

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Environmental Authority
Held on Tuesday, 22 February 2022
At the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Botanical Gardens, Paget
and Remotely using WebEx Teleconference**

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

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Ministry of Public Works Representatives:
Mr. Clarkston Trott, Solid Waste Manager
Mr. Chris Williamson, Sites Management Officer

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

1. Confirmation of Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 25 January 2022 were approved and signed by the Deputy Chair.

2. Ministry of Public Work Presentation: Airport Waste Management Annual Report

Mr. Chris Williamson presented the Airport Waste Management Facility (AWMF) annual reports for the period 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2021.

It was noted that the facility employs 6 full time staff to monitor and record incoming wastes and to direct the wastes to the appropriate disposal area. Two contractors provide equipment (excavator from Island Construction and waste compaction from Smith Hauling).

Concrete ash blocks (1m³), created using cement/ash mix from Tynes Bay Waste to Energy Facility (TBWEF), are used for foreshore protection at the site. A reduction in tonnage of garbage received at TBWEF (from 400 to 300 tons per week) has resulted in fewer ash blocks being created. Ash concrete “pancakes” have been used to encapsulate raw ash disposal over periods when MPW were not able to make ash/cement.

The continued disposal of unconsolidated raw ash was discussed. The operating licence conditions provide for the disposal of raw ash during exceptional circumstances caused by “acts of God”. The Authority had not given its approval for the disposal of raw ash during times when there were mechanical or workforce issues, such as lack of concrete trucks or shortage of personnel. Recently, a letter documenting this noncompliance had been sent to the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Public Works.

The Environmental Authority requested that the Ministry of Public Works (MPW) records and reports the amount and location of raw ash disposed of at the AWMF. It was noted that the weigh scales at the AWMF are not functioning yet. Repairs are expected to be undertaken in mid-April 2022.

The disposal of e-waste was discussed. The Members were reminded that an e-waste tomb was created to permit sampling and analyses of leachate. This tomb is now full and will be covered with ash cement. Going forward, e-waste will be commingled with other inert wastes.

Mr. Williamson reported that wastes containing hazardous components are put in a designated area and then have the fluids and batteries removed by a contractor. Vehicles from commercial garages are generally processed before delivery to the site.

There have been no rejected loads since 2011 and the implementation of tipping fees. The entrance to the site has been improved with the placement of barricades to deter fly-tipping.

There have been no advances made in the redirection of wastes accepted in the 'short-term' at the AWMF. 'Short-term' accepted wastes include metals from road vehicles, white goods, tyres, e-wastes, fibreglass. Deliveries of air conditioning units from commercial companies are diverted to the Materials Recovery Facility in Government Quarry. Single units are accepted at the AWMF with the refrigerant being recovered.

Scavenging at the AWMF is not permitted because of significant health and safety concerns

The implication of the programme to remove and dispose of abandoned vessels was discussed. About 54 vessels will be taken to the AWMF for disposal over the next three months. Marine contractors will be responsible for removing hazardous components, and MPW was asked to provide suitable totes/pallets for the hazardous wastes.

The Environmental Authority requested that the present extent of the landfall is surveyed and that MPW submits a plan for future expansion of the site.

3. Ministry of Public Works—Update on Asbestos Disposal

Mr. Clarkston Trott gave the Authority an update on the MPW asbestos disposal programme. It was reported that MPW do not have funding this year to ship asbestos overseas for disposal. There are about 400 sea containers (excluding those at BLDC) filled with asbestos and 3 bladder bags filled with ground up asbestos. Approximately 200 of the containers have had concrete added to them, so they are unable to be shipped overseas. An engineered disposal plan will be required for the 200 containers and 3 bladder bags, for example, being encapsulated at a disused quarry or other designated site.

4. Ministry of Public Work Presentation: Marsh Folly Compost Facility Annual Report

The Marsh Folly Compost Facility (MFCF) is the site where horticultural and organic wastes are processed for composting. Six staff are presently employed at the site, two less than usual. Weights of incoming wastes and numbers of loads of compost and wood chips are recorded at the weighbridge office. At times following severe storms, incoming loads are not recorded or weighed.

The quality of compost has improved in recent years with the more efficient removal of plastics. MPW is waiting for the compost analytical results; these will be reporting in next year's report. Also to be reported are any complaints about the facility or its operation

The MPW representatives were thanked for their presentations.

5. BELCO Air Quality Complaints – Responses to EA Letters

The Authority **TOOK NOTE:**

- i) At Ocean Lane, Pembroke, there were 13 exceedences of Air Quality Objective Target Levels in January 2022 (7 on 7th January, 4 on 29th Jan). On both of these dates, when the winds were from the SW/SSW and above 15 knots, BELCO undertook partial primary abatement by switching engines in the East Power Station from Heavy Fuel Oil to Light Fuel Oil. This was shown to decrease sulphur dioxide levels measured at Ocean Lane, Pembroke to within target levels.

The Authority **REQUESTED:**

that BELCO be asked to implement a standard operating practice to forecast and take pre-emptive action to avoid exceedences.

