

## Bethlehem Landfill Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, July 15, 2021  
Time: 1:00 p.m.  
Location: Lower Saucon Township  
Attendance: **Hanover Engineering:** Scott Brown; **Bethlehem Landfill:** Astor Lawson & David Pannucci; **Members:** Hazem Hijazi & Neil Ortwein; **Staff Members:** Leslie Huhn, Diane Palik & Tracie Raven. **Council Liaison:** Tom Carocci. **Guests:** George Gress.

Mr. Pannucci reviewed the monthly tonnages for June:

	<u>April</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>June</u>
MSW	24,065.53	20,184.96	22,319.66
C&D	8,147.78	6,945.65	6,572.63
Residual (Total)	2,382.47	3,319.66	4,778.49
Asbestos	0.00	0.00	0.00
Alternate Daily cover	2,646.05	1,997.70	2,010.36
Sewage Sludge	775.47 (2.04%)	406.46 (1.24%)	393.40 (1.09%)
Out of State (Total)	21,232.21 (56%)	16,634.66 (51%)	15,199.95 (42%)
Recycle	9 (89%)	7 (71%)	5 (80%)

Mr. Pannucci said there were five Form U Submittals from June 29 to July 13, 2021. The third quarter sampling event is scheduled for August 3, 2021 thru September 2, 2021. There were four reports for June 2021. Mr. Pannucci said there was one DEP inspection by Matt Glogowski from Solid Waste; and two Host Municipal Inspections by Scott Brown on July 1 and July 15, 2021. Mr. Pannucci said regarding Commercial Waste Vehicles, there were 3,600 total trucks of which 78 were overweight, 67 warnings and 11 suspensions. Mr. Pannucci said the LFG flare is the main GCCS. Bethlehem Landfill continues to communicate with SCS Field Services with any routine or non-routine maintenance to maximize LFG production and minimize odors. The June Average Flare Flow was 3,403 SCFM. There were no flare shutdowns for the month of June 2021.

Mr. Pannucci said the North Slope Road has not needed repairs. The swale has not needed repairs. The abatement system continues to operate and discharge to the Bethlehem WWTP. Intermittent malfunctions of the well pumps and controls are repaired or replaced as needed. The leachate collection flow rates continue to be monitored and reported. Intermittent malfunctions of the well pumps and controls are repaired or replaced as needed. The secondary pump and relay in the PS-1 has been replaced. Mr. Pannucci said there were 3 radioactive loads for June (I-131 [3]). These waste streams met Level 1 requirements and were disposed of onsite. The SE Realignment Construction activities, waste operations were in SE-2AB, Phase 1. Mr. Pannucci said he does not have the complaints as DEP did not send them to him as of today. He said the leachate reports are attached. Mr. Hijazi asked about the odor complaints from DEP. Mr. Pannucci said when Amy sends it around, the Township will get a copy.

Mr. Carocci said the overweight trucks may be down as a percentage from May, but it looks like they are up again. Mr. Pannucci said April is a strong month from an overweight perspective but as you can see in June we took in a significant amount of trucks. Mr. Carocci said what are the nature of these overweight trucks, what companies are they coming from? Mr. Lawson said they are all different ones. There are some inter-company ones, one time he looked at the list and Republic and East Penn were on the list. Some are direct haulers that pick up trash on curbside, and the transfer trucks. Mr. Pannucci said 21 of them are local trucks just picking up garbage.

Mr. Hijazi said this overweight issue is like a chronic issue. He remembers the first time he joined and it doesn't go away. He wanted to know how Bethlehem Landfill compares to other facilities, other landfills and are there other mitigation methods used in other landfills. He's sure there are certain metrics for the industry you are in. Mr. Lawson said honestly, from his experience and what he's learned being here in PA, some drivers and like in CA, he wasn't really keeping track of it, they don't care. For them, the hardest thing is when they come in overweight, and they come in before the start times, he sends them away full with a heavy loaded truck. He can't send them out overweight as he will be liable for putting that overloaded truck out on the road. Even if they come overloaded, the best he can do is suspend them and the truck, then they just go somewhere else, so now they are just going to another facility

