



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

**Meeting #17  
Monday, September 8, 2008**

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

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

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**FINAL SUMMARY NOTES**

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**ATTENDANCE**

Francis Chang, Community Co-Chair  
John Hopkins, ICMC  
Frank Moir  
William F. Sheehan  
James Matthews  
Barbara McElgunn  
Hy Schwartz

**City of Toronto**

Clarito Gonzalez, Senior Engineer, Highland Creek Treatment Plant  
Anthony Pigaidoulis, Engineer, Highland Creek Treatment Plant  
Nancy Martins, Public Consultation Unit

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.
  - March 3, 2008.
  
3. Plant Updates 7:15 p.m.
  - Odour Control Project
  - Review Odour Complaints
  - Draft Biosolids and Residuals Master Plan (BRMP)
  - Incinerator Repairs
  - Other capital projects planned and underway

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| 4. Draft Biosolids and Residuals Master Plan   | 8:00p.m.  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Background</li> <li>• Next Steps</li> </ul> |           |
| 5. Other Business  | 8:50 p.m. |
| 6. Next Meeting Agenda Items, Adjourn  | 9:00 p.m  |

### 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 mailed to everyone over the summer. He added that they are very detailed and recommended that they be adopted. The motion was seconded and the minutes from March 3, 2008 were adopted. **Barbara McElgunn** requested more detail in the minutes on Earth Tech's brief presentation. **Anthony Pigaidoulis** responded that Earth Tech, now AECOM, will make a comprehensive presentation in the future.

### 3. PLANT UPDATES

- **Odour Control Project**

**Anthony Pigaidoulis** updated the group on the Odour Control Project and reported the contract was awarded to AECOM. He explained that they are two months into the project and are currently in the preliminary design stage. One of AECOM's roles is to review and assess AWS's 2005 Odour Study Report recommendations. **Anthony Pigaidoulis** added that an update presentation will be given to the NLC later in the design stage.

**Barbara McElgunn** asked for more clarity on the different processes AECOM talked about at the last meeting. **Anthony Pigaidoulis** replied that he can only speak generally because AECOM is conducting a review of the Odour Study. He commented that the recommendations were primarily to carry out odour control through bio-filtration. **Francis Chang** requested that previous meeting minutes be made available. (*Previous meeting minutes are posted at <http://www.toronto.ca/wes/techservices/involved/www/highnlc/index.htm>*)

**Hy Schwartz** asked if it was ever identified as to what the odours were. **Anthony Pigaidoulis** said it was the majority is sulphur based compounds. **Hy Schwartz** expressed concern for the health standards of these odours. **Anthony Pigaidoulis** noted this concern and that it would be addressed in a presentation. **William Sheehan** asked what the industrial disease rate for the workers are at Highland Creek and if unions ever discussed this. **Anthony Pigaidoulis** replied that he was not aware but will inquire about it. He added that there are many safety procedures in place when working

with wastewater plants and Human Resource trainers come up with procedures to ensure that they are always protected including the use of proper protective equipment.

**Francis Chang** asked how long the design stage would take. **Anthony Pigaidoulis** replied that the design stage would take approximately one year.

- **Review Odour Complaints**

**Anthony Pigaidoulis** noted that there have been six odour complaints since the last meeting in March 2008. There were three in July although none were on the same day. He also added that two out of the six complaints were on days where the tanks were being cleaned. One complaint occurred during a power outage. He added that overall, six complaints lower than compared to the past 6 month period.

**Frank Moir** asked what it takes to have an odour complaint because he smells the plant often when walking down the trail. **Anthony Pigaidoulis** replied that neighbours are requested to call to report any odours which are noticed. **William Sheehan** asked how they measure odour. **Anthony Pigaidoulis** replied that odours are subjectively measured by plant staff using descriptive terms. One way to quantify odours is through the use of an olfactometer, but this is not used by plant staff. **Frank Moir** asked what action is taken if odour complaints persist. **Anthony Pigaidoulis** responded that the complaint report has been updated; residents can either call and leave a message or speak to someone. The site is observed for any operational issues that may have lead to the odour and the resident is called back, if requested, with follow-up information.

**Francis Chang** asked if complaints are verified. **Anthony Pigaidoulis** replied that when someone calls they call them back and let them know what is happening, and if any corrective action was required. Staff may suspect where an odour is originating from but can't verify it to one specific source. A verified complaint requires someone from the Ministry of the Environment provincial office coming on site and verifying that complaint. There have not been any verified complaints at the HCTP.

**Barbara McElgunn** commented that the colour coming out of the stack is a good indication to see if something is not right with either the calibration, or the burning or the temperature. **Anthony Pigaidoulis** agreed and added that the visual cue of something dark coming from the stack could be cause by contrast against the sky. He added that the furnace temperatures are closely monitored to ensure optimal combustion.

