

Bethlehem Landfill Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, January 19, 2023
 Time: 5:03 p.m.
 Location: Lower Saucon Township

Attendance: **Bethlehem Landfill:** Astor Lawson and Cody White (via conference call); **Hanover Engineering:** Scott Brown; **Staff Members:** Mark Hudson and Stacy Werkheiser; **Council Liaison:** Tom Carocci for Jason Banonis; **Members:** Hazem Hijazi and Zachary Mikuta; **Guests:** Donna Louder, Priscilla deLeon, Robert McKellin, Frank Palumbo, Lynn Hill, and Mark Ozimek.

Astor Lawson reviewed the Monthly Tonnages below:

MONTHLY TONNAGES			
	October	November	December
MSW	19,610.76	25,058.48	24,922.30
C&D	8,121.39	1,792.06	966.00
Residual (Total)	3,800.81	1,832.48	1,933.12
Asbestos	0.00	0.00	0.00
Alternate Daily Cover	2,239.40	3,914.41	4,219.27
Sewage Sludge	475.98 (1.4%)	513.53 (1.6%)	500.38 (1.5%)
Out of State (Total)	24,302.61 (71%)	22,386.37 (67.5%)	22,680.11 (69.7%)
Recycle	6 (89%)	4 (75%)	6 (83.33)

Astor reviewed the information in the above chart. He then reviewed the Form U Submittals that were approved below.

Form U Submittals	Waste	Dates
Assai Energy LLC	Filter Media	10/6/22,11/29/22
Steel Coatings	Sandblast Abrasive and Residue	10/12/2022
Victaulic Co.	Contaminated Soil	10/26/2022
Victaulic Co.	Waste Tires	11/1/2022
Victaulic Co.	Asbestos-Containing Material	11/8/2022
Victaulic Co.	Generic Waste	12/13/2022
Walter Dan	Asbestos-Containing Material	11/8/2022
Hazelton Scrap	Waste Tires	11/15/2022
Ind Caulk and Seal Inc.	Other Industrial Sludge	11/22/2022
NYC School Construction	Contaminated Soil	12/13/2022

Haz asked what the contaminated soils from the NY Schools, if he knew how much (inaudible) was? Astor did not recall, and would have to look into, and also added the above are approvals and does not necessarily mean it was taken in.

Astor reviewed the Annual Groundwater Trend Analysis - 4QTR sampling event was scheduled from 11/13-11/17/2022. Astor referenced correspondence and noted the Odor Complaint Log was updated on 1/18/2023.

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Astor noted there were six DEP inspections conducted on various dates. Host Municipal Inspections were also conducted by Scott Brown on six different dates.

The following Commercial Waste Vehicles were reviewed:

	<u>October</u>	<u>November</u>	<u>December</u>
Total # Trucks	2,687	2,690	2,637
	<u>October</u>	<u>November</u>	<u>December</u>
Overweight	64	65	66
Warnings	56	52	57
Suspensions	8	13	9

The landfill flare is the main gas control system, and they continue to communicate with SCS Field Services with any routine or non-routine services to maximize LFG production and minimize odors. The October Average Flare Flow: 2,885 SCFM, November Average Flare Flow: 2,829 SCFM, December Average Flare Flow: 2,690 SCFM.

The down time for October was 29 hours and 15 minutes out of a total run time of 744 hours. Twenty of those hours were scheduled maintenance for flare and scheduled construction work. Down time in November was 60 hours and 33 minutes out of a total runtime of 720 hours. Fifty-four of those hours were for flare refractory replacement/repairs. Down time for December was 4 hours and 58 minutes out of a total runtime of 744 hours. All downtime was for flare maintenance.

The North Slope Road is not in need of any repairs. The swale has not needed repairs.

The abatement systems continue 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 reporting. Intermittent malfunctions of the well pumps and controls are repaired or replaced as needed.

The radiation loads were as follows: October: 2 radioactive loads of Technecium-99m and Iodine -131 disposed onsite and reported. November: 5 radioactive loads, one Technecium-99m and four Iodine -131 disposed onsite and reported. December: No radioactive loads detected.

The Southeastern Realignment construction activities: Currently operating in the southeastern 2-AB Phase II section of the landfill.

