

# Highland Creek Treatment Plant Neighbourhood Liaison Committee (HCTP NLC)

## Meeting Minutes Summary

Meeting #31: Wednesday, May 16, 2018, 7:30 pm  
Port Union Community Centre - 5940 Lawrence Avenue East

### Agenda and Discussion

The discussion captured at the meeting is summarized below. Answers were provided by City staff in attendance.

#### 1. Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was chaired by Andrew Plunkett, City of Toronto.

#### 2. Review of meeting agenda

The meeting agenda was reviewed and approved by the group.

#### 3. Review of the meeting minutes summaries from the April 19, 2017 and November 16, 2017 meetings.

The previous meeting minute summaries were reviewed and corrections were suggested:

- Acronyms are used throughout the minute summaries. It was suggested that these acronyms be spelled out, or that a list of acronyms be included at the back of the summaries.

**Action:** Create a list of acronyms and attach to the back of the minute summaries for future meetings.

- A slide deck from the November meeting was supposed to be circulated with the meeting summary. It was suggested that meeting summaries and any attachments be posted to the website for future reference.

**Action:** Update website with recent meeting summaries and any relevant attachments.

- A few typos from the previous meeting summaries were found. These will be corrected in the final versions.

#### 4. Review of action items from the November 17, 2017 meeting:

	<b>Action</b>	<b>Status and/or follow up</b>
1.	Minutes will be formatted into a summary style document and circulated within 4 weeks of the meeting.	<b>Completed.</b> New format was reviewed and received positive feedback from those in attendance.
2.	Stack testing details from November / December to be brought by Martin Shigeishi to next NLC meeting.	<b>Completed.</b> Stack testing details were brought to the meeting by Anthony Pigaidoulis.
3.	Martin Shigeishi will send out a memo to the local committees through Frank Moir.	<b>Completed.</b> Memo was emailed on November 23, 2017
4.	Paul Martin will follow up on Metrolinx public consultation about grade separations in Scarborough when meetings will be held with contact information. Paul Martin will include the website information in the minutes.	<b>Completed.</b> Paul Martin included the website URL in the previous minutes. Andrew Plunkett followed up with Metrolinx and invited them to present at the November 2018 meeting.

#### 5. Plant Updates

##### 5.1 Operations

- **Stack Emission Testing:** Anthony Pigaidoulis provided an update on stack emissions testing. The stack emissions regulated annual source testing was conducted from November 14 to November 17, 2017 by RWDI, who were awarded the contract to conduct testing for the next 2 years. The results for the 3 regulated parameters are as follows:
  - (1) Dioxins and Furans
    - The plant limit is 100 picograms per cubic meter (pg/m<sup>3</sup>)
    - Plant emissions are 9.4 picograms per cubic meter, which is well within the limits.
  - (2) Mercury
    - The plant limit is 70 micrograms per cubic meter (µg /m<sup>3</sup>)
    - Plant emissions are 20.6 micrograms per cubic meter, which is well within the limits.
  - (3) Hydrocarbons
    - The plant limit is 50 parts per million (ppm)
    - Plant emissions are 17.5 parts per million, which is well within the limits.
- These are the results of 3 sets of tests that occurred on subsequent days. A pre-test plan is submitted to the MOECC for approval before testing. Testing contractors must be qualified to perform the stack testing, and must abide by the Ontario Source Testing Code requirements. Samples are sent to accredited labs, where data is compiled and then submitted to the plant and the MOECC for review. Operating data such as Incinerator temperatures and loading rate is also submitted to MOECC.

- Stack testing is a highly regulated process and the MOECC does visit the site during the testing to check.

Following the report on emissions testing, there was a brief discussion on standards:

**Q1:** What is the more stringent standard? Ontario or Federal?

- Anthony Pigaidoulis answered that the province has adopted the federal standards for dioxins, furans and mercury. Canadian standards are one of the most stringent in the world

**Q2:** The standards are for healthy individuals who are not too young or too old, but many people fall outside of this group. Are the standards safe for them?

