

Ontario County
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
April 30, 2014

<p>Committee Members: David Baker, Chair Ralph Angelo Charlie Evangelista John Sheppard Kris Singer Mark Venuti</p>	<p>Attendees: Tom Harvey, Andrea Schoeneman, Darlys McDonough, Tim Jensen, Nellie Puma, Lisa Phillips; Supervisors John Cowley, Jack Marren, Pam Helming, Dominick Vedora; Jerry Leone, Robert Wells (Casella Waste Management); Dennis Plaster (Seneca Energy II/IES); Dave Shaw, Finger Lakes Times</p>
--	--

Chairman Baker called the meeting to order at 4:15 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: *Motion was made by Supervisor Sheppard, seconded by Supervisor Venuti, to approve the minutes of the April 9, 2014 meeting. Motion carried.*

At 4:17 p.m., motion was made by Supervisor Sheppard, seconded by Supervisor Angelo, to move into executive session to confer with counsel regarding contract compliance. Motion carried.

At 4:50 p.m., motion was made to move out of executive session by Supervisor Sheppard, seconded by Supervisor Singer. Motion carried.

Landfill Odor Consultant Report Review:

A conference call was placed to Mr. Marcus Scrimgeous of SCS Engineers. The Landfill Gas Collection System Evaluation was provided for each committee member prior to the meeting. Mr. Scrimgeous began by directing the committee's attention the summary of recommendations. Mr. Scrimgeous outlined six of the most significant recommendations. These recommendations were numbered 14, 9, 12, 13, 15, and 16. Mr. Scrimgeous pointed out that recommendations #14 and #9 were of most importance.

Questions from committee to Mr. Scrimgeous were as follows:

Mr. Sheppard asked if the 45 to 50% methane is the preferred percentage. Mr. Scrimgeous replied that generally speaking at 40% and higher the wells will operate fine; 50% is most common so they should have no problem operating in that range. He is assuming there are no major leaks in the system to dilute the operation.

Mr. Venuti asked at what temperature in a well would there be cause for concerned. Mr. Scrimgeous replied that if a landfill is running at temperatures of 110 degrees, then 130 degrees is the temperature of concern. At about 120 degrees action should begin to be taken in order to stay within compliance temperatures. Mr. Scrimgeous stated that 130 degrees Fahrenheit is the regulatory temperature, and samples should be taken of anything in that range or higher. He pointed out that this isn't an arbitrary temperature and there is some basis for it.

Mr. Evangelista asked what events would cause the temperature to start rising. Mr. Scrimgeous replied that there are direct indicator tubes that show the carbon monoxide. Generally speaking landfill

gas does not have carbon monoxide in it, so in a well where there is no subsurface oxygenation there should be little carbon monoxide. There will be increased levels with carbon monoxide at 120 or above. By using the correct indicator tubes it will confirm if there is carbon monoxide present. If there is, the way to solve that would be to reduce vacuum, check that there are no air leaks around the wells, under the cover or along the side of the well casing to make sure air is not being pulled down into the well.

Mr. Sheppard referred to a graph under Appendix D of the report that seems to indicate that there is an inadequacy of well placement. He asked how the well placement is determined. Mr. Scrimgeous explained that it is primarily based on well construction details; whether they are horizontal or vertical wells. He proceeded to explain the process of detecting methane to measure methane concentrations using a surface monitoring scan. They stop at 30 meter intervals to record methane concentrations. Mr. Harvey stated that in looking at the map, there appears to be validation of where more wells would be needed, is this correct? Mr. Scrimgeous stated yes, that is what Casella has requested.

Mr. Venuti asked if regulations require that the well heads be monitored every month. Mr. Scrimgeous replied that every well in a mandated landfill area is subject to MSTs standards.

Casella Waste Management Response to Report:

Chairman Baker commented that Casella Waste Management has had an opportunity to review the report of SCS Engineers. Mr. Leone stated that he had put together a written response to the report and distributed copies to committee members. (Mr. Scrimgeous was still on conference call, and Mr. Tim Jensen scanned a copy of the response report to him). Mr. Leone responded to the two recommendations of higher importance addressed by Mr. Scrimgeous at the beginning of the meeting.

