

**HIGHLAND CREEK TREATMENT PLANT (HCTP)
Neighbourhood Liaison Committee (NLC)**

**Meeting #16
Monday, March 3, 2008**

**Highland Creek Treatment Plant Meeting Room
51 Beechgrove Drive**

Meeting: 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

FINAL SUMMARY NOTES

ATTENDANCE

Francis Chang, Community Co-Chair
John Hopkins, ICMC
Frank Moir
Betty Smith, Manse Valley Community Association
Bruce Smith, Manse Valley Community Association

William F. Sheehan
James Matthews
Barbara McElgunn
Desmond Vandenberg
Don York, Manse Valley Community Association

City of Toronto

Anthony Pigaidoulis, Wastewater Treatment
Nancy Martins, Public Consultation Unit
Thomas Huang, Technical Services
Calum MacMillan, Councillor Moeser's Office

Consultants

Jean-Yves Urbain, Earth Tech
Cheda Kopcalic, Earth Tech

Samra Zeweldi, Note Taker

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Introductions 7:00 p.m.
 - Community Co-Chair, Francis Chang
2. Review of Agenda and Summary Notes 7:10 p.m.
 - September 10, 2007
3. Plant Updates 7:15 p.m.
 - Odour Control Project
 - Review Odour Complaints
 - Draft Biosolids and Residuals Master Plan

- Incinerator Repairs
- Other capital projects planned and underway

4. Other Business

8:40 p.m.

5. Next Meeting Agenda Items, Adjourn

3. INTRODUCTIONS

Francis Chang, Community Co-Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. All participants introduced themselves.

2. REVIEW OF AGENDA AND SUMMARY NOTES

Francis Chang commented that the summary notes were very detailed and recommended that they be adopted. The motion was seconded and the minutes from September 10, 2007 were adopted.

3. PLANT UPDATES

- **Odour Control Project**

Anthony Pigaidoulis updated the group on the Odour Control Project explaining that the project has been awarded to Earth Tech Canada. He said this is part of the implementation of Phase I of the Odour Control Study conducted by AWS Engineers & Planners Corp, in December 2005. He added that the HCTP is moving to biofilters for certain portions of primary tanks where most of the odours arise in addition to the head house. **Anthony Pigaidoulis** noted that this is a long project with many stages. **Francis Chang** asked how many years it would take to complete. **Anthony Pigaidoulis** said that it would take about four years.

William Sheehan asked if there was a fixed budget. **Anthony Pigaidoulis** explained that the estimate was done in 2005 was \$9-12 million dollars for Phase I. **Francis Chang** asked if there was a chance the price may go beyond \$12 million. **Jean Yves Urbain** said that it is currently too early to say anything about the budget because the project was just awarded a few weeks ago. He stated that they will let everyone know within a few months, after Earth Tech has had an opportunity to review the files and re-asses the project. **William Sheehan** asked what the project's contract was based on. **Cheda Kopcalic** responded that it was based on the qualifications, scope of work and the price of the engineering effort. **William Sheehan** enquired about the cost of the engineering work. **Cheda Kopcalic** said it would cost about \$5 million. **Thomas Huang** added that a lot was unknown when the AWS Odour Study Report was released. It is now known that bars in front of the grit tanks are needed; this was not recommended in the AWS report but rather learned from experience at the Ashbridges Bay Treatment Plant. **Jean Yves Urbain** commented that odour control and the redesign of the headwork was included in the entire scope and engineering fees. **Anthony Pigaidoulis**

remarked that Earth Tech's project included other aspects that deal with odour rather than just recommendations of the AWS report.

William Sheehan asked what the \$5 million dollar engineering budget covered. **Jean Yves Urbain** explained that the \$5 million is for the pre-design, detail design, and construction supervision for the odour and headwork. He added that after the details of the engineering and the designs are complete it is only then that the bidding can begin. **William Sheehan** questioned the amount of bids that the City received for the Engineering portion of the project. **Jean Yves Urbain** said there were four bids. **Francis Chang** enquired if the design and construction was included in the preferred option. **Jean Yves Urbain** responded that they were all included in this project.

Francis Chang asked if approvals were automatic for costs that exceeded the projected amount for Phase I. **Cheda Kopcalic** stated that it is up to the City whether or not they choose to approve expenditures above the projected amount. **Cheda Kopcalic** added that the capital cost will be re-evaluated through each phase and the City will be constantly updated. He explained that the city is always notified if there is a significant change in funding.

