

Facility and Plan Review Subcommittee
Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/
Integrated Waste Management Task Force

Minutes of March 21, 2013, Meeting

County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Conference Room B
900 South Fremont Avenue
Alhambra, California

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Betsey Landis, Environmental Organization Representative
Mike Mohajer, General Public Representative
Carlos Ruiz, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Christopher Salomon, County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County
Gerardo Villalobos, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Charles Modica, City of Los Angeles

OTHERS PRESENT:

Becky Bendikson, Sunshine Canyon Landfill - Community Advisory Committee
Anthony Bertrand, Republic Services
Cindy Chen, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health
Rogelio Gamino, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Bahman Hajialiakbar, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition, Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council
Karlo Manalo, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Iheanacho Ofo, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Lukas Przybylo, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Emiko Thompson, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Chris Sheppard, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Nicole Stetson, Waste Management, Inc.
Scott Sumner, Waste Management, Inc.

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 11:17 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 21, 2013, MINUTES

A motion to approve the Minutes of the February 21, 2013, meeting was unanimously approved.

III. CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED FINDING OF CONFORMANCE FOR THE LANCASTER LANDFILL AND RECYCLING CENTER

Mr. Karlo Manalo presented the following Staff recommended revisions to the Subcommittee for their consideration of the proposed Finding of Conformance (FOC) for the Lancaster Landfill and Recycling Center (LLRC):

- Insert the following paragraph at the end of item 1 under VII. Staff Analysis (Pg. 4): "In September 2011 the Reclaimable Anaerobic Composter (RAC), which is a research pilot program designed to investigate the technology and processing procedures, and feasibility of implementing a full-scale operation at the Lancaster Landfill and Recycling Center, was approved for operation by the Local Enforcement Agency (LEA). The RAC utilizes anaerobic digestion to process organic waste to produce biomethane and compost. The operation is approved for two (2) years with a two (2) year extension option."
- Revise the last sentence of Condition 1, under VIII. Conditions of Approval (Pg. 6) to read: "This FOC supersedes the April 20, 2000, FOC for the Lancaster Landfill and Recycling Center (eastern and western fill expansions)."
- At the end of Condition 2, under VIII. Conditions of Approval, insert, "(Attachment A)" at the end (Pg. 6).
- Insert the following verbiage at the beginning of Condition 3, under VIII. Conditions of Approval (Pg. 6): "The waste materials to be processed and/or landfilled at the subject site are limited to solid waste, as defined in Section 40191 of the Public Resource Code, and non-friable asbestos, and as may be specified in the WDR issued by the RWQCB, Lahontan Region. Hazardous, liquid, designed,

radioactive, medical wastes, and incinerator ash considered hazardous as defined by the State and Federal laws and regulations are prohibited.”

- Insert the underlined verbiage into Condition 4, under VIII. Conditions of Approval (Pg. 7): “Maximum daily solid waste disposed within the disposal footprint of the landfill shall not exceed 3,000 tons per day (tpd). Additionally, 2,100 tpd of inert debris and beneficial use materials may be accepted for processing and reuse. The total materials received shall not exceed a combined 5,100 tpd. The maximum tonnage limit of sewage sludge and bio-solids that may be disposed of at the facility shall not exceed 10 tpd. Disposal of sewage sludge and bio-solids shall be limited to the lined portions of the landfill.”
- Insert the underlined verbiage to end of Condition 9, under VIII. Conditions of Approval (Pg. 8): The facility owner/operator shall implement a Waste Load Checking Program and submit a copy of the approved program to the Task Force at the address indicated at the end of this FOC.”
- Insert the following verbiage to the end of Condition 11, under VIII. Conditions of Approval (Pg. 8): “Additionally, the facility owner/operator shall copy the Task Force on the quarterly progress reports detailing the development of Conversion Technology Facility at the landfill which is a requirement of the approved CUP 03-170-(5). The report shall be submitted to the Task Force at the address indicated at the end of this FOC.”
- Insert the underlined verbiage into Condition 12, under VIII. Conditions of Approval (Pg. 9): “The RAC shall be completely sealed with geosynthetic membranes on the bottom and side walls and on the top. The goal of the RAC is to process organic wastes to produce biomethane that may be transformed into low carbon transportation fuel and/or transformed to electrical energy, as well as produce high-quality compost. The feedstock for the RAC shall be limited to materials permitted to be accepted at the facility, such as green waste, manure, oil and grease, and food waste, and shall exclude sewage sludge and bio-solids. The RAC has a Complaint Response and Odor Monitoring Protocol in place, as part of its Odor Impact Minimization Plan (OIMP), which requires WMI to implement various procedures to efficiently respond to odor complaints. Quarterly reports on the status

of the RAC shall be provided to the Task Force within 30 days of the end of each quarter. The duration of the RAC is subject to review by the Local Enforcement Agency in accordance with Title 14 Section 17862(d)."

