

Bethlehem Landfill Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, October 19, 2023
 Time: 1:03 p.m.
 Location: Lower Saucon Township

Attendance: **Bethlehem Landfill**: Astor Lawson; **Hanover Engineering**: Scott Brown; **Staff Members**: Mark Hudson and Stacy Werkheiser; **Council Liaison**: Jason Banonis; **Members**: Hazem Hijazi and Zachary Mikuta.

Cody White reviewed the Monthly Tonnages below:

MONTHLY TONNAGES			
	July	August	September
MSW	27,559.90	27,70072	25,877.36
C&D	3,011.69	2,443.04	1,531.34
Residual (Total)	2,248.30	1,175.03	993.67
Asbestos	12.01	8.5	.20
Alternate Daily Cover	2,737.84	5,220.75	3,643.23
Sewage Sludge	613.33 (1.6%)	780.94 (2.1%)	742.14 (2.3%)
Out of State (Total)	23,172.13 (64%)	24,645.47 (66%)	22,102.44 (67%)
Recycle	10 (80%)	7 (85.70%)	6 (83.33%)

Cody reviewed the Form U Submittals that were approved below.

Form U Submittals	Waste	Dates
Assai Energy LLC	Surface Coatings	7/03/2023
Assai Energy LLC	Spent Carbon	7/03/2023
Assai Energy LLC	Spent Carbon	7/05/2023
Glencrest Reality	Contaminated Soil	7/07/2023
Ecoservices LLC	Asbestos	7/07/2023
Archaea Holdings LLC	Spent Carbon	7/18/2023
Progreen MGMT LLC	Asbestos	7/18/2023
Ecoservices LLC	Asbestos	7/25/2023
Assai Energy LLC	Spent Carbon	7/25/2023
Village of Monticello WWTP	Sewage Sludge	7/25/2023
Ecoservices LLC	Contaminated Soil	8/03/2023
Capitol Env Svc INC	Contaminated Soil	8/07/2023
CCAN LLC	Contaminated Soil	8/10/2023
Victaulic Forks Facility	Contaminated Soil	8/22/2023
NYC School Construction	Asbestos	9/05/2023
RR Donnelley	Paper, Cardboard, Laminated Paper	9/27/2023
Progreen MGMT LLC	Asbestos	9/28/2023
Active DSPL SVC LLC	Asbestos	9/29/2023

Annual Groundwater Trend Analysis – The 3Q sampling event was scheduled for 8/14 & 8/18 in August.

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Correspondence and Reports –

June: 2022 Annual Operations Report from Martin and Martin
July 25, 2023: Annual Groundwater Monitoring Trend Analysis for 2022
July 25, 2023: Annual IMS Report

Landfill Operations –

DEP Inspections: Matt Vipond from Engineering on 7/12, Matt Glogowski from Engineering on 7/26, 8/16 and 9/20. Matt Vipond was out again on 8/16, 8/21, 9/20 and 9/27.

Host Municipal Inspections – Scott Brown was out on 7/06, 7/25, 8/3, 8/17, 9/7, and 9/21.

Commercial Waste Vehicles were reviewed:

	<u>July</u>	<u>August</u>	<u>September</u>
Total # Trucks	2,825	2,971	2,554
	<u>July</u>	<u>August</u>	<u>September</u>
Overweight	85	86	63
Warnings	52	45	33
Suspensions	33	41	30

Flare Operations and Gas Collection:

July Average Flare Flow – 3,814 SCFM,
August Average Flare Flow – 3,547 SCFM
September Average Flare Flow – 3,605 SCFM.

North Slope Road: In this report, he noticed this was incorrect. With some of those storms, there were some damages to the North Slope Road, but they have all been repaired, just erosion from water.

The abatement system continues to work as operated as well as the leachate collection system.

Radiation Monitoring - Radiation loads were as followed:

July 18: a load was identified as Tc-99m (Technecium-99m) and was disposed on site.
July 27: another load was identified as Tc-99m (Technecium-99m) and was disposed on site.
August 10: a load was identified as Tc-99m (Technecium-99m) and was disposed on site.

