

## Meeting Notes

### TREE Community Advisory Committee

Monday, August 16, 2004

Committee Members Attending:

*Karen Pollard*, Economic Development Manager City of Rochester; *Alan Davis*, Waste Management; *John Larochelle*, Rochester City Councilor; *Clifford A. Newton*, Rochester State Representative; *Trey Dykstra*, NH Department of Environmental Services; *Rhonda Knapp*, Rochester Resident Representative; *George Jenness*, Rochester Business Representative; *Kenn Ortmann*, Rochester Planning Dept. Representative; *Lori Chase*, Environmental Group Representative.

Press:

*Nate Perdue*, Fosters.

#### I. Facility Tour

The committee conducted a comprehensive tour of the TREE facility . This tour included: observations of the existing operating landfill area, closed landfill areas, a review of gas extraction well operation, well heads, power generation, recycling operations and leachate processing facility. The committee also observed a new portable odor neutralization system purchased by the company to mitigate landfill odors. The committee also viewed various recreational sites located on the TREE site which are available for public use as well as the homeless shelter and “farm” area.

#### II. Meeting Notes

The committee accepted without comments or changes the “Meeting Notes” of the Community Advisory Committee meeting of July 19, 2004.

#### III. Committee Composition

The committee inquired as to the status of additional members to represent the city of Rochester, as well as a possible representative from the town of Barrington. Alan Davis noted that he was advised that Sam Crowley would serve as the resident representative from Dover and that Dean Peschel, Environmental Projects Manager of Rochester would serve as that city’s representative of the Community Advisory Committee. Alan noted that neither Dean nor Sam would be available to attend the current meeting but are expected to be present at the September meeting.

IV. Gas Extraction Collection Construction Program Review

The committee was briefed by Alan Davis on the status of Waste Management's current gas extraction collection construction program.

According to Alan, construction of 11 new wells has been completed. However, the more complex process of attaching header pipes and associated connections to these new wells are still underway.

Davis emphasized that the gas extraction wells are the main engineering control for landfill odors and that an additional 40 wells will be added this fall. Additional wells were added to the fall construction phase in expectation that a larger number of wells spread over a smaller area of the landfill will result in better landfill gas extraction and control. Committee members inquired as to why these new wells could not be installed now and were informed that doing so was not possible and that certain portions of the landfill required more refuse in it before wells could effectively operate.

V. Status of Brown and Caldwell Review

The committee was briefed by fellow member Trey Dykstra of the NH Department of Environmental Services (DES), regarding the status of the review being conducted by Brown and Caldwell, an independent engineering firm tasked with analyzing, reviewing and reporting on TREE landfill gas odor issues. According to Trey, Brown and Caldwell are nearing completion of their testing and will present a preliminary draft to the DES shortly. Air samples were drawn from 17 locations and committee members asked various questions regarding the testing methodology, etc. The final Brown and Caldwell report is due around September 20, 2004.

Committee members inquired and commented on making the report available for public review. Suggestions were offered, such as making the report, or a summary, available on the city's web site, and locating a copy of the report at the Rochester library. Using Rochester community television to communicate the report findings, as well as the work of the committee was also suggested.

VI. Odor Complaint Log

At the previous meeting the committee requested specific data regarding the number of individuals who had called the DES, city, or Waste Management regarding landfill odors.

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The committee reviewed data and a plotting chart representing odor complaints compiled by the DES. The data indicated the odor complaints to-date, as follows:

Month	Number
Jan.	12
Feb.	2
Mar.	6
Apr.	24
May	24
Jun.	17
Jul.	21
Aug.	
Sep.	
Oct.	
Nov.	
Dec.	
Totals	106

Trey commented on the data and noted that it was edited from a more comprehensive odor log that is compiled by the DES. That log includes a variety of information such as weather conditions, odor strength, geographical location of the detected odors, wind speed, etc. Members reviewed copies of the detailed log.

Committee members commented on the data. Trey stated that the data should be interpreted with some caution because it may not necessarily represent all the people who might be exposed to onerous landfill odors. One member noted that some homeowners might be “afraid” to complain about landfill odors for fear that it might lower property values in their neighborhood. It was generally agreed that the information was, however, useful as one of the tools to measure the “odor problem.” It was noted that additional outreach efforts to encourage people to call regarding landfill odors did not, for whatever reason, yield an increase in complaint calls or e-mails.

In response to a committee question, an effort will be made to identify odor complaints on a mapped area for the committee as well as provide an additional summary. John Larochelle volunteered to work with Trey Dykstra with regard to evaluating and synthesizing data for committee review.

VII. Communications

Mark Bodi reported on communications and community outreach efforts. He noted that since the committee's last meeting a "Community Connection" ad featuring the Community Advisory Committee appeared in both Fosters and the Rochester Times. The goal of the ad, which was suggested by the committee at its last meeting, was to better inform the community of the committee and solicit input, suggestions as well as any complaints regarding odors.

It was reported that the Metrocast Cable bulletin would be used as a communications vehicle to also keep the community advised of committee activity. It is expected the bulletin messaging would begin within the next 10 days.

The committee was briefed on Neighbor to Neighbor, a door-to-door communications program by Waste Management. This program is designed to reach out to roughly 1,000 homeowners in the immediate vicinity of the landfill and solicit their views and comments as well as to inform them of the most recent operational activities at the landfill. It is expected Neighbor to Neighbor would begin sometime in the fall and the committee would be further briefed at an upcoming meeting.

It was noted that no additional information was available on developing a website for the committee to better inform the community. The matter will be reviewed at the next meeting.

VIII. Next Meeting

Monday, September 20, 2004