

Red Hill Community Liaison Meeting



Date:	Wednesday 7 December 2011
Location:	Meeting Room, Red Hill Waste Management Facility
Start Time:	6:00 pm
Finish Time:	7:30 pm

Attendees

Community Members

- John Mead (JM)
- Peter Jensen (PJ)
- Barrie Pack (BP)
- Stuart Holmes (SH)
- Pat Holmes (PH)
- Jeanne Reed (JR)
- Dennis Reed (DR)
- Ashley Arnold (AA)
- Geoff Knights (GK)

Landfill Gas and Power

- Graeme Alford, Chief Executive Officer (GA)

EMRC Staff

- Brian Jones, Director Waste Management Services (BJ)
- Johan Le Roux, Manager Engineering/Waste Management Services (JLR)
- Tanya Beinhauer, Site Manager Red Hill (TB)
- Brian Bushby, Operations Manager (BB)
- Steve Fitzpatrick, Manager Project Development (SF)
- Rachael Lovegrove, Manager Waste, Environmental Operations (RL)
- Lauren Panizza, Environmental Field Officer (LP)

Apologies

- Jenny Johnson

Noise

- Recent noise monitoring organized by EMRC highlighted that Landfill Gas and Power (LG&P) operations were causing night time assigned noise levels to be impacting some residences along Hidden Valley Road.
- GA from LG&P explained that the power station at Red Hill currently contains four engines which run 24 hours a day seven days a week. A noise study on the power station was conducted in 2008 which resulted in the power station being upgraded and it had been assumed that operations

then complied with the noise regulations requirements. Having been advised of the results of EMRC's noise monitoring, LG&P have engaged new noise consultants and are currently upgrading the sound insulation in the power station. The air vents have been upgraded in the last week which from inspection have reduced noise levels. The doors to the power station will be upgraded in January. Once all upgrades are complete, LG&P will ensure another noise study is conducted by consultants and the results made available to residents.

- PH commented that the noise was worst in winter along Hidden Valley Road. During these months the power station is so loud that its impossible to sleep with the windows open.
- BJ asked PH if she has noticed a change in noise levels over the past week. PH replied that the noise levels are currently not as bad as the winter noise levels and that hopefully the problem has been fixed.
- GA explained that the reason for the seasonal changes in noise level is due to the changing weather patterns. In winter the air is still at night and noise travels further.
- GK asked when the last noise study was conducted.
- GA responded that LG&P last conducted a study in 2008 while EMRC conducted a study earlier this year.
- SF added that EMRC's study was conducted in February and ran for approximately two weeks.
- GK commented that the study period was not long enough and that any study should be conducted for at least six months to take seasonal and noise changes into account.
- PJ asked if a noise survey has been conducted since the problem has been fixed. GA replied that a survey will be conducted after the January upgrades are complete.
- PJ suggested that the power station noise has been a long term problem and that LG&P should demonstrate to the community that the problem has been solved.
- BJ stated that if the upcoming noise study shows that the noise levels meet requirements but residents still have issues then EMRC will construct barriers in the form of vegetated bunds.
- GK commented that bunds can sometimes amplify noise. JLR agreed stating that he has a sound wall in his backyard that does not fully remove traffic noise at some frequencies.
- GK suggested that another noise study should be completed by EMRC.
- SF answered that a review will be undertaken using the same three sampling points as EMRC's previous study.

Litter

- TB stated that the Justice Department has conducted one clean-up of Toodyay Road since the last Community Meeting.
- DR and GR commented that the amount of rubbish along Toodyay Road was terrible today. DR added that since the side of the intersection of Roland Road and Toodyay Road has been blocked off there appears to be less rubbish in that area.
- AA asked if the roads surrounding Red Hill were cleaned. TB replied that Roland Road is cleaned regularly.
- AA commented that the Facility should have a merging lane along Toodyay Road to allow traffic to safely exit. BJ answered that Toodyay Road was outside EMRC's jurisdiction and that the suggestion should be made to Main Roads (phone: 138 138).
- AA also commented that he has been collecting the registration numbers of trucks which have insecure loads along Toodyay Road and gave the numbers to TB.
- GK added that he has also been reporting trucks with unsecure loads to TB who has been doing a good job following the issues up. TB replied that she has been asking the Site Supervisors to talk to the truck drivers about securing loads when one of these trucks enters site.

