

**Ashbridges Bay Treatment Plant (ABTP) Neighbourhood
Liaison Committee (NLC)
Meeting #100**

Mennonite New Life Centre, 1774 Queen Street East
February 15, 2011
6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

ATTENDANCE:

Karen Buck	NLC Co-Chair, Citizens for a Safe Environment
Karey Shinn	NLC Co-Chair, Safe Sewage Committee
Edythe Gerrard	Beach Triangle Residents' Association
Puneet Luthra	
Michael Rosenberg	Economics of Technology Working Group
Steven Whyte	

CITY OF TORONTO:

Shabbir Dato	ABTP Engineer
Mike Logan	Public Consultation Unit
Bruce Nagy	Councillor McMahon's office

MINUTES

Barb Legault

REGRETS:

Jim Neff

1. Welcome and Introductions

Karen Buck called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. All present at the meeting introduced themselves.

Karen Buck circulated a sign-in sheet for individuals who wished to provide their contact information to the NLC co-chairs. She made it clear that she would not share personal information with anyone outside of the NLC. **Mike Logan** clarified that the official NLC mailing list is maintained by the City and as such is subject to the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

- Review and Approval of Agenda

Michael Rosenberg requested an update on the Don and Waterfront EA.

Karen Buck suggested that bypass reporting, an update on the biosolids management program and the Don and Waterfront EA be added to the updates from Toronto Water

presented by Shabbir Dattoo. **Shabbir Dattoo** indicated that he would attempt to answer questions but could not provide formal updates on these items.

Steven Whyte moved that the agenda be approved. **Karey Shinn** seconded the motion.

2. Review and Approval of ABTB NLC Minutes

Karen Buck asked if anyone had changes or additions to the previous meeting minutes.

- **Meeting #98 – May 18, 2010**

Karen Buck noted a grammatical error on page 4: “plants cannot continue to be landlocked.”

Karey Shinn noted that her name was spelled incorrectly on page 8.

Karey Shinn moved that the minutes be accepted as corrected. **Michael Rosenberg** seconded the motion.

- **Meeting #99 – July 27, 2010**

Karey Shinn asked that the abbreviation for Industrial Zone 3 ‘I3’ be more clearly identified on pages 4 and 5 as it currently looks like ‘thirteen’. She suggested a hyphen between the I and the 3 might help. **Karey** also requested a clarification on page 7 – that water could be collected and reserved not just for drinking water, but also irrigation.

Karey Shinn moved to adopt the minutes as amended. **Edythe Gerrard** seconded the motion.

3. Mini-Updates

Karen Buck then invited **Shabbir Dattoo** to provide updates on Ashbridges Bay Treatment Plant operations.

Odor Control Project:

Shabbir Dattoo provided this update:

- Construction at the M and T buildings is in progress and should be completed by end of July 2011.
- Construction at the D Building is also in progress and should be completed by end of 2013.
- Ducting between the aeration tanks and the main stack: design has been completed and the tender period has closed; Construction is scheduled to start in May 2011 and last for 3 years.
- Retrofitting of aeration tanks will begin with upgrading and full-scale testing of Tank #2. The detailed design for tank #2 is currently 95% complete. Construction is now

scheduled to commence some time in 2012. Once this construction is complete, performance will be monitored for a year before detailed design of retrofits for the other 10 tanks would begin.

- P Building: detailed design is underway; construction tender issue date is estimated to be mid 2012.

Puneet Luthra asked for an explanation of what a biofilter is. **Shabbir Datto** explained that a biofilter is filled with a proprietary media through which odourous air is passed. The bacteria causing the odour is absorbed by the media and the treated air is then released to the atmosphere.

Karen Buck added that biofilters are very effective. She said that the Dufferin Transfer Station had severe odour problems until a similar filter was built. Since then the odour issues have diminished significantly.

Karey Shinn asked if there is a site plan with the building names identified to make it easier to follow the explanation of updates. **Shabbir Datto** indicated that he should be able to provide a suitable map or drawing to the NLC that shows this information.

