



Cedar Hills Regional Landfill Community Meeting Notes November 8, 2017

King County Library Service Center • 960 Newport Way NW, Issaquah

In Attendance

King County Solid Waste Division staff

- Scott Barden, Assistant Operations Manager
- Laura Belt, Supervising Engineer
- Bill Berni, Operations Manager
- Toraj Ghofrani, Engineer III
- Kathy Hashagen, Facilitator
- Matt Manguso, Communications Specialist
- Glynda Steiner, Assistant Division Director
- Polly Young, Program Manager

Bio Energy Washington (BEW) staff

- Kevin Singer, BEW Plant Manager

Interested parties

- Karen Dawson
- Edie Jorgensen
- Ashley Lara
- Alan Painter
- Darrell Wilber

Welcome and Introductions

(Kathy Hashagen)

Kathy Hashagen began the meeting by welcoming those in attendance and reviewing the agenda. Hashagen introduced Solid Waste Division Supervising Engineer Laura Belt.

Meeting Format, Reporting Landfill Concerns

(Laura Belt)

Belt introduced Solid Waste Division (SWD) and other King County staff in attendance. Belt explained the purpose and format of the meetings, as well as meeting elements:

- Division staff provide information about recent and planned activities at the landfill, and the BEW plant manager will do the same regarding its activities
- Meetings occur twice a year in the spring and the fall
- Notes will be provided on the division's website that summarize issues discussed at these meetings; the notes are not intended to be verbatim transcripts

Belt also explained if neighbors need to report a landfill concern they should call the Solid Waste Division at 206-477-4466. It is important to call this number because that is how the division logs and documents calls. That number, as well as contact information for Bio Energy Washington, is available at every meeting on the green handout. If neighbors feel the situation is an emergency, they should call 911.

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Belt then explained she is recovering from an illness and to preserve her voice, the remainder of the meeting would be led by SWD's new Assistant Division Director Glynda Steiner. Belt mentioned that Steiner joined the division on May 1 of this year. She has extensive experience working in the public sector, including serving as the Construction Management Division Director for Seattle Public Utilities and, most recently, as the Asset Management PMO and Standards Senior Manager for Seattle City Light. Steiner is a registered civil engineer in Washington and California, and is certified in asset and construction management, among many other qualifications.

Construction and Environmental Monitoring Activities (Glynda Steiner)

Construction Updates on Area 7 and Area 8

Area 7 is currently the main disposal area that began receiving garbage in June 2010. Area 7 will continue to receive garbage until the next cell, Area 8, opens in early 2019.

Leachate Lagoons

As mentioned before, the division identified some anomalies in the lagoons. The lagoons were drained and patches were placed on the anomalies. The lagoons are now back in operation.

Groundwater Quality

There is an extensive system of groundwater wells throughout the landfill. Wells are monitored on different schedules and samples are analyzed for different chemical constituents. The most recent testing shows there are no significant changes in groundwater quality.

“Overarching” Project (Environmental Control Systems Modification Project)

This project evaluates the entire system of environmental controls at the landfill under one umbrella.

Groundwater Data

As mentioned at previous meetings, the division has been monitoring a small groundwater perched zone on the east side of the landfill in response to identified low-level contamination. SWD has developed a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RIFS) to evaluate the full extent of the contamination and what remediation options there are. SWD is working with the Department of Ecology on a plan going forward to address the perched area.

Landfill Development and Providing Regional Disposal Capacity

The division is working to update the *Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan* (Comp Plan); it's a blueprint for how the division will manage King County's waste for the next 20 years. A draft Comp Plan will be issued in January 2018 for public comment. One of the topics in the Comp Plan evaluates three long-term disposal options: 1. Develop additional disposal

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capacity within the existing footprint and continue landfilling at the Cedar Hills Regional Landfill; 2. Waste-to-energy technologies; and 3. Transport waste out of county.

