

IESI Bethlehem Landfill Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, April 24, 2014
Time: 1:10 PM
Location: Lower Saucon Township Council Meeting Room
Attendance: Donna Louder & Haz Hijazi (arrived at 1:25 PM), Landfill Committee Member; Al Schleyer, IESI; Chris Taylor, Hanover Engineering, Host Municipal Inspector; Priscilla deLeon, Council Liaison.

Mr. Schleyer said tonnages for March, the MSW is 20,395; C&D was 2,265; total residual was 1,973; asbestos out of that was 343 tons for the month; total out of state waste was 15,127 tons with 61% of the total monthly waste at the landfill; 3.5 tons of recycling material and 83% of LST residents used their recycling center. The number of commercial vehicles for the month was 2,218. They picked up some extra tonnage in March as February was low.

Mr. Schleyer said Evergreen Recycling Solutions had a Form U approval for C&D Fines.

Mr. Schleyer said the annual groundwater trend report is due June 30, 2014. They had their 1Q2014 sampling conducted on March 17, 2014.

Mr. Schleyer said general correspondence for the past month was Form U's, Abatement System Report, 1Q14 PADEP Facility Report, LFG well construction notice and the 4Q13 LST Facility Report. Mrs. deLeon asked if there was anything in here they may not be aware of? Mr. Schleyer said no.

Mr. Schleyer said DEP inspections are up to the current date and up through April. Susan French was there for an engineering meeting on March 12th and April 8th. Bharat Bham was on March 18th and was there for groundwater monitoring. Wally Govern and D. Fisher conducted a site inspection on March 27th. Jessica Wagoner and Amy Faulch conducted a site inspection on April 10th. Wally Govern conducted as site inspection on April 23rd.

Mr. Taylor said we'll take a look at these reports from those inspections that were documented. There are two DEP inspections since the last meeting. For the DEP Engineers Monthly Status report, dated March 25th which took place on March 12th, Susan French noted was the modification for alternate daily cover approved for use of paper sludge and posi-shell. Susan French mentions that Cell 4 stage 2 is the disposal area which it still is; flare was operating at 900 scf per minute; the installation of the new vertical and horizontal gas collector wells and notes no issues with litter, odor, daily cover or intermediate cover. The second report of Susan French dated April 21st generated from the meeting on April 8th, she notes flare operating at 1,014 scf per minute; 7 new vertical and 3 horizontal gas collector installation complete; no issues with litter, odor, daily cover or intermediate cover. There was a DEP inspection report dated April 2nd for an inspection that took place on March 27th. That report showed no violations. The report documented two odor complaints received by the department on March 2nd and on March 22nd. The inspector noted some erosion and seeps on the western slope; noted that the trailer tipper is most likely to arrive at the landfill in mid-April. It documents complaint investigations from the odor complaints from March 2nd and March 22nd. One complaint was from an individual on Applebutter Road and one cited a complaint but couldn't be contacted. The DEP inspection report dated April 15th from the inspection conducted on April 10th by Amy Faulch noted two areas of non-compliance. The first was for line item 2, operation in accordance with approved plans and permit. The landfill was found to be non-compliant with that. Mr. Schleyer said the violation was in connection to the lack of cover around the gas well they had noted. The second non-compliance was no daily cover around that well. Their contractor was doing some gas work and had excavated around that well to install a valve. The part didn't come in time and for some reason unbeknown to IESI, they did not re-cover that spot and they moved on to do other gas work. He was aware they needed a part but not aware there was any garbage uncovered. They had done the site inspection and there was seep or two nearby it and they walked up and you could smell odor coming out from that well. That's what the non-compliance was cited for.

Mr. Taylor said DEP conducted their inspection on April 10th and the cover around that well was fixed on that same day. He asked what was the time range it was uncovered? Mr. Schleyer said it was about a week. Mr. Taylor asked him to nail down the timeframe if there's any correlation to odor complaints that came in at that time roughly from April 3rd to April 10th. Both those violations refer to the one. Mr. Schleyer said daily cover is in the operations plan and is written to that effect. Mr. Taylor said the violation for daily cover has nothing to do with the

working phase? Mr. Schleyer said that's correct. Mr. Taylor said DEP specifies in their comment section that gas well LC5 which he inspected earlier today. They walked right up to the gas well and it's not open and there's backfill around the well. It was closed up. There was still a moderate gas smell at that location, not coming from that well itself. When he stepped upwind from that, he didn't smell it. The DEP report of April 10th also notes that four odor complaints were received by the DEP on April 4th, April 8th, April 9th and April 10th. DEP inspectors on subsequent inspections did note very light intermittent landfill gas odor along Riverside Drive. Also noted on April 10th was that IESI's flare was shut down because of gas well work and the BRE plant was shut down for maintenance. Mr. Schleyer said it was a scenario of worst case conditions where they were doing well work tie-ins and had to shut the flare and the BRE down. When you are tying in a big header pipe, you have to open up the other header pipes which would allow too much oxygen into the system to keep things operating.