Odour

- TB stated that she has received quite a few odour complaints from Karrak Court and Persoonia Close since the last meeting.
- AA commented that he has a list of dates and times when the odour has been unbearable at his residence.
- JR added that the odour has been really bad in the last two months.
- AA said that the smell was foul at the moment and that the odour levels were approaching those around Hazelmere. He has been experiencing odour problems since October.
- BB replied that Red Hill have been capping the eastern side of the active cell and TB added that she has been unable to find any pattern or pinpoint the odours to any particular loads.
- AA stated that EMRC should conduct an odour study.
- PJ asked if landfilling was still occurring at the top of the current cell. BB answered that it was and it will be interesting to see what happens when the eastern side is capped.
- PJ proposed that either TB or BB should meet with the complainant at the time of the complaint at their residence to try and identify the smell. TB replied that this option is difficult as by the time she gets there the smell has usually gone.
- TB commented that the current height of the landfill may be having an impact on odour levels in the area. BJ added that the height may be causing down drafts.
- BJ proposed that a bund should be constructed beyond the landfill site and revegetated. The bunds should uplift the odour over adjacent properties.
- JR commented that the bunds would have to be high.
- SF explained that recent odour monitoring conducted by EMRC shows that the greenwaste windrows have the highest odour emissions and are three to four times higher than the uncovered landfill emissions. BB stated that this could be the issue and TB commented that some greenwaste does contain organic waste like rotting fruit.
- PJ added that the weather patterns could be a factor as this has been the hottest year on record and the Perth region has experienced a wet winter with average rainfall.
- BJ commented that landfill management practices are better today than 10 years ago but these practices are continuously being refined and developed. He invited AA and anyone else with odour issues to visit the site and try to identify the source of the odour.

Groundwater

- RL explained that LP is currently undertaking the December water monitoring round which involves monitoring approximately 45 groundwater bores as well as leachate and surface water ponds. EMRC's consultant hydrogeologists have recently reported that the Class III Lot 11 plume recovery effort is currently performing better than expected at this point in time and groundwater modeling shows the plume is being well contained and gradually receding towards the southern boundary of the facility.
- BJ added that in February and March EMRC hoped to be installing floating covers on the site's leachate ponds. These covers will stop rainwater mixing with the leachate, resulting in less leachate needing treatment. The rainwater will be pumped into stormwater ponds and used for dust suppression on site while the leachate will be injected back into the landfill.

Fauna Management

- RL explained that there are approximately 400 Australian White Ibis on site at the moment and that EMRC staff are currently liaising with other landfills to see how they are managing bird populations. Tamala Park also has an Ibis problem and they are currently trialing bird and animal repellent. EMRC has purchased this repellent and plans to spray this around loafing sites as a trial.
- PJ commented that he recently went on a tour of the Maddington recycling facility and hundreds of Ibis were present there.
- RL replied that the White Ibis have changed their natural diet of foraging for invertebrates and instead mainly feed on rubbish at landfill sites due to its accessibility.

Revegetation

- RL explained that EMRC is currently preparing the areas which will be revegetated in 2012. Staff are currently stripping topsoil on the southern side of the Class III cell where previous revegetation has been unsuccessful and preparing contours. It is expected that 5.9 ha will be revegetated next year, which is the largest area to be rehabilitated at any one time under the Red Hill Rehabilitation Program.
- JR asked where the revegetation will take place. RL replied that it will take place on the eastern, western and southern sections of the current Class III cell.
- BJ added that EMRC's Red Hill Rehabilitation Program has been recently selected as a finalist in the Department of Environment and Conservation's Western Australian Environment Awards.

Water Corporation

- BJ commented that the Lime Amended Bioclay project has not begun as the clay is still too wet to screen. It is expected that this project will commence in the new year and that it will take six months to fully commission the plant. He also explained to new members that this project involves blending treated biosolids from the Subiaco wastewater treatment plant with lime on a 1:1 ratio. The resulting product will be used on Bassendean sands as a soil enhancer.

