

WASTE MANAGEMENT SERVICES DIVISION

PUBLIC LIAISON COMMITTEE (PLC) HUMBERSTONE LANDFILL SITE

Notes of a meeting of the Humberstone Landfill Site Public Liaison Committee held at Civic Square, Community Room, 60 East Main St., City of Welland, on Wednesday, July 8, 2009 commencing at 7:08 pm.

ATTENDANCE

Committee: Mike Dickman, Chair; Jim Larouche, Welland Councillor; Cindy Forster, Regional Councillor; Randy Daly; Jay Mitchell; Connie Zalwasky

Staff: Andrew Winters, Program Manager; Jamie Kristjanson, Program Manager; Ms. Eckhart-Oettinger, Administrative Assistant

Guest: Tony Whelan, Welland River Keepers

ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

Moved by: Councillor Forster

Seconded by: R Daly

That the agenda be accepted.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS NOTES

Notes of April 1, 2009

No discussion or comments.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS NOTES

Further to the last meeting regarding PAHs testing follow up, staff advised committee that the Region's Wastewater staff do not test for PAHs on influent or effluent flows at the treatment plants. However, the Region does require some industries to test for PAHs on their discharge into the sanitary sewer.

i. Update on Brown Tap Drain Study

Correspondence from MOE to J. Kristjanson: The MOE Niagara District Office provided an email agreeing with CRA's conclusion that no sediment clean up is necessary as there was no effect on aquatic life. A brief explanation of the assessment process and findings was discussed.

Moved by: J Larouche

Seconder: R. Daly

That staff follow up with the MOE as the committee respectfully requests a formal written response from the MOE.

Carried

ii. Gas Collection Report

By June 30, 2009 the Region was required to submit an application to the MOE to amend the Certificate of Approval to construct the gas collection and flaring system.

Staff indicated the proposed location of the flare on a site map, as requested at the last meeting. The enclosed flare will be located beside the equipment maintenance building, which is in the southeast part of the site, and away from residences along St. George Street.

A member requested concern be noted of the proximity of the flare to residences to the east and to the south.

Staff stated that the timing of the installation of the gas collection system is regulated by the MOE. The date is December 2010. In the application, CRA recommended that the installation be delayed until the landfill site reaches final contours. If installed sooner, the system will have to be constructed in stages as parts of the landfill will reach final contour sooner than other parts. This piecemeal construction will increase the cost of the system. In addition, several large soil stockpiles would need to be moved, further increasing the cost. A timeframe for a response from the MOE on the deferral is not known.

The pilot study proposed to assess the amount of gas capture and the quality of the gas will be deferred until a response from the MOE is received.

A member asked about the effect of landfill gas released to the environment if the construction of the system is deferred for several years as compared to installing the system in 2010.

Action: Staff will follow up with CRA on this question.

A copy of the Application to the MOE (including the Gas Collection Report) will be placed in the Welland Library by the Chair.

iii. Proposed Re-Use and HHW Depot

The Region hired Sandwell Engineering to design the Re-Use and HHW Depots at the Humberstone Landfill Site. Computers and electronics will be included as part of the Re-Use centre.

OPERATIONS

Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment – (WEEE) Collection

Staff provided an update on the WEEE program which began April 1, 2009. The Region has been collecting WEEE materials successfully at the Humberstone Landfill Site at the rate of 3 to 4 full tractor trailer loads per month. The materials go to registered processing facilities within Ontario that have been approved and certified by Ontario Electronic Stewardship (OES).

2008 Operations Annual Report

Landfill operations have not significantly changed over the past few years. Odour controls are put in place if old cells are disturbed. The annual waste tonnage landfilled decreased in 2008. One reason being the residential waste from the container station was transferred to the Station Road Landfill to expedite its closure date.

A member noted that the Annual Operations Report stated there were 5 odour complaints noted in one place of the report and 6 complaints noted in another.

Action: Staff will investigate the discrepancy in the numbers of odour complaints.

Recent odour complaints were discussed and these have been verified by staff. As a result more daily cover was placed on the active cell in order to minimize odours. Residents are encouraged to call the Region with complaints about odours, so that the cause can be addressed.

At a previous meeting two methods of odour control were discussed, one a chemical sprayed onto the waste at the working face that destroys odours and the second is one that masks and neutralizes odours in 'socks'. These socks were installed on poles along the north slope of the landfill last summer. The fabric socks are filled with a granular chemical that release natural plant oils into the air.

Action: Staff will increase frequency of odour checks in area.

The tire recycling program will start in September through the Ontario Tire Stewardship.

A member asked about limits on the amount of oil accepted at the container station. Staff said that the maximum limit is 20 litres and this is set to deter commercial disposal.

A member asked the difference between scrap wood and waste wood, as they are both used in the Operations Report. "Scrap" wood is construction wood and brush. This is stockpiled and then chipped for use such as alternate daily cover. "Waste" is wood that is directly landfilled, such as railway ties.

A member asked why the amount of leachate pumped increased in 2008. Staff said that this increase was due to storm pond water pumping. The ponds were enlarged in late 2007 and had no vegetation in them. The pond sample results showed high iron from sediment, and so the water was pumped into the leachate collection system.

A member asked if the maintenance building sewage flow is connected with the sewage flow from the scale house. Staff said that they are not connected. The maintenance building and the scale house are connected separately to the leachate collection system.

A member stated that the report does not provide information for the eastern part of the storm water management system. Staff showed the storm water flow directions on the Site map. Runoff from the landfill enters the perimeter ditch, which directs flow into 4 separate ponds around the site. The majority of flow goes to the two south ponds.

A copy of the Annual Operations Report will be placed in the Welland Library by the Chair.

2008 Groundwater and Surface Water Monitoring Report

(The Executive Summary was provided to all PLC members. A copy of the full report was provided to Chair Dickman and Mr. Wilf Ruland)

The Chair had reviewed the report and discussed the poor quality of the water upstream of the landfill in the Brown Tap Drain and the Johnson's Drain. He noted that there was an error in the Executive Summary in that water flows from the Brown Tap Drain into the Welland River and not the Welland Canal as stated.

A member asked how impact to the Brown Tap Drain is determined. Staff explained that concentrations of chemicals are compared from upstream and downstream of the landfill. If the levels did not increase downstream then there is no impact from the landfill.

The Chair will arrange for Mr. Wilf Ruland to attend the next scheduled meeting in September.

CORRESPONDENCE

Email from Lisa Benvenuti to Jamie Kristjanson regarding Brown Tap Drain

This item was discussed earlier under Business Arising from Previous Notes.

OTHER BUSINESS

A Guest asked if the Welland wastewater treatment plant was on bypass, would landfill leachate flow into the Welland River; and are there any Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs) between the landfill site and the treatment plant. The guest had a report from Ecojustice on wastewater treatment plant bypass for municipalities all over Ontario. He will e-mail the report to staff for further information.

Staff stated that when the wastewater plant is on bypass, flow would go directly into the Welland River. Staff would need to discuss with the Region's wastewater staff if chlorine is injected into the bypass flow. Councillor Forster explained that CSOs are all

over the City, and CSOs are a common problem for many municipalities. The City is spending large amounts of money to remove CSOs on an on-going basis.

Action by Staff:

To confer with the Water & Wastewater Division to provide information on CSO and the plant bypass process.

Confirm if the leachate flows from the landfill to the treatment plant through a dedicated line.

Committee requested another tour of the landfill site be arranged in the early fall.

Next meeting: Wednesday, Sept. 16th 2009.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by: J LaRouche
Seconded By: C Zalwasky

To adjourn meeting at 8:17 pm.