Mrs. deLeon said a friend of hers said someone was walking their dog down by the Hill Climb and smelled gas where Mark filled in the road on April 14th. He could smell an awful smell at the pipe coming from the road. She told them to call DEP.

Mr. Taylor said on the DEP report, they made a subsequent site visit and inspection and odor patrol on April 11th at which time they noted a very light intermittent landfill gas odor along Overlook Circle. They noted a gas odor on the Route 33 bridge over the Lehigh River and a light intermittent garbage odor along Riverside Drive near the Steel City Gun Club entrance.

Mrs. deLeon said that DEP report mentions the Notice of Violation (NOV). Mr. Taylor said yes. The two non-compliance conditions are summarized at the end of the report under a heading "violations". No. 1, IESI failed to operate in accordance with approved plans and their permit and No. 2, IESI failed to place a uniform cover of a daily cover material on exposed solid waste. Both those violations were for this same incident or area of the landfill specifically around Gas Well LC-5 which their subcontractor left uncovered and failed to cover it back up while they were waiting for a part. Mrs. deLeon said if Mr. Schleyer were to look at that well and do a straight line and go down over the hill by the Hill Climb, would you come out at the Hill Climb? Mr. Schleyer said it's just east of that. Mrs. deLeon said the well would start when you leave the Hill Climb area and it starts getting narrow? Mr. Schleyer pointed out where the well was. Mrs. deLeon said that could make sense on what he was smelling and depending on which way the wind was blowing.

Ms. Louder said she mentioned a smell and didn't call anyone about it as it was a new smell. Today when she got out and walked up to the gas well, that was the smell that she smelled it at 5:30 AM on a Saturday morning about a week or so ago and she couldn't put her finger on exactly what she had smelled. It wasn't all gas and not all leachate, just an odd smell. It was intermittent because of the way the wind was going. Mrs. deLeon said now Ms. Louder can be specific when she talks to DEP. Ms. Louder said a week or so ago they were walking past Mrs. Leeds house and she asked Ms. Louder if she smelled that. Mr. Louder was with and he said yes he did smell it and it was like a gassy odor. They left it at that and that was the end of that. That person was going to contact DEP.

Mr. Hijazi said is any of the smell you mention new or is it a typical smell you smelled before? Ms. Louder said this one is different. She walked out of her house one time and she smelled leachate. That was the sweet pungent smell. This smell when she was outside was different and today she smelled it on the hill. She couldn't tell you if it was leachate or gas. Mrs. deLeon said Lou did say when he was at the meeting that when the two of them are combined they have a distinct smell. Ms. Louder said it was different. Mr. Hijazi said you lived there for how long? Ms. Louder said five years. Mrs. deLeon said she has lived there since 1985. Mr. Hijazi said was there always a smell? Mrs. deLeon said she never smelled the sewage treatment plant at her house nor the landfill. The only time she smelled the landfill was when they had the 4' of foam coming in the Narrows back in the late 80's. Mr. Hijazi said four, five, ten years ago those kinds of smells were not there? Mrs. deLeon said the landfill is getting closer to Steel City now. They are up on the top of the hill. It's unacceptable for a community with over 250 homes to have to tolerate that.

Mr. Hijazi said when did that start coming out? Are you concluding because it's coming that way, they are in Cell 4E now, you are going to start smelling this? Ms. Louder said 5:30 am she smells it. It was cool outside. Mr.

Hijazi said there's a consultant working on this and trying to put him in the consultant's shoes and trying to narrow it down. When did this start? How is it different than before? Could there be a relationship with the cell location? Mrs. deLeon said when we started having the hearings, we heard people that we never see. Ms. Louder said everybody was just living with it. Mrs. deLeon said they wouldn't smell it for awhile and would just ignore it. Then when all these people started coming to the meetings and hearing all this stuff, it got bigger and bigger. Ms. Louder said then the zoning thing came into play, it's like if this is what we have now, what's it going to be then and what will happen later on. Mr. Hijazi said it could have been they were smelling those smells before and just saying it's there, but now they are thinking this is going to potentially get bigger because there's potential expansion. Mrs. deLeon said now they are smelling it on Applebutter Road with the gas. You go down in that knoll and by BRE and you smell this gas. Then you hear people being blown up in NJ and people are scared.