Mr. Leone introduced Mr. Dennis Plaster from Seneca Energy, II/IES to speak on how they operate their plant. Mr. Plaster began by saying that they have vacuum systems in place at the two plants. He referred to the graph provided in Casella's response that shows a much more consistent vacuum control in February than in January. Mr. Plaster commented that in January the plant was trying to maximize production. Since February 22, 2014, it has been maintaining very constant vacuum numbers. Mr. Plaster pointed out that some landfills run methane content as low as 30% and as high as 60% as long as the volume is there. He stated that the engines are made to run on that wide range. Mr. Plaster stated that from a field standpoint if 45% or 50% is preferred, they can run it at that. Mr. Scrimgeous stated that if the plant is run at 45%, they will have less subsurface oxidation, and if they are agreeable to running it that low, it is good. They are in agreement with number 9.

Mr. Leone responded to recommendation #12. He stated that Casella routinely monitors those wells and have taken CO readings as part of their monitoring. He believes the well in question was a data reading that they did not have, as it was not their personnel that obtained the higher reading level. Mr. Leone indicated that they have recorded the following readings on the well in question: January, 110°F; February, 128°F; March, 128°F; and April, 104°F. Mr. Leone stated that they feel they have responded to the situation, and temperatures are in range of normal procedures. Mr. Leone also stated that the above 130° F temperature in question was not included in the MNS report as that temperature was not by Casella personnel. It was understood that when any reading is of concern to Casella that it be communicated to county personnel.

Mr. Sheppard asked how many wells are on site, and whether it is uncommon to have a reading of 103°. Mr. Scrimgeous indicated that in Phase III, there are approximately 93 vertical extraction wells; 40 horizontal collectors and 6 connected to something. Mr. Scrimgeous indicated that it was not uncommon to have a reading such as that.

Mr. Leone responded to the surface scanning recommendation. He stated that Casella is required to provide surface emission monitoring scans four times per year, and this is done by a third party. Mr. Leone referred to the scan dated February, 2014, which was the last page of the handout, and provided an explanation of the contents of the scan.

Mr. Scrimgeous offered a comment on the temporary caps, and stated that one of the field observations was that odors on site were observed at the edges of some of the caps. He recommended that collectors may need to be placed under that cap to stop the gas from finding its way around the edges. Mr. Scrimgeous also noted that there were quite a few pipes above grade which need to be below grade due to the cold winter climate. Mr. Leone agreed wholeheartedly and indicated that they have been in the process of relocating pipes below grade level, and that they were unable to finish the project due to the winter conditions. Mr. Leone stated that the recommendations by SCS Engineers were taken to heart and they are on their way to fulfilling those.

Discussion occurred regarding gas collection and odors. Mr. Plaster explained that if the vacuum goes too high they back off; if it goes too low that increase it. As far as a flare, right now they are not running all the engines and do not warrant running a flare. The run time of engines is 98% of every hour in a day each day. It is generally when there is a utility trip, outside of the control of IES or Casella, when all engines are down and flares will start. This happens rarely, but it does happen. Mr. Scrimgeous commented that the issue isn't so much with the utility outages; it seems the problem is more centered around the load that is being put on the engines. The facility is on 95% of the time, and the landfill is always putting out a consistent amount of gas. Any gas that goes into the air will be smelled by receptors if enough is out there, and when IES is maintaining the engines or there is a utility outage, a flare needs to be set. Mr. Scrimgeous recommended using automatic flares to mitigate odors from the land fill. He stated that it could be done manually; however, there needs to be a lot of communication and action taken quickly, even if it means an operator coming out at 3 am. Mr. Leone explained that the operators live in the town within distance and they have the benefit of getting to the site quickly and have a unique ability to respond to instances like this. However, Mr. Leone did appreciate that automation is another way to go about this.

The telephone conference with Mr. Scrimgeous was concluded at 5:53 p.m.

Chairman Baker remarked that Casella Waste Management is operating within the requirements of the contract. He encouraged Casella Waste Management to communicate to the county any events that may have implications so that the county is aware of what is going on at its asset, before reading about it in a report. At one time there was very good communication and the situation changed as management changed. It is the desire of this committee that future communication improve.

