

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Environmental Authority
Held on Tuesday, 31 May 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, Deputy Chair
Mr. Andrew Barnes, Member (by remote access)
Mr. Willie Ferguson, Member (by remote access)
Mr. James Morrison, 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)
Ms. Patricia Hollis, Environmental Officer, DENR, Recording Secretary

ABSENT: Mrs. Susan Armstrong, Member
Mr. Tom Crossan, Chief Environmental Health Officer
Mr. Kirk Outerbridge, Chief Engineer, Public Works
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 26 April 2022 were approved and signed by the Deputy Chair.

2. BELCO Air Quality Updates

- 2.1 It was reported that updates by email to the public have resumed.
- 2.2 In April, there was one complaint of odours from the fuel tanks on St. John's Road, Pembroke. It was reported that BELCO is still waiting for a reply from the manufacturer of the activated carbon filters as to whether or not they are performing to specifications.
- 2.3 No exceedances of the UK/EU Air Quality objective for 15-minute sulphur dioxide were reported for the month of April 2022.
- 2.4 Ten (10) soot complaints were reported for April from 5 separate events. Analysis of the wind direction indicated that the source of the soot was the North Power Station. There were 4 engines in operation (E6, E7, N3, N4) with 3 of the 4 being operated at only 65% efficiency. When BELCO was asked if operating fewer engines at higher efficiencies would result in less soot generation, BELCO replied that their reasons for operating 3 of the 4 engines at low efficiency was justified. DENR sought clarification of the BELCO reasoning from Ex-BELCO employees at the Regulatory Authority who confirmed the occasional need for BELCO to operate more engines at lower efficiency rather than fewer at higher efficiency. DENR will continue this investigation.
- 2.5 Air Quality Monitoring at Ocean Lane. The Members were reminded that the landowner of the property on which the monitoring equipment is sited has asked for a date by which the equipment will be removed. He said that its presence is blocking his driveway to the 2-3 tenants and is also lowering the rental value of his property.

After consideration, the Authority **APPROVED:**
that BELCO seek the landlord's permission to keep the monitoring equipment in place until 1 April 2023. In the meantime, BELCO shall develop and submit a standard operating procedure to determine when 'Partial Primary Abatement' shall be implemented as a result of the wind being likely to downdraft onto Ocean Lane (i.e. For SW and SSW wind directions of greater than 15 knots).

The Authority recognized the need to maintain monitoring ability in the Ocean Lane area and requested other suitable sites for locating the equipment be investigated.

3. Elbow Beach Waste Water Treatment Plant

There was nothing to report.

4. Ministry of Public Works Tynes Bay April 2022 Operation Update

The Authority **TOOK NOTE:**

- 4.1 Stream #1 was online for most of April. Stream #2 was offline for 17 days for the planned boiler improvements. (Note that Stream #1 is due to have the same boiler improvements completed in spring 2023).
- 4.2 The garbage bales created when the streams were off-line have been returned to the facility for incineration.
- 4.3 The turbine was available for 31 days in April, but ran for 27 days at 56% efficiency
- 4.4 1,027.9 MWh sent to BELCO 18 March through 18 April. Total MWh generated 1-31 April was 2,726 MWh.
- 4.5 Total waste incinerated in April was estimated at 2,551 tonnes (excluding metals).
- 4.6 34 loads of ash cement were disposed of at the Airport Site as blocks or pours of ash-cement away from the revetment. 266 tonnes of unconsolidated ash were disposed of at the Airport Site. The issue with the newly supplied clinker crane is preventing the full length of ash from being processed to ash-cement. Furthermore only one ash-cement truck is on the road due to pending repairs.
- 4.7 The ash plant was out of operation due to a malfunctioning crane. The clinker crane project is still on hold as a result of incorrectly-supplied (by the manufacturer) equipment, with the festoon cabling due on island in May.
- 4.8 One of the two refuse cranes has a structural issue and needs to be repaired quickly. The plant cannot function if both refuse cranes fail.

5. Ministry of Public Works Airport Waste Management Operating Licence

After the presentation on the Airport Waste Management Facility in April, the Authority considered and **APPROVED:**

the issuance of the annual Airport Waste Management Facility operating licence with the additional condition that the Ministry of Public Works shall conduct an internal investigation with their waste recyclers/receivers based in the US and local shipping agents to review the full cost data for all wastes that are currently on the 'Short-Term' approval list above. This data shall be presented/reported to the Authority every 5-years, beginning in 2023.

6. Central Lens and Port Royal Lens Update

The Authority Took Note:

That the Ministry of Public Works have recently completed a partial inventory of their abstraction wells, repaired several wells that were previous not operational and brought numerous wells back online. DENR will continue to work with MPW to locate and wells that have not yet been found and to bring all records and licences up to date.