Mr. Hijazi said it's important to get that information to the consultant. Mrs. deLeon said he's supposed to be meeting with the Landfill Committee, but the proposal he submitted is two parts. He's trying to combine his proposal somewhat and come up with a chart that people can understand what they smell to report it. DEP said they are not sharing their addresses with us. Mr. Taylor has been going back to find the resident complaints. Mr. Taylor said he wanted to combine the complaints documented in various areas to try to get a handle on it.

Mr. Hijazi said most importantly as you move forward, any complaint, people should be aware that this is the specific information that they need to provide to the Township. Mrs. deLeon said that's what Lou is supposed to be coming up with so the people are educated to know. Ms. Louder said he has canisters available to anyone who wants one and then they get shipped to California. Mrs. deLeon said getting back to these reports with the NOV's, are you going to get an NOV letter? Mr. Schleyer said they haven't gotten anything as yet. He doesn't know if it's just a non-compliance of an inspection or if it will go into a NOV situation. Mrs. deLeon said it is on your E-fact page for the inspection. Mrs. deLeon said she wasn't happy to see that. Mr. Schleyer said neither was he. Mrs. deLeon said if Mr. Schleyer was there all the time, she knows he would have been on top of it, and he wasn't there. Mr. Taylor said he's sure Mr. Schleyer had a talk with their sub-contractor to let him know that it's not acceptable to leave something like that open. Mr. Schleyer said the contractor understands very clearly what they need to do. They were instructed prior to that as well.

Mr. Schleyer said for Host Municipal Inspections, Mr. Taylor was at IESI on March 6th and 20th and April 3rd and 24th.

Ms. Louder said didn't we skip Wally Govern from yesterday? Mr. Schleyer as was discussed in the Amy Faulch inspection, Wally was going to do a follow up inspection and it was also his routine monthly inspection and looked at the same things and he didn't write a report at the time. He did leave Mr. Schleyer with a couple of dates to get in contact with BRE to see what was operating or shut down, some odor complaints they had received. He'll address this in his report when it gets completed. Mrs. deLeon said this is so complex, trying to get everything all together.

Mr. Taylor said during the pre-meeting inspection today, he observed the following:

- BRE plant was running.
- Wind was blowing generally from the west at 10 to 20 MPH, but it was also swirling around and it was noted it was coming from the north and from the east at various times.
- The landfill flare was running at 900 scf per minute at 1668 degrees F.
- The access road in the landfill had just been cleaned with a street sweeper.
- Trees within the perimeter of the landfill were cleaned with no litter.
- There were no odors, litter or mud on Applebutter Road, the landfill road or the landfill office
- He observed the area of Gas Well LC5 to confirm it had been backfilled around which it was and to confirm the seeps noted in the area of LC5 had been remediated which they were. The repaired areas of the seeps were clearly visible as red clay at the surface, which is a special material that IESI puts in to provide a better seal at the ground surface. There was still a moderate gas odor at the location of Well LC5. This is on the north face, not far from the maintenance building.

- Soil was observed to be staged around some wells which was to improve the backfill around the wells. Mr. Schleyer said since they had the incident they are making sure everything is up to standards. Mr. Taylor said it's kind of a normal spring operation. Mr. Schleyer said this was a pretty hard winter, so there's a lot of maintenance catch-up to do.
- The area north of the MSE wall was being cleaned by pickers. The area they covered is clean. There is still some blowing litter they have to get to, but they were observed actively working while they were there.
- Four seeps were observed at the base of the west face. Soil is staged in that area and those seeps are slated for repair in the next couple of days. They are disposing of garbage in Cell 4E Stage 2. They are now above the fluff layer in that entire cell.
- One truck was observed dumping and one was waiting at the working face.
- There's no trailer tipper in use yet. Mr. Schleyer stated to him it may be June before the tipper is brought in.
- There's no use of the paper mulch alternate daily cover yet.
- IESI is still importing all of their soil cover, but they are also using tarps as a daily cover which was approved years ago as an alternate daily cover.
- Wind screens were in place at the working face.
- The final cap area from last year is to be tracked and reseeded within a week.
- The area of the next final capping has been staked out in the south face and that work will start within a month or so.
- Areas of seeps on the south face were observed to be repaired. Mr. Schleyer reports they are still several small seeps at the top of the south face that will be repaired today.
- The west high wall was observed and appears unchanged from the last inspection.
- No large areas of soil or rock movement were observed.
- He conducted a driving inspection along Skyline Drive. There were no landfill related odors or noises observed, but he could only go as far as 2207 as the road was closed beyond that because of tree work.
- He conducted a odor patrol through Steel City and observed no landfill related odors or noises.
- During both those odor patrols, the wind was blowing predominantly from the west. Mrs. deLeon said do you go around the Narrows and up through Redington? Mr. Taylor said yes.