Single Gas Probe Exceedance

On July 19, during routine monthly gas probe monitoring at the landfill, an exceedance of the lower explosive limit for methane was detected at gas probe GP-44A located in the southeast portion of the landfill property. The measurement was 5.5 percent by volume, which is a low level exceedance. After notifying Seattle-King County Department of Public Health the division evacuated the well for 30 minutes. Subsequent testing resulted in a methane reading of 0 percent. The division monitored the gas probe daily for nine days and all readings were within normal levels. The division returned to its regular monitoring schedule.

Follow Up on Questions from April 20, 2017 Meeting

Q: If neighbors are concerned about odors in Area 7, could the division open Area 8 sooner than expected?

A: Area 8 is expected to open in early 2019 and though that opening date could happen sooner than expected, it would not be significantly earlier. A lot of work needs to occur before the area can open, including excavating 1.8 million cubic yards of soil, which will prevent the division from opening the area any earlier.

Q: Have you looked into setting up testing equipment to monitor air quality within the communities surrounding the landfill?

A: The division has discussed the possibility of having air quality monitoring equipment placed in the surrounding communities with an industrial hygienist consulting firm. One obstacle to doing this is the quality of data the division would be able to collect. With changes in barometric pressure and wind shifts, it is difficult to determine where exactly specific chemicals are coming from and it would pose technical challenges drawing conclusions related to the source of any detected chemicals.

Operational Activities

(Scott Barden)

Vegetation and Road Maintenance

During the summer, the division hired five seasonal employees to conduct vegetation control and road maintenance. All necessary road maintenance at the landfill has been completed. All vegetation management along the fence line has also been completed, and division employees were able to remove swaths of blackberries and scotch broom. A lot of fence line repair work was also conducted, and that work will continue throughout the winter.

Landfill Tour

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On Nov. 4 the division conducted a tour of the landfill for neighbors and anyone else interested. That tour was led by Wally Grant, and 32 people, including a Girl Scout troop from Clyde Hill, residents from the City of Auburn, and landfill neighbors, attended. Tours are strongly encouraged and can be arranged by calling the Solid Waste Division.

Question and Answer

The following is a summary intended to capture the general content of the questions asked and the answers provided; not a verbatim transcript.

When will the public be able to comment on the comprehensive plan?

- A draft comprehensive plan will be published in early January 2018 at which time the public will be invited to comment. Neighbors, as well as the general public, will be notified when the public comment period opens.

How often do you do landfill tours?

- The Solid Waste Division does two community tours a year, but we can provide tours at other times upon request.

Bio Energy Washington (BEW) Plant Update

(Kevin Singer)

Plant Operations

Kevin Singer explained BEW has three core values – health and safety, environmental excellence, and continuous improvement. There are at least two qualified plant technicians on-site at all times.

Health and Safety

There were no injuries at the plant in the past six months. To enhance safety, BEW changed all of its lighting to LED bulbs, which are brighter and provide better light to work in. BEW has also been installing ergonomic aids, including working platforms and chain operators so valves can be adjusted without having to use a ladder.

Environmental Compliance

BEW is currently conducting annual emissions testing on the generator house and thermal oxidizer. There will be more information about those results at the next meeting. All monthly tests have passed and been in compliance with permits and regulations. Noise monitoring at the facility and at nine offsite locations continues. Data indicates no significant changes in noise levels from the plant or surrounding environment.

Continuous Improvement

Renewable gas recovery at BEW is back above 75 percent, and at 80 percent overall since August. Singer explained communication between BEW and the Solid Waste Division has been occurring daily, and that communication has been good for both organizations. BEW also hit a

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record of being on the pipe, meaning producing renewable gas to the gas pipeline, for 24 consecutive days in June. The previous record was 22 days. The plant uptime averages 96 percent, and the main cause for being offline is utility power loss, which mostly results from winds blowing branches across power lines.

Internal Improvements

BEW bought a larger cooling system for the gas compressor that helps the machine run more efficiently on hotter days and also gives the facility more capacity so machines and equipment can receive maintenance without needing to take the facility offline or reduce production.

Upcoming Projects

There are no significant modifications or changes planned, and most of the upcoming projects include inspections, routine maintenance, and cleaning parts.

Question and Answer

No questions about BEW were asked at the meeting.