SE Realignment Construction Activities:

Waste operations continue to happen in the SE-2AB Phase I.

Complaints received by Waste Connections are attached on the back for the year.

Jason asked Scott if he had anything to add. Scott said the only odor it had along Applebutter Road was out by the Wastewater Treatment Plant; one pass by and there was a very slight odor by the self-storage area, and they are also filling down in that area, you can see it from Applebutter Road, there is waste right there that they are actively working on right now. North Slope Road, like Astor said, there is a lot of damage up there and right now the road is repaired, the fence was damaged from a lot of the damaged trees, and they are getting estimates together now to fix that. It is not affecting anybody from being able to access the North Road or to get to the wells. He doesn't see this as a major issue. The roads are being washed, and the were again today when he went by. The internal parking lot is being cleaned and there was no dust whatsoever there. Some of the gas odor wasn't as noticeable today at the active phase as it was the past few times.

Two of the leachate seeps that he noted in the last inspection report were repaired when he went out today.

Jason said he noticed on the odor report for this quarter, July/August/September 2023, there were only 3 complaints made during that entire 90-day period. Two of them from the same address on Saucon Ave. in Steel City and another one was on Ringhoffer Road, there are a lot people outside in the summer months and you would expect there would be more complaints in that period of time. In fact, over time, it looks like the odor complaints, continue to trend downwards and that is a great sign.

Haz said he doesn't see any odor complaints for September. Astor said there have been complaints that they have received over the phone, but they submit what DEP give them. Astor said a lot the stuff, they don't hear about until later even with the DEP. We submit what they receive from Amy at DEP.

Haz asked if the low temperature alarm on the flare was by any chance related to methane flow. Astor said Cody would be better to answer that than he, but he knows there was a couple of times, they received a lot of water this year, that water would get in the system and then it would shut down the flare and they would have to restart it, but it was nothing major.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Victoria Opthof-Cordaro: She wants to highlight some things that she has heard a couple time in this committee. One is a repeated discussion about the odor complaint logs and the trending of the logs, and highlighting when the log numbers go down. Her own discussion with the DEP indicates that there is a complaint manager in the DEP that resigned or moved onto a different position in March, so any complaints that went to the DEP were collected, but there was nobody in the DEP to actually provide that information. There was also a secondary issue that the DEP, at this point in time, is unable to clarify that whether people that make odor complaints after hours and on weekend, that reporting system is different than the reporting system during the day. She said there is a left hand and a right hand and the last she spoke with the DEP, they were unable to verify whether or not both departments had spoken to one another. She hopes this is something this committee looks into because she sees the committee relies heavily on the reporting from the DEP and it appears that the DEP reports are not accurate because they may include some reports from people on nights and weekend or may not. The other thing related to this is, she just pulled up the two DEP Municipal Solid Waste Inspection Reports, and she thinks the most recent one in September, it says since the August 21st inspection, BLC has received 24 odor complaints, so the reporting that is by the DEP inspector is not exactly what shows up in the DEP log, and again that verifies the issue that they don't know what complaints the DEP is receiving, who it is going to, and how it is being collected at this point in time. She is hopeful that the Township, as a proactive measure to protect its residents, could send a letter to the DEP asking them to audit their complaints from various departments, the one that reports the emergency phone calls on night and weekend and the one that does the day reporting and perhaps what the landfill receives itself from people that call in complaints and verify that the information is accurate, especially if this committee is making a representation that there is somehow great decrease in odor complaints and using that, it appears to be, that we have great operations. She hopes that we have great operations; she isn't saying they don't, but she thinks that the reliance on a DEP odor complaint at this point in time, just in review of what was provided in today's report in comparison to the DEP inspection report received on October 11th, is greatly varying. We are not talking by 1 or 2; 24 odor complaints in the last month alone is a lot different than what is on that report.

Astor added that they didn't give them Septembers yet. He said it probably correct what they have in there but the one they sent over to them goes to August. He said that is why he commented, he knows they have the complaints because Matt has been reaching out to him. Victoria thanked him.