In answer to Supervisor Evangelista's comment, Mr. Leone stated that IES runs plants on several other of its landfills, and he felt that they have a good working relationship. Mr. Walls offered to host a committee meeting at the Casella Waste Management offices in an effort to keep communication open.

Chairman of the Board Jack Marren asked that the Gas Collection and Control System Modification GHG Emission Plan that is done four times a year be shared with the county. He noted his confidence in Mr. Leone in moving forward and increasing communication. He further asked if there is a timeline for the pipes be buried below grade level. Mr. Walls stated that this has been an ongoing project and is anticipated to be completed by October 1, 2014.

Chairman Baker asked that staff go through the comments submitted by Casella Waste Management and have a report available for the next meeting on what will be done and has been agreed to by Casella.

360 Expansion Permit: Mr. Leone reported that Casella is continuing its efforts to secure the noise easements. A meeting was held with the town of Seneca to discuss particulars in that agreement. Mr. Leone further stated that B&L has completed the revisions to the drawings, plans and documents, and once terms are finalized with the town and host agreement, Casella will be in a position to respond formerly.

Solid Waste Management Plan: Mr. Harvey reported that the public hearing scheduled on April 17, 2014 was recessed and will be reconvened at the next board meeting scheduled for May 8, 2014.

SWMP Implementation Report & Ideas: Mr. Garvey reported that a meeting was held regarding the implementation of the Solid Waste Management Plan and in attendance were: Mr. Jerry Leone; Casella Waste Management's Sustainability Manager, Abbey Webb; and Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) Directors, Tim Davis and Jim Ochterski. Mr. Garvey stated that they are now in the process of pulling all that information together for a report to this committee. He indicated that Ms. Webb and Mr. Ochterski would be instrumental on the subject of waste stream reduction, and staff from CCE could develop a plan to reach out to communities, as well as assisting in an analysis on the county's waste stream and target. Mr. Garvey commented that he has been through Zotos, and was not familiar with the impact that Casella has on the plant floor regarding recycling. Mr. Harvey added that discussion took place on what things have and have not been successful in other locations, as well as container size and that impact. It is not just a matter of handing out bigger recycle bins, but target where that is effective. Mr. Harvey pointed out that the county is working with Cornell Cooperative Extension and the county's Economic Development Office with the education portion and what resources are available for not only home use, but industrial and commercial as well. There may be opportunities to bring some of the industrial and commercial businesses to achieve what Zotos has implemented with the assistance of Casella Waste Management. It was stressed throughout the meeting that there is no one solution, and that different solutions are worked on over time and results are measured. Much was learned and there is a tremendous amount that can be done.

Mr. Venuti left the meeting at 6:18 p.m.

Supervisors Sheppard and Evangelista noted their concern in starting with "in-house" efforts and then needing to seek additional outside assistance. Mr. Evangelista questioned whether input from a broad scope of companies has been entertained to ensure the county has the right consultant for this monumental task. Mr. Evangelista referenced the report prepared by SCS Engineers and commented that the report is thorough and provides practical recommendations. Mr. Garvey commented that after coming away from the meeting with CCE, he truly feels and is confident that they are able to do this job. Mr. Leone commented that he too was impressed with the amount of information that Mr. Jim Ochterski knew as well. Mr. Garvey stated that it is his goal to add a senior staff in the Planning Department to be the point

person on implementing the recycling portion of the Solid Waste Management Plan. It is not the intention to establish a County SW Recycle Department with a director and more employees. Mr. Garvey emphasized that the group is looking towards Cornell Cooperative Extension to be a productive partner in getting the information out to schools, hospitals, institutional generators who could reduce the organic waste going to the landfill. He further noted that Casella Waste Management has a division devoted to recycling management and are eager to help.

Mr. Angelo left the meeting at 6:25 p.m.

Landfill Operations: Mr. Leone reported that improvements have been made to the drainage swale around the perimeter, and the project is continuing with storm water areas. There have been no recent complaints regarding odor.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 21, 2014.

On motion made by Supervisor Evangelista, seconded by Supervisor Sheppard, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Phillips, Deputy Clerk
Board of Supervisors