William Sheehan asked where the extra funding is going to come from if Earth Tech goes beyond the projected budget. **Jean Yves Urbain** replied that if there is an engineering overrun or if it goes beyond schedule, then it will become Earth Tech's problem. He clarified that the only way the City will see extra costs is if additional projects scope are added. **Cheda Kopcalic** explained that a contract will be signed and if only half of the estimated budget is spent then Earth Tech will refund the rest. He noted that if Earth Tech goes over the projected budget then the city will only pay up to the contractual amount. One resident asked if Phase I will be finished by the projected 2012 and how much of an odour reduction there will be. **Jean Yves Urbain** said that the project is currently on track to be completed in 2012. He added that there will be a reduction of about 98% of odours.

Francis Change asked if the odour units at Ashbridges Bay will go from 17 to 1. **Jean Yves Urbain** replied that it will depend on how many phases of the Odour Study the city will implement at the Ashbridges Bay Treatment Plant. **William Sheehan** enquired about the cost of each phase in Ashbridges Bay. **Jean Yves Urbain** responded that phase one and two will be between \$250 and \$300 million dollars combined. He clarified that there is no budget for phase three and four at the time but it is currently estimated to be about \$90 million for 17 odour units to be reduced to 1.

- **Review Odour Complaints**

Anthony Pigaidoulis noted that there have been 7 odour complaints since the last meeting in September 2007. There were a total of 32 odour complaints in 2007, with varying odour types reported. The last complaint was on November 28, 2007. **Anthony Pigaidoulis** noted that this complaint was when the doors of the headworks building were opened for a short period of time when the grits and screenings were being loaded. **Anthony Pigaidoulis** explained that with colder weather, there were not as many complaints. He also added that on September 24, 2007 there were 3 odour complaints. Since the last meeting primary tank number 9's repairs to the scum collector were completed in early October.

Francis Chang asked if there have been fewer complaints since the repairs. **Anthony Pigaidoulis** replied that although this can be a contributing factor, the reason cannot be attributed to one source. **Francis Chang** mentioned the varying seasons as a contributor to odour complaints. **Anthony Pigaidoulis** agreed that seasons have a large influence. **Francis Chang** then asked if there was anyway odour complaints can be addressed more effectively. **Anthony Pigaidoulis** noted that a phone number is provided on the City of Toronto website and newsletter to file complaints; residents can leave a message and should provide a description of the odour. He added that if the resident would like to speak to someone directly they can call another phone number that is also provided in the plants newsletter.

Betty Smith asked if the area where flyers were distributed was expanded. **Anthony Pigaidoulis** pointed out that there were approximately 5,000 flyers distributed. **Nancy Martins** added that they did expand the area slightly north and a little wider. Another resident said that they did not receive anything unless it was personally addressed.

- **Draft Biosolids and the Residuals Master Plan (BRMP)**

Anthony Pigaidoulis said that the BRMP is still in draft form and that a Peer Review review on the decision making model used in the BRMP is currently underway. **Nancy Martins** added that as soon as the Peer Review report is made public it will be available on the City's website and that the Highland Creek Neighbourhood Liaison Committee would be notified.

Francis Chang asked how much biosolids are produced. **Anthony Pigaidoulis** stated that Highland Creek produces approximately 8,000-10,000 dry tonnes a year. **Anthony Pigaidoulis** added that the incinerator reduces the volume and **Jean Yves Urbain** noted that it is reduced by 95%. **Anthony Pigaidoulis** said that in the draft BRMP recommends for the Ashbridges Bay Treatment Plant that beneficial use of biosolids be maximized and that there be a backup contingency facility for the incineration of 100% of the biosolids. **Barbara McElgunn** expressed her concern about land application of biosolids and asked if the residents can still provide their opinions. **Anthony Pigaidoulis** said that the BRMP is still in draft form and is open for public comment. He also remarked that there was extensive public consultation and **Nancy Martins** mentioned that the website listed in the Highland Creek newsletter under the BRMP update provides addition information about the Plan.

Francis Chang asked what the next steps were in this plan. **Anthony Pigaidoulis** explained that the BRMP Peer Review Report once finalized, will be incorporated into the master plan documents. The Draft Biosolids and Residuals Master Plan would need to be updated and submitted for approval. **Francis Chang** asked if the BRMP covers the GTA. **Anthony Pigaidoulis** said it only includes the City of Toronto. **Francis Chang** questioned if Highland Creek will have to follow the same steps as Ashbridges Bay and wait for the entire Master Plan to be approved. **Anthony Pigaidoulis** agreed and stated that the draft BRMP recommends a new fluidized bed incinerator for the Highland Creek but it is only a recommended approach. **Francis Chang** concluded by reminding the group that the NLC will continue to be updated on the Draft Biosolids and Residuals Master Plan at each meeting.

