

Bethlehem Landfill Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, April 27, 2023
 Time: 1:00 p.m.
 Location: Lower Saucon Township

Attendance: **Bethlehem Landfill:** Astor Lawson and Cody White; **Hanover Engineering:** Scott Brown; **Staff Members:** Mark Hudson and Stacy Werkheiser; **Council Liaison:** Jason Banonis; **Members:** Hazem Hijazi and Zachary Mikuta; **Guests:** Donna Louder, Ann Marie Crown, Lynn Hill, and Mark Ozimek.

Astor Lawson reviewed the Monthly Tonnages below:

MONTHLY TONNAGES			
	January	February	March
MSW	23,520.60	22,545.87	24,551.22
C&D	1,401.68	2,272.45	4,306.66
Residual (Total)	1,077.43	1,142.20	2,013.20
Asbestos	0.00	26,385.00	39.19
Alternate Daily Cover	3,877.75	2,365.43	5,450.17
Sewage Sludge	606.15 (1.9%)	418.63 (1.4%)	662.12 (1.7%)
Out of State (Total)	18,233.13 (59.8%)	18,424.011 (64%)	21,156.80 (57.1%)
Recycle	6 (85.71%)	7 (87.5%)	4 (80%)

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	Spent Activated Carbon	1/4/2023
*Whitehall Coplay School District	Contaminated Soil	1/10/2023
~Rockland Green	Sewage Sludge	1/24/2023
~Lehigh Univ.	Asbestos-Containing Material	1/31/2023
~LVI Airport	Asbestos-Containing Material	1/31/2023
*Semmel Excavating Inc.	Contaminated Soil	2/7/2023
~Reeb Millwork	Plant Trash	2/28/2023
*Semmel Excavating Inc.	Contaminated Soil	2/28/2023
~RR Donnelley	Plant Trash	3/14/2023
*CP VII 78th ST OWNER LLC	Contaminated Soil	3/20/2023
*Semmel Excavating Inc.	Contaminated Soil	3/27/2023
~AERC COM INC	Glass Waste (Cullet)	3/28/2023

Footnote:

*Completed Disposal of Waste Stream

~Existing Waste Stream Extension

#Approved but did not dispose at Bethlehem

Landfill Committee Minutes
April 27, 2023

Astor reviewed the Annual Groundwater Trend Analysis – 1QTR sampling event was scheduled from 02/27/23-02/28/23. Astor referenced correspondence and noted the Odor Complaint Log that the DEP shared with them that was updated last on March 14, 2023.

Astor noted there were seven DEP inspections conducted on various dates for Landfill Operations. Host Municipal Inspections were also conducted by Scott Brown on seven different dates.

The following Commercial Waste Vehicles were reviewed:

	<u>January</u>	<u>February</u>	<u>March</u>
Total # Trucks	2,416	2,286	2,902
	<u>January</u>	<u>February</u>	<u>March</u>
Overweight	46	51	56
Warnings	42	48	48
Suspensions	15	14	14

Flare Operations and Gas Collection: The January Average Flare Flow: 2,457 SCFM, February Average Flare Flow: 3,109 SCFM, March Average Flare Flow: 3,297 SCFM.

The down time for January was 0 hours for a total run time of 744 hours.

Down time in February was 19 hours and 30 minutes out of a total runtime of 672 hours. Five hours and 38 minutes of those hours was for flare repairs/maintenance. Thirteen hours and 52 minutes was due to onsite construction.

Down time for March was 13 hours and 57 minutes out of a total runtime of 744 hours. All downtime was for flare maintenance.

No repairs were needed to the North Slope Road.

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.

Radiation Monitoring: January: 0 radioactive loads. February: 1 radioactive load, one Tc-99m (Technecium-99m) disposed on site and reported. March: 5 radioactive loads detected, 1 Ga-67 (Gallium-67), 1 Tc-99m, 2 I-131 (Iodine-131), and 1 Iu-111 (Indium-111). All disposed on site and reported.

They continue to work in the Southeastern Realignment. Cell 2-AB Phase II.

Odor Complaint Log is attached, and the Leachate and abatement numbers are also attached.

Haz asked Astor how they explain the flare operation, the flow changing from January to March. Cody replied that they replaced burner tips on the flare stack, and they had blockages in the tips themselves which gave back pressure in reducing the flow. They were replaced in early February. Haz added so that improved operation, improved flow? Cody replied correct.

