

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Environmental Authority
Held on Tuesday, 27 April 2021
At the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Botanical Gardens, Paget
and Remotely using Webex Teleconference**

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

1. Confirmation of Minutes

Confirmation of the Minutes of the meeting held on 30 March 2021 was deferred. They are to be confirmed and signed at the next in-person meeting.

2. BELCO Updates

2.1 Update on BELCO Remedial Actions to address Pollution Complaints

The Authority **TOOK NOTE:**

that it was expected that BELCO representatives would be in attendance to address the Authority's concerns over the continuing complaints from neighbours about odours and soot from BELCO, and to explain the available options to minimise emissions. However, due to an increase in Covid-19 cases in Bermuda, their attendance was postponed to the next meeting scheduled for 25 May 2021. Should Belco representatives be unable to attend due to Covid restrictions then the meeting will be carried out remotely.

2.2 BELCO's March 2021 Update

The Authority **TOOK NOTE:**

that Belco's March 2021 update on their emissions had been circulated to neighbours. It was revealed that there had been no exceedences of Bermuda's 24-hour SO₂ limit; however there had been 40 exceedences of the UK 15-minute SO₂ air quality objective since January 2021. DENR is seeking an amendment to the Clean Air Regulations 1993 to bring in the 15-minute SO₂ objective of 266 µg/m³ into law.

The Members were reminded that a letter from the Authority had been sent BELCO requesting information on and solutions for the North Power Station soot emissions. It was noted that Belco's response was sent to the Regulatory Authority who will use their UK consultants, Ricardo Energy & Environment Ltd, for comment. Their response will be presented to the Authority when available.

The EA requested that it and DENR be formally invited to consult on the revised Integrated Resource Plan.

The Authority **REQUESTED:**

that a letter be sent on their behalf requesting they and DENR to be formally consulted in the next IRP process.

With regards to tank water quality, the Authority **TOOK NOTE:**

that DENR is procuring a turbidity sensor to detect changes in suspended sediment and to estimate the risk of insoluble combustion-related products being mobilised in tank water.

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

The Authority **TOOK NOTE:**

that a meeting between representatives of the Ministry of Works, Ministry of Home Affairs, and the Corporation was held to exchange information on the proposed expenditure for planned improvements for the Corporation's waste water treatment plant on Front Street. It is understood that further meetings will be held.

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

4.1 CP-712, OL-1117 Nautilus Trust, 88 South Road, Warwick

Member Susan Armstrong declared an interest and stood aside during consideration of this application.

The Authority **APPROVED:**

the application for a 20 kW propane genset at 88 South Road, Warwick subject to standard conditions.

4.2 CP-713, OL-1118 McDonald

The Authority **APPROVED:**

the application for a 22 kW propane generator at 4 Seaview Lane, Smith's, subject to standard conditions.

5. Applications for Operating Licences (Reissue)

The Authority **APPROVED:**

the reissue of operating licences on the one-page printout, subject to standard conditions.

6. Applications for Water Rights (New)

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

6.1. WR-5698 Clearwater Development Ltd, commercial borehole (and one backup borehole) for the disposal of treated sewage effluent at 90 South Road, Warwick, subject to standard conditions and providing the borehole is sealed at least 40 feet below sea level. It was noted that Member Susan Armstrong declared an interest and stood aside during consideration of this application.

6.2. WR-5697 Mr Stephen Talley, domestic supply well at 16 Store Hill, Smith's, subject to standard conditions.

6.3 UPDATE: WR 5631 Rocon/MPW RO Public Supply Well, St. George's

The Members were reminded that EA approval was granted on 27 March 2019 for the abstraction of 420,000 Igpd saline water for supply to an RO plant. On 28 March 2020, DENR received additional information about the sensitivity of the proposed St. George's well relative to the overlying fresh water lens. DENR then sought additional assurances regarding risks to surrounding residents, and discussed additional monitoring wells, risk management options and possible compensation mechanisms. The Environmental Authority issued new conditions on 28 August 2020; however, on 22 Feb 2020, the Minister of Home Affairs over-ruled the conditions set by the EA as a result of an appeal by the applicant (Section 31(3) of the Water Resources Act 1975). The Water Right was issued subject to standard conditions (sealed 30 to 40 feet below sea level) and was signed by the Minister.

The Ministry of Works has reported to DENR that the drilling has been difficult and the borehole keeps collapsing. The casing is presently only about 100 feet below ground level (ie at about sea level). Options on how to proceed are to be considered.

7. Applications for Water Rights (Reissue)

The Authority **APPROVED:**

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

8. Marine & Ports Ferry Terminal Front Street Fuel Handling Issues, reports of spills

It was reported that the fuelling station at the Marine & Ports Ferry Terminal Front Street/East Broadway has a number of current issues:

- a) Manual fuel filling of ferry boats carries a high risk of overfilling;
- b) Fuel dispensing and underground fuel storage tank are aging, and access to fill the fuel tank is difficult;
- c) The waste oil and bilge water management require manual handling of 50 US gallon drums from ferries to the floating pier;
- d) There are no sewage pump out facilities

The contract being renegotiated with either Sol Petroleum or RUBIS Energy will address these issues:

- a) Fuelling systems will have automatic cut offs;
- b) The underground fuel storage tank will be replaced with a roadside facility;
- c) Waste oil recovery pipework will be installed to each pier so all ferries may connect in;
- d) Sewage pump out lines will also be installed.

Improvements to the other major Government refuelling facilities (Bus Terminal Palmetto Road and Dockyard; Government Quarry, Bailey's Bay; Prospect Police Headquarters; Westgate Correctional Facility; and Marsh Folly Depot, Palmetto Road, Pembroke) are included in the contract under negotiation. Construction is expected to start late this year.

DENR is an active stakeholder and has required necessary environmental protection measures to be included.

9. Date of the Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting was set for 8:30 am, Tuesday, 25 May 2021.



CHAIRMAN

26/10/2021

DATE

