

Bethlehem Landfill Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, September 19, 2019
Time: 1:00 p.m.
Location: Lower Saucon Township
Attendance: **Hanover Engineering:** Chris Taylor **Bethlehem Landfill:** Astor Lawson & David Pannucci;
Members: Hazem Hijazi & Neil Ortwein **Council Liaison:** Priscilla deLeon **Staff Members:**
Leslie Huhn & Diane Palik

Mr. Lawson reviewed the monthly tonnages for August:

	<u>June</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>August</u>
MSW	24,127.62	25,164.83	29,941.57
C&D	3,984.60	5,137.16	5,635.12
Residual (Total)	2,328.11	2,556.86	2,568.83
Asbestos	0.00	0.00	0.00
Sewage Sludge (90/10)	95.47	99.33	102.30
Out of State (Total)	16,057.01 (53%)	17,379.60 (53%)	22,677.17 (59%)
Recycle	6 (83%)	13 (69%)	(83%)

Mr. Pannucci said there were three Form U Submittals from August 27 to September 6, 2019. The 4th quarter sampling event is scheduled for November 25th through November 27th by Earthres Group. There were no correspondence/reports handed in today.

Mr. Pannucci said DEP inspections from the last meeting, there was one on August 21st with Amy Faulch and Jessica Cimera; September 10th, Chris Madden and Jessica Cimera; and on September 17th, Matt Glogowski. There were no compliance or violation issues. Mrs. deLeon noticed the odor complaints on the DEP report. Mr. Pannucci said they always mention those along with their follow-ups and findings.

Mr. Pannucci said there were two Host Municipal Inspections on September 5th and September 19th. There were 3,224 trucks in August; 68 overweight's, 56 warnings and 12 suspensions.

Mr. Pannucci said for gas operations, BRE is shut down for the foreseeable future. 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 August average flare flow was 2,931 SCFM. There were five total shutdowns during the month of August for general maintenance items.

Mr. Pannucci said the North Slope Road has not needed repairs. The swale has not needed repairs. Sedimentation traps and ponds need to be cleaned out (weather dependent). Site is currently cleaning out Basin No. 6. Mr. Taylor went down the North Slope Road today with no problem.

Mr. Pannucci said the abatement system continues to operate and discharge to the Bethlehem WWTP. Intermittent malfunctions of the well pumps and controls are repaired and replaced as needed. AB-1 flows are lower than usual. Site is currently troubleshooting this issue.

Mr. Pannucci said 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.

Mr. Pannucci said there were three radioactive loads for August (Tc-99m (3)). The waste streams met level 1 requirement and were disposed of onsite. Regarding SE Realignment Construction Activities, waste operations have moved into SE-1B. Mr. Taylor said what's going on with Pump Station #1. Mr. Pannucci said Cody had Control Systems come out this morning to take a look at it.

Mr. Pannucci said there have been 23 complaints received in 2019. They also inserted the DEP follow-ups and their findings, if any. Mrs. deLeon said you say on August 21st no landfill related odors. Mr. Pannucci said no landfill related odors, per PA DEP on that drive. Where you see PA DEP it's what they see when they drive around; all the others are resident complaints. Mrs. deLeon said on July 23rd there was a light to intermittent MSW

odor on Applebutter Road. She said last year we were only getting five complaints for the entire year, now all of a sudden it's really bad now. She was at a Council meeting last night and she got a bunch of texts that people were smelling it again and she tried to text Bethlehem Landfill, but couldn't last night as she was at a meeting. She just got off the phone with Amy and was talking about what we can do here. Something obviously has changed on site for us to be smelling this now. She doesn't know if you're at a different spot or a different height level. All the complaints last year it was always down-wind from her and now she's getting people closer higher up on the hill smelling it. Everybody is aware of the trains coming in with some garbage. Someone at the meeting last night said they stop and pick up employees along the way as she was curious why they would stop a train at Steel City. When they stop, residents close by have smelled garbage odors, not a gas smell.

Mr. Pannucci said we talked with Chris Taylor when he was on site. There's multiple different things we believe are going on. As far as the working face, that's kind of similar as what Mrs. deLeon is saying about the trains. What you're saying to us you are smelling gas. Where the working face is and we are working that's relatively fresh garbage likes in those trains. That doesn't play a factor in the gas conversation. They noticed some localized odors on site as well. They appreciate you telling us you notice it so we can work on addressing it. During the day, basically this time of year when it goes from pretty hot during the day and the temperature drops, you get swings and big barometric pressure changes, which can cause the gas to come out. Also it's been abnormally dry this half of the summer, which is the reason they can clean their ponds out. The cover is dry so you are going to have some cracks and crevices so you don't have that tight cover and also one thing in play. These are the changes we received. There's no real change going on on-site.

Mr. Pannucci said he distributed our gas construction plan for the year which they hope to start this October and it definitely will help some of those problem areas. Mrs. deLeon said tell me what you are going to be doing to make those improvements. Mr. Pannucci said we will send you a copy of the plan and if you have questions, you can ask them. It's re-piping and re-drills of wells that eventually are watered in or don't have daily activity and are also having their third consultant party come out and check the hill and see if there's potential sources. We are aware and they know there is gas escaping and they are working on it. Mrs. deLeon said if it happens again after you shut down, she has meetings to go to. What is happening is DEP is getting phone calls and if a DEP person is available, they come out to the site and one of these times they are going to smell it and you guys are going to get fined. Mr. Pannucci said they understand the rules and regs and what they need to do.