Victoria said the other thing she wanted to highlight that she didn't hear discussed is in the last two DEP reports, the DEP has highlighted certain things. The inspector, Mr. Hubert, drove to the southeast corner of the landfill, strong odors were detected, a leachate seep was being repaired close to the corner, excavated waste was observed being dredged, and strong odors were detected. Mr. Hubert stated that the seep's repair

had been occurring and that more repairs would be needed as additional seeps. The area that had been repaired the day of September 20th inspection showed additional erosion. That is a concern. She appreciates that they are trying to address it, and she is sure you are. It seems like there is a perpetual issue with the specific location that anytime there is a rain event, there is additional erosion and additional odors. She guesses there is corrective action that they had in place or they were trying to put in place. Again, revealed slight odor on 9/21 during their drive by. The report, she believes, before that, in their summary which she believes as a resident, she should not be providing this; she thinks the Township should, but she will provide it because she didn't hear it. On September 20th, they conducted a complete inspection, they conducted an odor patrol, drove to the southeast corner where odors have been occurring. The portable mister and vapor were both in operation but strong landfill gas odors were detected in the area. She thinks this is another issue that we have. We have the odor misters and she knows that they were a relatively recent addition. Some of them that would go all year round, but there is still a very strong odor with the misters going. The inspector stated that the odors have been worse in the last several weeks due to erosions and slopes and inquired about the timeline for additional soil cover. Here, it says they were considering capping the entire area to minimize offsite odors. She asked if they have ruled that out or if they are still considering that potential to address this. Astor replied that they are still considering that and are waiting to.... they have added four gas wells in that area to try to extract the gas out of there, and they talked to a contractor today about adding two more horizontal wells. They wouldn't want to put the capping in until they get all the wells in that they need. In the meantime, they are making steps, and getting contractors to one, change the grading of the water. He is meeting with the Gerharts to put erosion blankets down to help with erosion in that area, and continue to fix the seeps and try and get the gas out of there, but yes, the capping is still an option for that area. Victoria said she knows this is a quarterly report so they go back to July; was the erosion issue in July? Astor said yes, with a lot of the rain storms, they had a couple very heavy ones that did cause quite a bit of erosion. They fix it, it would come back, they fix it, it would come back. Victoria asked if the issue happened in June too, or was there a difference with the big storm that took place in July? Astor said just over the summer, two storms alone were; one was a 200-year storm and one was a 500-year storm. Both caused quite a bit of damage. Victoria asked when the 200-year storm was? Astor said he would have to check his records; he doesn't want to give her an arbitrary date. Victoria was curious if it was before or after the July storm. Astor said he thinks one was at the end of June and one was in July; they have had a couple hard rains there. Victoria said it says significant reeling on several slopes and a large washout was observed, the inspector asked how long the washout had been there, and Mr. White had stated that it had gotten worse due to a rain on September 17th. She knows they have had some rains in September but she doesn't think any of those rains were categorized of normal amount of rain. It seems like they are getting erosion issues in that section irrespective of whether it is a 200- or 500-year storm. Astor said that particular spot they were talking about was a haul road for the haul truck going up the slope to take....he said they try to prioritize the certain areas around the site to get to first before.....so that was a haul road over a capped area. They were getting to it, but when it rains, if it isn't fixed yet, it will get worse until they can get there to fix it. So once they fixed it now, after this last rain over the weekend, it held up fine. Victoria said she thinks in August, and maybe the letter came out in September, was there a Notice of Violation (NOV) issues against Bethlehem Landfill for some reporting concerns. Astor said nothing was formally issued to them, but it was marked in the report, and that really just came down to, he was in and out, and there were people doing the inspections. What she talked about with the erosion roads, they weren't being documented on the inspection; they were doing the repairs on the seeps, and that is what he saw. He looked at the report and seeing the report not showing anything and he wants us to show it on there. The other part of it was there was confusion in house between when the Northern Realignment permit starts; whether it starts when the trash is going in the hole or when they received it. They wanted them to update their inspection reports from what they had before; they didn't feel like they were documenting enough from what was in the Northern Realignment permit, or what they had asked of them, they were still doing the old inspection reports. These two things is what marked as violation in the inspection report. Victoria asked what the status of that NOV? She thought there was a formal letter issued recently for that inspection concern identified in the report from August. Astor said if there was, he has not received it. Victoria said just so she is clear, she thinks that report indicated that there should be daily odor monitoring and she thinks a couple other daily monitoring that there were not logs of. What is the landfill's position on

