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Alter NRG 'a good investment'

By WES KELLER
Freelance Reporter

The preferred supplier of a gasification plant for the Dufferin Eco Energy Park (DEEP) is supplying the same technology to St. Lucia, Florida, to replace the need for a landfill site to service the city's 235,000 residents.

And a major stock brokerage is touting Alter NRG's shares as a good investment at their current listed value of about \$3.15. NRG is seeking investment support to finance the Dufferin and other, larger, developments.

The technology, Westinghouse Plasma, is generally considered relatively new but is apparently anything but.

According to a recent shareholder news release, the technology was developed by NASA to test the effectiveness of heat shields for space shuttles in the 1960s and then was adapted for a waste-to-energy application.

As described by the company, the technology is seemingly simple. A plasma torch, or arc, is "mounted at the bottom of a vertical cylindrical furnace."

The ultra-high temperature converts the waste to "syngas" which is used to create electricity, up to 2 megawatts in the proposed Dufferin plant. There's a molten slag that falls out the bottom. That slag, when mixed with water, crumbles into a sand-like

by-product that can be used in place of aggregates.

According to the memorandum of understanding between Alter NRG and Dufferin, the plant would have a capacity of 75 tonnes per day.

It is the capacity that raised Amaranth eyebrows at a recent county council meeting when Mayor Don MacIver questioned where the garbage would come from.

Although township councillors are not saying so, their opposition might be twofold: first, the township still has unused capacity at its dump; and secondly, a local company has approval for a small composter on the township's Third Line (County Road

11) close to the transfer station.

The company, Jemev, has a vision of using shipping containers within buildings to process local municipal waste.

Jemev president Scott Bryk says his plan would be to provide municipalities with their own processors so as to avoid transporting garbage to a large disposal site.

"You don't haul sewage to one large plant. Every town has its own treatment plant." Why would the same towns not have their own waste disposal sites, he asks.

The problem for Mr. Bryk in Dufferin is that county council is not convinced his technology is adequately proven.

Hospital's used equipment went to Haiti

Each year, Headwaters Health Care Centre needs to replace or upgrade over \$1 million of equipment that has reached the end of its useful life. Because the government does not provide funding for hospital equipment purchases, Headwaters relies on the generosity of local people

to donate the funds needed.

However, not all equipment is replaced because it is worn out. From time to time, new equipment is needed because of technological or procedural changes. This sometimes leaves the challenge of retiring older equipment that is still serviceable.

Headwaters partners with St. Joseph's International Outreach program to donate used medical equipment to Port-au-Prince University Hospital in Haiti. Recently, Headwaters sent an ophthalmology chair, wheelchairs, patient beds, monitors, anesthesia equipment and two cautery units (Electro sur-

gical equipment that coagulates blood to keep the operating field free of excess blood during surgery).

International Outreach oversaw the transportation and delivery of the equipment, which was part of a larger 40-foot container of hospital equipment.

Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere and University Hospital is the country's only public and university teaching hospital for more than 7 million people. It lacks basic resources and relies on donor assistance to meet the needs of its patients.

International Outreach is a not-for-profit organization funded by the Sisters of St. Joseph, Hamilton. This is the third donation Headwaters has made through St. Joseph's International Outreach program, which has included a 2003 donation to Uganda and a 2007 donation to Haiti.

"We are proud to participate in opportunities to ship equipment overseas," said Holly Boland, Headwaters president and CEO. "Sharing our older equipment improves health care services for thousands of people in developing nations."



HAITI-BOUND: Dr. Alez Dauphin a native Haitian and Chief of Staff Anaesthesia at St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton is the physician for the Haitian program.

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• From page A5

says he's excited about the nuclear waste challenge, an undertaking that's not as simple as finding a safe dumping ground.

He says the waste has to be disposed of in such a way as to be retrievable in future. You could, for example, drop it in an abandoned mine shaft, perhaps safely, but how then do you get it out?



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