- ii) There were three (3) BELCO-confirmed soot fallout events in January 2022 which resulted in a total of five (5) complaints by members of the public. The Members were reminded that the last remaining piston crown installation was completed on the North Power Station engines in January 2022 before the engine was reintroduced as part of a standard procedure. All engines are now optimised to run on HFO.
- iii) The Members were reminded that activated carbon filters were installed in December 2021 on the St. John's Road fuel storage tanks to address the passive breathing of the tanks which were leading to complaints of fuel odours in the vicinity. BELCO was scheduled to re-survey the neighbourhood in late January 2022 (not undertaken yet). BELCO will monitor the life of the carbon filters to ensure efficacy of odour removal. There had been one complaint of fuel odours, but this was due to an oil pump issue at the oily water separate plant next to the East Power Station, unrelated to the fuel storage tank issue along St John's Road.

6. Elbow Beach Waste Water Treatment Plant

There was nothing to report.

7. Tynes Bay Waste to Energy Facility

7.1 Current Status

It was reported that stream 2 is off-line with boiler works being undertaken. It is expected to be back in operation on 8 April, after which time, stream 1 boiler will be repaired. The TBWEF has been able to process incoming garbage without the need to bale any wastes.

7.2 Update on MPW Ash-Concrete Trucks

After being notified at their last meeting that MPW had insufficient trucking available to transport ash cement to the Airport Waste Management Facility and that raw ash would be disposed of, the Authority asked that a draft letter to the Permanent Secretary, MPW, be prepared.

The Authority considered the draft and **AGREED:**
that it be sent to the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Public Works.

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

8.1 The Authority: **DEFERRED**

CP-700, OL-1104: Intelligent Excavating, Lukes Pond, Southampton, pending submission of further information concerning the rock crusher.

8.2 OL-1166 Invisible Trenching sand sifter

The Authority **APPROVED** the application for an operating licence for a mobile sand sifter for use on permitted building sites, subject to standard conditions.

8.3 CP-739, OL-1167 Sol Petroleum LPG Storage & Distribution

The Authority **APPROVED** the application for a construction permit and operating licence for a bulk LPG storage and distribution facility at 25 Ferry Road, St. George's, subject to standard conditions and providing no objections are received during the advertised period.

8.4 CP-735, OL-1160 Robert Lewis

The Authority **APPROVED** the application for a construction permit and operating licence for a 20 kW LPG generator at 179 South Road, Smith's, subject to standard conditions. The Authority noted that the predicted noise levels slightly exceeded their policy, however, it was acknowledged that the applicant took all reasonable measures to mitigate the noise (enclosure with sound attenuating panels) and the situation is difficult for the model to simulate.

8.5 OL-1164, OL-1165 Bermuda Skyport, two replacement mobile light units

The Authority **APPROVED** the applications for two operating licences for mobile lights at the LF Wade International Airport, subject to standard conditions. It was noted that these are replacements for similar decommissioned light units.

9. Applications for Construction Permits and Operating Licences (Reissues)

9.1 The Authority **APPROVED:**

the applications for reissue for operating licences listed on the three-page printout, subject to standard conditions.

9.2 OL-981 Stanfield Smith, Genset, 7 Long Bay Lane, Sandys:

The Members were reminded that the initial application submitted by Mr. Stanfield Smith for a generator at 7 Long Bay Lane, Sandys was declined in 2019 on the grounds that the noise exceeded the Authority's policy. On appeal, the Minister of Home Affairs, granted approval for the annual operating licence.

At its December 2021 meeting, the Authority deferred the application for reissue and requested that a sound survey be undertaken at the property. A sound survey was carried out by DENR Technical Officers, and the sound at neighbouring properties was found to exceed the Authority's policy limits (66 dBA at neighbours).

The Chair recused herself from this item.

The Authority **DECLINED** the application on the grounds of the generator was not compliant with their policy on sound.

10. Import Permit for Refrigerant Gases

The Authority **APPROVED:**

The issuance of an import permit C178, subject to standard conditions, to Air Care Ltd. for:

- 70 cylinders each containing 30 lbs kg of refrigerant R134A
- 390 cylinders each containing 24 lbs of refrigerant R 404A
- 410 cylinders each containing 25 lbs of refrigerant R 410A
- 110 cylinders each containing 25 lbs of refrigerant R 438A
- 210 cylinders each containing 25 lbs of refrigerant R 407A
- 100 cylinders each containing 3 kgs of refrigerant R 32A

11. Applications for Water Rights (New)

The Authority **APPROVED:**

11.1 WR-5740 Emma Robinson Water Right application for a domestic supply well at 21 Abbot's Crescent, Hamilton Parish, subject to standard conditions.

11.2 WR-5741, 5742 Nautilus Water Right applications for 2 sewage disposal boreholes at 88 South Road, Warwick, subject standard conditions and providing the boreholes are sealed at least 60 feet below sea level.

11.3 WR-5743 Water Right application for 1 rainwater disposal boreholes at 88 South Road, Warwick, subject to standard conditions.

12. Applications for Water Rights (Reissue)

The Authority **APPROVED:**

the reissuance of Water Rights on the two-page printout, subject to standard conditions, except the one indicated as withdrawn.


13. Amendment to the Clean Air Act 1991

The Authority **TOOK NOTE:**

that an amendment to the Clean Air Act 1991 had been tabled and approved in the House of Assembly.

14. Date of the Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting was set for Tuesday, 29 March 2022.



CHAIRMAN

29/3/2022

DATE