

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Environmental Authority
Held on Thursday 23 February 2021
At the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Botanical Gardens, Paget
and Remotely using Zoom Teleconference**

PRESENT: Ms. Davida Morris, Chair
Mrs. Susan Armstrong, Member, remote access
Mr. Andrew Barnes, Member, remote access
Mr. Willie Ferguson, Member, remote access
Mr. James Morrison, Member, remote access
Mr. Eugene Saunders, Member
Mr. Jonathan Starling, Member, remote access

ADVISORS: Dr. Geoff Smith, Environmental Engineer, DENR
Dr. Shaun Lavis, Hydrogeologist, DENR
Mr. Kirk Outerbridge, Chief Engineer, Public Works, remote access
Mr. Tarik Christopher, Principal Engineer (Water & Sewage), Public Works (remote access)
Ms. Patricia Hollis, Environmental Officer, DENR, Recording Secretary

ABSENT: Mr. Paul McDonald, Acting Senior Planner, Dept. of Planning
Mr. Tom Crossan, Chief Environmental Health Officer
Mr. Armell Thomas, Senior Environmental Health Officer, remote access

1. Confirmation of Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 4 February 2021 were approved and signed by the Chair.

2. BELCO Update on Remedial Actions to address Pollution Complaints

The Authority **TOOK NOTE** of the update presented:

- BELCO has submitted the January 2021 monthly progress report to the Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources in continued response to the letter sent by the Authority in May 2020. This will soon be shared with the residents in the Belco area.
- In January 2021, there were 16 exceedences of the UK SO₂ 15-minute air quality objective measured at the trailer-mounted sensor system (BDA#4), presently located in Ocean Lane, Pembroke. In the UK, 35 exceedences of the 15-minute SO₂ limit are permitted each year; however, if that number is exceeded, then an air quality action plan is required. It was noted that all other monitored parameters meet UK/EU and Bermuda standards at BDA#4 and the other two fixed monitoring stations.
- As reported at the previous meeting, residential tank water quality data has been received and disseminated. The results do not show a BELCO signature of pollutants in the water.
- A report on tank water sediment data, showing predominantly a road vehicle source for dioxins and furans, has been circulated to the public. DENR will be investigating turbidity levels in water tanks to estimate the risk of the sediment when in suspension.

The Members expressed great concern with the ongoing complaints about poor air quality, especially near Ocean Lane, Pembroke when the wind is from the south-west/south-south-west.

The Authority **REQUESTED:**

that a letter shall be sent to BELCO notifying them of the large number of exceedences of the 15-minute UK SO₂ air quality objective over January and February 2021 and requesting them to submit all potential remedial actions that could be applied to address the high emissions. The Members acknowledged that the Bermuda legislation is in the process of being considered for amendment to align to other international standards, such as the UK. The Members also stated that they would like to encourage BELCO to continue their proactive approach, as they have with the monitoring programmes, to continue their commitment to the public community.

3. BELCO Annual Operating Licence Reissue Application (OL-114)

It was noted that at its meeting of 2 December 2020, the Authority approved the issuance of the BELCO annual Operating Licence, subject to the finalisation of conditions. The Members discussed BELCO's previous comments, which had recently been received.

The Authority **APPROVED:**

- Condition 5.3.3. With the opacity limit being reduced from 20% to 15%, it was agreed that non-compliant engines would be relegated to the bottom of the merit order if the 15% opacity could not be attained within 30 minutes of operation
- Condition 5.4.8. BELCO requested clarity on how "nuisance odours" would be measured and validated. The condition, as written, is taken from the Public Health Act, and as such, it is the Ministry of Health who can address BELCO's question.
- Condition 5.13.1. If required, BELCO will be granted additional time to address odours from fuel tanks other than from the newly installed fuel storage areas located along St John's Road.

Before the licence is issued, BELCO will be given an opportunity to discuss the new conditions further to ensure that they are achievable.