until they can come back to his facility. That's why he was leaning on having the State come out and Lower Saucon comes out every now and then to weigh the trucks, but outside of the suspensions, it really makes it tough to do anything. Mr. Hijazi said he understands, that's why he's asking because he's at a point in his mind that there will never be a zero overweight. It's part of the business, and he's just trying to figure out if they are in the same range of what's expected at other landfills, percentage-wise. If there is a metric in the industry that people use. Mr. Pannucci said he hasn't seen anything. Mr. Lawson said its one of those things where because the Township pays attention to it, and they pay attention to it, if there's other townships or cities that aren't paying attention to it, as they aren't loading the trucks, they might say something to the driver. Even in CA, they would say to the drivers, just so you know, you are overweight, and they never sent them back out. Mr. Pannucci said they are at a loss too at what they can do at the site. Mr. Lawson said he made this comment to someone before, it seems to him locally, whether it's Upper Macungie or all the way over here, they seem to really focus on the warehouse trucks and weighing them. He never sees the transfer trucks pulled over by law enforcement, but always sees the warehouse trucks.

Mrs. Huhn said what about the trash haulers that pick up trash. How do they know if they are overweight because they have a capacity? Mr. Lawson said some drivers have been doing it for so long that they have an idea of how much to take. He knows some trucks now have a scale on their axles, but that varies out. The overweight's is a tough issue and it's not just here, it is probably everywhere, but people don't focus on it. Mr. Pannucci said his other sites he covered now or in the past, it's never a point, it's monitored but not as scrutinized. They can't turn them away as they are then liable if there's an accident.

Mr. Brown said he took a tour of the facility today. Everything is nice and confined to one area and the site continues to be very clean. There's the capping near the water tower which is ready to be capped with the liner. Applebutter Road was clean, there was a light dusting and you could see the road through the dust. Astor said he will be having the sweeper out twice a week because where the new cell is being filled, the trucks are not always getting over the shaker grate that they just installed. There was no wind out there today, and a little odor by the weighing station and by the fill area, but how can you get out of that as it's pretty humid today, the air isn't going up. The roads all were in good shape and not dusty at all. They had a water truck going around, but even without that, everything was fine. Regarding the bags in the trees, it's just the trees behind Sue's house and he didn't see anything up there, but most of them were pretty much gone before the leaves came out. Mrs. Huhn said did you notice any odors at Sue's house? Mr. Brown said more confined to the fill area due south of that back to the scale house area was the strongest. He'll be honest, it wasn't anything overpowering at all, just a slight odor. Mrs. Huhn said are you still in negotiations with Sue. Mr. Lawson said they still talk to her.

Mr. Hijazi said on the issue of odors, what's the latest on that? Last month there were some suggestions. Mrs. Huhn said did you get DEP's response? Mr. Brown said they do have misters at the very southern end and are set up but not in operation. They are waiting for a tank to come in to fill the misters. Mr. Lawson said they have them on the west side, closer to BRE and closer to Steel City and they are installing a system closer to Sue's house. The other two systems are operating. Mr. Pannucci said the one is permanent and they do have a mobile one where they can park at specific locations when appropriate.

Mr. Hijazi said there was an email that came today from Sue on the issues of the odors. She's frustrated and she refers to a comment he made, and he doesn't recall making it, and he'd like to see the records. He wants to emphasize for the record that no one is condoning having odors around the landfill. He believes that the landfill itself would wish that issue would go away. His point is he understands the frustration of the neighbors. His view on this issue is we need to have the DEP more involved in this as opposed to looking at the Township with the limited resources we have to handle such a complex situation. This issue will keep coming up every time there's a new expansion or talk of an expansion, this always comes up. He's sure it's frustrating to people and we need to do everything we can to solve it. His point is, you've got the PADEP, it's an agency that has tremendous amount of resources, experience, people that know the field. They are overseeing a multitude of landfills throughout the State and we should be leaning on them. He thinks the Township and the Landfill Committee should be pushing more for the DEP's involvement in this issue and not just make it as strictly as an issue for the Township to handle. Mr. Lawson said he agrees. He knows he reached out to Amy and told her it's better for everyone if they come out. Coming from CA, they never missed a month and here it's pretty sporadic and he thinks they would tell you they don't have the resources as that's

