

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Environmental Authority
Held on Wednesday, 31 January 2024
At the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Botanical Gardens, Paget
and Remotely using Teams Teleconference**

PRESENT: Ms. Davida Morris, Chair (by remote access)
Mr. Eugene Saunders, Deputy Chair
Mr. James Morrison, Member (by remote access)
Mr. Harry Matthie, Member
Mr. Jonathan Starling, Member

ADVISORS: Dr. Geoff Smith, Environmental Engineer, DENR
Dr. Shaun Lavis, Hydrogeologist, DENR
Ms. Patricia Hollis, Environmental Officer, DENR
Mr. Tarik Christopher, Acting Chief Engineer, Public Works (by remote access)
Ms. Crystal Baxter, Environmental Health Officer

ABSENT: Mr. Andrew Barnes, Member
Mr. Willie Ferguson, Member
Mr. Paul McDonald, Acting Senior Planner, Dept. of Planning
Mr. Armell Thomas, Acting Chief Environmental Health Officer

1. Confirmation of Minutes

Confirmation of the Minutes of the meeting no. 389 held on 24 January 2024 was deferred until the next meeting.

2. BELCO

2.1 Remedial Action Plan (RAP)

The Authority offered no comments to the proposed RAP other than to make it clear to BELCO that the RBCA guidelines should be adhered to.

2.2 Annual Report Presentation on 6 Dec 2023, Changes to Operating Licence Conditions

The Authority **AGREED:**

that the Environmental Engineer would circulate a draft copy of BELCO's operating licence conditions with proposed changes highlighted. These will be considered at the next meeting.

2.3 Environmental Authority letter to BELCO

The Members were reminded that at the meeting on 6 December 2023, the Environmental Engineer presented each of the responses BELCO provided to points raised by the Environmental Authority in their letter of 31 August 2023. It was acknowledged that a response to BELCO is now needed.

After much discussion, the Authority **AGREED:**

that the Environmental Authority would draft and circulate to Members and Advisors a proposed response to BELCO. Any received comments would be considered at the next meeting.

2.4 BELCO Monthly Report—November and December 2023

It was noted that BELCO continues to provide monthly summary reports of complaints received with regards to soot events and fumes due to fuel tank vents located along St. John's Road, Pembroke.

2.5 Stack Testing—Proposed Change in Date

BELCO requested an extension by which time they are required in their operating licence to undertake stack emission testing. It was reported that technicians from the engine manufacturers will be further adjusting the timings of the engines in the North Power Station to optimise combustion. BELCO asked that they have the stack emissions testing performed after these changes have been completed. The Authority requested BELCO be asked to submit a revised date for stack testing.

3 Elbow Beach Waste Water Treatment Plant

The Authority **TOOK NOTE:**

that there is nothing new to report: The main hotel is closed and in foreclosure, wastewater is received only from one restaurant and some of the apartments of Fritholme Gardens. The plant continues to operate without an activated sludge as a result of the low organic load and associated low flow rate. The effluent monitoring data for December 2023 remained consistent with that of previous months.

The Authority **AGREED:**

to remove Elbow Beach wastewater treatment updates from Matters Arising. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources will continue to monitor the plant until it is closed or replaced and will bring details of any changes to the current situation to the attention of the Authority.

4 Ministry of Public Works Tynes Bay Waste to Energy Incinerator December 2023 Operation Update

4.1 The Authority **TOOK NOTE:**

December 2023:

- Stream #1 was available for 24 days and ran for 23 days. 6 days of down time was due to planned cleaning, one day to repair grab.
- Stream #2 was available for 31 days, ran for 30 days. It was shut down for unplanned maintenance of one day due to repair of the grab.
- The turbine was available for 31 days and ran for 30 days at 49% efficiency.
- Total waste processed (less metal) was 3,953 tonnes. Cooking oil processed was 39.2 tonnes
- Total electricity sent to BELCO 17 Nov to 15 Dec: 1364 MWh. Total electricity produced for December was 2,412 MWh.
- Fifty-six (56) loads of ash-cement and forty-five (45) loads of unconsolidated ash were disposed of at the Airport Waste Management Facility (AWMF).

The Authority **REQUESTED:**

to be provided with the reason why unconsolidated ash was sent to AWMF in December.

5 Clinical Waste Incinerator (Mediwaste) Update

5.1 The Authority **TOOK NOTE:**

that the number of 20ft shipping containers of biomedical waste in storage at the Airport Waste Management Facility remains at 17 containers.

5.2 The Authority **TOOK NOTE:**

That the independent Government-funded contract to monitor emissions from the Mediwaste Facility is being re-scoped after the initial bid was higher than expected.

5.3 The Authority **TOOK NOTE:**

That the ash from Mediwaste is being stored at their site in St. Davids. It is anticipated that once the ash characteristics are known, it will be disposed of in the Tynes Bay hopper. The analytical data has been received by DENR and is currently being assessed. The data will be presented to the Environmental Authority at their next meeting.

6 Operating Licence Conditions—Service Stations & White Oil Storage Conditions

The Authority **APPROVED:**

the amendment of standard conditions for fuel service stations and white oil storage facility operating licences to reflect the requirement for tanks, filling points, and delivery pipeline to be double walled. Those facilities that are not equipped with double-walled tanks and fittings will be issued certificates with the watermark “Non-Compliant to Condition #6.”

7 Review of EA Policy No. 9 Back-up Generator Exhaust Emissions & Exterior Sound Guidelines)

7.1 The Authority **BEGAN CONSIDERATION:**

of the sound level guidance values for back-up generators. The matter was deferred until the next meeting.

8 Applications for Construction Permits and Operating Licences (New)

8.1 CP-810, OL-1239 Blue Investment SPE Ltd.

The Authority **APPROVED:**

the application for a construction permit and operating licence for a 750 kW diesel generator at 91 Front Street, Hamilton, subject to standard conditions and providing no objections are received during the advertised period.

8.2 CP-799, OL-1225 Huntley Towers Ltd.

The Authority **APPROVED:**

the application for a construction permit and operating licence for a 102 kW diesel generator at 3 Tanglewood Road, Paget, subject to standard conditions.

8.3 CP-811, OL-1242 Colvin Manning

The Authority **APPROVED:**

The application for a construction permit and operating licence for a sand sifter at Lot 10, Seamount Lane, Smiths, subject to standard conditions and providing no objections are received during the advertised period. *[Objection received 1 February 2024, within the advertised period. The application, with objection and rebuttal, will be taken back to the Environmental Authority for further consideration.]*

9 Applications for Construction Permits and Operating Licences (Reissues)

9.1 The Authority **APPROVED:**

the applications for reissue of operating licences listed on the one-page printout, subject to standard conditions, with the exception of: OL-114 BELCO controlled plant and OL-526, which is the replacement of a small generator with a slightly larger one. DENR is still waiting on the noise data for this replacement genset.

10 Applications for Water Rights (Reissues)

10.1 The Authority **APPROVED:**

the reissuance of Water Rights on the one-page printout, subject to standard conditions, with the exception of four indicated as withdrawn.

11 Date of the Next Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for 8:30 am, Wednesday, 28 February 2024 in the DENR Boardroom, Botanical Gardens, Paget



CHAIRMAN

Feb 28, 2024

DATE