7. Lens Thinning around Glebe Road, Pembroke

The Authority Took Note:

That shortly after wells in the Glebe Road area were brought back online (during Q1 2022), a pronounced thinning of the central lens around that area was detected. Also during Q1 2022, Officers of the Ministry of Public Works (MPW) discovered that unauthorised connections had been made to their wells on the Government House property. A possible explanation for the thinning of the lens in the Glebe Rd area is that the unauthorised connections resulted in a pressure drop in the line network that transports pumped water from the MPW's wells to their water plant at Prospect. The drop in pressure cause the wells at Glebe Rd to pump at a higher rate than expected, which may have caused the observed lens thinning. The unauthorised connections have been severed, investigations into the cause of the thinning continues and monitoring of the lens is ongoing.

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

8.1 CP-748 OL-1181 Corcon Ltd. Spray Paint Facility, 3 Meadow Lane, Devonshire

The Authority **DEFERRED:**

Corcon application for a construction permit and operating licence for a spray paint facility at 3 Meadow Lane, Devonshire pending confirmation of Department of Planning approval for the change in use.

8.2 CP-750, OL-1183 BLDC Waste Water Treatment Plant

The Authority **APPROVED:**

the construction permit and operating licence application for a tertiary grade, 240,000 gpd packaged waste water treatment plant at 125 Orange Hole Road, St. George's subject standard conditions and providing no objections are received during the advertised period.

8.3 OL-973 DeCouto 37 Grape Bay Drive, Paget

The Authority **APPROVED:**

the operating licence application for a 30 kW LPG genset at 37 Grape Bay Drive, Paget, subject standard conditions

8.4 CP-749, OL1182 TSG Trust, Lot 3-2B Hexham Drive, Hamilton Parish

The Authority **APPROVED:**

the construction permit and operating licence application for a 20 kW lpg genset 2B Hexham Drive, Hamilton Parish, subject to standard conditions.

8.5 CP-746, Ol-1179 BLDC Tommy Fox Road, St. Davids

The Authority **APPROVED:**

the construction permit and operating licence application for a 100 kW diesel genset at Tommy Fox Road and Southside Road Junction, St. David's, subject standard conditions

8.6 CP-747, OL-1180 BLDC 8 Southside Road, St. Davids

The Authority **APPROVED:**

the construction permit and operating licence application for a 60 kW diesel generator at 8 Southside Road, St. Davids, subject to standard conditions.

8.7 CP-751, OL-1184 Almeida, 1 Crow Valley, Smith's

The Authority **APPROVED:**

The construction permit and operating licence for a 20 kW propane generator at 1 Crow Valley, Smith's subject to standard conditions and providing the applicant is advised that should there be any complaints of noise, additional measures will be needed to be taken to attenuate the sound.

8.8 OL-1185, 1186, 1187 Mediwaste Clinical Incinerator and Pet Crematorium

The Authority APPROVED in principle:

the operating licence application for two medical waste incinerators and one pet crematorium at Waller's Point Road, Southside, St. George's, subject to the finalisation of the new conditions. DENR would provide a draft of the new operating licence conditions for the clinical waste incinerator and pet cremator before the next meeting. It was noted that Jonathan Starling stood aside during consideration of this application.

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

The Authority APPROVED:

The applications for reissue of operating licences listed on the two page printout, subject to standard conditions. Included in the list was the application for OL-801 Waste water treatment plant at BHB 7 Point Finger Road, Paget. An annual report showing satisfactory maintenance and effluent quality had been submitted.

10. Applications for Water Rights (New)

10.1 The Authority APPROVED:

WR-5746 Mr. & Mrs. Chilvers. Water Right application for a domestic rain water disposal borehole at 22 Narrows Lane, St. David's, subject to standard conditions.

10.2 The Authority APPROVED:

WR-5748 Clive Francis. Water Right application for a domestic supply well at 27 Mount View Road, Pembroke, subject to standard conditions.

10.3 The Authority APPROVED:

WR-5749 BLDC. Water Right application for a sewage effluent borehole for emergency overflow from their waste water treatment plant, 125 Orange Hole Road, St. George's, subject to standard conditions.

11. Applications for Water Rights (Reissue)

The Authority **APPROVED:**

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

12. Any Other Business: DENR Budget Cuts

The Authority **EXPRESSED CONCERN:**

that the Ministry of Home Affairs budget has been cut and that the Department is no longer able to fund the BIOS monitoring of Bermuda's ambient air quality in Prospect, East Broadway, St George's in addition to the oversight of BELCO monitoring at Ocean Lane. The Authority requested a letter of concern be sent to the Minister of Home Affairs. The Chair agreed to provide a draft.

13. Date of the Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting was set for Tuesday, 28 June 2022.



CHAIRMAN

28/6/22

DATE