



April 16, 2020

Subject/Client: 2020 Brooks Road PLC # 1 Ref. No. 018235

From: Emily Gallant Tel: 226-606-8471

Venue/Date/ Time: Cayuga Firehall, March 4, 2020, 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Copies To: All attendees

Attendees: Tim Danyliw (TD) - Brooks Road Environmental (BRE) Absent:
Emily Gallant (EG) - Facilitator
Blair Shoniker (BS) – GHD
Sarah Shields (SS) - GHD
Michael Durst (MD) - Ministry of Environment, Conservation and
Parks, Hamilton District Office (MECP)
Taylor Buck (TB) - MECP
Dave Bruce (DB) - PLC Chair
Dave Glenney - PLC Member
Diane Manto (DM) - Member of Public
Doug Manto (DM) - Member of Public
Laurie Woolner (LW) - Member of Public
Dan Geary (DG) - Member of Public
Roy Quigley (RQ) - Member of Public
Charmaine Quigley (CQ) Member of Public
Alex Dennis (AD) - Member of Public
Chris Dennis (CD)- Member of Public
Victoria Fries (VF)- Member of Public
Kory Ross (KR)- Member of Public
John Young (JY) - Member of Public
Bill Stanger (BStanger)- Member of Public
Connie Rayner (CR)- Member of Public
Bev Richert (BR) - Member of Public
Cornelis VanGroningen (CV) - Member of Public
Deanna VanGroningen (DV) - Member of Public
Hazel Snyder (HS) - Member of Public
Clarence Snyder (CS) - Member of Public
Simon Wheeldon (SW) - Member of Public
Cathie Wheeldon (CW) - Member of Public
Charlene Pottruff (CP) - Member of Public
Kim Seaben (KS) - Member of Public
Tara Kivnder (TK)- Member of Public
Judy Voorde (JV) - Member of Public
Richard Clark (RC) - Member of Public
Cyndi Clark (CC) - Member of Public
John Metcalfe (JM) – Ward 2 Councillor



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Introductions

- EG explained her role as the Facilitator for the PLC Meeting.
- Introductions were made by all attendees, including their role and reason for attending the PLC Meeting.
- Emily handed out contact cards with the number to call if you have a complaint about the landfill and website address that public members can go to get more information about the landfill.
- EG explained the items on the Agenda for the PLC Meeting:
 - Incident Review/ Health and Safety
 - Communications Objectives
 - PLC Overview
 - Review of Previous Minutes from November 6, 2019
 - Site Update (to be completed by TD)
 - Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Park (MECP) Update
 - Site Approvals (to be completed by BS)
 - Public Deputation Requests
 - Other Business and Next Meeting
- EG asked all public members to hold their questions until the time allotted for public deputations.

Incident Review/ Health and Safety

- In light of two incidents that occurred at the past two meetings, BS made it clear that verbal aggression would not be tolerated.
- A member of the Public asked for information on what the two incidents were so that everyone in attendance could be on the same page.
- EG responded stating that individuals expressed verbal aggression that is not acceptable and goes against both BRE's and GHD's health and safety policies. The individuals approached a member of the Project Team after the meeting in the dark parking lot showing signs of aggression. It was noted that no physical harm was caused but the behaviours expressed were unacceptable.
- EG stated that she would provide one warning to individuals if their behavior is not in line with the communication expectations of the PLC meetings, and if they continued to act inappropriately they would be asked to leave.

Communication Objectives

- EG explained the communication objectives for the PLC meetings which included:
 - Respectful two-way dialogue;
 - Constructive questions and answers;
 - Cognizant of everyone's time;
 - Considerate of everyone's opinion, respect viewpoints of everyone in the room;
 - Stay aligned with the agenda, begin and leave on-time;
 - Work together to address any concerns that the public may have; and
 - Leave the PLC meeting with a little more information than what you came in with.

