

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

## Meeting Minutes Summary Meeting # 37

Thursday, October 19, 2023 @ 7:00 pm  
Highland Creek Treatment Plant  
51 Beechgrove Drive, Scarborough  
(Lawrence Avenue East, west of Port Union Road)  
Administration Building Training Room (Enter through Entrance A)

### Agenda and Discussion

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

#### 1. Welcome and Introductions (7 p.m.)

- Frank Moir (Co-Chair and Resident) called meeting into order.

#### 2. Review of Agenda and June 15, 2023 Minutes (7:05 p.m.)

- Members update from Co-chair Frank Moir:
  - The “*Highland Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant*” article was published in the CCRA Centennial News October 2023 Vol 08, No 8 edition. It is available online at <https://ccranews.com/>.
  - If questions arise from the article, please direct them to City of Toronto staff.
- Plant update from Anthony Pigaidoulis:
  - Anthony Pigaidoulis is the Plant Manager.
  - William Fernandes, Deputy General Manager, has taken over for Frank Quarisa.
  - The search for a senior engineer is ongoing.
  - Thank you to Frank for continuing in the role of co-chair.

#### 3. Election of New Community Chair (7:10 p.m.)

- Review of Nominations
  - None
- Statement from Interested Parties
  - None
- Vote by committee members
  - None
- Frank Moir will continue to co-chair until a replacement is found.

#### 4. Plant Updates (7:15 p.m.)

Anthony Pigaidoulis provided a summary of the Plant Performance and Operations:

##### i. Odour Complaints Received

The HCTP has received zero odour and noise complaints since the last meeting.

## ii. Sewage Bypass Events

There have been no recorded sewage bypass events at the HCTP in 2023.

There was one sub stack spill on August 15, 2023, which lasted for one minute. It was an inadvertent release due to improper labelling and was remedied immediately. The Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks was notified. **Power Interruptions & Impact on Operations**

In terms of power interruptions and their impact on operations, the HCTP has experienced a normal level of intermittent power fluctuations but there has been no impact to operations reported to date.

## iii. Ash Lagoon Cleaning

The cleaning process for the ash lagoons involved the removal non-hazardous, inert ash which is sent to landfill. From June 7 to June 20 2023, the south ash lagoon had 130 trucks of material removed. It was removed at a rate of 10 trucks per day. From August 21 to August 25, there was 40 trucks of material removed from the north ash lagoon. Extra care was taken to ensure that the trucks were cleaned and wheels were washed. There were no complaints regarding the trucks queuing compared to previous years. In 2023, the drivers were given maps featuring alternating routes.

The north lagoon has been made smaller to accommodate a laydown area for the contractors. The north lagoon will only go into operation when the south lagoon is being cleaned.

### **Q: Does it mean that the cleanings will happen more frequently?**

It may. The number of trucks will remain the same. We will continue to aim to do cleanings in the summer, but the times are yet to be determined.

The Plant is looking to study the ash lagoons and rehabilitate the ash system. The Plant is studying alternate uses for the ash instead of sending it to the landfill. There is currently a market survey planned to find end users of ash and determine their needs to design the new system.

## iv. Stack Emission Testing

In 2023, the contractor (RWDI) conducted annual source testing of the emissions from the incinerator at the HCTP. The results of the testing demonstrated that the emissions were below the regulated compliance limits specified by the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) for both the regulated and voluntary parameters.

*For the regulated testing, the following results were obtained:*

- Dioxins and Furans: 73% of the standard limit
- Mercury: 34% of the standard limit

## 5. Capital Projects (7:20 p.m.)

Anthony Pigaidoulis shared the drone video from September 15, 2023, featuring the construction work done to the ash lagoons and the 3D model and schedule video. Rob Deobald provided a summary of the Plant construction projects:

### 1. Firm Capacity Upgrades (Contract 1 & 2)

#### A. Contract 1

The purpose of Contract 1 is to allow reliable operation until completion of new NE Plant and address more immediate needs regarding mechanical, electrical and structural repairs to the primary/secondary clarifiers and tunnels. It also includes replacement of NW & SW primary sludge & scum collection systems, as well as upgrades to aeration tanks and the phosphorus removal process.

*Current status:* Awarded to Bennett Mechanical in September 2019. Construction is ongoing. Completion is expected in Q1 2025.

#### B. Contract 2

The purpose of Contract 2 is to construct a new northeast plant consisting of primary, aeration and secondary systems as well as to address other long term structural repairs to galleries/tunnels throughout the facility. It will include an additional high voltage electrical feed from Toronto Hydro and a new High Voltage Substation.

*Current status:* Tendering is expected in Q3 2023 and construction commencing by Q3 2024.

### 2. Disinfection and Electrical Upgrades

Upgrades to disinfection and dechlorination chemical dosing systems and various electrical upgrades.

*Current status:* Contract was awarded to Bennett Mechanical in September 2021. Anticipating commissioning in Q3 2023 with completion Q2 2024.

### 3. Fluidized Bed Incinerators (FBIs)

*Current status:* In construction with Maple Reinders and on track and no changes from last meeting update.

#### Q: What does laydown area mean?

It is the contractor's storage site at the Plant. It is a holding area for the equipment and materials that will be used during projects.

## 6. Other Business (7:30 p.m.)

### i. Tree Plantings:

At the entrance to the site on Beechgrove Drive, Enbridge has repaired a leaking gas line and some trees were damaged in the process, there are discussion as to who will replace them. Some of the other trees didn't survive the planting, and they were replaced under warranty.

- ii. **Sidewalk:**  
Currently the Plant is coordinating with Transportation Services to install sidewalks along Beechgrove Drive, allowing safe pedestrian access to all HCTP gates and parking facilities. There is ongoing communication with Metrolinx regarding the area near the tracks. The design includes crosswalks with intentional crossings but no painted lines. Tendering is expected in Q3 of 2024 and construction commencing in 2025.
  
- iii. **Meetings:**  
The Plant is willing to do another tour in 2024 and it may be a combination of a NLC meeting and a tour. The Plant would like to keep meeting to one time a year in the fall, unless there is an issue that triggers the requirement for an additional meeting.
  
- iv. **2023 Annual Report:**  
Will be published on the City of Toronto Wastewater Treatment Plants & Reports website (<https://www.toronto.ca/services-payments/water-environment/managing-sewage-in-toronto/wastewater-treatment-plants-and-reports/>) in Q1 of 2024.

## 7. Adjourn (8 p.m.)

Next Meeting: Fall 2024

### Attendees

#### **Residents:**

Frank Moir (NLC Co-Chair)  
Don York  
Jackie Palmer  
Kathy Rowe

#### **Staff:**

William Fernandes, Toronto Water, Deputy General Manager  
Anthony Pigaidoulis, Toronto Water, Manager, HCTP  
Rob Deobald, Toronto Water, Senior Engineer, HCTP  
Amanda Ratych, Public Consultation Unit