- Insert the following verbiage to the end of Condition 18, under VIII. Conditions of Approval (Pg. 11): "Additionally, consistent with CUP 03-170-(5), the facility owner/operator shall utilize best use management practices to prevent lateral migration of gases to offsite properties to the satisfaction of the Department of Public Works, Department of Public Health, and Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District."
- Insert Condition 19, under VIII. Conditions of Approval (Pg. 11): Closure and Post-Closure Maintenance Plans – the facility owner/operator shall provide a copy of the Closure and Post-Closure Maintenance Plans, including financial assurance demonstrations, as approved by CalRecycle and RWQCB, Lahontan Region to the Task Force."
- Insert the following verbiage at the end of item VIII. Conditions of Approval (Pg. 11): "All documents and reports required by this FOC shall be submitted to the following address:

Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task
Force
C/O County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Environmental Programs Division
P.O. Box 1460
Alhambra, California 91802-1460"

Mr. Mike Mohajer asked Staff if there was a Condition removed from the version of the Staff Report that was handed out during the meeting. Mr. Manalo clarified that there was a formatting error from the Staff Report that was mailed out to the Subcommittee which showed Part b. of Condition 13 as a separate condition. Mr. Manalo confirmed that there are only 19 conditions on the FOC and showed Mr. Mohajer that the RAC Condition has been moved from Condition 19 to Condition 12.

Ms. Betsey Landis asked what Waste Management, Inc. (WM) was planning to do with their chemical analysis of the resulting compost material. Ms. Nicole Stetson of

WM answered that they were going to evaluate the information internally to ensure it meets State standards in order to sell the compost. They do not have significant quantities at this time to perform any tests, and the results of any tests will remain internal as proprietary information.

Mr. Gerardo Villalobos referred to the Staff Analysis on page 4 and stated that the RAC was approved in 2009, although the RAC commenced operations in September 2011.

Mr. Mohajer asked Staff when County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works (Public Works) became aware of the RAC and if there was any coordination between the LEA and Public Works regarding the RAC in 2009. Mr. Villalobos stated that he would have to investigate further regarding the LEA's coordination with Public Works because he wasn't involved with the project at that time.

Mr. Villalobos also confirmed that WM would have to go to the LEA to request an extension to operate the facility after the first 2 years of operation. Mr. Mohajer asked when WM would have to go back to the LEA for approval of the extension. Ms. Stetson answered that WM would have to go back to the LEA some time prior to September 2013.

Mr. Mohajer asked if WM had any objections to sharing the information listed within Section 2.1.1 of the RAC's Operation Plan. Ms. Stetson objected to sharing the information as it was never discussed as a goal of the operation, and the information is proprietary.

Mr. Mohajer asked WM if they used any mammalian tissue in any part of the research project. Ms. Stetson answered that there are protein products in the waste stream but they were not targeting any particular waste material, and that they were not anticipating receiving meat trimmings from a meat processing operation. Mr. Villalobos mentioned that he doesn't see how any research project could remove the meat trimmings from the waste stream since food scraps from the food industry, grocery stores, and residential food scrap collection programs may contain mammalian tissue.

Ms. Landis questioned the timing of how the pods are filled and expressed concerns that the process may not be entirely anaerobic. Ms. Stetson answered that there are various things to consider when reopening a pod, and that the pods have

blowers that create a vacuum after materials are added or taken out of the pods. Mr. Mohajer made a motion to recommend to the Task Force that the FOC be granted with revisions recommended from Staff. Mr. Villalobos indicated that he would contact Staff about the correct approval date of the RAC and seconded the motion.

Mr. Salomon stated that he was in favor of moving forward with the FOC, but expressed concerns that the conditions of approval replicated conditions found in other permits and may become out-of-date as the LLRC moves through its life. Mr. Salomon indicated a preference to eliminate the overlap of the conditions of approval with permit conditions. However, Mr. Mohajer stated that the conditions are necessary for inclusion into the FOC.

After further discussion, Ms. Landis called for a vote, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Mohajer asked WM if the Subcommittee could take a tour of the compost operation. Ms. Stetson replied yes, and Mr. Mohajer asked Staff to set up a tour.

IV. UPDATE ON THE SUNSHINE CANYON CITY/COUNTY LANDFILL

Odor Complaints

Mr. Lukas Przybylo reported that 108 odor complaints were made to the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) during the month of February.

