

# CITIZEN'S ADVISORY BOARD

Cherry Island Landfill

May 8, 2017

## Notes

The May 8, 2017 meeting of the Citizen's Advisory Board (CAB) convened at approximately 5:10 p.m. at the Cherry Island Landfill (CIL), 1706 E. 12<sup>th</sup> Street, Wilmington.

Attendees:

CAB

Vince D'Anna  
Jeffery Starkey  
Zanthia Oliver

DSWA

Mike Parkowski  
Lynsey Baer  
Uriel Mendonça

DNREC

Nancy Marker  
Brad Richardson  
Mark Lyon

### ***Introductions/Welcome/CAB History***

Mr. Starkey and Ms. Oliver were introduced as new members of the CAB. Mr. Jeffery Starkey is the Commissioner with the Department of Public Works at the City of Wilmington and was appointed by Wilmington Mayor Michael Purzycki's office. Ms. Zanthia Oliver is a 3<sup>rd</sup> District Council Member and was appointed by Wilmington City Council President Hanifa Shabazz.

Ms. Baer welcomed both members to the CAB and offered to schedule a tour of Cherry Island Landfill (CIL) for all interested parties.

For the benefit of the new members, Ms. Baer gave a short history of the landfill and the formation of the CAB.

CIL is a sanitary landfill that was opened in 1985 and takes commercial and residential waste from New Castle County. We are currently taking approximately 1,200 tons of waste per day which is landfilled in a controlled manner. As the waste breaks down, it generates landfill gas and the gas has to be properly collected. In the early 2000, the system in place at the time, was not large enough to properly collect all the landfill gas being generated, so there were some odors associated with the landfill gas getting offsite. When DSWA applied for a new landfill operating permit in 2005, the community expressed concerns and wanted to ensure that the facility would be operated properly. On January 6, 2006, The Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) issued permit SW-06/01 to Delaware Solid

Waste Authority (DSWA) for the expansion of the CIL. A condition of the permit was the establishment of a Citizen's Advisory Board. The members of the CAB are selected by various representatives in New Castle County. New Castle County Executive, Wilmington City Council President, Wilmington Mayor, New Castle County President, The Governor, Senatorial District #2 and Representative District #2. During a previous CAB meeting in April 2016, the board voted and passed the motion to accept the new permit SW-16/07 which reduced the number of mandated CAB meetings to semi-annually. The proposed language also provides that the board may further increase or decrease the frequency of the CAB meetings by a quorum of the voting board members without having to modify the permit (as long as the frequency is not reduced to less than one meeting per year).

Mr. Starkey asked how long is the Permit for and when is the landfill going to close?

Ms. Baer responded that the permit is for 10 years. With the Mechanically Stabilized Earth (MSE) wall that was built, there is approximately 20 to 22 years of landfilling capacity.

The landfill height is currently at approximate elevation of 145 ft. CIL is permitted to landfill to an elevation of 195 ft. The design of the MSE wall however has a capacity to 270 ft. which would give us even more capacity. However, DSWA would have to request to increase the height of the landfill with DNREC and the public instead of trying to site a new landfill location.

### ***DNREC Update***

Mr. Richardson reported that DSWA has not had an odor complaint for almost four (4) years.

Mr. Starkey inquired as to whether you can pin point where the odors came from?

Mr. Parkowski explained that DSWA had a Contractor that was in charge of operating our landfill gas system onsite. DSWA is not a for profit entity; our mission is to capture and control the gas. The Contractor was a for profit business, making money off of the gas, so they were not going to spend any additional money on the collection system. That was one of the problems we were running into. That Contract was very difficult to get out of and took us a little longer than expected. When we finally did, we were able to fix the issues by upgrading the system and since then haven't had any odor complaints.

Mr. D'Anna inquired as to when the last odor complaint you felt was bad?

Mr. Richardson responded that when he came on in late 2013, there were still complaints, but I believe they were coming from Peninsula, the compost facility. I would inquire as to what the smell was like and the description given was compost.

Mr. Starkey inquired as to what is done with the gas?

Mr. Parkowski responded that we have a Contract with Cummins. Cummins delivers the gas to their end users, Croda and the City of Wilmington, for power generation and boiler fuel.

Mr. Starkey inquired where is Croda located and if we have a pipeline directly to them?