<p>Action Item # 1: Shabbir Datto to provide a labeled map or drawing of the ABTP to help community members better understand the names of the various buildings on the property e.g. M, T, P, D etc.</p>
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Karey Shinn remarked that she thought the entire Odor Control Project was supposed to be completed by 2013. **Shabbir Datto** responded that he wasn't sure if this was the original schedule or not, but explained that due to the size of the projects and locations of the various buildings, construction would need to be staged and done in phases. Additionally, Toronto Water has to work within budget constraints when implementing projects. He further stated that Odor Control at ABTP remains a priority item for Toronto Water.

Karey Shinn said that it looked like the roof of T Building has been raised. **Shabbir Datto** explained that HVAC equipment (for Odor Control) has been installed on the roof. A barrier has been constructed around the equipment so the HVAC is not visible to the public, in order to maintain the aesthetics of the building.

Karen Buck asked if H₂S has an odour. **Shabbir Datto** explained that it does have an odour at low concentrations. Beyond a certain concentration, there is no odour associated with H₂S.

Karen Buck commented that there used to be exceedances of the concentration of H₂S. **Shabbir Datto** explained that there are numerous gas monitors installed in various buildings that would trigger alarms should there be dangerous concentrations within the buildings' air.

Michael Rosenberg expressed surprise that de-nitrification had not begun. **Shabbir Dattoo** clarified that the design for upgrading and full scale testing on tank # 2 is about 95% complete, but that Construction commencement has been delayed for 1 year due to budget decisions.

Karen Buck asked whether the purpose of de-nitrification is about odour reduction or effluent toxicity. **Shabbir Dattoo** replied that upgrading or replacing the concrete covers on the aeration tanks will result in odour reduction, and that switching from coarse bubble to fine bubble diffusion would allow de-nitrification on tank #2 to be pilot tested. Should this prove successful, it would mean less nitrogen in the effluent. **Shabbir Dattoo** went on to explain that de-nitrification is not currently required by ABTP's CofA from the Ministry of the Environment, but that it may be required in the future, so Toronto Water has incorporated this pilot testing into the aeration tank #2 upgrade project.

Karen Buck asked what the concrete covers would be replaced with. **Shabbir Dattoo** speculated that it could be made of either fiber reinforced plastic (FRP) or metal. Either of which would incorporate a tight seal around them.

Karen Buck asked for an update on the funding budgeted for odour control that had been diverted to another account. **Shabbir Dattoo** stated that he was not aware of this, but that when funding is deferred to another account it is typically to accelerate one project that is ready to go and the first project would then get that budget back when it is ready to go. **Karen** commented that odour control implementation should be a priority. **Shabbir** reiterated that Odour Control at ABTP remains a priority for Toronto Water.

Steven Whyte asked for clarification on whether the P Building would be completed by 2014. **Shabbir Dattoo** speculated that the construction of the P Building upgrades would likely go beyond this date, as detailed design is still in progress and construction would not begin until mid-2012. This will also be a multi-year construction project.

Disinfection EA

Shabbir Dattoo reported that Toronto Water had been directed by the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee (PWIC) to conduct a Peer Review on the evaluation of options undertaken in the Disinfection EA. This review is currently underway. Toronto Water Staff expect to be able to present the Peer Review's completed findings to the PWIC by the end of April 2011.

Karen Buck remarked that the ICMC was supposed to be involved as the Steering Committee, and that this had been one of the conditions of EA Approval. Thus far the ICMC has not been engaged in the Peer Review process. **Karen** will be contacting Toronto Water to ensure that the Steering Committee involves the ICMC in the Peer Review process.

Karey Shinn asked if there had been any description of the work completed by the consultants thus far in the peer review. **Mike Logan** reiterated that the scope set by the

PWIC was to review the Option Evaluation and Scoring Methodology used in the selection of the preferred option in the Disinfection EA. **Karey Shinn** requested a copy of the Terms of Reference for the Peer Review.

