

IESI Bethlehem Landfill Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, September 22, 2014
Time: 1:08 PM
Location: Lower Saucon Township Council Meeting Room
Attendance: Donna Louder & Hazem Hijazi, Landfill Committee Members; Al Schleyer, IESI; Chris Taylor, Hanover Engineering, Host Municipal Inspector; Priscilla deLeon, Council Liaison; Diane Palik for the Township.

Mr. Schleyer reviewed the monthly tonnages for August. He reviewed the twelve Form U Submittals from August 5, 2014 through September 16, 2014; three of which weren't approved yet. Mrs. deLeon asked about the reed bed sludge from the Village of Buckingham Springs. She thought the landfill wasn't taking sludge. Mr. Schleyer said the dewatered reed bed sludge is strictly a community residence and these types of places commonly use a reed bed as part of the treatment system and they will dry out for a period of several years. There's no industrial waste involved. It's more of an earthen odor. It's like a one-time every five year disposal. Mr. Hijazi questioned Bank of America Form U. Mr. Schleyer said Bank of America has some commercial properties.

Mr. Schleyer said the Annual Groundwater Trend Analysis report was submitted in June. The 3Q14 sampling event was just completed the week of September 15th.

Mr. Schleyer said they had the general correspondence reports for Form U's, Abatement System report, LFG well construction notification and PA DEP AQ site inspection follow-up report.

Mr. Schleyer reviewed the DEP protection inspections August 8, 2014 through September 18, 2014. They received an inspection report where the air quality was over the 500 ppm surface monitoring. Since then, they did repair all of that and had a follow-up. SCS Engineers Field Services does the study and they detected less than 500 ppm at each location. They'll do a 30-day follow-up and then they can provide a final report. Mrs. deLeon questioned the September 18th inspection where DEP inspected an odor complaint and what triggered that complaint. Mr. Schleyer said he wasn't at the landfill that day, but there were no malodors detected at the landfill during that inspection. It was the same day and Ms. Redding went out and investigated it.

Mrs. deLeon said the 8/27/14 inspection report came out late Friday afternoon in an email. It's also posted on the website. Mr. Taylor said this report indicates violations noted, which he read off of the report. Mr. Schleyer wasn't present for this inspection and this is the first time he saw the site inspection report. Mr. Hijazi said by reading this report, one of the violations is not using enough daily cover. Mrs. deLeon asked the difference between daily and intermediate cover. Mr. Schleyer said intermediate cover is when you are away from the active area for awhile and you put 12" of cover down versus 6" for daily cover. The intermediate cover might have dried out and created some cracks. Mrs. deLeon said when did you apply the intermediate cover? Mr. Schleyer said it could have been six months ago, it depends what areas you are at. The cover on those areas could be a year old, 30 days old or 60 days old. The problem areas were 4F, 4B and 4C. Those areas have all been addressed.

Mrs. deLeon asked about another report (she didn't mention what kind of report) and asked if Mr. Schleyer saw it. He said yes, they discussed it at the Township meeting. Mrs. deLeon said it talks about ranges of when they did that test. What are baseline readings? Mr. Schleyer said it's the same instrument where they would read the surface monitoring at the landfill for the 500 ppm. It means something in the air could trigger that instrument up to 2.7 ppm or 5.1 or whatever it was reading at the time. Mrs. deLeon questioned the readings on the report from 2.7 to 11.4 ppm. To her, could this go up to 500 ppm? Mr. Schleyer said if it was present in that location of 500 ppm, the meter would pick it up. It picked up the concentration that was there. Mrs. deLeon said that's the weekend she was home and smelled gas, and called DEP and DEP not knowing she was on the other side of the mountain. She looked on the DEP odor complaint log and did not see her odor complaint on that report. She called three times that weekend and she's not happy that it's not on the report. She called the other night and told them, please, she wants this reported, and she tells them who she is now. She needs to understand the readings a little better. Mr. Hijazi said the ppm's are there, but it's not 500. Mrs. deLeon said this is proof we're definitely breathing something over the top of the mountain from Steel City which has 250 homes there with little kids. What else are we breathing? Mr. Schleyer said the pictures in the report, all the conditions were corrected. Mr. Hijazi was disappointed in seeing all the cracks. Mr. Schleyer said they were probably triggered by the meter first and you

