

Plasco deal delay no worry: Kirkpatrick

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A contract with the city and Plasco might not be in front of council before the fall, city manager Kent Kirkpatrick said.

Despite months of delays in getting a waste-to-energy deal before council, Kirkpatrick said Saturday he sees no reason for apprehension.

"I'm not concerned in that the delay isn't costing the city anything. I believe that the province is expecting the submission of the final emissions testing by the end of this month," he said.

"Approval in June would allow for a report in June (if approval is early enough) or July. Approval in early summer would mean a report in the fall."

The delays have prompted some city councillors to wonder if there are problems with

Plasco.

In an e-mail obtained by the Sun, Kirkpatrick updated council, but never attempts to assure them the technology appears to be working.

"The purpose of this memo is to respond to recent inquiries made by members of council regarding the status of contractual negotiations between the city and Plasco," he wrote, telling council that an agreement won't be signed until council has seen it.

Certifies operation

In the e-mail, Kirkpatrick says a report won't be brought to committee before Ontario's environment ministry okays the facility's operation.

Orleans Coun. Bob Monette said the delays don't worry him.

"I do not see any issue with this, in fact the councillors should let the managers manage and bring back the details

of the agreement.

"The problem with this council is that some of the councillors feel that they should micromanage staff my personal view is let them complete the negotiations then we can give input once we have the proper details in front of us."

Plasma gasification involves heating shredded garbage to very high temperatures in the absence of oxygen. Without oxygen, the waste doesn't burn. Instead, it decomposes into a glass-like solid and a combustible gas mixture called syngas, which is burned to generate power.

Ottawa donated the land for the project, the federal government provided \$9.5 million, the province lent Plasco \$4 million and private investors pumped in additional funding.

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