Mike Logan noted that this may be out of scope for the NLC, but agreed to request this Terms of Reference.

<p>Action Item #2: Mike Logan to distribute a copy of the Terms of Reference for the peer review of the Disinfection EA.</p>
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Pump House Park

Shabbir Dattoo reported that the final design is essentially complete, however at this point in time, construction of the park is potentially one of the Projects that would be deferred due to funding/budget pressures. This is subject to final approval of the 2011 budget.

Karen Buck felt that it was disingenuous to engage the public in the landscape projects and use the energies of 300 people without funding or implementation of the project. The landscaping project is of great interest to a large number of people and now the construction is being deferred.

Michael Rosenberg commented that there did not appear to be a clear reason for the design selection. The design team spoke to the public and made a decision, but there is no sense of how public interests were taken into account.

Karen Buck requested three additional updates, and commented that it is important for the NLC to hear updates on all the projects currently in progress at ABTP.

Don River and Waterfront EA

Karen Buck explained that this project is about looking at alternatives for stormwater management along the waterfront, but these studies appear to have stalled. Meetings for public input have been cancelled, and they have not heard anything since September 2010. There was a lot of public input at the meeting she attended and only one group in favour of what was being proposed.

Michael Rosenberg asked Shabbir Dattoo whether the capacity of the ABTP is more dependent on the amount of liquids or solids coming into the plant. **Steven Whyte** added that even if flow decreases and there is an increase in solids, they will still need to increase digester capacity.

Shabbir Dattoo answered that it is difficult to provide a response without doing some detailed analysis and study of the hypothetical question posed.

Michael Rosenberg asked again what determines capacity requirements in the plant and asked if someone within Toronto Water could provide a response to his question.

Action Item #3: Shabbir Dattoo to find out if anyone in Toronto Water can answer the question of whether primary and secondary capacity is dependent on liquid or solid volumes.

Karen Buck noted that in the annual reports for 2006-2007, there was a dramatic decrease in flow to ABTP, but in 2009 the numbers were up to 717,000 ML/day (the same as in 2006). The ICMC is looking at water efficiency and de-nitrification in relation to flows to ABTP and plant expansion.

Shabbir Dattoo asked whether the ICMC was provided with an annual presentation with respect to flows to ABTP. **Karen Buck** explained that they had asked for it, but that it had never happened even though it was part of the reporting protocol.

Biosolids Update

Karen Buck asked Shabbir Dattoo to update the NLC on the biosolids program and the pelletizer.

Shabbir Dattoo explained that the pelletizer continues to operate. Biosolids quantities that were processed by ABTP in 2010 are in the process of being tabulated. He suggested that this report will be part of the annual presentation on biosolids to the ICMC.

Bypassing

Karen Buck expressed concern about bypassing at ABTP. The NLC has been told by Toronto Water that all of the data they ask for is in the plant's Annual Report, however Toronto Water reports on a monthly basis to MOE. This information includes much more detail on bypassing. The NLC has been told they cannot have this, despite it being made available to the public by the MOE.

Action Item #4: Mike Logan to ask Toronto Water to make the monthly ABTP bypassing reports for MOE available to the public.

Mike Logan suggested that it would be helpful to know why the NLC wants this information.

Karen Buck explained that it is necessary to see the breakdown on a monthly basis, not annually to examine plant capacity.

Karey Shinn further explained this information is necessary for assessing the Wet Weather Flow Management Plan. This information is not obvious in an annual breakdown because it is impossible to determine seasonal impacts.

Karen Buck commented that the biosolids are quite odorous, and that the digestion process is not long enough. She worried that this meant the biosolids were unstable. She suggested that other treatment plants do not have the same problems because they are using thermophilic processes, and ABTP is still using mesophilic digestion, which involves a 15-day digestion process. **Karen** remarked that Toronto should be running a plant that is more in tune with other municipalities.

