

MEETING NOTES (APPROVED 26/06/2014)

Thursday, 1 May 2014 at 5:30pm

Chaired By: Gareth Jones

Education Centre, 1725 Elizabeth Drive, Kemps Creek

Note Taker: Gareth Jones

ATTENDEES

SITA Australia

- (AK) – Sydney Landfills Manager
- (PH) – Sydney Resource Recovery Manager
- (LC) – Elizabeth Drive Landfill Manager
- (NB) – Compliance Officer
- (GJ) – NSW Stakeholder Engagement Manager

Community

- (WM) – Kemps Creek
- (BF) – Horsley Park
- (JD) – Mount Vernon

Apologies

- (NH) – SITA
- (PM) – Kemps Creek

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS

1. WELCOME AND AGENDA

Item	Discussion	Action	By
1.1	GJ welcomed visitors to the meeting. Apologies were acknowledged from NH and PM.		

2. ACCEPTANCE OF NOTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Item	Discussion	Action	By
2.1	Notes from the previous meeting were accepted with the following amendments: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 3.2.4: BF advised that rather than "<i>causing</i> significant odours," the notes should read "<i>which had the potential to cause</i> significant odours".		

3. OPERATIONS UPDATES

Item	Discussion	Action	By
3.1	Kemps Creek SAWT Advanced Resource Recovery Facility		
3.1.1	PH reported that the current situation has been mostly business as usual. A new 8,000m ² concrete pad has been completed in the MSW compost maturation area, and a new 4,000m ² concrete pad has been under construction in the FGO compost maturation area. The concrete forming the second pad has now nearly cured, and normal operations are		

expected to return within the next few weeks. All of the compost has been stockpiled in large blocks on the MSW pad over the last few months, and not being turned, as doing so would create odours. When the compost needs to be relocated, staff will be working through this material slowly to minimise odours. Construction has begun on the foundations for the 5 covered, aerated-floor bunkers on the FGO compost pad, which should be finished in mid-August. These bunkers will dry compost to allow refining, while preventing waterlogging and severe odour. Just under \$2m has been spent on these improvements already, and the whole project would amount to \$3.5m altogether. Even in the wettest weather, compost will still be able to be dried, refined and transported. Past problems have been encountered with waterlogging, and this has meant compost couldn't be refined.

3.1.2 JD asked whether the bunkers would allow odours to be drawn through a biofilter.

PH replied that this would require complete enclosure of the compost, at potentially up to \$1m extra cost. Odour from the drying period is not the biggest issue – the biggest issue currently is expanding the pad size to allow for more efficient operation and avoidance of residual compost lying on the ground.

3.1.3 JD said that his tenants had reported that odours have been worse than ever lately, and asked how concrete pads would help improve odours.

PH replied that the compost stockpiled on the lower pad has been covered as of Good Friday, and that this should help with odours. PH asked JD to pass this information on to his tenants. PH said he hopes the odour situation will improve shortly, and added that within 2 months both pads will be fully operational in a windrow arrangement, and this will lead to abated odours. The main benefit of the bunkers will be that wet weather events won't result in peaks in odour as they have in the past.

3.1.4 PH said the current time of year is the middle of the peak odour period, in which increased rain and cooler temperatures combine to produce and trap odours close to the ground. The situation is expected to ease naturally over the next few months.

BF said he expected this should mean PH and his staff would be more careful and diligent in their operations, and work to prepare for this.

PH replied that this was the case, and added that even if it had not been the case, staff would snap into action when a complaint came in, in order to investigate and rectify the situation.

3.1.5 JD asked if it would be prudent to cover the compost pads permanently.

PH and AK replied that this is the ultimate aim of the SAWT Expansion Development Application, but that the DA hasn't proceeded due to community odour concerns.

JD said that outdoor compost areas must be covered because offensive odours are being emitted, and that his tenants were being significantly adversely impacted. JD offered to obtain fabrication quotes for SITA to have a building constructed to contain the maturation area, thus enabling a negative pressure system and a biofilter connection.

AK said SITA had looked at similar structures in the past, and had found that construction would be very expensive with little real benefit. The expansion project is all about enclosing the outdoor areas. The DA must be approved to allow for expansion and covering.

JD said he would support the DA if SITA gave an undertaking to cover the outdoor areas, and a promise that odours would cease at a certain date.

- 3.1.6 JD reported that his tenants had observed truck movements and reversing beepers in the early hours of the morning. AK suggested that a contractor may have had to collect some machinery from the site.

<i>Action</i>	<i>Investigate the likely cause of early morning movements and noise.</i>	<i>PH/LC</i>	<i>Next meeting</i>
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3.2 Elizabeth Drive Landfill

- 3.2.1 AK reported that the situation at the landfill has also been mostly business as usual. Excavation is continuing in the next cell. The design of the lining for the cell has been approved by the EPA, and construction will start this month. Operations have been delayed by recent rain. Asbestos handling procedures have recently been improved, and trucks arriving at the site without radios are being provided with walkie talkies to improve communication with site staff. Operations are going very smoothly overall.

- 3.2.2 JD asked if SITA were planning to create buffer zones between landfill operations and its neighbours, by not using the 30-40m within the site close to the fence line.

AK replied that this is already the case. Noise and visual barriers have also been put in place along the boundaries close to neighbours.

<i>Action</i>	<i>Investigate current buffer zone width and advise CRG.</i>	<i>LC</i>	<i>Next meeting</i>
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- 3.2.3 JD asked how long the shale stockpile would remain on the site.

AK said that this stockpile is a part of normal mining operations, and is likely to remain in place temporarily for many years while the site was still operating. The material was used in covering waste in the landfill, and was also being sold offsite for various uses. The stockpile will be gone at the end of life of the tip.