- Martin Shigeishi replied that the compliance limits were set by the federal government and adopted by the MOECC. The suitability of these standards is not within the purview of the plant management to decide. It is the plant's job to stay within these compliance standards.

**Q3:** Is the plant doing anything meaningful with the data that you are receiving? Taking steps to make sure it gets better for everyone?

- Martin Shigeishi replied that the data is not just for filing. It ensures that the plant has reliable information to demonstrate compliance with the standards. They always try to exceed what the standards call for as much as possible. The new Fluidized Bed Incinerators will improve on the performance of the existing Multiple Hearth technology.

**Q4:** Why doesn't the plant voluntarily do more testing? Why is it annual?

- Anthony Pigaidoulis replied that there is voluntary testing done at the plant every other year with the same long list of parameters.

**Q5:** Do conditions change with the season? Which seasons are better than others?

- Martin Shigeishi responded that the conditions in process operations and biosolids being processed show there is not much variation throughout the seasons.

**Q6:** A resident noted heavy black silt found in their window wells. Why does the plant not test for particulates? Particulates are of more and more interest to public health.

- Anthony Pigaidoulis responded that the plant does test for particulate matter of both PM 10 and PM 2.5 and the plant typically performs in the low range, about 1-3% of the allowable limit. In 2015 the reported result was 1.45% of the limit. In 2016 it was not reported on. In 2017 it was reported on, but the results were not available at this meeting. Results will be brought to the next meeting.

**Action:** Anthony to bring particulate test results for 2017 (and 2018 if available) to the November 2018 meeting.

## **5.2 Plant Performance**

Anthony Pigaidoulis provided updates on the following: odor complaints, noise complaints, bypasses and spills (since the last meeting):

- **Odor Complaints:** 0
- **Noise complaints:** 1 – April 6, 2018
  - The noise complaint was investigated and no abnormal conditions and/or equipment issues were found. The complainant was contacted and informed of the investigation into their complaint. No further action was taken and no further complaints were received.
- **Bypasses:** 0

- **Spills:** 6 events caused by various reasons
  - 4 were power interruptions:
    - 2 Toronto Hydro interruptions caused by inclement weather, such as the April 4<sup>th</sup> windstorm, when a hydro pole was damaged.
    - April 14<sup>th</sup> – 2 momentary drops of power, which caused the plant to use the emergency pressure relief until the fan was able to go back online
    - 1 was maintenance related – a broken ash slurry line
    - 1 was contractor related

Following the report on plant performance, there was a brief discussion:

**Q1:** During any of the spill events, was anything ever emitted into the lake?

- Anthony Pigaidoulis responded that nothing was emitted into the lake. That would be considered a bypass, and there were no bypass events during the reporting period.

**Q2:** How reliable are the odor complaints? Is it because no one complains? That people are apathetic?

- Allen Elias (resident) responded that 30 years ago there were complaints, because the odour was worse then. It has improved significantly since that time. Barbara (resident) added that she can still smell the emissions from the plant, depending on which way the wind is blowing, but it's not as bad as it used to be.

## 6. Capital Projects

Anthony Pigaidoulis provided a report on capital projects.

### 6.1 Headworks & Odour Control

- 2 new biofilters are being installed for odour control - one in the headworks facility and one for the primary clarifiers and new stack. The biofilter for the primary tanks is in commissioning right now and training is ongoing.
- Construction of the new influent chambers is ongoing and still requiring lane reductions in the area. Connection is to be made in the first quarter of 2019, with final project commissioning in Q3 and Q4 of 2019.

**Q1:** When will the biofilters be completed?

- Anthony Pigaidoulis responded that commissioning of the biofilter for the new headworks is hopeful for later this year. The largest emitter of plant odours comes from the headworks. There should be a drop in odour when the new facility comes online.

### 6.2 Dewatering & Incinerator Refurbishment

- Anthony Pigaidoulis reported that the work on this has been completed, and they are currently only fixing a few minor deficiencies and warranty items as they come up. They will be maintaining the infrastructure for trucking of biosolids to be used on a contingency basis if any problems arise with the furnaces and they became unavailable.