**William Sheehan** asked if complaints were seasonal. **Anthony Pigaidoulis** responded that generally fewer complaints are received in the winter months, partially because people are not outdoors as often. **Barbara McElgunn** asked about weekends. **Anthony Pigaidoulis** said that generally the plant flow is high on weekends as more people are home and they may notice odours during this time. Generally more odour complaints are received during warm weather days. **Barbara McElgunn** asked that if the flows could be banked. **Clarito Gonzalez** replied that odours will only become stronger if flows are banked.

**William Sheehan** questioned if the odour of sewers can be contained. **Anthony Pigaidoulis** responded that they cannot be contained because of the explosive gas (methane) which can accumulate if it is plugged. **Francis Chang** asked why some

manholes give off stronger odours than others. **Clarito Gonzalez** replied that it is dependant on agitation of the sewage as it flows through the collection system.

**Nancy Martins** read an email from Desmond Vanderberg stating that while it hasn't been perfect, odours have been less frequent and less intense.

**William Sheehan** asked what is taken into account when determining causes and intensity. **Anthony Pigaidoulis** answered that the wind direction, wind intensity and climate are all taken into account.

- **Incinerator Repairs**

**Anthony Pigaidoulis** provided an overview of the repairs. He said that there are two multiple hearth furnaces (MHF) that are currently under the repair contract. They will undergo a two stage process. The first stage which has a timeline of one year is minor repairs to one MHF. This is to ensure its reliability when the other MHF undergoes a major repair contract. The minor contract will be out for tender in 4 to 6 weeks and the entire duration of the minor project is 6 to 8 months. He added that AECOM has been retained as the consulting engineering design firm.

#### **Dewatering Contract**

**Anthony Pigaidoulis** explained dewatering process as removing water from the biosolids prior to being fed to the MHF. The main aspect of the work is to standardize the types of centrifuges used and to ensure reliability of this essential process. Also this project is currently in the preliminary design stage.

**William Sheehan** asked how much each contract cost. **Anthony Pigaidoulis** answered that there are estimates of the construction costs and that they will only be confirmed when the detailed design is completed. **Clarito Gonzalez** said that they would provide the construction estimates to the NLC.

<b>Action Item:</b> Estimates of the construction cost of the Incinerator Repair and Dewatering Contract to be shared with the NLC
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**William Sheehan** enquired whether companies were included or excluded from bidding depending on past experiences with City of Toronto. **Anthony Pigaidoulis** responded that the design stage is already awarded to AECOM but construction is still to be tendered, he added that Toronto Water staff followed all approved procedures by the City Purchasing Department when contracting out work for consulting services through a Request for Proposals. **William Sheehan** commented that insurance should be reviewed to see whether or not there is a conflict of interest between contractors and the city.

- **Other Capital Projects Planned and Underway**

#### **Dewatering Project**

**Anthony Pigaidoulis** said that there is no change of technology and that solid bowl centrifuges will be utilised for dewatering at the HCTP.

#### **Waste Activated Sludge (WAS) Thickening**

**Anthony Pigaidoulis** updated the group on the waste activated sludge thickening project and explained that it is currently in the preliminary design stage as well.

Centrifuges will be used. He explained WAS, which refers to the sludge that settles out of the final clarifiers and which needs to be thickened prior to digestion. **Anthony Pigaidoulis** added that thickening of the WAS currently happens in the primary clarifiers through co-settling and the centrifuge project for WAS thickening was based on the recommendation of the 2005 AWS report.

### **Effluent Water Upgrades**

**Anthony Pigaidoulis** explained that treated effluent from this plant is put back into Lake Ontario as well as used in the plant for the process, specifically the MHF scrubbers. The pipeline needs to be replaced for distribution throughout the plant and added that construction is 90% complete and should be commissioned and completed by the end of the year. **Hy Schwartz** asked how big the pipes would be. **Anthony Pigaidoulis** replied that they were 16" stainless steel.

### **Aeration Tanks**

**Anthony Pigaidoulis** updated the group on the aeration tanks and said that the Phase 1 process train has had two tanks completed with new air piping and diffusers. The tender for the remaining two tanks has just closed and work is expected to commence by the end of the year. He added that this project will reduce energy costs and will improve efficiency within the aeration process.

### **Plant Security**

**Anthony Pigaidoulis** said that upgrades are commencing over a one year period. Within the next year doors will include card readers and all staff will have I.D cards and contractors will have temporary cards security card issued. **Francis Chang** asked about surveillance on property. **Anthony Pigaidoulis** responded that cameras are already installed and 6 to 10 of them are already online. **William Sheehan** asked how clear the images are and if they can identify people. **Anthony Pigaidoulis** said that as soon as a person comes onto the property you can see them very clearly

**Barbara McElgunn** asked about the costs of these repairs to the MHFs. She commented that several reports suggested fluidized beds to alleviate plant odours, and enquired if anything can be done about replacing the incinerator repair process with fluidized bed. **Anthony Pigaidoulis** replied that the Biosolids Master Plan was the framework document which is meant to give the City a direction on the future of technologies for management of Biosolids at the City's wastewater treatment plants. He added that the Draft Biosolids and Residuals Master Plan (BRMP) has undergone a peer review and will be updated to include recommendations received. A public consultation process will happen across the City and will include the HCTP area. The BRMP looks at all options for biosolids management which includes technologies for thermal reduction such as fluidized bed reactors. The repairs on the incinerators existing at the HCTP has to be commenced immediately as the plant must retain and ensure its reliability while the decision making process is underway.

