



## Ashbridges Bay Treatment Plant (ABTP) Neighbourhood Liaison Committee (Meeting #94)

Mennonite New Life Centre (basement), 1774 Queen Street East  
September 17, 2009  
6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

### ATTENDANCE:

Karey Shinn, NLC Co-Chair; Safe Sewage Committee  
Steven Whyte, ICMC, Resident of South Riverdale  
Michael Rosenberg, Economics of Technology Working Group

### CITY OF TORONTO:

Shabbir Dato, ABTP Engineer  
Mike Logan, Public Consultation Unit

### TORONTO HYDRO:

Jack Simpson, Toronto Hydro  
Suzanne Yelle, Toronto Hydro

---

### 1. Welcome and Introductions

**Karey Shinn** called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m. All present at the meeting introduced themselves.

- Review and approval of agenda

**Karey Shinn** suggested adding the TRCA Coatsworth Cut Environmental Assessment to the agenda. **Mike Logan** suggested adding it to new business.

It was decided that #3 and #4 of the agenda should be switched in order to allow more time for other attendants to arrive.

### 2. Review and Approval of ABTP NLC minutes

Karey suggested waiting until more of the attendants arrived before approving the

minutes. Later in the meeting, the minutes from Meeting #93 on May 7, 2009 were approved with no amendments.

### 3. Review of NLC Action Items

**Karey Shinn** read the action items to be reviewed, and the status of each was discussed.

- **Meeting #88: Action Item #2** – *Karen Buck/Karey Shinn to write a letter on behalf of the NLC to Toronto Water requesting a response on all pending Motions.*

**Karey Shinn** said they had asked and were told that the letter went to Lou Di Gironimo, but they still do not know the outcome.

Disposition: Ongoing

- **Meeting #88: Action Item #10** – *Karey Shinn and Karen Buck to send Meeting #88, Motion #1 to Lou Di Gironimo and Waterfront Toronto.*

As far as **Karey Shinn** can remember, this motion has been sent.

Disposition: Completed September 17, 2009

- **Meeting #89: Action Item #4** – *Michael Rosenberg to draft a letter to Waterfront Toronto regarding the lack of immediate action regarding footpaths and specifying that the Toronto Water plan has not been cancelled.*

Disposition: Completed September 17, 2009

- **Meeting #91: Action Item #1** – *Karey Shinn to re-send motion (Motion #1) from Meeting #83 [Michael Rosenberg moved that the NLC request: a) That the City not give approval to Veolia to use any thermal process, as agreed to in the Mediation Agreement. B) If the City intends to ignore our request, that the NLC and the community be informed at least 6 months before any permission is given to Veolia to use a thermal process.] And, Mike Logan to find out who, within Lou Di Gironimo's office, the motion should be sent to.*

**Mike Logan** said that any correspondence to Toronto Water as a whole should be addressed to Lou Di Gironimo,

Disposition: Completed September 17, 2009

- **Meeting #91: Action Item #3** – *NLC to review original odour protocol and 311 odour protocol (when available) to ensure that (a) there is a timeline (preferably within 24 hours) to eliminate odours after a complaint is made; and (b) the caller is informed of what happened following their complaint.*

**Karey Shinn** said that she recently dialled the 311 number and it did not work.

**Mike Logan** explained that it is not yet activated. For now, people can call Access Toronto (338-0338) – once everything is shifted, 311 will be the number

to call.

**Karey Shinn** suggested adding the odour complaint protocol to the agenda. **Shabbir Dato** said that he was going to distribute copies of an updated version of the odour protocol later in this meeting. Further, there will be an update presentation on the Odour Control Project at the next NLC meeting..