BF suggested that it was likely such a stockpile was not specifically stated in the consent, but that it was also not specifically prohibited.

AK agreed, and added that the facility was approved as a mine site, and such a stockpile was an expected part of normal operations.

- 3.2.4 BF asked whether AK had been happy with the standard of the analysis and information contained in the report into the previously proposed acceptance of the contaminated soil from Hunters Hill at Elizabeth Drive.

AK replied that he had been happy that the report showed it would be safe to accept the soil at Elizabeth Drive Landfill.

BF asked AK if he had been satisfied that the soil would not be a problem

in the foreseeable future.

AK said that this was correct, and that if the soil had come to the site, it would have been very well below ground level, enclosed by several layers of lining, with at least 8-10m of fill on top. The analysis in the report had showed that there would have been no risk to the community, even neighbours living right on the site boundary.

BF said he had been concerned about generalisations in the summary of findings, and noted that non-putrescible landfills had only recently been required to retrofit gas collection infrastructure because their original approval didn't foresee significant gas production. BF said he felt it was impossible to guarantee that issues that haven't been foreseen now wouldn't arise in the future.

AK agreed that it is impossible to know with certainty that unforeseen issues wouldn't arise in the future.

4. ENVIRONMENTAL UPDATE

Item	Discussion	Action	By
4.1	<p><i>NB presented the Environmental Update included with these notes as Appendix 1 – Environmental Update.</i></p> <p>AK added that when the EPA receive odour complaints and pass them on to SITA for investigation, the EPA also send these to other operators in the area who could be potential sources.</p>		
3.2.5	<p>BF asked if the new odour system would continue to be used.</p> <p>NB replied that the system is being trialled over a 3-month period, and that other options will also be investigated. The new system is a unit that blows odour-neutralising chemical into the air, using a lot less chemical than other methods, but in a more efficient and effective way.</p>		
3.2.6	<p>WM asked if the EPA allowed SITA much time to respond to complaints, and if fines would be imposed if a response was not received.</p> <p>AK replied that the EPA will issue fines if an operator doesn't respond and make improvements as recommended. All waste facilities have odours associated with their operations. It is impossible to have zero odours, but the aim is to make odours as low and infrequent as possible.</p>		
3.2.7	<p>BF said that waste facility licences don't allow offensive odours to escape offsite, and that SITA should be doing everything in their power to prevent that happening. Odours were noticed by EPA consultants as far away as St Clair and Erskine Park.</p> <p>AK said that the EPA's second odour assessment would be due for release soon, and said he believes the results have improved since the original assessment.</p>		
4.2	<p><i>GJ presented the Complaints Report included with these notes as Appendix 2 – Complaints Update.</i></p>		

BF said he understood that the original request for this information was more in relation to whether a correlation existed between the complaint direction and the wind direction.

PH said that often there will be a false correlation in the complaints forwarded by the EPA, due to the fact that the EPA only pass on complaints which are found to be correlated to wind direction.

JD said he felt that the complaint statistics appeared incorrect, as his tenants have recorded incidents of odour not shown in the chart.

GJ advised that complaints received by SITA are recorded and tabled in the same way as the EPA record complaints they receive. That is, each complaint represents a phone call or email which reports odours. If the call or email reports odours on more than one occasion, each incident of odour is assessed as part of the normal investigation into a complaint, but the call is logged as a single complaint. SITA must follow the same methodology used by the EPA in recording and reporting complaints.

PH added that if someone made a phone call to report that odours had been observed every day over a three month period, it would be inappropriate to record this single phone call as 90 separate complaints.

5. PROJECT UPDATES

Item	Discussion	Action	By
5.1	SAWT Expansion and Upgrade		
5.1.1	GJ advised that NH had indicated to him earlier in the day that there had been no further progress to report on the SAWT Expansion and Upgrade.		
5.2	Landfill Gas Infrastructure		
5.2.1	AK reported that the flare is continuing to operate well, destroying all gas collected from the landfill. SITA are getting close to reaching an agreement with a third party to install engines to use the landfill gas to generate renewable electricity.		

6. ACTIONS OUTSTANDING

Item	Discussion	Action	By				
6.1	<table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 10%;">6.3</td> <td><i>Forward recent media articles of interest to SITA.</i></td> <td>ARA</td> <td><i>Next meeting</i></td> </tr> </table>	6.3	<i>Forward recent media articles of interest to SITA.</i>	ARA	<i>Next meeting</i>		
6.3	<i>Forward recent media articles of interest to SITA.</i>	ARA	<i>Next meeting</i>				
6.1.1	GJ suggested that this action be closed, since this had also been suggested by a resident at the last meeting. All present agreed that the matter was no longer of concern to the group, as the articles ARA had mentioned pertained to the Hunters Hill soil disposal proposal. ACTION CLOSED.						

7. GENERAL BUSINESS

Item	Discussion	Action	By
7.1	The remaining meeting dates for 2014 are as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 26/06/2014• 28/08/2014• 30/10/2014		

MEETING CLOSED 6:30PM

NEXT MEETING

Date & Time: Thursday, 26 June 2014 at 5:30pm

Venue: Education Centre – SITA Kemps Creek ARRP, 1725 Elizabeth Drive Kemps Creek

ACTIONS OUTSTANDING

Item	Issue	Action	By
3.1.6	Investigate the likely cause of early morning movements and noise.	PH/LC	Next meeting
3.2.2	Investigate current buffer zone width and advise CRG.	LC	Next meeting

Appendices

- 1) Environmental Update
- 2) Complaints Report