- 4 were verified by inspectors to be trash odors
- 12 were verified to be landfill gas odors
- 7 were verified to be a combination of trash and landfill odors
- 32 complaints were called in, but inspectors could not verify the odor upon arrival
- 53 were not responded to by the inspectors

Compared to January 2013 (82 odor complaints), the number of complaints received in February 2013 (108 odor complaints) increased by 30 percent. The number of complaints received in February 2013 were comparable to those filed in February 2012 (104 odor complaints).

Proposed Modification to Access Road

Mr. Przybylo reported that during the January 10, 2013, Sunshine Canyon Landfill (SCL) Community Advisory Committee Meeting, Republic Services announced a multi-phase construction project for a modified entrance road that would commence in the spring 2013. Final plans have not yet been provided.

On March 5, 2013, responsible agencies met to discuss the types of reviews and approvals that would be necessary for modification of the entrance road. Regulatory agencies and their respective review and approval responsibilities related to the access road have been identified in a table that was part of the SCL LEA's correspondence dated March 7, 2013.

In response to the North Valley Coalition's (NVC) letter to Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich asking the County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning and Public Works to review Republic's plans for the entrance road modifications, Public Works sent a letter informing the NVC that the regulatory agencies would be reviewing the plans within their respective areas of purview. Public Works will be reviewing plans for the proposed buttress as well as how the grading associated with the access road may affect the overall drainage of the site.

The final landfill access road was part of the approved 1998 Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (SEIR). Visual impacts of the completed access road were considered in the 1998 SEIR, which determined that the: "landfill operations would not result in a significant aesthetic impact due to the distance of the project site from the Sylmar area."

In addition, there are several existing industrial uses near the project site which have a greater visual impact to travelers driving on the I-5 and I-210 Freeways. Staff will communicate these aspects of the SEIR with both the City and County Planning departments to ensure any changes to the elevation and alignment of the entrance road will not have a significant aesthetic impact.

Mr. Mohajer asked if the access road was permanent or temporary. Mr. Carlos Ruiz requested for additional details on the access road. Mr. Anthony Bertrand

responded by saying that the approved expansion plan for the Landfill included the installation of an entrance berm for structural support and for use as the main access road to the Landfill. Mr. Bertrand added that the road would be built over 4 or 5 phases and would need approval from the RWQCB to proceed. A temporary road needs to be constructed to keep traffic away from the area where they need to do excavation work. The road will ultimately match the berm that is described in the geotechnical document. There might be some minor differences in the angling and its horizon location but the road will be in general conformance. They also have to go to the LEA to make sure the road is in compliance with the Joint Technical Document (JTD).

Mr. Ruiz asked if the final alignment of the entrance road was changing from that which was approved in the zone variance. Mr. Bertrand indicated that the road would be in general conformance. Mr. Ruiz asked if there would be any impacts on the airspace. Mr. Bertrand stated that if there was any impact, it would be a negative impact.

Mr. Mohajer asked if the final access road would have any visual protection, and requested Staff to review what has been approved to see what types of visual protection is being provided and if there is anything that may cause a nuisance.

Leachate Management

Mr. Przybylo provided an update on SCL's proposal for a sewer connection. In March 2010 approximately 10,000 to 15,000 gallons of liquid were released from a broken clean-out riser. The RWQCB issued SCL a Notice of Violation for discharging wastewater to the storm drain.

Following the incident, SCL ceased using the sewer line and it was removed in August 2010. According to Waste Water Engineering Service Department, SCL was granted a permit on May of 2010 for 115,000 gallons per day, however it expired 6 months after being issued. SCL has indicated that a sewer connection would provide a discharge option during the wet season when not much water is needed for dust control.

Sunshine Canyon Landfill indicated that they had contacted the City of Los Angeles Department Public Works in January 2012 to renew their permit and allow the landfill to connect to the sewer at San Fernando and Balboa Road.

Ms. Landis asked how long it would take for SCL to get the permits to build the sewer connection. Mr. Bertrand said they were waiting for comments from the City of Los Angeles. Republic expects to receive the permit by July 2013 and construction would take 2 to 3 months.

Mr. Mohajer asked if the waste water used for dust control was treated and if it could cause odor problems. Mr. Bertrand responded that the waste water was treated with an odor neutralizer.

V. OPEN DISCUSSION/PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Wayde Hunter expressed his concern over site drainage and requested to meet with Public Works Staff to discuss their responsibilities. Ms. Landis suggested that Mr. Hunter first send a set of questions to Ms. Emiko Thompson before setting up a meeting.

Ms. Thompson indicated that Public Works had only looked at the concept documents of the access road. After the RWQCB's review of the plans, Public Works will review whether the access road affects the overall drainage at the site.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:42 p.m.