



**Ashbridges Bay Treatment Plant (ABTP) Neighbourhood
Liaison Committee
Meeting #78**

Mennonite New Life Centre, 1774 Queen St. East
Thursday, April 12, 2007
7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE:

Doug Phillips	Resident
Karey Shinn	NLC co-chair
Stephen Whyte	Resident of South Riverdale and ICMC member
Jean Yves Urbain	Earth Tech
Volker Masemann	Earth Tech
Mark Rupke	Senior Engineer, Toronto Water
Katrina Blom	City of Toronto
Ajay Puri	City of Toronto
Janet Amos	Amos Environmental Planning
Gary Miller	Ministry of the Environment
Barbara Singer	Resident
Chris Krueger	Resident
Layton Steward	Resident
Nicolle Poutcher	Resident
Marion Oldy	Resident
Harold Murray	Resident
Phil Leach	Resident
Jim Neff	NLC member
Mark Rupke	Senior Engineer, Toronto Water
Shiri Pasternak	Facilitator, City of Toronto
Mabel Chow	Minute Taker

Regrets: Connie Demb Beach Resident/ICMC Member

Twenty other observers joined the meeting during the evening.

SUMMARY NOTES

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The meeting started with introductions to the various collaborators in the project. Representing the City of Toronto are members from Technical Services, Water, and Public Consultations. The private consultant is represented by Earth Tech and the primary sub-consultant by Stantec.

Project. Sub-consultants are represented by Bowker & Associates, Webster Environmental, Ortech and Amos Environmental Planning.

2.0 PRESENTATION BY EARTH TECH

Jean-Yves Urbain began presentations for the odour control facilities for the Ashbridges Bay Treatment Plant and progress in each building.

M Building Screens will be replaced and new scrubbers will be brought in. The pumping room ventilation is already completed. Contractor selection for this section is scheduled for late spring.

T Building Ventilation upgrade work will need to be done to comply with new electrical code requirements. A new heating system will also be put into the building as there is no heating in the building now and the increased ventilation will result in freezing. The new heating boiler will be located on the roof of the building surrounded by an architectural screen to hide it from view.

Q How much do the M and T buildings contribute to the overall odour control problem?

A These buildings contribute 10% of overall odour. They are not a significant source of odour to the overall plant, but can have a local impact.

Q Why is there no odor control construction planned for the T Building?

A There is no planned odor control construction because current scrubbers will be reused. The ventilation system will also be rearranged to contain the odours and better use the capacity of the existing odour controls.

D Building Issues of flooding will be addressed with installation of 5 new screens. The grit and screenings systems are being automated. Screen enclosure will be installed to allow them to contain odours so the air can be sent to odour control.

P Building This building is part of the plant's overall odour program that is not part of Earth Tech's contract. P Building includes some uncovered primary tanks. Covering these tanks would be very difficult and expensive. The City is considering replacing the tanks with newer technology so that less odour is generated. This review is part of the P building study which is currently underway

Aeration Tanks A large part of the odour comes off the sewage as it is treated in the aeration tanks, as this process requires large volumes of air to be bubbled through the sewage. This air supplies the bacteria treating the sewage with the oxygen they need to breathe. Studies are looking at more efficient methods for blowing air through this system. A new fine air bubble diffuser system is being designed which will improve energy efficiency and reduce the volume of air requiring treatment. Repair of existing aeration tank cover will be undertaken to contain the odourous air.

Dewatering Building There is no further work required at the dewatering building. This building takes the treated liquid sludge from the digester and dewateres it to 30% solids for easy transportation.

Truck Loading Facility This facility currently has odour control biofilters built into the ground and works with a 99.9% efficiency rate. The present system treats air from the Truck Loading Facility, Dewatering Building, and the Sludge Holding tank and Equalization tanks. These biofilters will be enclosed and sent to a local stack for better dispersion of the residual odours.

New biofilters Pilot tests were done for installation of new odour control biofilters from 3 contractors who were invited, over a period of 12 months, to run their equipment for tests and samples. The results of the testing showed that two supplies had consistently good results and one did not. The results will be used to design the new biofilter system.

Shiri asked to clarify the measurement for odour removal efficiency. **Jean-Yves** responds that the smelly air is collected into a bag and taken to an olfactometry lab. In a very clean lab, a panel of people with a normal sense of smell are presented with ultra clean air and diluted samples of the odorous air. They indicate when they can just smell a difference between the clean air and the diluted sample. The dilution level required to reach 50% of the testing panel's non-odour detection will determine the odour strength of the original sample. Very strong odours would need to be diluted with large amounts of clean air to be just detectable, and would result in high odour strength or Odour Units.

2.0 QUESTION & ANSWER PERIOD

Harold asks, what is the fraction of odour coming from these buildings? **Jean-Yves** responds that currently the primary source is from the Aeration Tank and, to a lesser degree, the D Building. This is because there is not enough proper sealing around the tanks. The proposed aeration designs will be created to remedy the leaky concrete covers – either to be repaired or upgraded to decrease leakage.