Steven Whyte wondered if anyone had looked at changing the plant digestion process to thermophilic. **Shabbir Dattoo** responded that he will attempt to find out.

Action Item #5: Shabbir Dattoo to find out if anaerobic thermophilic options for biosolids processing have been considered for the digestion process at ABTP.

4. 311 Odour Reporting Procedure update

Mike Logan is working with the Senior Communications Coordinator for Wastewater Treatment to ensure that the process is streamlined with 311. 311 ran out of budget for reviewing processes in 2010, but we will be meeting about this shortly. Complaints received by 311 are currently being transferred directly to the Plant. This is exactly the same as someone calling the Plant directly. We are moving towards improving the reporting process by creating 311 tickets and ensuring that someone gets back to the complainant. **Mike** will continue to report on this process.

Shabbir Dattoo reported that 18 odour complaints have been received at the plant since May 2010.

Karen Buck commented that this is not indicative of odour experience as more people experience the odour than complain about it. She will contact Kingston to see if there are ways to improve communication protocol.

5. Review of Action Items and Motions

Karey Shinn reviewed the Action Items:

- **Meeting 88 #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 confirmed that the letter has been drafted but has not been sent yet.

Disposition: Ongoing

- **Meeting 98 #5: Mike Logan to distribute a copy of the original deed for Ashbridges Bay Treatment Plant site to the NLC.**

Mike Logan confirmed that he had been told by Toronto Water not to provide the deed and that it was available to the public at the Ontario Land Registry Office.

Karen Buck asked whether it would cost money to get the deed from the Land Registry. **Michael Rosenberg** suggested that some documents are free of charge.

Karey Shinn reaffirmed that the NLC still needs to see the deed.

Disposition: Unresolved

- **Meeting 99 #3: Mike Logan to forward the five motions passed to Toronto Water for action.**

Karey Shinn asked if all motions were being passed on to Toronto Water, and whether there has been any response. **Mike Logan** confirmed that they were all being forwarded, however there has been no response.

Disposition: Complete

Karey Shinn reviewed the Motions. The updates are as follows:

- **Meeting 96 Motion #2: The ABTP NLC moves to request the details of the process used by the City to transfer the deeded use of the ABTP site to be forwarded to the ABTP NLC.**

Karey Shinn expressed concern about the change of deeded land use and suggested that if the use of land has been changed that there should be a public meeting. She reiterated that this was why the NLC wanted to see the deed.

Karen Buck explained that the negotiations between the City and the Toronto Port Authority were done in camera. The end result of the agreement was that the land was severed and the use was changed to allow the TTC to put a storage facility. **Mike Logan** reiterated that the land use was changed by Council by a vote at a regular Council meeting.

Karey Shinn still expressed concern about changing the land use without a public process.

Mediation/Resolution: Land Transfer agreement distributed on October 18, 2010.

- **Meeting #99 Motion #1: The NLC request to the Planning Department to comment on the proposed TTC streetcar variance and land use, whether it requires a Site Plan Approval process, and public input.**

There has been no response from Toronto Water.

- **Meeting #99 Motion #2: Whereas the TTC Facility is in contravention of the Guiding Principles of the Mediation Agreement in terms of land use, and**

whereas the Don River and Central Waterfront Project has massive land use requirements at the Main Treatment Plant as was brought out by Lou Di Gironimo at the public meeting back in the winter,

the NLC oppose the movement towards the development of this TTC Facility and direct the Works Committee to present to Council to rescind its approval of the TTC Facility.

There has been no response from Toronto Water.

- **Meeting #99 #3: The land use criteria distributed to the NLC at Meeting #99 shall be approved if no ABTP NLC member objects within 30 days. If a member does object, the proposed land use criteria will be voted on at NLC Meeting #100.**

Mike Logan confirmed that as no one had objected, therefore the land use criteria have been adopted by the NLC.

- **Meeting #99 Motion #4: The NLC requests that the General Manager of Toronto Water report on what caused the delay in the implementation of an ultraviolet disinfection system.**

There has been no response from Toronto Water.