**Hy Schwartz** asked what the major difference is between the 16" stainless steel pipes and the cast iron pipes. **Anthony Pigaidoulis** will look into it and update the NLC.

Action Item: Anthony Pigaidoulis provide information on the 16" pipes being used for the effluent water upgrades.
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#### 4. DRAFT BIOSOLIDS AND RESIDUAL MASTER PLAN (BRMP)

**Anthony Pigaidoulis** updated the group on the Master plan stating that the peer review is completed and a letter was sent out on June 19, 2008 to provide an update. He added that the peer review is publicly available online and a new draft term of reference for the update of the BRMP is now finalized and takes into account what expert peer review panel recommended. A letter will go out shortly providing additional information. **Anthony Pigaidoulis** explained that they are now in the revising stages of the Master Plan and further public consultation will take place.

**Francis Chang** asked if there was a proposed timeline to replace the furnaces. **Clarito Gonzalez** replied that they haven't been mentioned yet in the Master Plan. **Barbara McElgunn** expressed concern for the lack of a projected timeline and said that one should be reflected in order to guarantee some sort of schedule. **Anthony Pigaidoulis** clarified that the Master Plan process is more of a roadmap of where the City is going with respect to biosolids management rather than a specific timeline for when construction and design will take place.

**Frank Moir** enquired if there was room for a third furnace unit. **Anthony Pigaidoulis** replied that there is space for a third unit. He added that there will be two rounds of public information sessions held as part of the BRMP update. **Nancy Martins** added that previously there were two rounds for public consultation with five meetings per round. Each meeting was located in the north, south, east and west to ensure accessibility. This is the type of framework that will be used at future public consultations. **John Hopkins** questioned if it was the same seven person panel from the Peer Review would be at the sessions. **Nancy Martins** explained that the panel was for the peer review and now the City is working on updating the BRMP which will take into account recommendations from the Peer Review panel. **Francis Chang** added that the next step for this community is to get involved at the public consultation that will occur somewhere between late this year to early next year.

**Barbara McElgunn** asked if the pipe that goes to Lake Ontario is filtered or tested. **Anthony Pigaidoulis** responded that the effluent from the plant is tested daily for chemical, physical and biological contaminants. **John Hopkins** enquired if there were oxidizers and if so, how did they kill the bacteria. **Anthony Pigaidoulis** responded by saying that sodium hypochlorite is added for disinfection of the effluent and added that there is no filtration. **John Hopkins** questioned if the sludge was released. **Anthony Pigaidoulis** replied that sludges don't go into the lake. The process he mentioned removes solids from the wastewater. **Clarito Gonzalez** added that biosolids burn in the incinerator and the remaining ash goes to landfill.

**William Sheehan** questioned the value of public consultation meetings and enquired what guarantees and whether or not it will be constructive and whether comments will be considered. **Nancy Martins** said she will pass on the concerns and added that these are extensive consultations and will occur more than once.

#### 5. OTHER BUSINESS

**Barbara McElgunn** enquired about the summary for the liquid trains when they did an audit in 1989 was that there were three chemicals above MOS for health in the area

residents, chloroform trichloentane and dichloride methane. She wanted to know if anything has been done to update on these exposures and chloroform was the largest contributor. There should have been a follow-up to this but none was documented. **Anthony Pigaidoulis** responded that he was not familiar with this but will look into it.

<b>Action Item:</b> Anthony Pigaidoulis to investigate Barbara McElgunn's inquiry on chemicals released by the Plant.
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**William Sheehan** was originally scheduled to do a meeting on gasification previously but did it today instead. He said that he proposed a solid waste landfill with methane gas collection like David Grey from In-Tech did. They would take sludge as well as solid waste at no cost to the taxpayer. **William Sheehan** added that this would help with less landfills but that the city turned it down. **Francis Chang** commented that the Ottawa has not approved its commercialized use yet. **William Sheehan** said that In-Tech supports technology and it is environmentally better.

**Nancy Martins** read an email from Desmond Vanderberg asking if it would be possible to make a presentation again on NPRI parameters. **Anthony Pigaidoulis** agreed that this is possible.

**Nancy Martins** distributed the Mandate of NLC Membership and attached the Code of Conduct. She reviewed the mandate and re-stated that membership is open to neighbours and anyone interested. **Francis Chang** agreed that it is good to have a quick review of such items.

**Francis Chang** announced that he will be retiring as chairperson of the NLC by next year. **Nancy Martins** said she will send out information prior to the next meeting with information on the selection of a new community co-chair.

## 5. NEXT MEETING DATE, AGENDA ITEMS, ADJOURN

**Francis Chang** motioned to have the meeting two weeks after biosolids meeting. Motion was agreed and an exact date will be determined after the biosolids meeting is scheduled.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00pm.