Howard asked what is the cost for all these project phases and, most importantly, has the City committed to all these in their budget? **Mark** responded that there is currently money in the capital budget to cover the Earth Tech project. About another \$100 Million is currently budgeted for P Building will be reallocated (to increase or decrease monies) once the conceptual design is completed and better cost estimates are available. The City is prepared to bear the cost of the project. **Karey** clarified that this money will be reflected in the City water rate and not property taxes.

Karey asked if the actual construction will create odors on top of those coming from the buildings. **Jean-Yves** responded that there is no extra concern – levels will be consistent with what is being presently experienced. There may be some odours from the repair of the Aeration Tanks because the sludge will need to be removed before the tanks can be pressure washed.

Karey asked if construction will be done within a certain season to offset smells. **Jean-Yves** said that construction will be ongoing throughout the year.

Jim asks to clarify how the dispersion calculation is arrived at. **Jean-Yves** responded that the *point of emission* refers to top-of-the-stack emission. *Point of impingement* (POI) refers to the point the emission reaches the ground after being diluted with fresh air. The POI does not necessarily follow property lines. Computer models are used to predict what the POI concentration will be for the emissions from the plant

Q What efforts are being made to negotiate for permitting with the Ministry (of Environment)?

A This situation now is such that no construction can take place without the proper permitting. The MOE have a specific department that deals with permit issues. We are currently in negotiations with the MOE so as not to delay the construction schedule. Our hopes are to receive permitting within the next few months so that construction can begin before the end of this year.

3.0 END OF PRESENTATION & FUTURE MEETING

Karey thanked everyone who came and passed around question sheets. Individuals are invited to write down their questions and ideas and leave the cards with the Neighborhood Liaison Committee along with their name, address and email. Meetings are held once a month and updates will be posted through email. The next meeting will be held Tuesday, May 8.

Shiri provided her email spaster2@toronto.ca and address for anyone who wants to be involved with the NLC proceedings. **Shiri** will forward all appropriate email/mail to the NLC.

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4.0 MINI-UPDATES

Mark led a discussion on updates regarding the pelletizer, Environmental Assessment (EA), Odour Study, Landscaping, and biosolids.

Pelletizer

The pelletizer makes biosolids into small pellets to be used as fertilizer. The equipment was repaired after a fire and is expected to be up and running again this summer.

EA

An environmental assessment (EA) was started in the 80s and has since passed through a mediation agreement which took into account public concerns and mediated for issues regarding the EA. The EA has been submitted to the MOE . It has passed the MOE review stage and is currently awaiting final approval. The approval of the EA will allow the City to proceed with replacing Chlorine disinfection of the effluent with Ultraviolet Disinfection and to build a new outfall into the lake as the existing one is too small and forces the plant to release some of its effluent at the shoreline.

Odour Response Protocol

The plant has in place an odour response protocol to respond to any odour complaints received. Revisions to the protocol had been discussed with the NLC. The new 311 general city response system (similar to 411 and 911) will be used for odour complaints once it is operational . With the protocol now, individuals need to report odours directly to the plant at 416-392-5150.

Q What is the pungent smell I experience when I come off the Gardiner and pass through Leslie?

A Odours in that area that smell of tar or burning are likely coming from a roofing manufacturer at that location. Odors from the Ashbridges Bay plant are a by-product of the bacteria in the wastewater as they treat the sewage. This is the same as the odours that can come from the black muck in a swamp or wetland if it is dug up. These are all natural smells and in nature they serve a purpose to warn us not to touch or eat things that are decaying. The odours serve as a warning and are not generally hazardous to human health.

Landscaping

The contracts are now signed and design project will begin in spring. Likely, over the course of this summer we will be holding liaison meetings and public information meetings to engage the public in these processes. Landscaping will likely take place next year.

The project will begin with the pumping station site. The rugby field will be moved to the northeast corner, the ball diamonds made into larger regulation size softball diamonds, and the skateboard park in the southeast corner. There will be many trees added to provide shade and improve the overall appearance.

Q Is this connected with the Leslie Street greening?

A The Leslie Street greening is part of the Portlands redevelopment. It has implemented the design proposed by the ABTP landscaping plan along Leslie Street. This design concept will be followed to the west (Canadian Tire) side and to the south.

Biosolids

This Biosolids program is the system which allowed the City to shut down the incinerators at ABTP. Currently, dewatered biosolids are hauled by trucks and transported to various sites. Many are diverted, during the dry season, into fields for fertilizer and some to a facility for composting. Landfilling is used as a contingency if these two alternatives are exhausted. When the pelletizer returns to operation it will reduce the amount being landfilled.

Q How much biosolid would the pelletizer take care of?

A The pelletizer would take care of ½ of total biosolid production.

Jim asked **Mark** to discuss developments in odour management experienced in Tokyo Bay. Do we have something within the City that can keep people up-to-date with developments in the wastewater industry? **Mark** responded that, yes we do take this international scope into mind and do not work in isolation from what has been happening in this regard throughout the world.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15. Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, May 8th, 2007.