- **Meeting #99 Motion #5: The NLC recommends that the preferred solution for bypass effluent is the elimination of bypasses at the ABTP by implementation of upstream stormwater controls, and that the second choice to be UV.**

Michael Rosenberg noted that this is a recommendation and that the mediation should therefore not be “no action required”. Until the recommendation is acted upon, it should remain there.

Karey Shinn confirmed that these motions will be included in the letter that she and Karen are sending to Toronto Water (Action Item 88.2).

6. Land Use Criteria.

Mike Logan reported that the Land Use Criteria was approved as no one had objected. These approved NLC Land Use Criteria are attached to these minutes.

Michael Rosenberg had a question about the TTC and approval of the clearing of the berm. **Bruce Nagy** confirmed that staff were given approval to award the contract for construction. **Michael** asked if he had suggestions on who the NLC could meet with to discuss possible alternatives. **Bruce** said he had none, and that he suspected it would be difficult to change the path forward because of the capital already committed to the project.

Karen Buck remarked that the tracks cannot be located any other way, but that access to the storm sewer on Leslie Street has to be figured out. **Karey Shinn** wanted to know if the sewage works for the facility and the cost of sewers into the Plant was being paid by TTC or Toronto Water. **Bruce Nagy** was unsure.

7. New Business

Bruce Nagy reported that the EAs for basement flooding had been postponed.

Karen Buck asked whether Council would be updated on the Disinfection EA. **Mike Logan** confirmed that this would likely happen in April, as per Shabbir's earlier update on this project.

Bruce Nagy asked who was in charge of the peer review of the EA. **Mike Logan** was not sure.

Karen Buck expressed concern that this had gone ahead without instruction from the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee and the Steering Committee. **Karey Shinn** requested that it be deferred at next meeting so that they could review it. She proposed that the NLC meet on April 19th before the meeting with Public Works and Infrastructure.

Karen Buck would like to table a communication she sent as co-chair to the TTC. **Karey Shinn** suggested it be appended to the minutes for Meeting #100. **Karen** agreed and will send the document to Mike Logan for distribution.

8. Next meeting and Adjournment

A request for the next NLC meeting to occur on April 19, 2011 at the Mennonite New Life Centre was made.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

NLC Land Use Criteria
As Approved February 15, 2011

Criteria for approving proposed uses or developments on the ABTP site.

The area of the Ashbridges Bay Treatment Plant site, including the land and water lot area, should be reserved primarily for activities and developments that are directly related to its primary purpose of sanitary sewage treatment, to maximize the efficiency of the ABTP and to minimize pressures for lakefilling. Activities or developments that are not directly related to the primary purpose [*sic*] of the ABTP may be permitted at the ABTP site only if:

- the ABTP Neighbourhood Liaison Committee has been fully informed and consulted, beginning prior to creating the short list of sites and alternatives;
- a comprehensive analysis of alternative locations has been conducted, in accordance with these evaluation criteria, and having regard to the definition of the environment from the Environmental Assessment Act, and the ABTP site has thereby been determined to be the preferred alternative;
- the activity of development can be located at the ABTP site, without compromising the ability of the site to accommodate future requirements for sanitary sewage treatment and without increasing the pressure for lakefilling;
- the activity or development will not cause any adverse impact or risk to current or future plant operations;
- the activity or development will not compromise the beneficial use of biosolids at the ABTP;
- the activity or development will cause no additional cost to the ABTP or to water rates;
- the approved Site Plan either contemplates the activity or development, or can be amended to provide for it without compromising its integrity;
- the activity or development will not cause any adverse impact on the quality of air, water or land in the vicinity of the ATBP;
- the activity or development will not cause any adverse impact on the quality of the final effluent from the ABTP or on near shore water quality;
- the activity or development will not increase off site nuisance impacts on residential, recreational or other sensitive land uses in the vicinity of the ABTP; and
- the activity or development will not cause any adverse visual impact from any off site location.