Mrs. deLeon said how much do you use the tarp as alternate daily cover (ADC)? Mr. Schleyer said every day. Mrs. deLeon said is that contributing to the odor? Mr. Schleyer said they don't believe so. They've been using tarps well before he started working there. Mrs. deLeon said they were over this way more. Mr. Schleyer said that's an approved ADC use and that's what they put on where they are going to be back in the same day and the next day they'll be back in there. They just remove those tarps and start placing garbage in. Mrs. deLeon said what time in the morning do you un-tarp them? Mr. Schleyer said probably by 6:30 am. Mrs. deLeon said that's kind of coincidental. She's just mentioning that as an observer. Mr. Schleyer said if there was soil over that, they'd have to push the soil back as well.

Mrs. deLeon said when Mr. Taylor did his patrol, if the wind was blowing the other way, the area the resident talked about by the Hill Climb you probably wouldn't have been smelling? Mr. Taylor said it was blowing quite hard from the west, away from Steel City and Skyline, but it was swirling. Sometimes it would be blowing out of the north or the east, so he did want to hit Skyline because of that. Mrs. deLeon said Lou will be back at the May 7th Council meeting if you want to come and hear his presentation.

Ms. Louder said with that swirling wind, down along the Hill Climb, there was no odor, but the odor seems to appear when it gets a little cooler at night. Mr. Taylor said with where they are disposing garbage now down in a hole, he'd be somewhat surprised if that would be the case. Ms. Louder said what we smelled today on top of the hill. Mr. Taylor said yes, that happened when the wind swirled around and came towards us, but we were catching a smell on the down slope of the north face and it was being blown to us somewhere south of us. An odor was being pushed to the north towards Riverside Drive at that particular moment. Ms. Louder said what she's trying to get at is at the bottom of that hill, once it gets caught up and when you think about where Steel City is, we are down in a gully, so whatever is coming downwind is going to start settling at night when it gets cooler. That's when the

odors appear to be the strongest, when it cools down in the evening and then very early in the morning. If anyone wants to come around about 8:30 pm at night, feel free. She has already been to Mr. Boyer's house and left his house in the early evening hours and it was cooling off and she smelled it.

Mr. Schleyer said we had 2,218 commercial waste trucks from March. Overweight's went up and it was 40; 20 were warnings and 20 were suspensions. Three out of those 40 were greater than the 3%. There were 3 tractor trailers. Mrs. deLeon said the increase in vehicles was the increase in the waste. Mr. Schleyer said yes. Ms. Louder said lost Township revenue.

Mr. Schleyer said BRE and flare shutdowns, he had them listed and a lot at the end were related to well field construction, header tie-ins. Mr. Taylor said March 5th was high oxygen. Mr. Schleyer said that was a well head connection that was found and corrected.

Mrs. deLeon said she noticed DEP didn't attach the flow rates to the inspection reports, the NOV one. Mr. Schleyer said that's something that Wally follows up on.

Mr. Schleyer said North Slope is passable. The abatement well system is still functional and operating. There's usually an intermittent problem with one of the wells. Leachate collection flow rates continue to be monitored and reported along with this report the flow rates and detection zones. Mr. Taylor said we just got the March leachate demand report and he noticed the flows for LMC7 are much higher than they usually are. The flows for LMC-6 are higher and the flows for LMC-8 are usually higher were lower. Mr. Schleyer said the only thing they had done was some clean out of the LMC-7 with the piping and it might be attributed to that. Mr. Taylor said so leachate that was in the system is not able to get through is coming through now. That's why they have clean outs in the system and access so if things look like they are slowing down, they clean them out and it could be a maintenance and look up flow rates and compare them and see if there's something that needs to be done. Mr. Taylor said do you think the increase in LMC-7 is anyway related to the decrease in LMC-8? Mr. Schleyer said he can't say for sure. He'll continue to look at it and he'll evaluate that. Mr. Taylor said he'll be curious to see the numbers for next month. These are completely out of line with what we're used to seeing. He's glad Mr. Schleyer noticed that and did what they did with the dredge. Mr. Schleyer said he's planning to schedule more clean outs as well, just to make sure everything is opened up.

