

Meeting Notes

TREE Community Advisory Committee

Monday, July 19, 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.

I. Statement of Purpose & Committee Structure

The committee agreed on the following statement of purpose and structure as presented in the committee overview.

The Community Advisory Committee's purpose is to:

- a. *Inform* Waste Management officials of issues regarding odor management and landfill operations as viewed from the perspective of area residents and business.
- b. *Conduct* information sessions as deemed appropriate for the purposes of soliciting further community perspective and technical expertise.
- c. *Advise* company officials regarding areas for broader dialog between various TREE constituencies.
- d. *Communicate* to other members of the community efforts underway or planned which have been designed to mitigate landfill odors, as well as other TREE operational issues.

TREE Community Advisory Committee Meeting Highlights

Monday, July 19, 2004

Page 2 of 4

Committee Structure

Seven to 12 members appointed to include, but not limited to: Rochester and Dover city officials, neighbors and business representatives, member of the Rochester State Legislative delegation, representative from the State of New Hampshire Environmental Services, (DES). It was agreed that no alternate members would be named to the committee.

It was agreed that Barrington town officials would be contacted to consider the possible appointment to the committee.

II. Public Participation & Media

The Committee discussed the overall conduct of the meetings.

It was agreed that committee meetings would be open to the public as well as the press. Meeting dates would be made public and every effort would be made to encourage community awareness and input. It was agreed that community meetings were working sessions, open to the public. Public comment or testimony would take place only at meetings specifically designated and publicized for that purpose to ensure the committee may adhere to its agenda and working schedule. Members of the public unable to attend may submit written comments at any time and should be forwarded to *TREE Community Advisory Committee, PO Box 7075, Gonic, NH 03839*.

III. Overview of Turnkey Facility

The committee received a brief presentation from Alan Davis of Waste Management on the history of the TREE facility. It was noted that the landfill was the first lined sanitary landfill in NH. Members asked questions regarding the expansion area and general operational questions. It was agreed that the committee would tour the facility at the next meeting. Members were provided a materials package with information on the TREE landfill as well as landfill gas.

IV. Review and Committee Discussion on the Causes of Landfill Odors and Complaints Regarding Offensive Odors

The committee received an update on landfill odor mitigation efforts by Alan Davis. In addition, the committee was advised of several of the believed causes of increased landfill odors, including water filling of gas collection pipes, which inhibited gas extraction. Davis reported on the construction of new landfill gas extraction wells which will help reduce what is known as "fugitive" gas emissions (gas which is not captured and combusted) as well as landfill odors.

It was suggested that new well drilling not be conducted on Saturdays in an effort to reduce landfill odors. Davis agreed that well drilling on Saturdays would be suspended immediately.

Inquiry was made regarding the frequency and quantity of the disposal of sludge at the landfill and how this potentially impacted odors in neighborhoods adjacent to the landfill. A further review of sludge disposal, together with a report on sludge disposal amounts, will be made at the next committee meeting.

It was agreed that the committee would review a complete log of all odor complaint calls made to the city, Waste Management and DES at its next meeting. Further, at each meeting the committee would be updated on the status of complaints received regarding landfill odors.

V. Report from the Engineering Firm of Brown and Caldwell

The committee received a report from Brown and Caldwell Senior Associate Alan R. Kirschner. Brown and Caldwell were retained at the request of the DES to review landfill odor issues. Kirschner briefly outlined the scope of the study and gas testing being conducted as part of that review. It is expected that the report will be completed sometime prior to the committee's next meeting and that the committee will be briefed on the report findings at its September meeting (subject to report completion and scheduling).

It was suggested by committee members that testing be specifically conducted at or near the site of residential dwellings in the vicinity of Pickering Road.

VI. Community Relations Activities

The committee received a review of community relation activities by Mark Bodi of O'Neil Griffin Bodi, Inc, (OGB). OGB was retained by Waste Management to assist the company and the committee with community relations, outreach activities and communications. Bodi noted that the company recently initiated the "Community Connection" program, designed to foster greater communication between the company and community regarding various issues. One element of the program includes a series of newspaper advertisement commentaries. The first ad, entitled "*Landfill Odors: an up-date*" appeared in Foster's and the Rochester Times.

Committee members noted the importance of receiving community comment and input and suggested the possibility of a web site as well as additional newspaper commentaries outlining the work of the committee. It was agreed

TREE Community Advisory Committee Meeting Highlights

Monday, July 19, 2004

Page 4 of 4

that web site options would be reviewed at the next meeting as well as a second Community Connection ad regarding the creation, purpose and outreach of the Community Advisory Committee.

The committee was briefed on a new community outreach effort to be conducted by Waste Management known as, "Neighbor to Neighbor. " This program includes door-to-door meetings with local residents to solicit their views and comments regarding landfill odors and other landfill operational issues. No timetable has been established for the commencement of the program but the committee would be up-dated at the next meeting. Committee member Larochelle offered his assistance in reviewing communications associated with this program.

Karen Pollard agreed to review the utilization of the Rochester Government Channel as a source of disseminating information to the public.

VII. Next Meeting

Monday August 16, 2004