Landfill Committee Minutes
April 27, 2023

Haz asked if they can review the Odor Complaint log. Haz asked if they changed operation or anything because he is seeing a lot of complaints in the last three months. Astor said they are doing the same thing, and they have had some gas issues over on Applebutter side, which they have been working on as they still work on the Southeastern Realignment area. They have been installing new wells and added a gas collection to the leachate cleanouts, which was again, as a new cell, so as they are building, that is normal operation. Some of those repairs have helped remedy that in the meantime. Has asked if the landfill gets copied on the complaints? Astor said they do not get copied on all of them, Astor said that he has spoken with Matt from DEP and asked him to let them know, and sometimes they let Astor know and sometimes they don't. It could be the next day or hours later.

Haz asked when there is a complaint, and if the landfill doesn't know about, how do they assess it? Astor said if they are notified, then they would investigate it. Haz asked if they have any of those that were investigated in the log and what the outcome was? Astor said most of those will be in the inspection report from DEP. When the landfill receives the inspection report from Matt, he will have his investigation and then any correspondence with the landfill that they have investigated. Astor said the log attached is what they get from DEP once a month.

Jason noted that it appears several of the addresses included in the report appear to be a number of the same streets, although there are no house numbers. He noted: Jefferson Ave., Saucon Ave., and there may be some duplicates or repeat complainers. He also thinks there is some heightened attention because of the conditional use hearing that is currently taking place, and the application that the landfill submitted to the Township. He isn't saying they are not necessarily legitimate complaints but there may be some other motives behind some of them. He also noted that the most number of complaints occurred on March 17th, so he isn't sure if more people were outside on this day because there were six on this day. Every other multiple is either two or three. Astor noted that all complaints that come through are taken seriously and investigate them all. Jason said he wasn't suggesting they don't. Haz added that there doesn't seem to be consistency with the wind direction, but if most of the complaints have the same wind direction, you think there is some sort of correlation, but it's all over. Haz asked if they use the misters. Astor said yes. Haz asked if they are being used now. Astor said yes, they have installed a new system on the Southeastern Realignment side, and that is running all the time. Mark asked if the misters have been running since the winter shutdown? Astor said yes, that was part of the vapor system that they installed so it could run during the winter.

Scott Brown added that as far as odors, it would be the burner tips that were on order since November, so the gas flows had been lower and the had noted it in the inspection report, it was low. Fortunately, they were able to get those in in the beginning of February, and gas flows up so that should help with some of the offsite odors that may be getting out. Scott said as Astor also mentioned the gas wells and collection lines around the perimeter of the active working area, the whole cell, but then they also did a 10-ft fluff layer over the rest of the stones, there may have been possible migration through the stone protective cover so they went ahead and did that even though they weren't disposing in that area for a little while yet. Astor said correct, just if there was gas coming from that stone, they were trying to block it off.

Jason noted the overweight trucks seem to tick up a little bit from January through March. He asked Astor if there was anything attributed to this. Jason noted he sees the tonnage went up too, so it may correlate to the total tonnage. Astor said he thinks that what it is, and there are also a lot of driver turnover, so this is them learning the rules too as they start bringing in the construction projects. Jasons said he doesn't necessarily think the numbers are out of line from historical averages, there is not a major jump, he just noticed they went up 5 and then again another 5.

Scott Brown added most of his inspections were routine. They have picked up their observation of the North perimeter access road. They are now doing that twice a month now, they are keeping a closer eye on it. The litter crews are out and picking the fence and there is more temporary fence up on the north side, east side, and the south side, so it looks like they are making every attempt to try to control the litter the best they can as it is

Landfill Committee Minutes
April 27, 2023

windy on top of the mountain. Storm water controls seem to be okay. Access roads were in good shape. During his inspections, he has seen the sweeper onsite and offsite, so they are trying to take care of the road conditions the best they can with active trucks going in and out. The truck wash is always running, it was down maybe three months ago for some maintenance but that was it. It is always running every other time.

Jason had a question unrelated to the report necessarily. He noted there was bad flooding here close to the Township building about two weeks ago. Some bad storms came in on Saturday, and he asked if they had any major problems with any washouts. Astor said no, they had some minor washouts, but that has all been fixed. Jason also noted they received the April 17, 2023 letter from DEP regarding the Northern Realignment, and they approved the application. There are a number of conditions that are set forth in there, final capping, sediment basin, groundwater supply sampling and monitoring, various safety features and continue to use the Form U's. Those are all consistent with how you are currently operating, correct? There is nothing new that is in there necessarily? Astor replied, no there is really nothing. Some of the conditions are with the surface emission monitoring, this is something they are adding to all the landfills as they go in for permits. They added that to Chrin, Keystone, now to them, and the landfills that come in after them. It is the DEP upping the standard on how they want landfills managed, and those conditions are things they are currently working on or already have in place. Jason said he would not expect the DEP would give you the Northern Realignment if the landfill was violating all their regulations and creating problems. Astor agreed.