Complaints are attached, and the Leachate Demand report for the gallons for each LMC and abatement wells are attached.

Haz asked a question regarding the flare and the hours in October and November are higher. Do you foresee higher numbers coming up? Do you have scheduled maintenance or construction that would make it.... Astor said as far as the operating hours being more and longer, yes, they are in the process of trying to change out the burner tips on it because it is affecting the flow. He said if you think about the previous months before this quarter, generally were in the 3,000s, but they have had them on order since November and they were to be in today, so once they get those in, it will be down for that maintenance which will improve the flow.

Scott Brown reviewed his inspection that he conducted today. He stated the onsite activity is minimal, mostly occurring at the active face, the capping is done for the year. Water trucks and sweepers around the site and most of the truck activity is on the east side at the new section of the landfill. The roads were obviously muddy

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today but the mud on Applebutter Road was minimal if any. Just a slight film; it was actually very good. The sweepers were all out working so this helped to control this. If he detects any odors on his drives along Applebutter Road, it is usually at the self-storage building but there was none detected today. The wind was blowing to the North/Northwest so this made sense as it was blowing away from there. Prior inspection, it was noted that there was a slight odor, it was inconsistent, and he went back twice in front of the landfill which he usually does, and most times it is gone when he goes back again. This is classified as intermittent, and he would have to say most of the time it is slight odors. He always goes through Steel City, and up Saucon Ave and he tries to hit the most Western parts of Steel City which is closest to the landfill, and he did not detect any of the odors there. He also parked at the hill climb entrance for five minutes, and there were no odors. Onsite wasn't bad, but the rain and heavier air keeps everything down. In general, it seems like they are keeping the working face as small as possible, and the side slopes that they have previously worked in are all very well covered. He didn't see any issues today, and Astor gave him an update on getting the burner tips put on the flare and this will help. That's reducing some of the gas intake right now. They have been on order since November. He mentioned that Astor also reviewed that they did some maintenance on the flare replacing some refractory brick which is a liner inside that was done a couple of months ago. Scott said to minimize some of the odors getting down to the self-storage area, the landfill told him about a month ago they were trying to work their way down South to the lower part to fill it up so it didn't create such a funnel when the wind was heading to the South, so it wouldn't have an easy time to funnel the gas odor offsite. He saw they were in the Southern area today trying to build that area back up. He said now during the winter time, the misters have to be winterized because you can't keep the water sitting in those over the winter, so they are not an option right now. He believes they are doing what they can right now to minimize the minimal odors.

The litter along Applebutter Road seemed good every time he goes by; it is negligible, the same as along any other road, even if that. If he lets them know he sees anything, they will get someone out there right away to clean it up. They have been very responsive to things that he has asked them to address.

Haz added that he noticed the secondary flow through LMC8 has been coming down, and wanted to know if they were doing anything. Cody said it seems they are having less flow coming through the detection, so whether it is diverting itself into the primary or not, he cannot 100% say, but he did notice the same thing that yes, the detection flows are down unless it is normally a storm event.

Cody added he pulled the Form U for the school data for contaminate soil, and it showed only 100 cubic yards were submitted, but he is not sure if they took the full amount.

Haz noted that in the first half of 2022, even up to October, there were not many complaints but in November and December and January were more, has anything changed? Astor said the Synagro they were receiving was a compost-type material and it had an odor, and they have since stopped taking it. They tried to back it down, but they stopped taking it and they think that has a lot to do with it. Tom added that he thinks them coming in for rezoning has a lot to do with it.

Public Comment:

Tom invited the public to the podium with any questions, but reminded the public that this meeting is for operations of the landfill operations for the previous three months only, and not regarding the possible landfill expansion. He asked that only respectful questions to the landfill are asked, and he is sure they will be willing to answer them. But if it becomes disrespectful, or there are questions on landfill expansion, he will adjourn the meeting.