Disposition: Ongoing

- **Meeting #91: Action Item #5** – *NLC to write a letter to the Ministry of the Environment to notify them that an EA advisory committee will not be set up by the City.*

**Karey Shinn** said that the letter was written and the city's response was to set up the ICMC steering committee.

Disposition: Completed September 17, 2009

- **Meeting #91: Action Item #6** – *NLC to contact Barbara Leonhardt (and copy Gary Wright) to formally invite John D. Minor and ask him to make a presentation and share written information regarding soil and groundwater remediation for the Carlaw and Lakeshore hydro site. And, if applicable, also explain how this would apply to the successful remediation of the pumping site or Ashbridges Bay.*

**Karey Shinn** explained that this action item had been requested by Dalton Shipway, and John Minor had worked on this project with Toronto Hydro. Karey said that she tried to call Mr. Minor several times, but he never called back. She wondered if there might be another way to get information about soil remediation.

**Shabbir Dato** said that according to the minutes, John Minor and Richard Saunders were at Meeting #93, and Allan Jones gave a presentation about soil remediation work at that meeting. **Steven Whyte** suggested that Dalton Shipway talk to Allan Jones to get more site specific information and information on the report if he so desires.

Disposition: Completed September 17, 2009

- **Meeting #91: Action Item #7** – *Karey Shinn to ask Suzanne Barrett about the soil and groundwater Master Plan from Waterfront Toronto.*

Disposition: Ongoing

- **Meeting #91: Action Item #8** – *Nancy Flemming to provide a copy of the bypass information made available in the disinfection RFP.*

**Mike Logan** distributed a copy of a table showing ABTP flows and bypass information from 2000 to 2007.

**Michael Rosenberg** asked for statistics about the number of times the seawall gates open. **Shabbir Dato** clarified that the seawall gates sometimes open at

times even when there is no bypass event. He added that as far as he knows, the plant does not statistically track how many times the seawall gates open.

**Michael Rosenberg** asked for clarification of the process of the seawall gate openings. **Shabbir Datto** explained that during a bypass event, secondary effluent flows preferentially through the seawall gates based on plant hydraulics, and primary effluent (bypass) goes through the outfall. Once the capacity of the outfall has been maximized, the remainder of the bypass blends with the secondary effluent and is released through the seawall gates. He further clarified that both streams leaving the Plant (bypass and secondary effluent) receive chlorination treatment, regardless of whether they are released through the outfall or the seawall gates.

**Steven Whyte** inquired as to how long the chlorine was in contact with the effluent. He has read that it should be at least 10 minutes, however it is not clear how this would be measured. **Shabbir Datto** said that it was difficult to exactly measure the contact time, but the operation of the plant is designed to maximize the contact time.

Disposition: Completed September 17, 2009

- **Meeting #92: Action Item #1 – Shabbir Datto** to find out if the Veolia Contract contains an expiration date should the pelletizer not be commissioned, and to obtain this answer as a “Yes” or “No”.

**Shabbir Datto** said that the answer is “No,” however the City continues to do everything possible to help ensure that the pelletizer facility is a success. Toronto Water remains unable to discuss contract details and possible bargaining positions.

Disposition: Completed September 17, 2009

#### **4. Report on Cogeneration Facility – Toronto Hydro**

**Jack Simpson** and **Suzanne Yelle** from Toronto Hydro gave a presentation on the proposed Cogeneration Facility. The presentation provided an update on the facility that is planned to be constructed on Leslie Street adjacent to The Ashbridges Bay Treatment Plant. The site will be linked to the Plant process at Ashbridges Bay and will use biogas from the Plant to produce both hot water and electricity for use in ABTP. Cogeneration is the simultaneous production of heat and electricity and allows for an efficiency of approximately 80%. The presenters outlined the schedule for the project, including site plan and zoning applications, and said that it is expected to be completed by July of 2011.

A copy of the presentation is attached to these minutes.

#### **Questions**

**Steven Whyte** asked if research had been done on the engine technology that will be used to burn the gas, and whether the most efficient designs will be used. **Jack Simpson** said that they have done a prequalification of various different engines and technologies over the last 2 or 3 years, and the design that has been selected for the site is the best arrangement overall. There has been a competitive process for the contractors involved, therefore, he feels they are getting very good value for the project.