### 6.3 Ongoing refurbishment project (Administration Building and Process Control Building)

Anthony Pigaidoulis indicated that phase 1 has been completed as of January 2018 and that they have moved in to the building. This includes administrative offices, the board room, and a temporary control room. Phase 2 upgrades include a new control room,

meeting and training rooms, locker rooms and hygiene facilities, and a new area for archives. Phase 2 is anticipated to be completed by Q4 of 2019.

#### **6.4 New Fluidized Bed Incinerator Project**

Anthony Pigaidoulis updated the group on this project. It has been awarded to CH2M (now known as Jacobs) Consulting Engineers. It is currently in pre-design phase and focused on layout and design.

**Q1:** Regarding plastics in the sewage sludge, and land spreading that material - does it all get combusted in the incinerator and does this create emission problems?

- Martin Shigeishi replied that it does get incinerated and that the emissions would be required to comply with the standards. With the new Fluidized Bed Incinerators and the new controls, combustion will be more efficient and emissions will be cleaner.

**Q2:** CH2M Jacobs - are they the people who have the contract from 2018 – 2028 as the consulting engineer?

- Martin Shigeishi replied that they will do the design, and tender package for specifications, and drawings for contractors.

**Q3:** Do you anticipate this process happening in the next month?

- Martin Shigeishi replied that they are in the pre-design stage and the project schedule reported previously is still on track. Anthony adds that it will be approximately 7 years; 2 years of design and 5 years to construct.

**Q4:** Are you sure the current incinerator is going to last that long?

- Anthony Pigaidoulis replied that the refurbishment project was to help ensure reliability and maintain compliance. The project has extended the life of the units, but they are not new units. Martin added that they will maintain the contingency outlet and only go back to trucking if needed.

**Q5:** Were you trucking last summer for a week?

- Martin responded that it was longer than a week, but was not every day. It was done during off hours, outside of school hours and mostly at night, and no complaints were received. Allen (resident) commented that they did an excellent job as the trucking was not really noticed.

**Q6:** CH2M Jacobs designed the plant in Peel Region. Would it be possible to organize a visit to that plant?

- Anthony noted that the most recent installation was in Durham. Martin responded that they cannot promise, but can look into that to see what is possible.

**Action:** Martin to look into potential tour of Durham plant for the committee.

#### **6.5 Firm Capacity Upgrades & Liquid Train Rehabilitation**

Anthony Pigaidoulis provided an update on this topic:

- This project is ongoing through the contract with CH2M Jacobs and has 3 components: Process Roadmap, Contract 1 and Contract 2
  - Process Roadmap: looks at options for plant expansion, regulations, and future loadings. This process is ongoing with team members within different parts of organization.
  - Contract 1: Ensures reliable operations of liquid processes prior to new North East plant being constructed. It is at 100% detailed design and is anticipated to be tendered with Aeration and Phosphorous upgrades project in Q1 2019.
  - Contract 2: The design and construction of the new North East plant has not begun design and is being guided by the findings of the process roadmap.

## 6.6 Cleaning and Rehab of Digesters and Waste Gas Burner Upgrades

Anthony Pigaidoulis provided an update on this project:

- The project is ongoing with Bennett Mechanical and AECOM. They are now into mechanical work such as installing waste gas burners. The project is on schedule and the burners are to be completed in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of this year.

A question and answer period followed the updates:

**Q1:** To clarify, you are not increasing the size of the plant, but improving the backup capacity?

- Anthony Pigaidoulis responded that firm capacity refers to redundancy. These upgrades make the plant more reliable. We aren't re-rating the plant; it will maintain its existing rated capacity.

**Q2:** Are you expanding the building for the Fluidized Bed Incinerators?

- Anthony and Martin responded that a conceptual study has been done and some expansion is being contemplated. They would be increasing the footprint slightly.

**Q3:** When you talk about increasing the footprint, are you talking about increasing the outer boundary?

- Martin Shigeishi replied that they are not increasing the boundary of the plant, but just the footprint of the building on the existing property.