- Donna Louder: Steel City resident. She said Haz had answered everything she had marked on her papers to ask, but she is going to ask anyway. In October, LMC8 was 109, and then in November it went down to 94, and then in December it was 95. She asked if those are the secondary flows or the primary flows? Cody responded that they are the secondary flows, so those are only the detection zone and not the primary. Ms. Louder also asked if the flare is running at maximum capacity? Astor replied,

not right now, no. He said they are having issues with the burner tips that they had ordered in November to try get them switched, and they got two replaced at that point and they have been on backorder but are supposed to be in today. Astor said they have been bugging the supplier to try to get them in. Tom asked once they get them in, how long do they think it will take to replace them, and he understood there are supply chain issues. Astor said Cody spoke with the supplier, and he said SCS is on call, and once they get them, they will be installed the next day. Ms. Louder asked if there are any onsite and asked if they can get two to have on site. Astor said they can try to get some to keep in stock. Ms. Louder asked with everything going on, if the sludge can be lowered. Astor replied yes. Ms. Louder said she appreciates that. Ms. Louder added that according to PA Chapter 25, she does not believe they are to be taking in tires. Astor replied that he can only accept tires if they are cut up, he cannot take whole tires. Ms. Louder asked when the last Air Quality test? Astor asked to clarify Air Quality test or inspection. Ms. Louder replied inspection by the PADEP. Astor said probably last March, which Astor said he brought up to Matt Vipond (enforcement person from DEP) last time he was onsite that they have not had one for a while. Ms. Louder asked if Council can get on the request, and Tom replied that they can ask DEP to do an Air Quality Inspection. Astor added that the guy that was there had just left so he isn't sure if that has an impact on it. Ms. Louder added so they have a staffing issue yet. Astor added that an employee had left. Tom said to Donna he will recommend that Council writes the letter to DEP, but you were on Council, and you have written letters to DEP and as you know, sometimes they don't respond, but we will still write the letter. Astor added that DEP has been training the enforcement, and Amy and Matt from DEP have been coming out and doing surface emission walks and stuff like this. Donna said okay, but she didn't see anything on the reports. Astor said they have not had an official Air Quality Inspection. Tom asked Mark to make a note of this for Council next time. Donna asked if overweight trucks were repeat offenders. Astor said usually the ones that end up getting suspended, and he noticed the numbers went up since last quarter where there were 30 overweights, and noticed again. He said he noticed there are a lot of new truck drivers and a lot of new companies that were retraining, but the repeat offenders, as you know, they end up with 3-day suspensions and get kicked out. Donna said it is something that really needs to be addressed, and she knows it is a constant. Astor also added the DOT was onsite at the end of December. Donna said that is good.

Donna asked some questions regarding the DEP's report. She said the Township received a report on January 9, 2023. This report is for the Municipal Waste Landfill Inspection, and she didn't notice any violations. What she did see was mention of a sludge odor, and that is why she is asking them to please cut back on the sludge. Astor said he would doublecheck, but he was pretty sure when he was making the report from quarter to quarter, the sludge numbers did go down quite a bit actually. Donna said the other thing she wanted to ask the landfill was if they can create some kind of clean-up crew along the roads. She realizes they are not PennDOT, but from the time you get off 412 onto Shimersville, you know you are going to a landfill. The trash is horrific, and she apologizes that she doesn't know if it is coming off the trucks. She knows the trucks going to landfill are covered by law, but there is still so much trash along that roadway. She knows that the landfill has used the Allentown Rescue Mission in the past to hire them to do chores. She was hoping they can do this again to help keep the roads clean from 412 to Shimersville Rd to Applebutter Rd to the landfill's gate. This would be fantastic. Astor said they used them for Applebutter. He can check with PennDOT, but he isn't sure how it works in PA if they have to get an encroachment approval for them to do this.

Tom asked Scott when he did his inspection, if he only did Applebutter? Scott said he starts at Applebutter, and Tom said you thought Applebutter was clean? Scott said yes.

Donna said another thing mentioned on the DEP report is the intermittent cover show daylighting and flagging adjacent to the working face and you mentioned how it is corrective and it is because of all of the other tracking go on around it. She asked how much of the Daily Cover they are putting on. Astor said they use a lot of the ADC and they still use the tarps, and for intermediate cover he asked his guys put on the 12 inches or more. Donna said she knows that landfill odors increase during the winter months because of the way the methane picks up everything else and carries it around. Again,

they are in a little gully; they have a mountain all around them, and it drops. She thinks that the report of the odor complaints pretty much dictates that so she is asking them to increase the daily coverage. She believes they put 6 inches on. If you go back to other landfill reports when...Astor said 6 inches is the requirement, but he has talked to the guys within the year to put as much as needed and not settle for the 6 inches. Donna said she thinks in the winter months, it needs to be increased and asked Haz what his thoughts were. Haz agreed. Donna thanked everyone for their time and asked them to keep the operational standards up to par.