Haz mentioned surface emission monitoring, he asked if they are doing this routinely. Astor said yes, monthly now. Haz asked if they were having any difficulties with any areas not passing? Do you need to go back and do anything? Astor said they define the deficiencies and repair them. When they find exceedances, they do the proper.....yes, correct. Haz asked if it was taken care of by adding more points or just fixing your recovery system or a combination? Astor said generally it is that particular location, but if it's around a wellhead, they may put bentonite around it, compact it in, add more soil if it's a cover issue. A lot of time, they are around the wellheads themselves, it is just a matter of making a repair to that wellhead or around it. Haz asked about the quarterly ground monitoring that you do, we don't see the data here, but he asked if everything is historically consistent, is there anything that you have any concerns about? Cody said he hasn't seen anything from the reporting, and if there was anything over the limits they would be notified, and they have not received anything from their third parties on this so everything is normal.

Jason said the minutes from the last meeting are enclosed and asked if there were any edits. None were heard, Jason made a motion to approve minutes. Second by Haz.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Donna Louder: She noted there were complaints from the road she lives on, but she did not call in any of them and she wanted that noted. Jason asked if she has odor problems at her house, and Donna said she has not had anything recently. She had one event and she didn't call the DEP because it kind of wasn't really landfill, but it was landfill. She called Astor right away, and he came over immediately, and basically, she was leaving her property and walking up Johnston and the odor seemed to have gotten stronger. She said Astor was in the area and ironically so was DEP, and they didn't find anything that was part of the landfill so she doesn't know what it was or where it came from. With that being said, she knows there is trash going through on the trains, and she would absolutely love is someone would contact Norfolk Southern and ask them what they are hauling and why isn't it contained? She sees things on Riverside, and she hasn't seen complaints on Riverside. She has been doing this since 2013, and she hasn't seen people on Riverside complaining, and now she is seeing a lot from Riverside. Jason interjected and said that train isn't related to the landfill, so that is an issue she should direct to Mark, Township Manager, and email him and he can look into it and update them at the next council meeting as to her complaint and what his follow-up is on it. Donna said she will do that.

Donna noted the report shows the flare was down for 19 hour and 30 minutes, if you refer to the complaint log, the only complaint with a gas odor complaint was on February 12th, does this correlate? Everything else was

Landfill Committee Minutes
April 27, 2023

trash odor problems. Cody said he would have to check because he does not have the actual days of when it was down. The 3rd party reports each month how many hours, the malfunction, and then Cody reports that. Donna asked if the dates can be added when the flare is down, and Cody and Astor said they can add it. Donna said if she looks at March, there was 13 hours and 57 minutes of the flare being down, March 3rd, 17th which seems to be a good day, 21st, 23rd, 27th, and the 28th all mention gas odors. These are drive-bys, which she doesn't know how they have an address for Steel City when it is a drive by, because they are not in Steel City when they are smelling it – she doesn't know. She is questioning validity. The bottom line is, this landfill, and she is not standing up for the landfill because she fought this landfill, and Haz, you know how hard I fought it since 2013, but the operational standards have taken a huge turn for the better. There were two management teams that were ousted before we got Astor in, and it was because of the terrible, terrible. Operational standards. Yours are good, but you don't have the A+ yet, just because she doesn't like the sludge being taken in, and that to her, is an odor issue. Just because it's a landfill, and it is destructive to our township. Donna said Sunday, there was a company that came in to work on the gas destruction that is going to be put in place, did that effect anything with the gas, flare or anything else? Cody said no, they were just running a line between their roadway to connect to the gas energy plant. There was a valve in place that the flare was running the entire day, they were just adding a section to that. Donna said she just wanted to know how it was connected. She just wanted to make sure that everybody who is complaining, that complaints are valid. She is not supporting the landfill; she is making sure that the operational standards of this landfill. She doesn't know how anyone is going to make 275 acres of a landfill disappear overnight by bitching; excuse her language.