- **Incinerator Repairs**

Anthony Pigaidoulis explained that although they are waiting for the outcome of the Biosolids and Residuals Master Plan the incinerators are in need of repair to ensure their

reliability. **Anthony Pigaidoulis** reminded the group that Earth Tech Canada has been awarded for the design of the incinerator repairs and it is expected to take 9 months for design plus 1 ½ years to carry out the repairs. He added that there will be significant repairs including the scrubber system which will be replaced and the furnace will also be reconfigured to operate more efficiently.

Francis Chang asked what were the current emission levels of mercury and other heavy metals in the furnace. **Anthony Pigaidoulis** said the incinerator must comply with Ontario's 419 regulation and Canada Wide Standards and they are currently below the limits. **Barbara McElgunn** asked how long has it been since the last updates to standards. **Jean Yves Urbain** said that the standards were all reviewed about 5 years ago and about one third are chosen to be reviewed immediately. He explained that 10 are reviewed each year out of the 30 components in total. He also noted that mercury was re-assessed last year because of high interest around this component. **Barbara McElgunn** then enquired if it is dictated by the federal government. **Jean Yves Urbain** said the federal government does give a nation-wide standard and provinces must accept those numbers. **Anthony Pigaidoulis** explained that this took effect in 2006 and the limits have been repeatedly reduced. **Barbara McElgunn** mentioned that the Health Assessment carried out at the Plant years ago had been well done.

Francis Chang referred to Joanne Di Caro's presentation on the sewer use by-law in at the last meeting and commented that monitoring has become more stringent. He suggested that records should be made to document repairs of the incinerator. **Anthony Pigaidoulis** agreed and said the City will examine all stack testing records and document improvements once made.

Francis Chang asked if the scrubber repair included efficiency and combustion. He also asked how solids are disposed when the incinerator is down for repairs. **Anthony Pigaidoulis** responded that the repairs included all aspect of the furnace and air pollution control equipment and that there will be a contingency plan for disposing of the biosolids during construction. The construction process is staged so when one incinerator is down the other one is operating. **Francis Chang** asked if the furnace will be overloaded at any time. **Anthony Pigaidoulis** said it will not be and the main concern is the removal of biosolids from the plant. He explained that they will be working very closely with Earth Tech to ensure construction is staged appropriately. **Jean Yves Urbain** mentioned that interim repairs will be done on one incinerator to improve the incinerator reliability prior to the start of the main incinerator repair. **Francis Chang** asked what the timeline was for the main repairs. **Anthony Pigaidoulis** said it should take about a year per incinerator, projected start date is 2009. **William Sheehan** suggested that they store biosolids in a buffering zone. **Anthony Pigaidoulis** said they are looking into a storage buffer tank in the future and this is part of the scope of the project. **Jean Yves Urbain** added that if the duty incinerator fails during the main repair, there is still space in the primary clarifiers to be able to operate the facility for a few days without having to export biosolids. He explained that currently the facility have approximately 5 or 6 days of storage capacity.

William Sheehan asked what the city would do if there were changes to the incinerator repairs workplan. **Jean Yves Urbain** clarified that there are no changes but just scheduling adjustments because they are determining the priorities. He added that there will be some delays but it is much safer. **Anthony Pigaidoulis** noted that the scheduling for this project and completing repairs is complex and the City is currently

working with the consultants on the different options. **Francis Chang** expressed that the health of residents be the primary concern throughout these repairs. **Anthony Pigaidoulis** agreed.

- **Other Capital Projects Planned and Underway**

Dewatering Project

Anthony Pigaidoulis explained that the de-watering project is examining the upgrading of the plants dewatering biosolids centrifuges which is the process prior to incineration. He also mentioned that the project is divided into two projects- the incinerator project and the de-watering project. He added that both projects are currently in preliminary design by Earth Tech.

Waste Activated Sludge Thickening

Anthony Pigaidoulis updated the group on the waste activated sludge thickening using centrifuges rather than co-thickening. He explained that the current process was to co-settle sludge out in the primary tanks but this can cause odours and the AWS Odour Study report recommended this project in order to move away from co-thickening of the waste-activated sludge.