- Priscilla deLeon: She would like to review the last inspection reports from October to December. She is also in favor of decreasing the sludge cover at the landfill. She said in the quarterly reports, it is mentioned two residential wells that are being tested along Riverside Drive, do you know what I am talking about? Astor replied in the quarterly report. Ms. deLeon said I am talking about the general report over the last quarter, it mentions about those wells, and it says that they have been tested which is great because we want you to do that, but you don't say if they were negative or positive or if they met drinking water standards. She is asking if those wells have come back meeting drinking water standards. Astor deferred to Cody. Cody replied that if they have anything above reportable standards that impedes what their rates are, they have to report them. So, if there is no report, then there is no exceeding limits for the groundwater drinking water. Ms. deLeon replied, so if it not mentioned, we are assuming it is good then. Cody replied, correct no news is good news. Ms. deLeon asked if there was any other thing in the beginning of January DEP Inspection report from December that you wanted to talk about? Astor said for? She apologized but left her copy at home. Astor asked the one we received in January. She confirmed, yes and there are other issues that you should really bring to the table. Astor asked what she would like him to review as he is not sure. Astor provided the report. Tom added that maybe she can review the report and let another person speak. She agreed.
- Bob McKellin: He asked when they refer to contaminated soil, what is the definition of this? He noted on a report a while ago there was one from Hazleton Generation. Astor said when the landfill submits the Form U, they have different codes and there is a variety, most often they are petroleum contaminated soils or asbestos contaminated type soils that you will see. Cody added heavy metals also. He added the contractor will tell them normally what it is, if it is above state limit, and then they have to compare it to the landfill's form to see if they can take such limits. Haz added clarification that sometimes when they do land development, construction, they discover an area that has an old tank, heating tank, (someone added oil), some release and even if it doesn't have to be volatile organic – sometimes it is just metals, and if you exceed certain limits, you cannot keep it on site. Then the developer has to take it some place, and a landfill is one of these options if it meets their regulatory standards, they would approve it in the DEP on the Form U. They look it up and will say yes or no. Mr. McKellin's next question regarding asbestos is noted as zero for October, November and December and yet down further on the report, it shows Victaulic and Walter Dam shows asbestos containing material. Where does that get....Astor replied that usually it falls under, the asbestos would be a solid. When it is straight asbestos, the rest could be soil which is more soil with asbestos in it, but also too, with the Form U, when the form is submitted, it doesn't mean that it came to the landfill. A lot of the companies submit Form Us to multiple landfills and get approvals and they go with who gives them the best price will be where they take it. Mr. McKellin said so asbestos containing material does not count as November asbestos. Astor said he would have to look to verify, but he may not have taken it even though the Form U was submitted for approval and the company may have taken to Warren County or Pen Argyl. Mr. McKellin thought it looked odd, and Astor said he thought so too when he reads it.
- Frank Palumbo: He said this is his first time he has been at this meeting so he apologizes if he has some naïve questions. He has been hearing a lot about truck traffic not following the proper traffic route on I-78, 412, etc. They are coming in from the East side, and he does not know how the landfill transmits that information to have them not follow that route, but it has been brought up a number of times. He also referred to the abatement and leachate system, it says intermittent malfunctions of the well pumps and controls are repaired and replaced as needed, what happens to whatever material, where does it go if these pumps don't work. Astor replied it stays where they are at, if there is leachate

in the liner filled...Frank said it stays within a retention pond of sort? Astor said it stays inside the landfill until it is pumped out. Astor said if the pump goes down, then the leachate can't get pumped down, it would stay down in the sump. Mr. Palumbo asked about the concerns with the odor complaints. He noticed a couple of distant properties now that are reporting the smell, up to 2.7 miles away, 1.78 miles away, so how is this mileage calculated? Air miles? Driving miles? Astor said he asked DEP about that, and Amy said it is like a crow flies, so from our entrance to... Frank added air mile, and Astor said exactly. Frank asked if there was any justification as to why they are starting to smell at 2.7 miles, 1.7 miles, 2.9 miles, and these are not any one particular month. It goes from October, December, January. Astor said he would have to look in to it, some of these are newer to him. Astor said he is not always notified from DEP when those complaints come in. When he is, he will usually go out and investigate to see what is happening, but some of these are new to him as of today. Frank asked if the miles were determined by the DEP, and Astor confirmed they are.