their requirement to do the daily monitoring. Astor said they train the people; they were not doing the odor patrols on Saturdays, which they have never done but he guesses it is part of the NR, they want the landfill to do odor patrols on Saturdays, so now they have two people trained on Saturdays to do those odor patrols. Victoria said she thinks there was a different log also; something with stormwater that you had to keep daily logs of that too? Astor said yes, they have daily and weekly inspections and then there is post rain event storm inspections as well as the odor patrol inspections. There is a lot of paperwork that they are filling out. Victoria asked if as of now, if they are doing the odor inspections daily. Astor said, yes, as he said, they trained people to do the on Saturdays so Saturdays are covered. Victoria asked if there were any other days they were missing. Astor said there were probably some one-offs here and there. Victoria asked who at the landfill does them, because you had said that he was out for a while. Astor said he has Elise, Rob, Matt, Cody and Kyle. Victoria said during these odor patrols that they have done this last month; she knows that DEP indicated there were 24 odor complaints; have you found any odors when you have done these patrols. Astor said yes, most of time, the odors he experiences are usually near Applebutter and Ringhoffer, near the storage houses, in between Severn's property, and the other day he did catch some garbage odor up on the top of Sherry Hill. Victoria said, by Sherry Hill by Route 78. Astor said yes, at the top of the hill. Victoria asked if he knew how many times they detected odors in the last month. Astor said he would have to have the reports in front of him to count them; he doesn't want to throw a random number out. Victoria asked if they provide those reports to the Township. Astor said no, nobody has asked them for them and DEP looks at them and you are more than welcome to come look at them. Astor said she has been to the site before and he has given her tours. That stuff is available if anyone wants to come and look at it. Victoria said okay. Along with this odor complaint log, and again, the repeated indications that the odors are great, or should she say, that there aren't that many odor complaints so everything is going great. She thinks, and would hope this Committee makes a recommendation to Council to require or request that the landfill provide their own daily routine inspection report to the Township, and that this Committee can actually include those or review those in making recommendations or discussing the landfill operations. Sitting here today, we are trying to determine how to better improve the landfill and make it a community partner, but if they don't have the information in front of them, how can they possibly make information to the public and how can they possibly make recommendations that are helpful. It seems between the DEP and them, she guesses the reports the landfill keeps itself; we don't have any of those. From the Township's perspective, it seems like we are tying our hands behind our back, and then coming to a committee meeting and saying everything looks great. She is hopeful that they can have more sharing and open communication with that. Victoria asked if the landfill has any problem sharing that information with the Township. Astor said, again, the binders are there and you are talking about sending over hundreds of pages of material. The stuff is at the site, and she is more than welcome to come look at it if you want to see it. Victoria said you said you do it every day, and we have meeting and you provide monthly reports on everything else, would it be that hard to send over the last month's reports that they did so it's an ongoing.... Astor said, they do the reports for the quarter and that is about 70 pages worth of material. He said he doesn't personally see the benefit, but if you want to see if, you can come and look at it. Victoria said okay, the committee hears that he does not see the benefit of providing us with the odor logs that indicate different odor complaints. Astor said if he showed you the odor complaint, what options are you going to give to him to fix it. Victoria said her options are going to be let's look at what cover you are using, what monitoring you are doing, how quickly you are getting that stuff repaired, but without that information, this committee can't review it. You are saying it won't provide benefit, but why do we have the DEP odor logs? To her that doesn't make a lot of sense. She isn't going to go on any further because she respects his information and his candid response. Victoria said the other thing, she said she is going to move on from the odor complaints because she thinks they have covered that. Jason asked if she can wrap up her comments because she has been going on for about 16-17 minutes and there are other people that would like to speak too.