PLC Overview

- BS stated that the PLC Meetings are a requirement of the approval and permit of the site (Environmental Compliance Approval (ECA) condition of approval) to convey information on landfill



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- operations to the community and for the PLC members to speak on behalf of the public and to raise any concerns they have or have heard from the community.
- BS noted that the PLC meetings are carried out in accordance with the PLC Terms of Reference (ToR), and that the PLC meetings are open to the public and held in a public setting. The PLC ToR is available on Brooks Road Environmental's (BRE's) website. He noted that the requirement can be amended from time to time to ensure the PLC meetings are fulfilling their objectives.
 - BS indicated that there was one spot open for a member of the community on the PLC and one spot open for a senior member of the Haldimand County staff.
 - BS clarified what the ToR was for people who were unaware and the main items that are covered in the ToR, which are PLC Membership representation, availability of documents, an outline of the operations of the PLC, finances, and amendments to the ToR.

Review of Previous Minutes from November 6, 2019

- EG passed the floor to BS to speak to the previous PLC meeting minutes from November 6, 2020.
- No comments were raised by the PLC members or MECF on the previous minutes.
- EG asked if there were any additional questions at this time on the minutes.
- DM asked about the Site fence line issues that she brought up at the last meeting and if they were addressed. EG responded asking her to hold her questions for the time allotted at the end of the meeting for public comments.

Site Update

- TD provided the Site update with details on what has happened since the last PLC meeting.
- TD provided an overview of the waste acceptance since the last PLC meeting, which was reduced to 20 to 30 tonnes from local businesses only due to the limited capacity left at the Site.
- From late December to the end of February hauling leachate off-site to WWTP at a rate of at 105 m³/day (5 days/week).
- Hauling leachate off-site was stopped as there is no more ponding on-site. However, there is a protocol in place if ponding were to occur again.
- Addition of 800 m³ temporary storage tanks.
- Leachate treatment improvements:
 - All 3 membrane cassettes have been replaced
 - Dissolved Air Flotation (DAF) unit fully commissioned
- Odour mitigation measures remain in place – additional clay cover application, odour control granules, and operation of misting system.
- Staff are on-site seven days a week however waste is only accepted five days a week.
- Treated effluent is hauled to the Haldimand Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) at a rate of 125 m³/day (5 days/week).
- The ECA approved continuous effluent discharge to the ditch at a rate of 45 m³/day (7 days/week).
- Leachate removal is required over a five year period as per the EA vertical expansion, but it is not anticipated that the full five years will be required.
- Due to the modifications to the on-site leachate treatment system, capacity for leachate treatment is improving.
- Leachate Treatment Plant upgrades in progress include:
 - Removal of calcium hardness in the leachate to extent membrane life span.
 - Optimization of the Dissolved Air Flotation (DAF) unit.
- Odour mitigation in progress includes:



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- Interim cover (300 mm layer clay) being installed in Stage 1 area followed by Stage 2. This will represent 2/3 of the landfill area when completed and will reduce odour and leachate generation. Extra equipment and operators have been added to expedite the work.
- Off-Site bench scale testing is underway on utilization of specific bacteria that reduce the odour producing compounds in leachate.
- Continue plan for removal of 170 m³ a day of effluent (125 m³/day hauled to the Haldimand WWTP and 45 m³ discharged to the ditch).
- The Leachate Treatment Plant will continue to be optimized to increase efficiency and capacity.
- The vertical expansion that was approved under the EA, was discussed – non- hazardous soils will be accepted. The goal will to be get as much as the Site possible under final cap by filling the landfill in a strategic way to cap the cell as it is filled. This will provide a barrier (600 mm clay/150 mm topsoil/vegetative cover) which will help reduce odour and leachate generation.
- Hauling of leachate to get level below approved limits
- Leachate level is 197.7 mAMSL, which is a 1.1 m drop in 50 days
- Summary of odour complaints:
 - 5 in November over 5 days
 - 9 in December over 7 days
 - 7 in January over 5 days
 - 4 in February over 3 days
- Numbers to call to make an odour complaint were provided.

Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks

- On December 6, 2019 the MECP inspector issued an Order to the Site to reduce landfill leachate levels by March 2, 2020 to 196.75 m AMSL which has not been met at the present time.
- Complaint line (for odour) is up and running.
- Vertical expansion EA approved, the Environmental Compliance Approval (ECA) under review
- Any questions to MECP send to TB and they will send to local branch.