**Michael Rosenberg** asked if there has ever been a time when this project was shelved. **Jack Simpson** said that Toronto Hydro has been in continuous development for this project in order to get the best possible package to present to the City, and there has been a lot of dialogue and refinement of the project since that time. While this has taken some time, he never had any doubt that the project would be done.

**Karey Shinn** asked what exactly the plant will be supplying to the ABTP. **Suzanne Yelle** said that 60% of the current demands for electricity will be supplied, which means that it will be displacing electricity currently taken from the grid. **Jack Simpson** added that the plant currently uses biogas to fire boilers that heat water, but with the new cogeneration plant, the ABTP will be able to get hot water directly so there will also be increased efficiency there. **Jack** further noted that the biogas burn conditions in the new facility will also be more tightly controlled than they are currently at the ABTP.

**Karey Shinn** inquired about the proposed reduction of 15000 tons of greenhouse gases and asked which gasses this is referring to. **Jack Simpson** explained that it is in equivalent CO<sub>2</sub> tonnes, but is actually a mixture of several gasses. It is primarily CO<sub>2</sub> with some NO<sub>x</sub>. 60% of the biogas is methane and 40% is CO<sub>2</sub>.

**Karey Shinn** asked what the next steps are, and whether there are any provisions for expansion, **Jack Simpson** said that the approvals process was going well. The next step is the contract with Toronto Water and OPA. They are hoping to begin construction in 2010 and hope to be operational by the middle of 2011. The approved plant size is 10 megawatts, which allows some provision for growth, and is a reasonable size for the electrical connection. He added that there are other similar facilities throughout North America and Europe; there are various waste water plants and landfill gas sites using this type of technology. Ashbridges Bay is ahead of most Plants they have looked at in that it already uses biogas to fuel its boilers. Other sites such as Vancouver and Cornwall, have only recently changed from flaring to some beneficial use of their biogas; most of them use it to power engines.

**Steven Whyte** inquired as to whether the building will be visible from the road or whether there will be trees or plants to screen it. **Jack Simpson** said that the view will be softened by trees and shrubs along the roadside. Steven suggested adding educational and interpretive information and signage for people walking by, so they understand the purpose of the building. Jack and **Suzanne Yelle** both agreed that this would be a good idea, and that they will look into it.

**Karey Shinn** thanked Jack Simpson and Suzanne Yelle for their presentation.

## ***BREAK***

### **5. Mini-updates**

- **ABTP EA**

**Shabbir Dattoo** said that the disinfection study is ongoing and a Public Information Session is planned for sometime in October. **Karey Shinn** asked if there were any outfall studies going on. **Mike Logan** explained that the outfall will not be studied until the disinfection technology has been confirmed.

**Mike Logan** said that there will be an ICMC Steering Committee meeting prior to the public meeting. The format for the public meeting will be decided at that ICMC Steering Committee meeting.

- **BMP & Pelletizer Status**

**BMP: Shabbir Dattoo** said that the team has just finished the last set of Public Information Sessions presenting the preferred strategy for each wastewater treatment plant. The BMP will be completed and released for a 30 day public review by end September or early October.

**Pelletizer: Shabbir Dattoo** said that the pelletizer has been operating two dryers fairly consistently ever since the end of the labour disruption.

**Michael Rosenberg** pointed out that the Committee agrees with the use of the pellets for beneficial use, and that landfill dumping should be a last resort. The Committee agrees with recommendations in the BMP for Ashbridges Bay and added that they would like to see the incinerators decommissioned.

- **Odour Control Project**

**Shabbir Dattoo** explained that construction work on the M&T buildings has begun. The D building design is complete and the tender for this work is expected to go out at the end of September, with construction set to begin in the second quarter of 2010. The design for the Aeration tanks' ducting to the main stack is also complete and will be going to tender in October of this year, with construction beginning in early 2010.