Ann Marie Crown: She wanted to mention to Mr. Lawrence (she was directing this to Astor Lawson) that she attended all of the hearings, and she thought you were absolutely the most forthright witness that appeared as an expert. She understood everything he said, and you were very forthright with your answer, and she thanks him for that. She has two questions, and one is to learn more information that she has not been able to prove one way or another in all of her own research. When at the last hearing, the odor was discussed. Mr. Banonis interrupted her and reminded her that this is the Landfill Committee Meeting; this is not an accessory or auxiliary to the Conditional Use Hearing, and this isn't going to be used for this purpose; if you have questions about the Conditional Use Hearing and what is taking place there, that's the venue for those questions. This meeting is to discuss landfill operations as they were historically for the past three quarters. If you have questions relating to that and this report, feel free. Ann asked wouldn't odor be one of those? Mr. Banonis said it may be, but she had mentioned the Conditional Use Hearing and he is just cautioning we don't want to turn this into a secondary conditional use hearing. Ann said she only mentioned it as a compliment to Mr. Lawson; that was her only intention. Mr. Banonis said he appreciates that. Ann said when odor is discussed at the hearing, it is discussed around methane, which is an odorless gas, but she believes they were talking about an additive to it that helps you do something, perhaps test leakage, she doesn't know. What confused her about methane was, she said she guesses she can't say this because she heard it at one of the hearings. Mr. Banonis added that the meeting is for cross examination of these folks. Ann said she isn't trying to cross examine, she just thought there was a difference between methane and sulfur and that is the only way she learned about it was at the hearing. She won't challenge the meeting here; it is not her intention. Mr. Banonis thanked her.

Lynn Hill: As far as the alternate daily cover (ADC), what are you using these days for the daily cover? Astor replied they have the approved ADC from the DEP, so we still use the tarps, a foam, and there are a couple different waste streams that come in that are approved as ADC, and dirt – clean fill. Lynn referred to the DEP inspection reports and if they are on the Township website. Mr. Banonis said yes, and referred her to the Township Manager or office for the information. Lynn asked if they were still happening 2x/month. Scott Brown added that the Hanover Engineering Assoc. inspections are 2x/month as the Township Inspector. Mark added that the DEP shows up when they want, and sometimes it could be 2x/month. Astor added that as of late, he said the enforcement has been pretty regular with once a month and Matt Glogowksi, who is engineering, and he comes out once a month. Lynn asked where to find them on the Township website. Donna offered to show her how to access them. Mark added that they are on the website. Lynn asked if the odor complaint logs are with them, the DEP ones included with the report. She asked if it was the same data that is

Landfill Committee Minutes
April 27, 2023

attached to the packet. Astor said he gets the odor complaint from the DEP and Lynn said okay, it's the same. Astro said and their inspection reports you can find their findings when they do their investigations. If the DEP reached out to the landfill, and the landfill does their investigations, there is usually correspondence/email that they will add to those inspection reports. Lynn referred to the groundwater sampling analysis, are those results sent to the township as well? Astor said when that report is submitted to the DEP, they also submit to the township. Lynn asked is those are available to download on their website. Haz said the DEP would have them, you can get them from the DEP. Lynn said they mentioned some gas issues on the southside, she guesses the Applebutter Rd. side, Astor said yes. Lynn asked if he can elaborate on this about what they are doing to mitigate those odors? Astor said the main thing they have done is added collection lines to that area, again as they are coming above the road, because, when they constructed the landfill, they start in the bottom of the cell and work their way up. So it is coming above where they had the road now, they are starting to add horizontal gas wells, and there are also leachate cleanouts which, in that area where they build the MS well, they are basically piggybacking on top of old waste so they attach collection lines to the leachate cleanouts to help get any gas, now that we are putting weight on that, is pushing gas from the old landfill out and trying to collect that. These are the things they are doing, and they have had positive results since they have been doing this. Lynn replied, good. She said the old landfill he is talking about, is that unlined, that portion on the south? Astor said there are portions of the old landfill that are unlined, and that section would be unlined because they had to line on top of the old trash. Lynn asked if they had a single liner on top of an unlined area on that section? Scott B. answered and said no, there are some unlined in there and everything they have built and are disposing in are all double lined. Lynn said so it is only a single liner on the northern side where they are having the Northern Realignment, that's an unlined area with a single liner on top and you are putting a piggyback on top? Astor said, yes there are sections we're filling on top of that, they have no liner from the old landfill. But again, anything we construct moving forward will have a liner, the double liner system. Lynn said you mentioned something about gas coming through stones? Astor said they are building on, the Southeastern Realignment, we are piggybacking on part of that old landfill. And so, the way that you do it, is you do the double liner, do all of your stuff and then there is a stone layer so the leachate can percolate through to get the leachate collection system. As that is uncovered, he thinks as they were putting waste down, their thought was gas was coming out of that stone which is why they covered it up, which also seemed to help in that area for the gas odors they were having.