Mr. Lawson said unfortunately for this type of issue, there's no magic wand to fix it overnight, so they are working on it. He caught the smell on Tuesday night and he'll do a lap tonight at about 8 p.m. They are trying to fix it. It's due to long practices, which weren't sufficient. It's going to take a long time to fix, but do trust they are working on it to make it better. Mrs. deLeon is going to send out posts and notifications and tell them to immediately call DEP if they smell something. Mr. Lawson said they should call DEP and he appreciates letting them know. He went to the cul-de-sac and smelled it on Tuesday night at about 8:00 p.m. It was intermittent and a gas odor. Mrs. deLeon said she appreciates the time he is taking to come out. Good luck in trying to fix it. She asked when was the last time DEP was out at the landfill. Mr. Pannucci said they were out on Tuesday. They had an air quality inspection on the September 10th and a solid waste inspection on August 21st. Mrs. deLeon said when they did the air quality on the 10th, did they go around with the wand. Mr. Pannucci said they do and the area they checked did not have any exceedances. They come out and they pick the areas they want to check; and we don't know when they are coming.

Mr. Taylor said if they find an area with a cap penetration, that's easy. What happens if they find gas coming out of the ground? Mr. Pannucci said they have the gas construction plan and if there's an area that's a bigger priority, they have to make the change on the plan and address it. If that's the situation, that's a bigger project and they'll have to get a third party to come in and do it. That's TBD. Mr. Taylor said in the meanwhile, put some extra soil over it and seal it off like that is temporary. Mr. Pannucci said yes. As you saw, we had two guys pushing soil on the slope as if there's a spot worse than others, they can switch gears. Mr. Taylor said how long will it take to get the results. Mr. Pannucci said after they are done, they should at least be able to tell them verbally.

Mr. Taylor said the thing today was we had a north wind, so we're standing at the top of the landfill and getting no gas odors at the top of the landfill, which we should have been if gas is coming out and being carried down to Steel City when there's a south wind. That same gas should be carried northward to where we were inspecting today and we weren't getting any of it. That's just how sidious it is to track down to two weeks ago when we tracked gas and Cody went out and found the one cap penetration it was coming out of and fixed it. That was easy. The SEM tomorrow will be the start of it. This gas plan that we have, everything in red will be getting implemented.

Mr. Lawson said they will try and get NCN to come out and check everything out. They put in the misters. Mr. Taylor said they kind of ended up in spots as the operations shifted around. This company is coming out to give recommendations. That's something worth pursuing.

Mrs. deLeon said after the September 9th odor complaint, she'd like to add to the minutes that the other odors were on September 13th, 16th and 18th. They were reported to DEP. She received a phone call from Jonathon Ulanoski who works for DEP Emergency After Hours; and they had a nice chat. He said he wanted to remind the neighbors if they call in the odor complaints that it's their policy to go out and meet with the individual to confirm what they are smelling. She passed it on at the meeting last night. Mrs. deLeon said she called Amy up this morning to see if she knew of any changes or patterns; and they had a nice chat too.

Mr. Taylor said she hopes SES finds some spots that are fixable and that will fix the problem. Mrs. deLeon said the gas plan, is it for the public? Mr. Pannucci said he'd prefer if you didn't send it around to a lot of people as it's subject to change. Mrs. deLeon said she's going to say you are making changes starting in October to their gas collection system to prevent odors. Mr. Pannucci said tentatively, that's the plan we have on paper. That's what they sent out to bid.

Mr. Taylor said how much of this is done to accommodate Aria. Mr. Pannucci said we are putting a flange in for them, that's about it. They'd be doing this regardless of Aria. Mr. Lawson said it's generally common practice every year to try and make improvements, different thing change all the time, that's why it's difficult as you might make a change and you have to track it down and then you have to make another improvement.

Mr. Taylor said after this reporting, the abatement system numbers have been lower than we're comfortable with and that's why you are having someone to come out. Mr. Pannucci said Cody checked them and from what we can tell, they seem to be operating okay, but he's going to have Controls come out and take a look. They are out at the pump stations today, but he's not sure when they are slated for that.

Mr. Taylor said LMC-6 dropped to zero, what's going on. Mr. Pannucci said it's been operating and it's been really dry for months. They put in a new totalizer. Mr. Taylor said last year it wasn't reading right. Mr. Pannucci said it got fixed. Mr. Taylor said now it dropped to zero. Mr. Pannucci said they can take a look at it again. Mr. Taylor said LMC-8 dropped to zero. Mr. Pannucci said it's really dry for months. They will take a peep at them, but a lot has to do with no rain.

Mrs. Huhn said she saw in Mr. Taylor's last monthly report there was an overweight truck that left the landfill and it appeared that they left being overweight. That wasn't the case. She thinks they left but the driver panicked and left, something about not having a driver's license. She did get the police report and that the person left as they were afraid to dump and then came back with someone to help them. She wanted to clear that up that it wasn't an overweight truck that went back out on the road. Mr. Pannucci said Dee's pretty good about that. If it's overweight, we take it. Mrs. Huhn said they left on their own. Mr. Taylor's report made it appear that they went back out on the road and that wasn't the case. Mr. Lawson said they called PD and reported it.

Mr. Taylor said the next inspection will be Thursday, October 3rd for an inspection and next meeting is on Thursday, October 24, 2019 starting at 1:00 p.m. The meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m.