Resource Recovery

- SF explained that EMRC is currently finishing the draft Public Environmental Review and this has been submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for preliminary review. The EPA may require EMRC to make some changes to the document before it is re-submitted for a detailed review. It is expected that the document will be released for public review in February for a period of eight weeks. A presentation was held last night at EMRC's Belmont office to brief the Community Task Force and the Waste Management Community Reference Group on the environmental review. EMRC will try to organize a similar presentation for the Gidgegannup Progress Association.
- SF also summarized the results of the noise, odour and health assessments commissioned as part

of the Resource Recovery Project. The noise modeling was based on either of the potential technologies (anaerobic digestion and gasification) being operational 24 hours a day seven days a week. Based on the data provided, it was found that both technologies should be noise compliant at all times. The expected emissions for each technology was assessed against relevant health standards and it was found that there were no potential adverse health impacts for either technology. All odours were measured on site using standard techniques and a local odour laboratory. It was found that the power station produces the highest odour concentrations, however all odour levels fall below the current DEC odour criteria. In terms of the Resource Recovery Project, it was found that anaerobic digestion will produce more odours than gasification and that the main odour source would be the biofilter. SF finished by stating that the Public Environmental Review document will be made available via the EMRC's website (www.emrc.org.au), local libraries and other places once issued for review.

- GK requested that EMRC should give people the opportunity to ask questions before the public comment period and PJ suggested that the date of the next Community Liaison Meeting should be changed to suit the release date of the document.
- BJ proposed that the next Meeting should be held in the second half of February and SF added that the timeframe will be finalised once the EPA review is completed.

Site Development Issues

- BJ explained that EMRC is currently in the process of purchasing the Midland Brick property to the west of the Facility. This will only go ahead if the City of Swan rezones the land so it can be used for waste management purposes. If the land is rezoned, future waste management activities will take place within this area. Midland Brick still have clay to extract in the lot adjacent to the current Facility's boundaries; hence this lot will be the final lot purchased and it is expected that the agreement will be finalised by 2016. The new Class III cell situated on the Facility's "farm" will be filled with waste but not made into a hill.
- BJ also explained that EMRC is currently investigating moving the greenwaste processing to the Hazelmere Recycling Facility and the City of Bayswater greenwaste program to the north of the Class III haul road. If this greenwaste is found to be the source of the odours in Karrak Court and Persoonia Close then the area will be bunded. EMRC has also been approached to set up a processing area for Acid Sulfate Soils, which will be set up in the clay stockpile area. EMRC is planning on neutralizing this material and using it to construct the bunds. It is expected that Acid Sulfate Soils will begin arriving on site early next year. BJ also reported he had asked Main Roads to review the alignment of the proposed Hills Spine Road so EMRC can determine where bunds should be built.

Other Business

Security Cameras

- GK asked for an update on the installation of security cameras at the front gate of the Facility. TB replied that she is meeting with the security company next week to get quotations. BJ added that the cameras should be installed by March once a fibre optic cable had been installed.
- GK suggested that high resolution cameras should be purchased so registration numbers can be recorded. BB replied that the cameras will have high resolution.

Security Guard

- TB commented that the number of drive-offs (people exiting the Facility without paying) has increased within the last couple of months. Red Hill currently records the offender's registration details so the offender can be pulled up if they try to enter the Facility again.
- JR asked if this is why a security guard has been employed at the site. TB replied that a guard has been employed as transfer station staff have been threatened by a customer who was not allowed to dispose of incorrectly wrapped asbestos. Customers have also threatened staff over the disposal prices.

Solar Panels

- GK asked how successful the recently installed solar system has been. BB replied that the system produces 8KW of electricity but there have been a few teething issues as not all the panels rotate in the same direction. Overall, the system has been successful.

Dates of 2012 Meetings

- TB asked community members if they were happy with having bimonthly meetings at Red Hill. Members indicated that they were, hence all meetings after February next year will continue to be held on the first Wednesday of every second month.

Actions

- LP to email odour reporting forms to community members.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at the Red Hill Waste Management Facility Meeting Room on **22 February 2012** at 6:00pm. Please RSVP to Lauren Panizza either by email (lauren.panizza@emrc.org.au) or phone (9424 2228) for catering purposes.