Effluent Water Recycling

Anthony Pigaidoulis then updated the group on the effluent water system upgrade and noted construction had already commenced. He mentioned that it will partially recycle water that is currently discharged into the lake and use it to wash down tanks and in the incinerator scrubbers.

Plant Security

Anthony Pigadoulis said that a new gate has been installed as part of the Plant-wide security project. He explained that 27 cameras in total would be installed and currently there are 10 left to be installed. **Francis Chang** added that since 9/11 many treatment plants have had security upgrades so it was a good improvement for the Highland Creek Treatment Plant.

Aeration Tanks

Anthony Pigaidoulis explained that there are 8 aeration tanks and number 9 and 12 require construction with new ceramic diffusers and stainless steel piping. The next phase will include tanks 10, 11, 13 and 16. All tanks will be repaired eventually over the next two years. **William Sheehan** asked why stainless steel is going to be used.

Anthony Pigaidoulis said that stainless steel is more resistant to corrosion and stronger. **Thomas Huang** added that the ceramic diffusers last 10-15 years which is significantly longer than the membrane type.

Anthony Pigaidoulis reminded the group that there are a number of smaller projects on going and that there are upgrades constantly taking place.

4. OTHER BUSINESS

Francis Chang asked if they would be utilizing co-generating electricity. **Anthony Pigaidoulis** said he is not fully aware of future plans for biogas utilization at the plant but one of the criteria of the incinerator repairs is that once the incinerator is repaired they must be able to utilize biogas and natural gas.

Francis Chang suggested a workshop be held to discuss incineration and inform the residents since there already is an incinerator on-site. **Nancy Martins** distributed Appendix 6 of the Draft Biosolids and Residuals Master Plan (BRMP) entitled: "Emissions from Fluidized Bed and Multiple Heart Incinerator Technology" and noted that this pertains to the incineration technology that is currently on site (multiple hearth) and the incineration technology that the draft BRMP recommends (fluidized bed). **Nancy Martins** also suggested that a presentation on the Master Plan would be appropriate once the Master Plan is re-drafted, and there is information available. **Francis Chang** asked about information on health hazards. **Anthony Pigaidoulis** replied that Appendix 6, contains information on emissions.

Anthony Pigaidoulis said that the Peer Review should be publicly available soon and the draft BRMP would be revised afterwards. He added implementation of the recommendations in the Master Plan can not commence until it has been approved. **William Sheehan** expressed his concern that once the Master Plan is in its final form the citizen's opinions would not matter anymore. **Francis Chang** asked how the citizens can be better acquainted and knowledgeable about the Master Plan. **Anthony Pigaidoulis** said he will pull out pieces of information in the Master Plan that are applicable to the concerns of the Neighbourhood Liaison Committee. **Barbara McElgunn** asked whether or not comment period is still open. **Anthony Pigaidoulis** answered that the Master Plan is still open to public commentary and is currently listed on the City of Toronto's website.

Francis Chang asked if there is a chance of organizing a presentation before September. **Anthony Pigadoulis** said an updated draft Master Plan will hopefully be available by the fall, depending on the extent of the changes. **Nancy Martins** suggested that a presentation on the Master Plan during the September NLC meeting. **Desmond Vandenberg** agreed with the presentation idea and said that a summary of the proposed Master Plan would be preferred. **Anthony Pigaidoulis** mentioned that by the next meeting there will be a good indication on the outcome of the Peer Review. **Nancy Martins** added that the BRMP executive summary and newsletters are available online that they explain the draft recommendations for Highland Creek.

William Sheehan motioned to have a meeting every month. **Francis Chang** proposed a meeting to be in early June to discuss the draft Biosolids and Residuals Master Plan. **Anthony Pigaidoulis** proposed that September would be the best time to provide a detailed presentation on the draft BRMP, since a BRMP Peer Review of the Decision Making Model is still being carried out and very little new information would be known by June. **Francis Chang** motioned for Wednesday, June 4th, 2008 at 7pm to discuss the draft BRMP. The motion is second and the meeting will be held on June 4th.

5. NEXT MEETING DATE, AGENDA ITEMS, ADJOURN

Francis Chang motioned to have the regular meeting on Monday, September 8, 2008. September 8 was agreed upon as a meeting date.

William Sheehan offered to make a 20 minute presentation on gasification. Motion was seconded and it was agreed he would present at the meeting on June 4, 2008.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00pm.