

An Unnatural Place to Grow



Plasma Arc incineration technology is being considered by the current Mississippi Mills Council for our town's future waste disposal/diversion process.

This process is hugely expensive, impractical, and not ecological in relation to the level of waste Mississippi Mills produces. There are many unknowns.

The Timeline

Council is considering submitting a letter of intent to proceed to PyroGenesis.

Council needs to make its decision by the May 13 council meeting! Why?

1. PyroGenesis wants the town to give them **a letter of intent that they will go ahead with this project** by May 19th. This is so PyroGenesis can apply for an annual funding deadline by June 4th. Council must do this at the next council meeting on May 13.
2. A Feasibility and Due Diligence study is required. This will cost \$300,000 in two phases. The Town expects to get 50% covered by grants or whatever, so they will be asking to \$150,000 from the town coffers (\$75,000 now and \$75,000 later). *For a town that had to raise taxes significantly just to cover it's current commitments, this is a significant expense.*

Upcoming Committee and Council Meetings:

May 8th 5:00 pm Plasma Arc Committee

Motions to proceed with the two above items will likely be tabled and voted upon. These motions will then pass to the Roads & Public Works Committee.

May 8th 7:00 pm Special Roads & Public Works Committee

The motions from the Plasma Arc Committee will be tabled and voted on. These motions will then pass to the next council meeting.

May 13th 7:00 pm Council Meeting

Council will vote on the motions from the Roads and Public Works Committee

The Cost to You?

PyroGenesis is seeking **intent to commitment millions of dollars** from Mississippi Mills, to go ahead with this project. There was an unannounced "public" meeting on Wed., April 30th. The proposal from PyroGenesis was presented.

Financial Background: The cost estimate to build the Plasma Arc incinerator is about \$11 Million capital expenditure (CE). (This is a preliminary estimate – but when do these things ever stay on budget?) There are an additional \$1 million/year operation costs. The annual costs of interest on the loan and operating costs are steep!

Mississippi Mills (including Ramsay Township and Pakenham) currently produces about 3000 tonnes year of garbage annually (after ~20% is recycled). Therefore, it will cost taxpayers \$1,000,000 to dispose of 3000 tonnes. **\$333/tonne** to incinerate our garbage!

Compared with *current landfill costs which are roughly \$60/tonne.*

Plasma Arc in Mississippi Mills

The capacity of the Plasma Arc Incinerator has been reported to be between 6,000 and 10,000 tonnes per year. Therefore, **we will have to import garbage** to get up to 6000 tonnes (or more) to keep the incinerator busy: Only then does the cost drop from \$333 to \$166 a tonne.

It is estimated that the net cost to taxpayers, including financing to build the plant, and if we import garbage, will be \$275 per tonne for the Plasma Arc Incineration process. If we don't import garbage from other communities, the cost would rise significantly.

PyroGenesis has stated a cost of \$250 per tonne just in operating costs, indicating some intention on their part to include garbage imported from elsewhere.

And, ironically, **if residents increase their recycling & reducing habits**, the cost per tonne to incinerate will rise higher. To compensate, **we'll have to import even more garbage from outside Mississippi Mills to maintain a lower cost per tonne**. Not much of an incentive to recycle.

Other Horror Stories

Remember the incinerator at Swan Hills in Alberta? *Latest technology, guaranteed to be clean and low cost. Well, it wasn't!*

Hunting of game had to be banned for a 30 mile radius - no body expected it, but that's an example of what can happen when technology doesn't live up to it's promises. See out web site for more information and links. www.mmra.ca

Plasma Arc Incineration Summary

- ◆ Expensive at least \$250 / tonne. **All taxpayers in MM will pay for this.**
- ◆ **Unproven / experimental technology** as applied to municipal waste treatment. Mississippi Mills is a testing ground for this garbage disposal system. **Do we want to be guinea pigs and pay for the privilege?**
- ◆ Plant needs 6000 tonnes / year or more. Thus **no incentive to recycle**, and MM will have to **import garbage from outside. How many trucks do we want driving through town bringing garbage from elsewhere?**
- ◆ **Emissions** up the stack? – **dioxins? heavy metals?** – where is the independent analysis? Emissions are spread out over 100s of square kilometres – **this will affect all corners of MM.**
- ◆ **No meaningful public input** so far—though the public meeting in March 2002 promised a large amount of public consultation.
- ◆ **Slag issue.** We will still have solid waste left from this incinerator process. The solid waste reduction is about 5:1 or 6:1. And 6000 tonnes / 6 = 1000 tonnes x \$60 / tonne = \$60,000 / year. **This cost is an addition to the costs mentioned above.**

What is the best way to let council know that this is not acceptable?

CALL THE COUNCILLORS:

This is probably the most important thing to do. Start with the head of the Plasma Arc Committee – Bruce Monteith, and the Mayor. **Time is of the essence.**

SHOW UP AT THE COMMITTEE & COUNCIL MEETINGS.

Call the town at 256-2064 to find out exact information.

Your presence may be enough to sway some votes – after all this is an election year!

Plasma Arc in Mississippi Mills

Mayor	F. R. (Ron) Pettem (613) 256-2064 Ext 300 (office) (613) 256-2674 (home) rpettem@town.mississippi-mills.on.ca
Almonte Ward	
Garry Dalgity (613) 256-3229 garry.dalgity@sympatico.ca	Alex Gillis (613) 256-4961 town@town.mississippi-mills.on.ca
Ed Wilson (613) 256-2866 town@mississippi-mills.on.ca	Phil Wood (613) 256-4554 town@town.mississippi-mills.on.ca
Pakenham Ward	
Denzil Ferguson (613) 624-5435 town@town.mississippi-mills.on.ca	Brenda Hurrle (613) 624-5600 town@town.mississippi-mills.on.ca
Ramsay Ward	
Marilyn Anderson (613) 257-4818 town@town.mississippi-mills.on.ca	Bruce Monteith (613) 256-5416 town@town.mississippi-mills.on.ca
James Lowry (613) 253-1381 town@town.mississippi-mills.on.ca	Robin Rogers (613) 257-3752 town@town.mississippi-mills.on.ca

MMRA Info

The Mississippi Mills Residents Association's mission statement is:

"We believe that Mississippi Mills is a special place to live and we want to preserve its qualities and improve them wherever possible. To that end, the Residents' Association will create a forum to engage all residents in an on going dialogue about the challenges, problems and opportunities we face. We will strive for a shared vision of our future and we will promote the means to achieve that vision."

For more information, please visit us at www.mmra.ca