Environmental Compliance and Approvals

- BS provided overview of ECA amendment, which is currently under review by the Ministry. He noted that without this approval additional waste cannot be accepted.
- ECA Amendment application with Design and Operations Report was submitted with various supporting documents around Air Quality/ Odour, Groundwater and Surface Water protection, Extreme Weather Events, etc.
- BS indicated that work has started on the EA Conditions of Approval, including the Compliance Monitoring Program.

Questions from the Public

- EG opened the floor to questions.
- (CP) Can you please explain dumping into the ditch? The material released smells. In response to the question TD provided an overview of the leachate treatment process and indicated that the treated leachate meets the MECP standards and that limited (if any) odours are associated with the treated leachate released into the ditch.
- It was indicated by a member of the public that the reason why the number of odour complaints are so low is because it takes so long to get a hold of anyone, so members of the community just give



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- up. MECP responded saying that this is the first they heard of any issues with the phone line and that they will follow-up on the item (*MECP Action Item*).
- (CQ) The water you dump into the ditch goes south to the river, polluting the river. MECP responded indicating that as a part of the ECA approval a number of reports were provided to the MECP to demonstrate no effects to the environment. At a discharge rate of 45 m³ a day there will be no effect to the river.
 - A follow-up question was asked about the effect of the precipitation (snow and rain), which MECP responded to confirming that snowmelt and rain volumes are taken into consideration when determining potential effects and acceptable discharge rate of treated leachate into the environment.
 - MECP also noted that the discharge to the ditch is not what is causing the odour that people smell. That odour is due to the leachate levels within the landfill.
 - (CQ) How often does MECP go to the Site? MECP confirmed they drive-by the site 3-5 times since the last PLC Meeting.
 - (BStanger) Can you vertically expand? Yes. TD responded that the material received would be used to help mitigate the odour as it will be non-hazardous soils and will be used to help close the Site.
 - (DM) Indicated that she lives directly south of the landfill and that she has called a number of times (including Dec 17, Jan 5, Feb 2, and March 1). She stated that the smell coming from the Site is awful and that the granules applied do not help. She said when she called the MECP they said it may be as a result of leachate being trucking off-site but that they could not confirm.
 - (VG) Lives very close to the landfill and stated that the odour never used to be this bad. They have their windows shut at night but you can still smell it. As such, she concluded that the smell must be coming from the groundwater. TD confirmed that the smell is not coming from the groundwater as there is a liner system in place to prevent any effects to the groundwater and there is monitoring required to confirm this. The monitoring on-site has not indicated any effects. It was again stated that the smell is due to the leachate levels that are built up at the Site. However, a significant amount of the leachate has been removed. BRE is looking of other ways to gain efficiencies to increase this number.
 - (KR) Asked that technical terms such as leachate and landfill liner be explained, as most people are not familiar with this terminology. BS defined the terms and explained the liner systems in place at the Site. For more information on what BRE accepts at the landfill and the controls in place at the Site, BS referred people to the EA Report that is available on the BRE website.
 - (KR) You asked people if they had any questions on the minutes but you did not provide a copy of them. BS stated that they were sent to PLC members as per the PLC ToR for their review and are posted on the Brooks Road website for the general public. A PLC member noted that hard copies of the minutes are usually made available at the meetings. Hard copies will be brought to the next meeting (*Action Item*).
 - CC noted that when they wake up, they have an acid taste in their mouths. They cannot sleep with the windows open, and when she steps outside to go to work the smell is so bad she feels sick. EG encouraged everyone if they smell something to call the number that is on the card that was provided to them at the start of the meeting.
 - DM noted that she has made complaints about the fencing to TB, however, she took a picture today that shows that anyone can get into the Site, for safety reasons this should be addressed.
 - It was stated that people were unaware of these meetings as they are not well advertised. It was confirmed that BRE posts an ad two weeks before every meeting in two separate newspapers as per the PLC ToR.
 - (RC) At night the smell is terrible along Highway 3 - it is like you put your face in a toilet bowl. Something needs to be done about the odour. When you talk about industrial materials what do you