can't necessarily see them. They contract out to SCS Field Services and in their report, they follow a route and that's the way the monitoring program is written. If there's something that triggers a meter, they will go and check it out. If there's nothing like gross contamination, odors or gas coming out, they don't necessarily have to do that for the surface monitoring. It's done quarterly. Mr. Taylor said they take a reading at every grid point. Mr. Schleyer said if there's a meter reading greater than 500 ppm, they then put a marker flag down. They'll record the reading and location and it gives IESI a set point where they make a remediation by putting more soil on, compact it, or if it's around a well, they compact, moisten and seal it off. IESI does all the surface monitoring and repairs at the same time. Mr. Taylor said the DEP report says IESI was in touch with DEP the next day. He asked if it's fully implemented now, almost 3 weeks later? Mr. Schleyer said yes, they've made repairs to the surface points, rechecked them and they were all below 500 ppm. IESI will prepare a follow-up report and send it to DEP. Mrs. deLeon said what annoys her, DEP was there at 5:08 pm, and she started calling in complaints at 6:00 pm. It makes her feel that she and DEP smelled the same thing and DEP said they were getting multiple complaints that day. She said Sam Donato has never called her once on the odor complaints she's had. Mr. Schleyer will make a note. He also noted IESI is now drilling about 16 new wells. Mrs. deLeon said on the tour today, she smelled the gas odor which she smells all the time at her home. Mr. Taylor said we have SCS coming out and doing their quarterly thing, and DEP shortly after that did their inspection. SCS noted exceedances from their investigation and that automatically triggers remediation and the 10 and 30 day recheck. You've had your 10 day recheck and everything is below 500 ppm, and the 30 day re-check is coming up shortly. Mr. Schleyer said correct. If they detect over 500 ppm again, IESI would have to do remediation again and start all over again. Mr. Taylor said what would be a typical odor threshold for methane? Mr. Schleyer said it's subjective to everybody and he sees where the meter is high, greater than 500 ppm and you can't smell anything, and sometimes it's less than 500 ppm and you can smell it. The meter picks up methane equivalent, so it's the other gases with methane you would smell. Mrs. deLeon said how do you test for the other gases? Mr. Schleyer said it's the common unit that EPA, DEP and all the other regulatory agencies have come up with for a standard. Mrs. deLeon said there are 20 other components besides methane that come up on the monitor and they are nasty substances, and you don't know what this mixing together is doing. This is very serious.

Ms. Louder said her concern is the report says during the inspection they spoke to Sam and Al. Mr. Schleyer said he wasn't there. Ms. Louder said his absence at the landfill is not acceptable. You are being split by two landfills and there's a lot going on at our landfill. Is this compromising our landfill? Mr. Schleyer said he doesn't think the operations are not compromised for someone not being there for a day. Ms. Louder said she feels that if Mr. Schleyer is there, we are covered better. Mr. Hijazi said that shouldn't be our concern as to where Mr. Schleyer is and where he's not at. We should hold IESI responsible. Mrs. deLeon said we work with Mr. Schleyer and we have confidence in him. Mr. Hijazi said does that mean he can't go on vacation. What's the complaint? Ms. Louder said we have to share him with another landfill. We need to keep our eyes on the prize and that is keeping it status quo with no glitches. A single glitch is what makes her back yard smells like where he works. Mrs. deLeon said in all the years with the landfill, Mr. Schleyer's position, that person was there more regularly. Now there are a lot of times he's not there when the reports are written. It's not his fault. Mr. Taylor said he thinks an operation that big should have a full-time Compliance Manager, and that opinion was not very well received.

Mrs. deLeon said Josh Popichak wrote about the 8/27 post on Facebook. She read complaints from other people outside of Steel City that were written on Josh's post. Mr. Schleyer said they are being proactive and need to get more gas wells in. They had that in play, and they are not making light of any of these complaints. They are doing a good job at it. It's a landfill and it's going to stink at times. They are continually working harder regarding the odor complaints.

Mr. Schleyer said going back to his report, there were three odor complaints received by IESI from August 22nd to August 26th.

Mr. Schleyer said the BRE flare operation isn't completed for August as of yet. They had two brief shutdowns August 4th and 5th. He has to get some information from BRE and a total before he can complete the report. There were very few shutdowns, nothing out of the ordinary. Mr. Hijazi left, the time was 2:09 PM.