Victoria said she appreciated that, but she wishes that they would have covered what is in your own reports. Victoria she said the last thing she would like to talk about is there was a big discussion about new PFAS collection system. She asked if the landfill was actually testing for PFAS as we stand here today. Astor said they did take samples before and after when they did the pilot for that, correct. Victoria asked when the pilot

was done. Astor said he believes it was in June. Victoria said she reached out to the City of Bethlehem who she believes they are required to provide all of their water testing report to, and as of September 7th, the City of Bethlehem says “to the best of their knowledge, the LEEF PFAS Treatment System has not been installed yet at the Landfill. They submitted an application to the DEP in August”, so you must have done some testing before you even applied for a DEP application. Victoria went on say, “we are supportive of the landfill’s proactive efforts”. She said she is supportive of it, but she thinks the landfill committee should consider, if you are going to ask to PFAS testing, you need to know what the baseline shows. Astor said, right, and they did that when they did the pilot so they knew where they were at, because obviously before they committed to this technology, they wanted to be sure it worked. So they did the pilot and then they saw the result afterward on the pilot. Victoria asked if the landfill was willing to provide that result to the Township and the City of Bethlehem. Astor said he would have to check with legal before he makes the decision. Victoria said she thinks this is another thing she thinks the committee should consider requesting from the Bethlehem Landfill, the results of their pilot testing because it would give, as she is sure the engineers and any scientist knows, a baseline indication of what kind of PFAS are in the leachate and how the PFAS system is intended to operate once it is operable. She hopes this committee can correct the statement from the last time that the PFAS Treatment system is up and operating because it is not. Astor said it is not, they just barely submitted for the modification with the DEP. That can’t be up and operating until they get approval from the DEP. Victoria said she thinks they are required to provide that to the City of Bethlehem. They said the City currently has no date on PFAS levels in the leachate. Astor said they have not requested that information from us for the PFAS, not formally. He said he knows the DEP is going around and taking samples from different sites for their PFAS. Victoria asked the DEP is? Astor said correct. Victoria said she doesn’t want to waste anybody’s more time with this information.

Jason said he wants to point something out as there was a glaring misstatement in the last comments; if you look at the odor log, the complaints that were registered in Q1 of this year were 62, Q2 was 26 or 27, which averages out to about 9 per month. Q3, for which we only have 3 reports over 2 months averages out to 1.5 per month. Very clearly it is trending from an average of about 20 per month to 9 per month to about 1.5 per month. He wanted to make that clear that it is actually improving based upon the data that they have.

Victoria said she is sorry she wants to respond because it was a response to her comment and she said that she glaringly misstated. Jason said he is not recognizing her. Victoria said she doesn’t care if he is not recognizing her, what she is telling them to do is that you are telling me that I am misrepresenting what the DEP has in their own reports, which is inappropriate. Use your DEP reports.

Jason said if you are not going to stand down and allow people to speak, ma’am you know what is inappropriate? When he was at a public meeting, and your husband stood up in front of Pastor Phil Spohn and gave him double-barrel middle fingers and said “FU, FU, FU” repeatedly, okay? And it wasn’t just FU, it was the full word. To conduct himself like that. Someone from audience asked what it had to do with this committee? Jason said it has a lot to do with it because he is being accused of what is being inappropriate; that is what is in appropriate.

Victoria said you just said I said something improper or I am misstated something. Jason said it’s incorrect, are you done?

Mr.Boulin said he would like to say something, you had your chance. He is a resident.

Victoria asked him if he was an officer of this Township? Are you a police officer? I am a resident too.

Jason said meeting adjourned. Jason and Mark both said Dave, and Mark asked everyone to sit down two times, and Jason said again meeting adjourned.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:32 p.m.