," said Coun. Terry Dobbin.

I "really" hope they're not planning on burning all the plastic products that are sent to the dump/incinerator.

Not only will it create more air pollution, it would be destroying something that could be turned into useful diesel fuel.

There are affordable devices out there that will turn plastic into oil, that's of a grade compatible with diesel fuel. They're using one in Whitehorse, and in many places around the world.

By turning plastic into usable diesel fuel, it turns something that would just be burned...with no alternative use...into something that has a purpose at least.

I really hope the incinerator's waste heat is used for beneficial purposes as well.

### #3. Posted by Why Emotionally Loving Air Polluting? on January 22, 2014

Garbage fees increase by 63%, yea just the beginning of higher fees with the incinerator. With the long term incinerator contract, what will it cost and if not enough garbage how much will it increase fees - 100% - 800%?

Does this incinerator mean Iqaluit will burn garbage from other hamlets to meet waste quotas? Increasing the smell in the air? How barfing bad will the smell be?



## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) is an Institution of Public Government with responsibilities for the environmental assessment of proposed projects in Nunavut as described in Article 12 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA).

Contact: Nunavut Impact Review Board  
PO Box 1360, Cambridge Bay, NU X0B 0C0  
Fax: 1-867-983-2594  
Email: [info@nirb.ca](mailto:info@nirb.ca)  
Phone: 1-866-233-3033

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## CONVENTION CALL

### NOTICE TO ALL NUNAVUT EMPLOYEES UNION MEMBERS

The Nunavut Employees Union (NEU) is holding their 66th Convention on January 22-23, 2014 at the Iqaluit Convention Centre.


All NEU members in good standing may be elected by their local to attend the NEU Convention, as delegates. A member in good standing means that you have signed a NEU-PSA membership card, have paid in expenses within 30 days of the election process for the delegates and are not under suspension at the time of the election process. As per by-laws 11-12, Section 5, locals have the right to elect delegates to the convention.

Convening delegates will be expected to:

- Attend at least one Convention meeting leading up to and during the Convention, and
- Be a voting presence for the union at your home community after the Convention.

More information will be sent to the locals. If you have any questions, please contact your local President at the following link: <http://www.nunatsiaq.ca/locals> or the NEU office at 909-4509 or call 1-877-213-4424.

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## INFORMATION SYSTEMS SUPPORT OFFICER

Nunavut Turnagain Inc.

Iqaluit, NU

The Communications Division of Nunavut Turnagain Inc. is hiring an Information Systems Support Officer to the team. Under the direction of the Director of Communications, the incumbent will assist in the maintenance of I.T.'s computer network system. The primary responsibility will be to provide helpdesk support. Other responsibilities include monitoring I.T. servers, server applications and telephone systems to ensure the operation of the information technology structure at a maximum reliability. The officer also troubleshoots system malfunctions and maintains computer and equipment.