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For Immediate Release

Dongara celebrates official opening in City of Vaughan

New facility will divert up to 100,000 tonnes of York Region waste from landfill each year

NEWMARKET – Dongara, The Regional Municipality of York and the City of Vaughan today celebrated the official opening of the Dongara waste management facility. Dongara will divert up to 100,000 tonnes of York Region waste from landfill each year.

“We have moved aggressively to bring Dongara’s state-of-the-art waste management technology to York Region,” said York Region Chairman and CEO Bill Fisch. “Dongara will significantly increase our diversion of waste from landfill and we are proud to be working with this innovative facility.”

Dongara is a private company that manufactures an engineered fuel pellet from residual waste (waste remaining after diversion efforts). This fuel product can be used in place of coal as an industrial energy source. The Regional Municipality of York has a 20-year contract to send up to 100,000 tonnes of residual waste to Dongara annually.

“The City of Vaughan is pleased to be the host community for Dongara,” said City of Vaughan Mayor Linda Jackson. “Managing waste locally will reduce emissions from long distance waste transportation and provide long-term benefits to all residents of York Region.”

The Dongara facility is committed to meeting all rigorous environmental standards under the Environmental Protection Act in its operations and fuel products. The plant and product are subject to regular testing and must meet provincial environmental guidelines. The product may only be used by industries who have met and will continue to meet all government regulations and environmental standards in their jurisdiction.

Dongara sends approximately 25 per cent of pellets to Remasco in Leamington, Ontario where they are used as a heat source for greenhouses. Remaining pellets are shipped to industrial sites in the United States through a Toronto-based broker, Nautilus, where they are used as fuel.

“Dongara welcomes the opportunity to serve York Region and its residents,” said Dongara President Jim V. DeGasperis. “We look forward to contributing many years of safe and sustainable waste management to this community.”

York Region achieved a 45.7 per cent diversion rate in 2007, earning Waste Diversion Ontario’s (WDO) No. 1 ranking among large urban Ontario municipalities. York Region diverted 152,611 tonnes of waste from landfill through Green Bin, Blue Box and other diversion programs in 2007. An estimated 169,706 tonnes was diverted in 2008.

Including energy recovery diversion from landfill methods such as Dongara, York Region will divert approximately 85 per cent of waste from landfill in 2009. York Region supports the addition of a 4th R, namely “Recover,” to the Provincial waste management hierarchy along with official recognition of energy recovery as diversion.

For more information on Dongara, please visit www.dongara.ca

For more information on The Regional Municipality of York, please visit www.york.ca

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