Mr. Schleyer said radiation monitoring from March to current, we had 3 alarm notices. Two were iodine at I-131 which was for disposal and on April 17th a truck driver had medical isotope tests. There was nothing in the waste.

Mr. Schleyer said other than maintenance, there's no real construction activities going on. They are planning to start in May the capping on the south slope. It's approximately 3 acres. Mr. Taylor said it was staked today.

Mr. Schleyer said they had two complaints for April 4th which he told Wally about. They did not receive these complaints. One was from Johnston Avenue and one was from Ivywood Avenue. Mike Shelden responded to the one at 7:30 am from Johnson Avenue and it was called in as an intermittent smell and when Mike was there, he couldn't detect anything. He stood around for awhile. They were working on seeps first thing in the morning and through the day. The other one from Ivywood called about noon and he went over and neither one of them could smell anything at first, so he chatted awhile in his house and went back outside and they still couldn't smell anything. When he was going to his truck and the other guy was going to his truck, the guys smelled something but Mr. Schleyer couldn't pick it up. He did acknowledge the wind was definitely coming from in the direction from the landfill towards the homes and they were working on seep repairs.

Mrs. deLeon said she knows the person on Ivywood. Mr. Schleyer said he has their names, but keeps it general as one time a resident didn't want his name mentioned. He has the records and supplied them to Jack, but these two he didn't send to Jack. Mrs. deLeon said when you were notified of the complaints, did you respond timely? Mr. Schleyer said he went right over and Mike went right over also.

Mr. Taylor said the two complaints on April 4th are different than the complaint that the DEP received on April 4th. The time and street is different. The DEP report was 10:26 am from Saucon Avenue. That would be three separate complaints on April 4th. Mrs. deLeon said when DEP does the chart with the odor patrol, they just list the street names. Are they more specific on the addresses? Mr. Schleyer said he doesn't believe they put the addresses in there. Mr. Taylor said that's four complaints to DEP and two to you for a total of six between April 4th and April 10th which is the same timeframe that the incident that generated your violation took place. It seems the complaints were coming in at the same time that garbage was exposed around well LC-5. There may be a correlation there. Hopefully the odors will be closed off too now that the well is covered.

Mr. Taylor said looking at LMC-8, it's still in excess of 100 gallons per acre per day every week so far this year. LMC-7 is a little higher than it has been historically. LMC-6 is creeping up a little bit too, but they are both under 100 gallons per acre per day.

Mr. Taylor said Jack Cahalan wanted to bring this to the attention of everyone that the Township has some material behind their PW garage that they are looking to dispose of at the landfill. It's mostly soil and street sweepings. As Roger Rasich describes it, he says it's fill dirt with large rocks, street sweepings which are mainly crushed stone, slabs of black top from repairs and a small amount of concrete chunks. The Township is looking to get DEP approval and disposal of that material at the landfill. Mrs. deLeon said is that a Form U? Mr. Schleyer said it's possible they could use it for access road base. It depends on the nature of it and how they are going to characterize it. Mr. Taylor said the email mentions it might possibly mentioned as alternate daily cover. Mr. Schleyer said if it complies with the PA Clean Fill standards, it's not necessarily that needs to be disposed of and it could be used. Mr. Taylor said if you did receive it, how would you deal with the slabs of black top and concrete? Mr. Schleyer said it depends how big a piece they are. If they could use it for a road bed going out to the working face, they would probably run the bulldozer over it. He's assuming it's smaller chunks of blacktop.

Ms. Louder asked about the big basin of water which is all green when you are coming down the road from the flare. Mr. Schleyer said that's our stormwater area that they use to pump the stormwater out into the truck to use it for watering the roads. It's lined and the water setting there the geese get into and there is an algae in there which would be in any pond or stream.

Mr. Taylor said our next meeting is May 15th at 1:00 pm here at the Township Council meeting room with an 11:00 am inspection at the landfill. The inspection at 11:00 am worked well for him.

The meeting adjourned, the time was 2:10 p.m.