- Priscilla deLeon: In reference to the report from the end of December, it talks a lot about odors along Applebutter Road, west of Red Barn Auto. It seems like the odor is shifting differently, and she is not happy about that. Also, the other issue is a lot of mud and dust. We have had residents come before us complaining about passing the entrance to the landfill, and it is a big dust cloud. She is not sure what the landfill is doing or what you are not doing, but why is that happening? Astor said they are working on that. Over the last year, he has bought two different contraptions for trying to help with knocking the mud and dirt off of the trucks. The first one we had were the chain tracks, and then he also bought a bunch of rumble strips that he used to use in CA, which those work much better. He has been working to get the brick down, which that is the problem too, it was getting stuck in the duallies of the truck which was tracking it down to the road, but it has been a constant battle for whatever reason this last half year that they are trying to correct. Right now, they switched up the traffic patterns on the landfill. Before we had everyone going one way for safety reasons, which is still safe going back the other way, but on the landfill, we built a two-way traffic coming out of the landfill and we noticed a huge improvement. Now they have to travel longer on the landfill knocking most of that stuff off, so they are hoping that will have a longer effect and improve that. Ms. deLeon said residents shouldn't have to tolerate dust and dirt in front of the landfill, so she appreciates everything you can do to eliminate that. Astor said he agrees 100%. Ms. deLeon said she read somewhere that they are now finally capped with the temporary capping, so that is good. Astor confirmed. Ms. deLeon asked if this takes care of the ongoing Notice of Violation (NOV)? She asked is this was the reason for the NOV. Astor said yes, and that was all before him and they got up to date and they should be clearing that. Ms. deLeon asked if that was the only outstanding issue in the NOV from April of 2020 was that the schedule of the temporary capping was not being kept to schedule. Astor said, correct, they were not keeping up with the schedule. Ms. deLeon said so we are not good on it? Astor said yes. Ms. deLeon said she was also concerned about the daylighting showing and that shouldn't happen either; you should be covering your trash by regulations every day so they don't have that because it creates odors. Astor agreed. Ms. deLeon said Sherry Hill Road is now new getting odor complaints. She also talked about the sludge, and she said you would try to not use that particular....Astor said correct. The Synagro, there was another one from a drinking water facility, that they were taking it from, that he thought was causing the odor so he got rid of that. Now he thinks the culprit is that Synagro which they have totally stopped taking at this point. Ms. deLeon said she remembers several years ago, the landfill was bringing in all of this sludge, if it creates an issue, you had to stop using it. Astor said the Synagro is more of a compost, but again, they realized it was causing an odor so they stopped taking and they are taking zero loads of it right now. She thanked him.
- Lynn Hill: She states this is her first meeting with the Landfill Committee so she is trying to acquire some knowledge, so she apologizes if some of her questions are naïve. She asked when they have the overweight trucks, for example, 64 in October, 65 in November, and 66 in December. How overweight are they? Astor said most of the time, and they submit he list to the DEP so it is public information and he can share that with her at any time, it is around 200 to 300 lbs. We do, every now and then, get one that comes in that is a full ton over, maybe 82k lbs., and if they are over 3%, then they are immediately suspended. Most of the time is a couple of hundred pounds. Lynn asked if they are 80k lb. trucks? Astor said some are, and some are the 73. Lynn said there was a mention of the Air Quality test done in March of 2022, and she is assuming there are also soil samples and water samples of the