The pre-design work for the aeration tanks' upgrades is complete, and there will be three separate Tenders: The first is for a one-year pilot test on one aeration tank; the tender for that work is being issued in the second quarter of 2010. The second contract covers tanks 2 to 6, and the third covers tanks 7 to 11. These contracts are subject to budget approval.

The truck loading facility pre-design is completed and is anticipated to go to tender in the third quarter of 2014.

The P building upgrades design is in progress and the estimated time for design and pilot testing is two and a half years.

**Steven Whyte** asked if funding is a problem for these projects. **Shabbir Dattoo** said that allocating funding and working within budgets always poses a challenge, and added that another equally important challenge/constraint is the coordination and sequencing of the various construction projects that sometimes occur simultaneously in the Plant.

**Karey Shinn** asked if there was an odour control plan in place during construction; for example, in the event that one control system is down while the next is going up. **Shabbir Dattoo** said that when one tank is taken down, it does not affect the other tanks; they continue to work effectively.

**Shabbir Dattoo** distributed the new ABTP Complaint Response Procedure that was required by the Ministry of the Environment as part of obtaining approval for the Odour Control Project upgrades. He asked the committee to review it and be prepared to make comments on it at the next meeting.

- **Landscape Plan**

**Shabbir Dattoo** said that a presentation on the landscape plan was given at the last meeting and that the consultants are preparing Tender documents and detailed drawings. The estimated tender issue date is March 2010. Construction should begin in May 2010.

**Karey Shinn** indicated that the skateboard park was already very busy, even though it hasn't opened yet. **Shabbir Dattoo** noted that the skateboard park is a project of the Parks department, and although it is part of the ABTP site, it was not a Toronto Water initiative.

- **Urban Forestry Facility and LRV (Light Rail Vehicle) yard**

**Mike Logan** clarified that these updates will not be a regular part of the NLC meetings, as these projects are not related to Toronto Water. He explained that he had requested an update from Beth McEwen who attended the meeting in May and gave a presentation on a proposed urban forestry facility, but he had not received a response.

**Mike Logan** distributed a package outlining a presentation prepared by the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) and presented tonight to the Port Lands Action Committee entitled New LRV Fleet Maintenance & Storage Facility. This presentation will be attached to the meeting minutes. The site for the LRV yard being recommended to Council will be Ashbridges Bay, specifically at the corner of Leslie and Lake Shore (summarized on page 13 of the presentation).

**Michael Rosenberg** said that it is surprising that this proposal is being approved considering how Toronto Water had gone to great efforts to prevent anything from being

done to the land south of the ABTP. **Steven Whyte** wondered why they selected this site, as opposed to another site. **Mike Logan** said that information explaining why they chose Ashbridges Bay is outlined in the presentation. Page 7 of the presentation lists the 14 original sites that were evaluated. The project web page is <http://www.toronto.ca/involved/projects/lrv/>.

**Karey Shinn** said that it is disappointing to see that the site is being used for a TTC yard rather than being saved for developments that may be required for sewage treatment in the future. **Mike Logan** said that an overwhelming majority of people who have participated in the public consultation on this issue are opposed to the selection of the site at 629 Eastern Avenue, as mentioned on page 24 of the presentation.

**Michael Rosenberg** pointed out that the main criteria appears to have been simply a vacant site, so it is not surprising that the site was selected; regardless of whether or not the use is appropriate. He added that he felt the concrete plant would be a more appropriate choice. **Mike Logan** said that all of the sites had encumbrances, but of all the 6 sites, Ashbridges Bay appeared to be the most favourable.

**Steven Whyte** said that another significant issue will be the noise created. **Mike Logan** explained that the new cars will be much quieter than the existing cars. **Michael Rosenberg** pointed out that the street cars will need to cross the Martin Goodman trail. Mike said that most of the traffic in the facility will be before morning rush hour and after evening rush hour so it will not likely interfere with trail users, but the TTC is aware of this concern and will accommodate the trail in the design.