Mr. Baer responded that Croda is located across the Christina River by the Delaware Memorial Bridge and we do have a pipeline in place. Cummins currently is taking most of our landfill gas. We are generating approximately 3,200 scfm right now and Cummins is able to take approximately 2,000 scfm. Cummins is looking at getting another engine, which would allow them to take more gas.

Mr. D'Anna inquired if the quantity of the gas collected declines?

Ms. Baer responded that is true over the life of a landfill, however, the quantity of gas is pretty consistent at this time. At the last meeting I spoke about a landfill gas expansion where we installed several new landfill gas wells which will increase the quantity of gas for a period of time.

Mr. Starkey inquired if DSWA stores the gas and what happens with the gas that's not collected?

Ms. Baer responded that all the gas collected goes right to the pipeline and what's left is flared onsite.

Mr. Richardson continued the DNREC update. December 2015 was the last time there was a fire on the landfill. Occasionally a hot load would come in. DSWA would place the load to the side and make sure it's completely extinguished before landfilling it. DNREC would note it as an agency.

Mr. D'Anna inquired if the fires are external fires, not traditional landfill fires that occur inside the landfill and keeps burning?

Mr. Richardson replied yes the fires are usually external that come to the landfill.

Mr. Starkey asked if you have your own fire company or fire team, stand pipes onsite that you use or the pumper trucks?

Ms. Baer explained that the City of Wilmington Fire Department would come. They usually come out once per year to do a refresher training to familiarize themselves with the landfill. They would use the pumper trucks.

Mr. Lyon elaborated that dirt is also used. Typically, the load is pushed to the side, away from the trash and dirt is used. I can't recall a time when a fire truck came here and extinguished a fire.

Ms. Baer further explained that landfill fire extinguishing is a little bit different than a traditional fire. In my experience, the fire company definitely wants to handle it in one way and we as the operator know how to handle landfill fires differently. If we call them, we want them as back up for how we handle it. As Mr. Lyon said, you don't want to open it up, you don't want to engulf it with air and water as it can make it worse, so we typically use the soil that we have on site. We are fortunate that we have a fair amount of cover soil here that we can get from Clean Earth which is an Alternate Daily Cover that has been heat treated.

Mr. Starkey inquired if the soil used is contaminated?

Ms. Baer explained that the soil that Clean Earth manages has been in contact with petroleum products. Clean Earth uses a thermal treatment process at their facilities to treat the soil. The final product has to go through rigorous testing before we can take it here to be used.

Mr. Starkey inquired if you take environmental stuff like asbestos and do you keep it separate for environmental reasons?

Ms. Baer responded that we do take asbestos and proceeded to the wall photo of CIL to explain where asbestos is located onsite. We do have certified asbestos handlers on site as only certain people are allowed to handle it. They make sure that customers are following our asbestos procedures. Ms. Baer offered the CAB members to schedule a tour of the landfill so as to enable them to understand better what we do here at CIL.

Mr. Starkey inquired as to what air monitoring do you do if any and do you have any neighborhoods within close proximity that you monitor?

Ms. Baer responded that we have air permits. All of our wells and flares are monitored. Our buildings get monitored and our perimeter gets monitored. The landfill property line is as far as we monitor.

Mr. Starkey inquired if you had high reads at the perimeter what would you do?

Ms. Baer responded that we would evaluate and see what the issue was, what was causing it and further testing would be implemented at that point.

Mr. Richardson continued to report that in December 2016, DSWA reported prohibited waste at the landfill. It was medical waste hauled by Waste Management from St. Francis Hospital.

The truck and waste were isolated and St. Francis was contacted to remove the waste. No injuries or environmental damage resulted from this incident.

Three months ago CIL's Compliance Officer issued a citation for yard waste disposal. For a yard waste citation to be issued, more than 10% of the load contained yard waste.

Mr. Richardson continued to report that in January 2017 there was a leachate release at the South Pump Station. I would let Ms. Baer explain further. She contacted me about it, but it seemed to be contained, confined to the landfill and properly mitigated.