Mr. Schleyer said there were four Host Municipal Inspections from August 1st through September 22nd. Mr. Taylor reviewed his observations from the inspection conducted prior to this meeting:

- Observed no litter or mud along Applebutter Road at the entrance drive or at the landfill office.
- There was a slight odor on Applebutter Road just west of the Zumas farm.
- The truck was not in use because of the dry conditions.
- A drilling rig was observed at the southwest corner about half-way up doing gas well drilling.
- A track hoe machine was observed working on the south face near the gabian down channel and Mr. Schleyer has stated that is part of the header connection tie-in work taking place.
- Wind today was all over the place, but predominantly from the east and northeast, 10 to 20 MPH.
- A slight gas odor observed at the eastern end of the MSE wall.
- The northern mister line was not running at the time of the inspection.
- There was an odor observed starting at the west end of the MSE wall going towards the water tank.
- Disposal of garbage in Cell 4E, stage 2, one truck was dumping and none waiting.
- There was an odor observed while at the water tank.
- The truck tipper is active, but was not in use during this inspection and there were no trucks that needed to use it.
- Soil is staged at the working face for cover and it's also stockpiled at the north end of Cell 4E.
- The western face has been dressed up.
- The North Slope road is open. The perimeter fence along that road is intact.
- The southern mister line was not running during this inspection.
- The west high wall was observed and no slope failures were observed since the last inspection.
- There was an unknown odor observed from the BRE plant at the office parking lot at the end of the inspection.
- Conducted a patrol on Skyline Drive which he does when the wind is coming from the east starting at 12:10 pm. He drove to the eastern end of Skyline Drive and observed no landfill related odors.
- He began a patrol of Steel City at 12:18 pm and observed no landfill-related odors or noises.

Mrs. deLeon said can you add that herself, Mr. Schleyer and Ms. Louder were with Mr. Taylor on the landfill inspection and they also observed these odors.

Mr. Schleyer reviewed the Commercial Waste Vehicles for the month of August. He also went over the overweight truck report from the LST Police Department. There were three from August 12th to August 28th.

Mr. Schleyer said for gas collection, they are in the process of adding 16 more gas wells. They are about half-way done. They are doing some landfill gas header tie-ins to get new vacuum lines over to those gas wells. He said the North Slope perimeter road is passable. Mr. Taylor said before this construction phase, you already had 129 wells or so. You have a total poll of gas between you and BRE of about 3,000 SCFM. If you averaged it out on all your wells, you are getting about 30 SCFM for existing wells. Mr. Schleyer said yes, if it was all evenly disbursed. They will see how it plays out after days and weeks and after adjusting things accordingly. Mr. Taylor said you are getting pretty good pullout to alleviate the problems we are having.

Mr. Schleyer said the abatement systems they continue to pump. Abatement well 3 and 10 they had some work done this past month to make sure everything is functional. Leachate collection is still being monitoring and reported. Much of the flows are under 100 gallons per acre, per day, but it's also a very dry season. They had two radiation monitoring this on August 12th and August 18th and were both iodine-131. The construction activities, they completed about 3 acres of cap and currently installing up to 16 lfg wells. Cell 4-E, Stage 1-2 continues to be the current active disposal areas. Mrs. deLeon said the three acres of capped area, what cells were they? Mr. Schleyer said Cell C. Mrs. deLeon said was that one of the areas from these pictures from the 8/27 report? Mr. Schleyer said there are some other parts that aren't capped off yet. He doesn't believe the pictures were represented in the cap area, but he didn't look at the pictures completely, so he doesn't know.

Mr. Taylor said looking at the secondary flow figures for PS-1, 2 and 3, they are negligible close to zero. For LMC-6, it's trending down to the 10's. LMC-7 down to the 20's, that's good and LMC-8 is now finally below 100, almost certainly due to no rain for awhile. It's been under 100 since June 27th. No rain equals no secondary flows.

Ms. Louder questioned the Fox property and why can't they use that soil? Mr. Schleyer said that was proposed before. Ms. Louder said if you use more ground cover on the landfill, instead of putting 6" down, you put 12" down and that would help control the odor. Mr. Schleyer said the more odor you have, the better chance you have of suppressing it. Ms. Louder said why is the Fox property protected and the Township has to give permission? Mrs. deLeon said when we negotiated the host agreement, it was an RA zone and we wanted to keep it an RA zone and we wanted to make sure they recognized that fact and any landfill use wasn't to extend off the property lines from the box they were in. When they approved the last phase, IESI said to DEP they had existing cover materials on site and they calculated it and had enough soil to do daily cover. Ms. Louder said why don't you bring dirt from outside, bring in a couple extra trucks in and put it on thicker and maybe that would suppress some of the smell. Mr. Schleyer said he'll pass that on.

The next meeting is Thursday, October 16, 2014. The meeting adjourned, the time was 2:30 p.m.