

Statement by Roma-Lynn Gilis for Public Participation Meeting
regarding Orgaworld of Cannada in South London
2012-11-13

This evening is about the City's responsibility to protect its citizens from unacceptable malodour, and we trust for a measure to be taken by the City to solve our current problem and to prevent *all* citizens of London from being ever again victims such as we have found ourselves to have been for the last 6 years. During this time we have been subjected to completely unacceptable odour. Odour that is **completely unacceptable** for citizens to be subjected to has two characteristics, and both of these are the trademarks of Orgaworld: the odour is first of all **excessive**, and secondly the odour is **offensive** to the point no human should have to live in proximity to it because it does have adverse effects on people. I have in hand the original C of A issued to Orgaworld, and let me quote from p. 30: "the Site must be operated and maintained in an environmentally acceptable manner which does not result in an adverse effect or a hazard to the natural environment or any person." Well, we may be living in rural settlements within the City of London, but we are persons. And we have been complaining legitimately about adverse effects for 6 years.

We are fortunate in this province that it is a legislated right of citizens that they need not live exposed to any odour in excess of a one-odour unit—this unlike some other unfortunate places around the world. Given the geographic immensity of our country, there is absolutely no need to locate composting facilities on the doorstep of residential neighbourhoods. However, as one might expect, throughout our ordeal of six years, a cavalcade of Orgaworld engineers, officials, management, lawyers, and spokespersons--some actually residing an ocean away from the stink--have all stoutly maintained that "all tests" reveal that Orgaworld's stink is within the one odour unit—or as one reporter whose concluding observation was that he was glad he didn't live "next door," the stink is "not that bad."

Let me speak to this. Only 4 stack tests have been completed in 6 years, and it is important to point out that the company knows well in advance when these will be taken, and essentially assists with their implementation. Odour samples are drawn into a non-reactive Tedlar Bag, and I am told that at the same time as a stream of gas is pulled in from the stack, it is diluted with pure nitrogen to prevent the sample from condensing in the bag. The length of time for sample-taking depends upon concentration, but it is unlikely the test would exceed an hour; and since each test is repeated three times, one might be generous and say the sample-time per odour test might occur over as long a period as three hours. Multiply that by the four tests taken in 6 years, and you might have 12 hours or 720 minutes of tests. These samples are then rushed off 200 kilometers to Toronto to be adjudicated by a panel of supernoses, and

Orgaworld claims that in all four cases, the plant has triumphed with a less than 1-odour unit result. How remarkable!

Meanwhile, the residents of Shaver and Brockley have conducted their own odour tests, using thousands of ordinary noses (instead of 10 refined Toronto noses) but we emphasize noses which actually live in close proximity to the plant. And they have conducted their tests over 2000 days, instead of 4; over nearly 3 million minutes, as opposed to 720 minutes. Instead of a sampling train from a port in the stack, they have spread their sampling over a radius of 5 kilometers moving a full 360 degree range around the plant. The amazing result has been over 2000 reports of an excess of a 1-odour unit. And this without Tedlar Bags or super noses. So let's understand once and for all that there is no question on God's earth but that Orgaworld is nearly daily breaching the 1-odour unit allowance. If they were not, we simply would not smell the plant, and I do hope you realize how preposterous and ridiculous it is to assume that Orgaworld is meeting the 1-odour unit which is the law of this land.

Secondly, for Dale Harley to go on Talk Radio and announce that the Orgaworld smell is like a "walk in the rain forest" is pure poppycock. I have visited the rain forests of BC, and I can assure you their aroma bears absolutely no resemblance whatsoever to the fetid, putrid, stinky, rotten garbage smell that Orgaworld emits. Greg Mariotti's announcement on a CTV News Report that the "rest odour" is transient and light is as misleading. We are talking plain and simple here about "McGuinty, McGuinty . . . Gone Stinky" and the offensive nature of the odour is more than any man or beast should have to endure.

Is the performance getting better? You'll probably hear that one as the company keeps trotting out its endless "final fixes" and reports on all the money it has spent to "solve" the problem. Well I have in my hand a statistic I received only 5 days ago from the local Ministry of the Environment. And despite the major overhaul of 2010, and the myriad of final fixes since then, this year has been the worst ever. Because, even given the fact that the residents of Shaver and Brockley are sick to death of having to call to lodge odour complaints and many of them simply refuse to go to the bother, I hope it will absolutely shock you to the core to learn that **571 complaints** have been made within the last year. **571:** that's an average of 3 complaints every 2 days.

No one should be expected to live with this; and the City must take action to protect us at this time and preclude any other citizens in the City from having to suffer similar indignity ever again.

As I conclude, allow me to quote an observation David Suzuki made in his famous last lecture on June 15 of this year. I don't always agree with David Suzuki says, but he certainly has made a valid point when he states,

“We are air. Whatever we do to the air we do to ourselves.” Suzuki also quotes a scholar who said the 2 most revolutionary words are, “‘I’m staying.’ ‘Get lost’ to the short-sighted entrepreneurs with 25-year plans.” The reason? Because “When we measure everything that has value for us in economic terms, these things are worthless.”

I ask the City to value quality of life over economics, people over programmes, citizens of longstanding over newcomer foreign profiteers.

Thank you.