**Q4:** The plant is very close to the rail tracks. What would you do in the case of a train derailment?

- Martin Shigeishi replied that this would depend on the scenario and impact to the site. They have a contingency plan for emergencies that would be followed. They would inform the Ministry and depending on the severity, they might have to resort to trucking until normal operations could be resumed.

**Q5:** How many instances of industrial disease has there been? What is the bacterial count on and off the property? What are the sick days like?

- Martin Shigeishi replied that there are no known cases of people becoming ill because of working at the plant. They do not mandate any immunization and do not conduct regular swabs of the equipment. They don't believe that sick days at the plant are any different from working elsewhere.

**Q6:** We've heard complaints about odour, especially when the wind blows in the right direction. Is there a way to get relief from this?

- Martin replied that the intent of the plant upgrades is to reduce the odour emissions from our site. Barbara (resident) added that the presence of odour doesn't necessarily mean bad air quality, that the odours are noticed mainly on the weekends, and that the biofilters should help.

## 7. Other Business

**Item 1:** An earlier question on accessing public health expertise was discussed. It was suggested that a public health expert could come to a meeting or provide a report on the public health impacts of the plant operations. Barbara (resident) replied that a thorough investigation on noise and air impacts was done previously and no major concerns were raised. Anthony adds that this was a joint effort between Toronto Water and Toronto Public Health, and the report can be made available online.

**Action:** Andrew to post the public health report to the website.

**Item 2:** With recent improvements to the administration building, would it be possible to hold these meetings there? Martin replied that he could not commit to hold future

meetings at the plant, but he would look into possibly organizing a tour of the new facilities.

**8. Action Items from this meeting:**

	<i>Action Item</i>	<i>Responsibility</i>	<i>Status and/or follow-up</i>
1.	Create a list of acronyms and attach to the back of the minute summaries for future meetings	Andrew	
2.	Update website with recent meeting summaries and any relevant attachments.	Andrew	
3.	Bring particulate test results for 2017 (and 2018 if available) to the November 2018 meeting.	Anthony	
4.	Look into potential tours of Durham Region plants for the committee.	Martin	
5.	Post public health report to the website.	Andrew	
6.	Look into potential tours of Highland Creek plants – new works for the committee.	Martin	

**9. Next Meeting Date, Location and Time**

The meeting was adjourned at 9pm. The tentative date for the next meeting is **Wednesday, November 14, 2018 at 7pm**. Andrew will confirm with Metrolinx that they are able to attend, and invitations with meeting details will be sent out at least one month in advance.

**Attendees**

**Residents:**

Frank Moir (NLC Co-Chair)  
 Allen Elias  
 Don York  
 William F. Sheehan  
 Barbara McElgunn  
 Victoria Schei  
 Per-Inge Schei

**Staff:**

Martin Shigeishi – Acting Director, Wastewater Treatment  
 Anthony Pigaidoulis – Acting Plant Manager, HCTP  
 Andrew Plunkett – (NLC Co-Chair) - Public Consultation Unit

**Other:**

Hanna Sahib (Minute Taker)

### Table of Commonly Used Acronyms

Acronym	Full Name/Definition
HCTP	Highland Creek Treatment Plant
MOECC	Ministry of Environment and Climate Change
NLC	Neighbourhood Liaison Committee
µg	Microgram (one millionth of a gram); 0.000001 grams
µm	Micrometre (one millionth of a metre); 0.000001 metres
Pg	Picogram (one trillionth of gram); 0.0000000000000001 grams
PM 2.5	Particulate Matter 2.5 (airborne particulate matter with a mass median diameter less than 2.5 µm)
PM 10	Particulate Matter 10 (airborne particulate matter with a mass median diameter less than 10 µm)
ppm	Parts per million (the mass of a chemical or contaminate per unit volume) For context, 1 ppm is equivalent to 32 seconds out of 1 year, or 1 millimetre out of 1 kilometre.
RFP	Request For Proposal (a document that solicits proposals through a bidding process for the procurement of a good or service)