Mark Ozimek: He said he spent 45 minutes on the phone with DEP inspector. They discussed the Applebutter Road issue because he is the one that calls in when he goes to work. Jason asked him what the issue was he was talking about on Applebutter Road. Mark replied the smell, we are here about the landfill, right? Jason said he didn't know if he was talking about smell or dirt or what he was talking about, he just wanted to be clear. Mark said when you go down Applebutter Road and you get to the self-storage units, before and after the units, probably to the entrance, there has been a smell problem over there. It has been going on for a long time. He called last week; he didn't write the dates down because he was driving. He gives his address as Reddington Road, so when you see that, it probably is him because he isn't sure how they keep their records over there. Mark said you said that you did some gas line work? Astor said yes, and Mark said you said if it wasn't resolving the problems, you were going to further work on it, like try to cover it up more and if it didn't get rid of it, maybe have to re-dig it and redo it, but that is what he talked to him about yesterday and that is what he informed Mark.

Allan Johnson: Earlier in your discussion, you mentioned that they put a line under Applebutter Road to connect to another gas line? Cody, said no, it wasn't Applebutter. It is an onsite road; it is their exit road onsite. Allan asked what project that is part of? Cody said that is the Archaea Power Plant. Astor clarified what they do. He said they take the landfill gas, clean it, and they put it back in the system through UGI or into the Transcontinental Pipeline to be sold to people in their homes. Allan asked how that is coming along, and if the township had drawings and correspondence on this project? Mark said it was approved a while ago. Allan asked if they had documentations and drawings, and Mark said yes. Allan said in other words, the facility is going to be on the landfill's property, they are going to clean up the gas, and compress it and inject into either the Calpine's feed or what other feed? Astor said either UGI or Transcontinental pipeline. Allan

Landfill Committee Minutes
April 27, 2023

asked where is the Transcontinental Pipeline? Astor said it runs through Lower Saucon over Sherry Hill and Bethlehem Township. Allan said that could be pretty long gas line that they are installing? Astor said no, it is already there. The Transcontinental line that is there already exists. Allan said he meant the gas line from the landfill facility to the Transcontinental pipe gas line. Mark said they are not far apart. Astor said they are not that far.....Allan said you are going to be installing the line to take your gas and deliver it to the Transcontinental pipeline, right? Astor said correct. Allan asked how far away is that? Astor said, a straight line, he doesn't know the exact, but he would have to say less than a half of a mile. Allan asked if that work is being done by a construction company or a company that is familiar with handling natural gas. Astor said yes. Jason added that this came before council or zoning; he doesn't remember which one it was. Allan said it was a long time ago.....Jason said they came in with their engineers and their plans and showed exactly what they were proposing, so all of that is public record. It would either be in Council minutes several years ago, or it was before Zoning when he was on that board, but he remembers seeing the plans and having the presentation on it and it is actually quite impressive because right now, the gas that is on the property it is essentially just burned off. Whereas now they can take the gas, crack it, and take roughly 50% of it he thinks, and put it into the gas line system to power something like 25,000 homes he thinks it is for heating and cooking like regular natural gas would be used. Allan said so they will clean it up so it is clean enough to burn in the either Calpine's turbines or inject it right into the natural gas system. Allan asked how that job is coming along, how far along are they? Astor said they are looking to have it complete with the construction of that by the end of June this year. Allan said he noticed that the landfill corporation bought the old oil tanks known as the Gilbert Terminal Oil Tanks, Astor said correct. Allan asked if they were planning on storing gas in those oil tanks. Astor said no. Allan asked what they bought them for? Astor said they bought the property. Allan said 8.5 million dollars for the property, for 12 acres. Astor said yes. Allan said you must have wanted it pretty bad. Astor said he believes it was more than 12 acres. Allan said he would like to look at those drawings and stuff and maybe put them online. Have someone dig them out and correspondence as he would like to refresh his memory on what they were planning on doing.

The meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m. The next meeting is July 20, 2023 @ 5:00 p.m.