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- mean? If you cannot not contain the smell now, how are you going to be able to handle the smell when you pile the waste up into a mountain? TD responded, stating that the material that will be accepted will actually help reduce the smell as it will be used to cover the working face of the landfill.
- RQ stated that the smell is the worst in the late afternoon, morning and night, when the odours go to low lying areas. Has anyone checked the odour during those times? It was indicated that odour sampling has occurred in the late hours of the night. MECP also stated that addressing odour takes time and that BRE has identified efficiencies on-site, which is reflected by the reduced number of complaints in February.
 - It was indicated that the smell, which smells like methane, bothers people. Concern was raised about what the odours will do to young children after 2-5 years. MECP indicated that they are working at setting up an air monitoring station at the Site. However as they are not medical health professionals, they cannot comment on health side of things.
 - A member of the public stated that he was new to the meetings because he has stayed away. He indicated that BRE should try and fix the problem, the company either needs to fix the problem or stop operations. You cannot give health back. The burning is not good. He understands that it is business, however crowds are getting bigger at these meeting which shows the problem. Do what you need to do to fix the problem. It is not fair to those spending money on houses, to have to endure those smells. TD and MECP confirmed that no burning occurs at the site.
 - An individual indicated that they have lived in the community for 6 years and this is the first time that they have heard of the BR PLC meetings as they do not get the newspaper and that he did not know who to contact when they had an issue. EG stated that two ads run in the different local papers as per the BR PLC ToC requirements. TB (MECP) also indicated that the 1-800 number is open 24/7 and that they will take down your complaints and send it to him to investigate.
 - A member of the public stated a lot of people do not know where the smell is coming from.
 - DG (member of the PLC) reviewed leachate levels, and noted that on December 6, 2019 the MECP ordered an issued to the Site to reduce landfill leachate levels by March 2, 2020 to 196.75 mAMSL, which they have not done as the level as of Feb 28 was 197.7 mAMSL. MECP indicated that they will be reviewing the situation. TD went over the efficiencies that they have implemented which has allowed them to reduce the levels by 1.1 m in last 50 days.
 - DB stated that he thinks that it will be hard for BRE to reach the targeted levels.
 - Several questions were asked from members of the public about the enforcement of the order that the MECP issued and why the company is still able to operate and receive waste if they did not meet the required level of 196.75 mAMSL. MECP stated that they would like to see the leachate levels reach 197.1 mAMSL this will ensure they are getting a handle on things. MD indicated that the MECP has dedicated a lot of time to this and explained the process the MECP would take to enforce the order. Charges could be looked at and it may go to court and become a legal proceeding, if the company does not get the leachate levels within the required limits.
 - It was noted by MECP that getting the leachate levels under control takes time and that BRE has shown progress, the numbers they have achieved are impressive and they as a company have made it clear that they are going to keep reducing leachate levels on-site.
 - MD stated that the supporting information required would be much high for MECP to issue a stop work order. The Director can confirm and amend order, or issue a tribunal to talk about whether order is appropriate or whether it needs to be amended.
 - EG summarized the MECP comments, stating at this point a current order to stop operations would not be warranted.
 - CV asked why is there a need to release treated leachate to the Brooks Road ditch. TD responded stating that this is traditionally how treatment plants handle leachate. To supplement discharge to the