Ms. Baer elaborated that all of our leachate goes across the street to the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). We have several pump stations onsite around the landfill. The system is set up so that one pump station would pump to the next until everything is pumped into our Main Pump Station, which eventually sends everything to the WWTP. We were having an issue with a communication failure at one of our pumpstations. The pumps were turned off at the Self Priming Pump Station (SPPS)-A, while trying to diagnose communication failures between the pumpstations. Subsequently, a jumper was installed which allowed the Central Pump Station (CPS) pumps to run in order to check various SCADA controls. As the leachate pumped from CPS to SPPS-A, the wet well began to fill up. Greggo & Ferrara (G&F) the onsite contractor received the high level alarm at SPPS-A and immediately went to the pump station and turned the pumps back on to satisfy the flow. Some leachate had overflowed from the wet well. No environmental damage occurred as a result of this incident. The contaminated soil was over excavated and landfilled and replaced with clean stone. DSWA also fixed the communication error between the pump stations.

Mr. Starkey inquired when there's an overflow, where does it go?

Ms. Baer responded that it overflowed the containment and on to the gravel that surrounds the area. All of the contaminated gravel was excavated and landfilled, and new gravel was placed in the area.

Mr. Richardson asked if it got into the river?

Ms. Baer responded no. It was such a small amount that the liquid stayed around the pump station on the surrounding gravel.

Mr. Richardson concluded that DSWA continued to address other ongoing operational issues.

Mr. Starkey inquired as to how you were doing with keeping the street cleaned as I have been getting complaints about it.

Ms. Baer responded that whereas I haven't seen the City's street sweeper, our street sweeper runs several times per day. As part of our new permit, we do notify the City when the catch basins located on 12<sup>th</sup> street are more than ½ full and need to be cleaned. DSWA has already reported it twice this year

### ***CIL Update***

Ms. Baer reported in addition to Mr. Richardson's update, on March 22, 2017, CIL's compliance officer gave a notice of non-compliance to the City of Wilmington for not following DSWA Facility rules. The driver exited the vehicle without a safety vest at the working face in the commercial area. DSWA compliance officers continue to address safety compliance.

Last meeting we discussed the DeIDOT work repairing the bridge on Hay Road. DSWA has 2 pipelines running underneath the bridge that go to Calpine. We currently don't use the pipeline but want to keep them in place, just in case, for back up. We thought the work would have started by the end of 2016. The work still has not started but is anticipated to start this summer.

Mr. Starkey responded that you probably already know but there's a big problem on Hay Road with illegal dumping. We actually have set up cameras and were able to catch five (5) people.

In conclusion, per DSWA's permit, DSWA is to present an annual overview of solid waste management in the state and the status of CIL operations. Robin Roddy, our Chief Operating Officer, will present this at our next scheduled meeting, which is tentative for September 18, 2017. If agreed upon this date, Ms. Roddy will present the annual overview at that meeting.

### ***Next Meeting***

After further discussions with the CAB Chairman, the next meeting has been scheduled for Monday, 10/16/17 at 5:00 p.m. at the Cherry Island Landfill.

Meeting adjourned at 5:56 p.m.

**DSWA Cherry Island Landfill Summary for the Citizens Advisory Board**  
**Prepared by Brad Richardson, DNREC Solid & Hazardous Waste Management Section**  
**May 8, 2017**

1. DSWA has recorded no complaints in their Odor Complaints Log for Cherry Island Landfill (CIL) since 2013.
2. There have been no fires reported at CIL since December 2015.
3. On December 28, 2016 there was a reported incident of Prohibited Waste being tipping at the working-face. Four (4) bags of medical waste (Red-Bagged) were observed by the compactor operator. The Waste Management truck and medical waste were isolated until St. Francis Hospital (the medical waste source) was contacted to remove the prohibited waste. DSWA reported the incident to SHWMS (by phone) immediately after the prohibited was spotted. Within 5-days of the incident DSWA submitted a written report to SHWMS detailing the incident. No injuries or environmental damage resulted from this incident.
4. On February 27, 2017 DSWA issued a citations for yard waste disposal. For a yard waste citation to be issued to a permitted hauler more than 10% of the trash load must contain yard waste.
5. In January, a leachate release occurred at the South Pump Station. However, it appeared to have been contained and was confined to the landfill. This was reported to the Department and mitigated properly.
6. Other on-going and operational issues that DSWA is continuing to address include:
  - Work on sedimentation and erosion issues on the landfill.
  - Occasional repairs to the exposed raven tarp on the eastside of the landfill.
  - Occasional Litter Net Repairs
  - Last fall, there were 12 gas wells re-drilled and 21 new gas wells drilled as part of DSWA's ongoing effort to control LFG
7. According to our on-site inspections since the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2016, DSWA has controlled odors, litter and dust both on site and off in accordance with the conditions of their solid waste facility permit.