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what they told him. He can tell you from the landfill side at the last meeting, and he forwarded the email to Leslie, they reached out to Air Quality and said hey, come out, we need you to come out and we didn't even receive a response. We are on the same page as the Township. We'd like to have a better relationship, but wouldn't mind if they were more involved. Mrs. Huhn said is the goal never to have an odor, is that would you look for them to do or for DEP to say that? Mr. Lawson said yes, operationally for them, that's definitely the goal. They are always striving to do that. The reality for him is the less impact he has on anybody, the better. The best landfill is the one that nobody knows about. If there is always something to remind you that they are there, then they are failing in some aspect. The frequency a lot versus a little does make a difference, but the goal is to have no litter, no odors. Mr. Carocci said DEP responded to the letter from a resident. He doesn't know what more the Township can do except encourage DEP to look into it and when there are questions from Leslie that they can answer, forward them and try to get answers for the residents.

Mr. Brown said he was there today and during the inspection, the filler area is as far south as it can be, the landfill is done and you can see the cover from the day before is not that big and they are even spreading it down thinner to get the liner covered. That's even a little bit bigger than normal, but you can't cover up as you go and can't keep putting dirt every time you dump, so he's not sure how you can do much more at the working face. Just to the south are where the misters are, so that may help.

Mr. Lawson said they got one odor complaint in July from Amy and he went over to talk to two different residents there and they didn't smell anything and it was about an hour after Amy got the complaint. Mr. Carocci said let's see in August and re-evaluate and see where these complaints are. Mr. Pannucci said all the temporary caps will definitely help. Mr. Hijazi said do you think the new mister system may help? Mr. Lawson said the mister system is really a masking, it's an odor neutralizer. They don't run it 24 hours/day but if they smell something, they will turn them on. When it's humid they have them running or when they get a call from someone. Mr. Hijazi said how do you run the system, you are saying it's not continuous? Mr. Lawson said he tries to be self-aware and if they notice anything on site, they turn them on. On days like today where it's humid, they will turn them on. He relies on the steam across the street from the power plant, which will tell him which way the air is moving. If it's going straight up in the sky, everything else is doing the same thing. If the steam is heavy and staying close, everything else is doing that. He uses those as a determination factor whether or not to turn the misters on.

Mr. Hijazi said keep that in priority as the smell issues are definitely a problem. Mr. Lawson said Cody does his odor patrols and we talk to people in the community to see if they smell any odors and most of the time, the people they do find, some will give them their addresses and names and some won't. More than often, they say they don't smell anything.

Mr. Hijazi said the email that came today, Sue is referring to some noise issues and concerns. Mr. Lawson said we are building the berm for the SE realignment which is across from her backyard. Mr. Hijazi said when are you supposed to start? Mr. Lawson said their permit is from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mr. Hijazi said you are starting at 7 a.m. Mr. Lawson said yes, no earlier. Mr. Pannucci said that's the last cell and a temporary thing. Once that is finished, we move into operations in that area, and that's way a less equipment.

Mr. Gress said in the report there was a mention of a DEP inspection on 6/22, do we have a report on that yet. Mr. Pannucci said not yet. The Township gets copied on those. Mr. Lawson said it comes out monthly. Mr. Gress said in your report from the 1<sup>st</sup>, he had questions on No. 17 in there it said the technician spoke to Mr. White about some issues he had diagnosed at Pump Station 1. Was that a big or little issue? Mr. Pannucci said the issue was a secondary pump, and it had been replaced and are now functioning as they should. Mr. Gress said on No. 22, it said you were investigating an increase in the detection flow zone to Cell 2AB. Isn't that the cell you are currently utilizing? Mr. Pannucci said yes. They had seen an uptick in the secondary flows and they brought out Leak Location Services where two surveys were done of the area, under that they thought could potentially have a leak in the primary and they didn't find anything. Flows have gone back to normal so at this point, it's just business as usual.

The meeting ended at 1:32 p.m. The next meeting will be August 19, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. Mr. Pannucci said is this Zoom? Mrs. Huhn said she can find out.