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- Brooks Road ditch, BRE have leachate trucked off-site. CV indicated that he thought BRE was getting permission to send more to ditch, he understands he had this backwards.
- DB asked TD if the Leachate Treatment Plant was enclosed. TD explained that Leachate Treatment Plant is not enclosed, however the storage tanks are enclosed. TD explained the Leachate Treatment Plant; each stack has carbon filters on the exhaust system to mitigate odours.
 - TD indicated that on February 3, 2020 the amount of treated leachate that BRE could send to the ditch per day was raised from 30 m³ to 45 m³. The treated leachate is monitored and tested to ensure it is within the set parameters. Analysis is done at the lab every week. Bench scale testing is done every day of operations. MECP specialists review all data from the testing.
 - Site security was raised and discussed. DM mentioned that this was brought up at the last meeting, but that BRE has not addressed it. MECP did indicate that they looked into this and they understand that it was a violation to BRE approved operations. MECP noted that they will look into this further.
 - A question was asked about air quality testing. MECP confirmed that they are looking at having an air quality monitoring station installed and that they are looking into possible health concerns.
 - TD described the odour monitoring that has been done on Site to date - three days a year an odour survey is conducted, which is done at different times with a tool called a nasal ranger. BS mentioned that at a past PLC meeting the use of the nasal ranger was demonstrated and method used to sample odour was explained. TD stated that the odour testing conducted did not pick up much past Brooks Road. The last odour monitoring was completed both within and outside of the Site. The information gathered is both qualitative and quantitative. There were bad odour spots identified on the cell, which lead to the process of capping the north side of the cell.
 - The type of waste currently accepted (light industrial material and soils) and the waste accepted in the past were discussed. In 1959 the Site was used as a rural dump, it was not a lined landfill facility. It has since gone through several owners and was required to remove waste and implement a liner system. The waste that will be accepted going forward will not cause additional odours. DM mentioned that she used to follow trucks with old gypsum which smelled like sulfur which is what they are smelling. BS noted that historical material is present within the Site.
 - A member of the public asked what would happen to the Site if the expansion does not happen. MECP stated that a Post-closure Plan would be developed and certain conditions would be set in relation to landfill gas and leachate generation.
 - Additional comments were made about the odour – The odour harms business, people always ask what the smell is. It was asked if it smells that bad, what is it? What will happen 5 to 10 years from now when we go to sell our houses? The individual noted that they understand that the leachate is treated but what is it doing to the environment? How do we see the results of what it is doing to our groundwater and to our air? BS responded, indicating that the Annual Monitoring Report that is produced as per the ECA would have this information and describes the measures in place to protect the environment. It was indicated that they might be able to access it at the library. The Project Team and MECP to confirm how residents can access it (*Action Item*).
 - A question was asked about the expansion and how many acres of land would be used. It was indicated that it will be a vertical expansion so no additional land would be required.
 - JM apologized for coming late to the meeting and indicated that he is the Ward 2 Councillor. He stated that he gets many complaints about the odours from residents. He asked what the MECP does when they get a complaint, and if someone goes out to the Site within 24 hours. MECP explained the procedure that is followed when a complaint is received and indicated that TB visits the Site 3 to 5 times a week. The complaints received are also sent to the BRE.
 - A comment was made about hydraulics of the landfill and what would happen to a leak if the landfill is expanded vertically, a reference to mashed potatoes was used. The gentleman also indicated that



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- across the road from the landfill there is abandoned gypsum mine which was flooded and in a lower area. BS notes that a geotechnical study was completed as part of the environmental assessment to determine any potential effect from the proposed expansion.
- BS explained the liner system for those who were not familiar with it and indicated that there is a leachate collection system as part of the overall environmental controls at the site.
 - A question was asked about what would happen if the BRE were to go bankrupt. BS explained the process taken by the government in Ontario which requires all landfill operators to provide Financial Assurance which is either a bond or a letter of credit in the event that landfill was abandoned so that money is reserved and available to cover the necessary post-closure care and monitoring.
 - KR asked TD a question about his earlier Site update. It was stated that originally there was 40,000 m³ of leachate and now 12,224.07 m³ have been removed. That is still 60 percent that is left. Is removing that much doable? TD indicated the efforts that BRE have made in terms of the Leachate Treatment Plant and the issues they have had with it in the past. The company BRE hired to produce and install the plant did not do an adequate job, the “pieced it together”. As a result the plant did not meet the required production capacity. Millions of dollars were invested into the plant to allow function as it should. In 8 months leachate amount was reduced by 8 percent.
 - TD explained that due to the angle of the cell removing leachate at the beginning is always more difficult. As well, that there is always a lag between the removal of leachate and when you see a drop in the leachate levels. The efforts made to date however are now showing, resulting in today’s update being one of the best ones to date.

PLC Membership

- JM indicated that he would like to join the PLC. As a Ward 2 Councillor he would fill the spot available for the senior member of Haldimand County staff, leaving one PLC spot open for a member of the public.

Other Business and Next Meeting

- A PLC member suggested that a special meeting be held 6 weeks from the March 4 PLC meeting to discuss the leachate removal progress. Members of the PLC will discuss a possible change in frequency of the PLC meetings as well as an additional meeting to discuss progress on leachate removal (*Action Item*).
- Next PLC Meeting June 3, 2020

This confirms and records GHD's interpretation of the discussions which occurred and our understanding reached during this meeting. Unless notified in writing within 7 days of the date issued, we will assume that this recorded interpretation or description is complete and accurate.