4. ELBOW BEACH Waste Water Treatment Plant Update (OL-352)

It was noted that the annual report from July 2019 to October 2020 had been submitted by the Waste Infrastructure Group (WIG). There was some improvement in waste water quality due to the implementation of the planned 'short-term' improvements to the operation of the plant and low inflow quantities due to Covid-19.

The Authority **APPROVED:**

The Elbow Beach WWTP Operating Licence subject to the payment of the application fees.

5. CORPORATION OF HAMILTON - Waste Water Treatment Plant (OL-142)

It was noted that a meeting has been scheduled at which the Corporation of Hamilton, and Permanent Secretaries of the Ministry of Public Works and of the Ministry of Home Affairs will discuss the proposed expenditure for planned improvements for the Corporation's waste water treatment plant on Front Street.

6. AWMF Raw Ash Disposal (OL-168)

With the disposal of raw, unconsolidated ash continuing at the Airport Waste Management Facility, Mr. Kirk Outerbridge, MWE Chief Engineer, was asked for an update and the plan for 2021. Mr. Outerbridge agreed to provide this information at the next meeting. The Members were reminded that MWE incorporates as much ash with cement as staff and trucking permits. In 2020, 7,800 tonnes of ash-cement were manufactured largely as blocks, and only 680 tonnes of ash was deposited in its raw form at the single, relatively-protected location on the site. It was also noted that the current ash disposal location is at approximately 90% capacity and that a new protected location will be required shortly that is away from the effects of the wind, the water table and the revetment.

7. Applications for Construction Permits and Operating Licences (New)

7.1 CP-704, OL-1108 Sol Petroleum Bermuda—Airport Fuel Farm

The Authority **APPROVED:**

the application for a fuel storage and distribution facility at 12 Kindley Field Road, St. George's, subject to standard conditions and providing no objections are received during the advertised period.

8. Applications for Operating Licences (Reissue)

8.1 The Authority **APPROVED:**

the reissue of operating licences on the two-page printout, subject to standard conditions, with the exception of one (OL-881 Amis Memorial Chapel Crematorium) which was deferred pending submission of the annual report.

9. Operating Licence Condition Amendment BHB Wastewater Treatment Facility OL-801

9.1 The Authority APPROVED:

The amendment of the operating licence condition for the Bermuda Hospitals Board's waste water treatment facility to reflect the replacement of biological oxygen demand (BOD) readings with weekly chemical oxygen demand (COD) readings. It was noted that there is a strong relationship between BOD and COD, and COD is an easier, more cost effective parameter to measure. The COD limit was set at 26 mg/l for the weekly measurements, with both BOD and COD being measured simultaneously every quarter.

10. Applications for Chemical Import Permit

10.1 Aircare

The Authority **APPROVED** the application submitted by Aircare for the import of 40 x 24-lb cylinders of R404A, and 40 x 25-lb of R410A, subject to standard conditions.

11. Applications for Water Rights (New)

The Authority **APPROVED** the applications listed below:

11.1. WR-5681 Anne Glasspool, domestic household supply well at 2 Pieces of Eight Lane, St George's, subject to standard conditions (clarification of use)

11.2. WR-5688 Amanda Skinner, domestic abstraction well at 10 Mayflower Drive, Devonshire, subject to standard conditions.

11.3. WR-5689 Jerome Robinson, domestic abstraction well at 52 Middle Road, Warwick, subject to standard conditions.

11.4. WR-5690 Michael Heslop, commercial sewage disposal borehole, subject to standard conditions and providing the borehole is sealed at least 40 feet below sea level.

11.5. WR 5691 Michael Heslop, domestic borehole at 8 Pitts Bay Road, Pembroke for the disposal of rain water, subject to standard conditions.

12. Applications for Water Rights (Reissue)

The Authority **APPROVED:**

the issue of water rights as listed on the three-page printout, subject to standard conditions, with the exception of three indicated as withdrawn.

13. Applications for Well Digger's Licence

The Authority **APPROVED:**

The application for a well digger's licence to Atlantic Water Development Ltd., subject to standard conditions.

14. Date of the Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting was set for 8:30 am, Tuesday, 30 March 2021.



CHAIRMAN

26/10/2021

DATE