different wells, the groundwater. Are those results available somewhere for them to see? Astor said they will all be with the DEP and on the website. Lynn said she is going back in time and looking at the minutes from the July 21st meeting, and it listed the out of state tonnage at 10,296.95, which was 29% of the total tonnage, and it seemed like an outlier to her compared to the other months that were around 50-60, even 71. Was this already discussed at a prior meeting? This sort of discrepant number from April of 2022 was extremely low; it looked like an error to her. Astor said he can check it, and will correct it if it is an error. He does not recall what may have happened or why it was low. He said a lot the out-of-state stuff they get comes from intercompany, so it could have been something with the transfer station, it could have been that they diverted to somewhere else. That is part of the reason that the numbers are up now is because there is another landfill that is running out space so they are diverting stuff to Bethlehem. He will look into to make sure the number is correct, and if it's not, he will correct. Lynn said she would just like to know what the out of state tonnage was for 2022 as she has an accounting background and she is used to scrutinizing data, and it looked a little off to her compared to other months. It doesn't seem logical to her that the landfill would get a higher proportion of trash from in state in the same month we get a lower proportion from out of state. Astor added that sometimes depending on the job, and the price, the landfill may take that job and kick something else out that may divert something else. Lynn moved onto radiation monitoring, she asked for clarification on what this really is. Astor explained when the trucks come on site, they drive up on the scale and there are two white bars, and if something is detected, an alarm will go off on the scale. When the alarm goes off, the scale attendant will contact someone on site, and the truck gets a handheld and the meter they have will try to find it in the load, and the meter determines the isotope that is in the truck. Once that is done, the landfill reviews the list of approved stuff like certain medical-type radiation stuff from cancer treatment. If it is not on the list, they call the DEP. It is always reported via email, but if it is not something common they can take, they call Amy from DEP and go through the procedures with them. DEP will either approve it, or have them hold it, move it out of the way. Most of the time, 99% of the time it is the medical, Technetium or Iodine. Lynn asked if this was disposed of in a different manner than the other waste. Astor said, no, if it is approved, it goes in the same spot. It is buried and covered. He gave an example of something that came in. A gentleman was going through chemo, and he was unable to swallow and was sucking on lemonheads and threw them in a bag. The yellow beads were located and identified in 22 tons of trash.

- Mark Ozimek: He said he is the one who called on January 4th and filed the complaint when he was going out Applebutter Road from the smell. Since then, a Northampton County inspector who went to inspect the dump with one of you. The inspector called him back and spent about an hour on the phone with him and his wife. Mark asked if the 15 or 16 ft tear in the tarp been repaired. Astor asked him for clarification if it was the ADC tarp? Mark was not sure.... he was just told there was a tear in the tarp and that is where the smell was coming from. Astor said he would need more information as he is not sure. The inspector also said that you had a certain amount of time to fix it, as far as where the tarp is and what it is called, he does not know. Mark said he would try to look in the report at home that he sent him. Mark also said he called this morning again because it smelled in the same place, at Ringhoffer Road around the bend, down from the new gas thing that is being built. Mark also said that when he drove on Applebutter Road, it was like driving through a cloud of dust. He asked what they do to remedy this, do you have the sprayers on? Astor replied that they have the two water trucks on site for remedying the dust, and they did have one down for service on Tuesday, and he knows it was dusty that day. The other one is being repaired. Astor said they have had a third-party sweeper for the last month and a half that is there every day, and then they also have their orange sweeper, but he knows the one day the sweeper was there, it was pretty dusty from the sweeper. Mark said he was behind that sweeper on the road, so he knows they do try; he will give them that. Mark said he has been in his house for 20 years, past the hill climb, and one day this week he smells garbage. He is pretty far away, so it is not strong, but after 20 years of driving past the dump, he knows what it smells like. He knows you can't change Mother Nature and the wind. He said this is his first landfill meeting, and he has battled the landfill before as far as the expansion stuff. His next question is, the City of Bethlehem PD, he understands that they have been put out of the firing range now? Astor asked the Bethlehem PD? Mark said yes, the Bethlehem PD has been put out of the firing range. Astor said no, they moved to a different location in basically the same location. Mark asked, so they are still

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on the same property, just using a different location? Astor said correct, he believes they moved to the Steel City Gun Club. Mark said they were always there, they just entered to the right, and the public went to the left. Astor said, yes, the lock on the gate is their lock, not the landfill's.

The meeting adjourned at 5:58 p.m. The next meeting is April 20, 2023 @ 1:00 p.m.