

**Humberstone Landfill Site
Public Liaison Committee (PLC)**

**Meeting held
Wednesday, September 3, 2008 - 7:00 p.m.
Civic Square, Community Room, Welland**

Present:	Mike Dickman	Chair
	Connie Zalwasky	Welland
	Jim Larouche (part-time)	City of Welland Councillor
	Cindy Forster	Regional Councillor
	Jay Mitchell	Welland
	Jamie Kristjanson	Niagara Region
	Donna Eckhart-Oettinger	Niagara Region (Recorder)

Guest: Tony Whelan, Welland River Keepers

Regrets: Randy Daly

1. Acceptance of Agenda

The agenda was accepted as presented.

2. Notes of April 9, 2008 Meeting.

Follow up under business arising, the PLC newsletter was delivered on May 15 and May 16 to the residents living in the area surrounding the landfill site.

The Notes of the April 9, 2008 were accepted.

3. Business Arising from Previous Meeting

2006 Annual Monitoring Report, CRA's comments regarding Wilf Ruland's Review

Comments by CRA were distributed to PLC members with the agenda package. Discussion took place on CRA's comments and in general there was agreement with the comments.

Staff stated that Niagara Region has already implemented several of Mr. Ruland's suggestions, specifically wells were installed using a low clay smear drilling methodology, and several probe holes were completed near the PCB Cell to investigate whether municipal waste exists outside of the leachate collection system near the PCB Cell.

Municipal waste was found near the PCB Cell in two probe holes at depths of 3.4m to 4.3m. The waste is outside of the leachate collection system but still

within the waste disposal fill area. Waste outside the leachate collection system will be connected with gravel finger drains.

Staff explained the low clay smear drilling method. The drill pushes hollow metal pipe into the ground without rotating the pipe. The soil fills the hollow pipe. The drill then lifts the pipe straight back out of the hole. The process is then repeated until the hole is to the correct depth and the well is installed. The normal drilling method uses augers that rotate like a drill bit. As the augers rotate, they smear the clay and plug the fractures that carry water. The new wells will be sampled in the autumn and the results will be reported in the 2008 monitoring report. The 2008 monitoring report will be available in June 2009.

The Chair provided correspondence from Mr. Ruland explaining his fees for reviewing the 2007 monitoring report.

Committee members present agreed:

To use the 2008 annual PLC \$6,000 budget to gather additional information from Mr. Ruland on PAH sampling and his response to CRA's comments of his review; and in 2009 to retain Mr. Ruland to review the 2008 annual monitoring report.

Testing for PAHs (Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons) in surface water was recommended by Mr. Ruland. Niagara Region is reviewing the consultant's response and Mr. Ruland's comments before any action is taken.

Staff stated that a Request For Proposals (RFP) is being prepared for the monitoring programs for all Niagara Region's landfill sites, including the Humberstone Landfill Site. Parameters for competitive bids are still being prepared therefore if the PAH sampling issue is resolved in a short time, it would be possible to modify the RFP. The Chair will proceed with a letter to Mr. Ruland for additional information on the testing of PAHs in surface water.

4. Brown Tap Drain Study- Executive Summary

The Executive Summary was distributed to all of the PLC members. The full report was provided to the Chair. The Chair will place the original report in the Welland library so that it is available to the public.

Staff provided an overview of the process followed by CRA to address the comments made by the MOE on the previous reports on the Brown Tap Drain.

- Investigate areas in the Brown Tap Drain that had higher PCBs – CRA found that these areas were small and localized;
- Sample surface water when the flow is high and the sediment is stirred up – CRA found that the surface water samples when the flow was high had higher PCB levels than when the flow was low, due to the sediment traveling with the water;

- Complete a bioaccumulation study to show if aquatic life is impacted – CRA took sediment samples and exposed the sediment to minnows for 21 days. PCBs were found in the flesh of the minnows. A food chain analysis was completed and showed that the PCBs do move up the food chain into fish-eating birds (kingfisher) and fish-eating mammals (mink), but the levels in these animals was not high enough to cause impact. To our knowledge there are no fish within the Brown Tap Drain that these animals could eat. Therefore the food chain results have a large factor of safety.

The Brown Tap Drain Study report has been submitted to the MOE for their review and comment. Staff are awaiting MOE comments to determine if additional steps need to be taken.

Action: Region will contact the MOE District Office for status of comments prior to the next PLC meeting.

Guest in audience stated that the “Brown Tap Drain” is not the entire length of the drainage ditch. The Brown Tap Drain is really only that part of the ditch from the Old Feeder Canal northwards to the Welland River. The continuation of the drainage ditch south of the Old Feeder Canal to Humberstone Road is within the unopened road allowance of Johnson Avenue. The PLC indicated that this part of the ditch would be referred to as the “Johnson Ditch” for discussion purposes. Based on the results provided by CRA, Johnson Ditch is upstream of the landfill site and has higher levels of chromium which are unrelated to the landfill site.

Action: Niagara Region will follow up with the MOE on the issue of elevated heavy metals levels in the Johnson Ditch.

5. 2007 Annual Monitoring Report and Annual Operations Report

i *Executive Summary of Annual Monitoring Report*

The data interpretation, conclusions and recommendations have not changed significantly from the previous year's report.

ii *Operations Report*

The Chair will place the 2007 Operations Report in the Welland library.

6. Correspondence

i. *Email Aug. 6 to L. Benvenuti (MOE) Regarding Odour Complaints And Resolution*

Six odour complaints were received since the last PLC meeting of April 9th. Each complaint was investigated by Niagara Region staff. Two complaints were received on the same day due to strong odours from the working face. The operator was operating the open working face as required by the Certificate of Approval. Immediate action taken was to apply odour suppressant liquid over the

working face. Granular odour control was also placed downwind of the working face. The working face will be moved to another location to be determined based on wind direction.

Discussion followed on the remaining site life of landfill and when it might reach capacity. The PLC members were informed that the working face is not opened on Saturdays, as the waste collected in the bins is transported to the Station Road Landfill Site to fill that site faster.

ii. Correspondence from Wilf Ruland

Correspondence from Wilf Ruland was received and noted.

7. Other Business

The guest provided information on the phase-out of analog TV transmission and the change to digital-only TV transmission from the United States in February 2009. This does not affect analog transmission from Canadian TV stations. The US Government provides coupons to its citizens to reduce the cost of purchasing a converter box so that an analog TV set can use the digital signal. However, Canadians cannot get these coupons and so will have to pay the full cost. TV sets marked with the following letters NTSC are analog, and ATSC are digital. He was concerned that the public would be getting rid of their analog TV sets and asked how Niagara Region disposes of TV sets.

Staff stated the current practice is to landfill the TV sets, as there is no program to recycle them. The Ontario government WEEE (Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment) program begins spring 2009 and Niagara Region will participate to recycle used electronics.

Meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m.