

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - DECEMBER 11, 2006

ENVIRO-FENCE PANELLED ACOUSTIC FENCING

Recommendation

The Commissioner of Engineering and Public Works recommends:

1. That this report BE RECEIVED for information purposes; and
2. That a copy of this report be forwarded to the offices of Enviro-Fence.

Economic Impact

There are no immediate budgetary impacts resulting from the adoption of this report.

Purpose

This report has been prepared in response to Council's request to research and report back at a future Committee of the Whole meeting in December 2006 with respect to the cost-effectiveness and benefit analysis of having Enviro-Fence acoustic panel fencing systems used in future City of Vaughan subdivisions.

Background - Analysis and Options

Item 79, Report No. 43, of the Committee of the Whole, which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on September 25, 2006, recommended:

“That staff research in detail the cost-effectiveness and benefit analysis of having Enviro-Fence acoustic panel fencing systems used in future City of Vaughan subdivisions; and

That staff report to a future Committee of the Whole meeting in December 2006 with their findings.”

Enviro-Fence Panelled Acoustic Fencing

Based on information provided by Enviro-Fence, this product is an acoustic panel fencing system made from recycled materials which can be used in a variety of applications. Refer to the Enviro-Fence brochure included as Attachment No. 1. Enviro-Fence paneled acoustic fencing has been tested for airborne sound transmission loss and sound absorption by the National Research Council Canada (report dated August 2004) and has been acoustically and structurally certified by independent engineering consulting firms within the Greater Toronto Area.

Many municipalities including the City of Vaughan use the Ontario Good Roads Association through “The Road Authority” for evaluation of new construction products and techniques. This provides for products and techniques to be appropriately evaluated and endorsed for their intended use, for their durability and maintenance characteristics. Based on recent investigation by staff, Enviro-Fence is not currently accepted by the Ontario Provincial Standards Products Management Committee for use by municipalities nor has the product been registered with “The Road Authority”.

Manufacturers and products are required to be registered with “The Road Authority” via the internet at www.roadauthority.com and must obtain an “Accepted” classification from the Product Management Committee of the Ontario Provincial Standards for Roads and Public Works organization.

Upon registration and acceptance with "The Road Authority", staff will work with Enviro-Fence and the development industry to determine a potential new development site where this product can be used in a pilot project.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2007

In consideration of the strategic priorities related to service delivery excellence as established by Vaughan Vision 2007, this report will assist in establishing and communicating service level standards that are affordable and sustainable.

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council.

Conclusion

As the City is not in a position to specifically endorse any particular service or product, Enviro-Fence paneled acoustic fencing may only be considered by the City of Vaughan as an accepted product for use within the City in conjunction with new residential subdivision projects. Upon registration with "The Road Authority" and upon receipt of an "Accepted" classification by the Product Management Committee of the Ontario Provincial Standards for Roads and Public Works organization, the City of Vaughan may accept its use in future subdivision developments.

Given that Enviro-Fence is a relatively new noise attenuation fencing product on the market, the cost-effectiveness and benefit of allowing Enviro-Fence to be used in future subdivisions may only be accurately determined over time. The development industry, as it is typically responsible for all municipal infrastructure construction costs including noise attenuation fencing, would also need to evaluate the merits of this product for its use in lieu of traditional cedar acoustic fencing.

Attachments

1. Enviro-Fence Panelled Acoustic Fencing Brochure

Report prepared by:

Michael Frieri, Development Supervisor, Engineering Planning & Studies, Ext. 8729

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Robinson, P. Eng.
Commissioner of Engineering & Public Works

Michael Won, P. Eng.
Director of Development/
Transportation Engineering

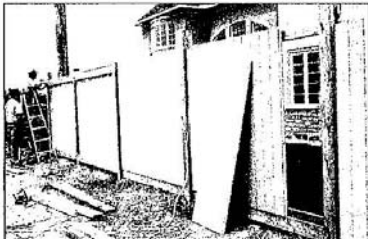
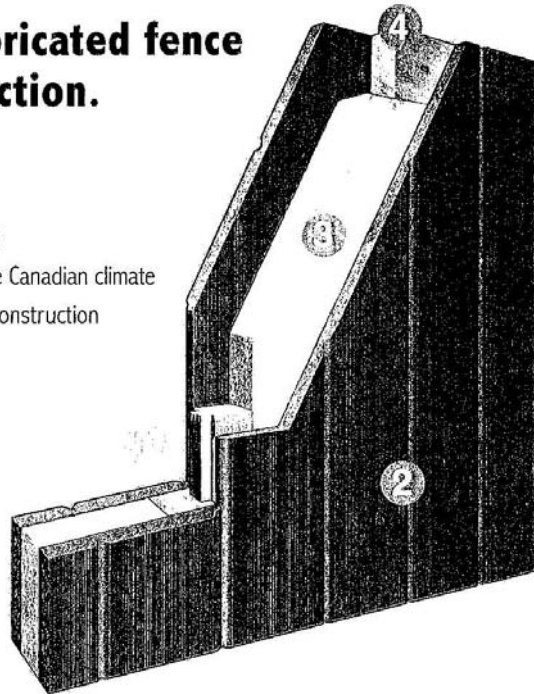


ATTACHMENT 1

The smart alternative in pre-fabricated fence systems and noise barrier protection.

The Enviro-fence acoustical barrier:

- Is a structurally certified design
- Meets MoE requirements for surface density for acoustic barriers
- Enviro-fence cladding has over 30 years of proven exposure to the Canadian climate Superior structural performance compared to solid cedar fence construction
- 100% adaptable to any combination of cedar wood trim
- Paintable to unlimited colour variations
- No warpage and shrinkage of individuals boards over time
- Adaptable to a variety of heights
- Removable panels are easily repaired or replaced
- Painted surfaces outperform cedar in weather testing
- Mould and mildew resistant
- Most cost effective noise barrier on the market



recycled

Tongue & Groove Fastening System

Recycled Enviro-fence Sheathing with Wood Grain Finish

Sound Absorptive Styrofoam Insulation Barrier

· Solid Wood Frame Assembly for Superior Strength