**Mike Logan** said that the LRV Facility project contact list will be notified when this recommendation goes before council for approval. If NLC members wish to be notified, they should ensure that they are on this contact list. **Michael Rosenberg** said that the issue must go before a standing committee to allow for debate and deputations from the public. Mike reiterated that the recommendation will go directly to Council from the Toronto Transit Commission. Mike does not know when the Commission would consider this issue, nor does he know if that meeting would be open to the public. However, he said that it will most likely go to Council on October 26-27, 2009.

**Michael Rosenberg** suggested that the NLC request the proposal be referred to the Public Works & Infrastructure committee.

<p><b>Action Item #1:</b> The NLC to request that City Council refer the issue of the site selection for the LRV Maintenance &amp; Storage Facility, to the Public Works &amp; Infrastructure committee for comment and review.</p>
---

**Karey Shinn** said that she would draft a letter explaining that the NLC's main concern is that the use of the Ashbridges Bay Treatment Plant site must be reserved for sewage treatment over the long term. As there is limited land available in the city for water treatment, it would not be a good idea to use this land for something that cannot be removed.

The committee discussed who this letter and request should be sent to, and it was concluded that it should be sent to the Clerk in order to be put on the agenda for the City Council meeting at which this proposal will be discussed. **Karey Shinn** suggested that all NLC members be put on the LRV Yard contact list so they knew when the item was scheduled. **Mike Logan** indicated that he would ensure that anyone who wished to be on the list is added. All present asked to be placed on the contact list.

**Action Item #2:** **Mike Logan** to ensure that all members of the NLC present at Meeting #94 are added to the LRV Maintenance & Storage Facility contact list.

**Karey Shinn** asked if this current plan will require removal of the berm. **Mike Logan** responded that it will. Karey indicated that the berm was built to help shield the surrounding community from a potential chlorine gas explosion, and wondered how the TTC was going to address this risk.

**Mike Logan** pointed out that the NLC could invite the TTC to present to the Committee if they would like to know more about the project, at any time – either before the project begins, or once the project gets started. The project is set to be completed by 2012.

## 6. New Business

**Karey Shinn** explained that Michael Rosenberg had volunteered to represent the NLC on the TRCA's Coatsworth Cut Environmental Assessment Community Advisory Committee. **Mike Logan** explained that he heard that Bob Kortright had also attended the first meeting as a representative of another group and identified himself as part of the NLC. Since the NLC does not have an alternate representative, it may be appropriate to ask Bob to report back to the NLC as well as Michael. Mike will confirm with Bob Kortright.

**Michael Rosenberg** went to the meeting but arrived late. The TRCA sent him information afterwards including maps of how the currents flow. The next meeting is scheduled for September 24<sup>th</sup> 2009. Michael said that the first Coatsworth Cut EA determined where to construct the wetland. But it now appears as though Waterfront Toronto wants to construct it somewhere else so the TRCA is proposing an amendment to the original Coatsworth Cut EA.

**Karey Shinn** wondered if the local boat clubs were opposed to the new proposal, since it would be very expensive to relocate the boat clubs and one of the sailing clubs has a federal deed to the site it is currently on. **Michael Rosenberg** explained that originally, the city and TRCA were willing to accommodate the boat clubs but it looks like Waterfront Toronto is now planning to go ahead and move the boat clubs.

**Michael Rosenberg** said that it is odd that the Coatsworth Cut is just being taken away and replaced by something else. There is no clear picture as to why they have decided to change the wetland location. It is hard to support or oppose a decision without knowing

the purpose. If the public knew what the real reason was, they might agree with it; but at this point they do not have enough information.

**Steve Whyte** inquired as to whether the intention of the wetland plan was to improve the water quality. **Shabbir Datto** believed that this was the plan.

At the next Coatsworth Cut EA Community Advisory Committee meeting, **Michael Rosenberg** will ask which, of all possible reasons, is the main reason for amending the EA recommendations.

### **7. Next meeting & Adjournment**

The next NLC meeting was set for Thursday November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

Meeting adjourned at 8:41pm