

Bethlehem Landfill Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, April 30, 2024
 Time: 5:00 p.m.
 Location: Lower Saucon Township

Attendance: **Bethlehem Landfill:** Astor Lawson and Cody White; **Hanover Engineering:** Scott Brown; **Staff Members:** Cathy Gorman, Stacy Werkheiser, Officer Voros; **Council Liaisons:** Victoria Opthof-Cordaro and Priscilla deLeon; **Resident Members:** Brian Mauro and Matt McClarin.

Scott Brown

Call to order and turned the meeting over to Astor to review Landfill Operations.

I. Waste Activities

Astor Lawson

Monthly Tonnages:

MONTHLY TONNAGES			
	January	February	March
MSW	19,256.10	17,442.23	18,986.65
C&D	2,859.41	2,730.87	5,799.38
Residual (Total)	708.81	1,622.79	947.6
Asbestos	0.00	0.00	0.00
Alternate Daily Cover	751.33	128.54	551.37
Sewage Sludge	389.93 (1.6%)	331.76 (1.4%)	596.73 (2.2%)
Out of State (Total)	11,073.29 (46%)	11,539.15 (51%)	14,344.85 (53%)
Recycle	3 (66.67%)	6 (83.33%)	5 (80%)

All of the recycling is taken by Republic Disposal and disposed of at Greenstar Recycling in Northampton PA.

Form U Submittals:

Form U Submittals	Waste	Dates
Kobo Prod Inc	Other Generic Waste	01/25/2024
79 Arverne Dev LLC	Contaminated Soil	01/31/2024
Assai Energy LLC	Spent Activated Carbon	02/01/2024
Devon Self-Storage	Coal-Derived Bottom Ash	02/14/2024
79 Arverne Dev LLC	Contaminated Soil	02/20/2024
Lebanon Seaboard Corp.	Waste Tires	03/08/2024
Quiet Core Inc	Plant Trash	03/12/2024
Michelman Steel Ent LLC	Sandblast Abrasive and Residue	03/14/2024
Lehigh Valley Ind Park Inc	Contaminated Soil	03/19/2024
Assai Energy LLC	Spent Activated Carbon	03/25/2024

Assai Energy LLC	Spent Activated Carbon	03/27/2024
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II. Annual Groundwater Trend Analysis

1QTR sampling event was February 12th through February 16th.

III. Correspondence and Reports

01/05/2024: 3 QTR Groundwater Report was turned into the Township

02/07/2024: 4 QTR Groundwater Report was turned into the Township

IV. Landfill Operations:

DEP Inspections:

01/11/2024 – Matt Vipond is Solid Waste Enforcement

01/18/2024 – Matt Glogowski, Engineering Inspection

01/26/2024 – Amy Faulch, Partial

02/21/2024 – Matt Vipond and Matt Glogowski

02/26/2024 – Matt Vipond

03/14/2024 – Matt Vipond, Chris Harding, A. Bellanca and B. Han

03/20/2024 – Matt Glogowski

Host Municipal Inspections:

Scott Brown was out on 01/04/2024, 01/10/2024, 01/18/2024, 02/01/2024, 02/15/2024, 03/07/2024, and 03/21/2024.

Commercial Waste Vehicles:

	<u>January</u>	<u>February</u>	<u>March</u>
Total # Trucks	2,226	2,075	2,357

	<u>January</u>	<u>February</u>	<u>March</u>
Overweight	36	42	50
Warnings	32	40	35
Suspensions	4	2	15

Operation to the LFG flare is the main gas collection system that the Bethlehem Landfill continues to use.

Flare Operations and Gas Collection

The landfill flare is the main gas collection. Bethlehem continues to communicate with SCS Field Services with any routine and nonroutine maintenance to maximize LFG production and minimize odors.

January Average Flare Flow – 3,184 SCFM, which is standard cubic foot per minute. For shut downs, we had, which is SSM stands for startup and shut down.

01-14-2024 – 0918 to 0946 and 1018 to 1024 the flare was down due to high winds and restarted.

01-30-2024 – 2111 to 2316 the flare was down due to the suspected high condensate flow. Flare was looked over for maintenance and performance checks and restarted.

01-31-2024 – 1334 to 1355 the flare was manually shut down for wellfield construction tie ins.

Total Down Time of Flare for January: 3 hours out of 744 run time hours

February Average Flare Flow – 3,360 SCFM

02-01-2024 – 1119 to 1321 the flare was manually shut down for wellfield construction tie ins.

02-02-2024 – 2136 to 2345 the flare shut off due to low average temperatures.

02-05-2024 – 1603 to 1614 the flare was shutoff for routine maintenance checks.

Total Down Time of Flare for February: 4 hours and 24 minutes out of 696 run time hours

March Average Flare Flow – 3,344 SCFM.

No shut downs for March.

Total Down Time of Flare for March: 0 hours and 0 minutes out of 744 run time hours

North Slope Road: During Q4, no repairs were needed. The swale was not in need of repairs. Outside erosion of sedimentation trap A, spill way was repaired in March 2024.

Ms. deLeon

Is that spillway still there?

Scott Brown

Yes.

Astor Lawson

Abatement System: The abatement system continues to operate and discharged to the city of Bethlehem Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Leachate Collection: We have seen you know, similar to last quarter, we're seeing an increase with the development the northern realignment cell into LMC-7 and then the same with LMC-8. We also saw an increased flow due to the reconstruction at phase two downstream for stormwater control.

Radiation Monitoring: There were eight radioactive load alarms from January to March 2024.

01/12/2024: The load was identified as Lutetium -177 and the load was disposed of on site.

1/15/2024: Lutetium - 177 and that was also disposed of on site.

02/02/2024: The load was identified as Iodine - 125, and the load was disposed of on site.

02/20/2024: The load was identified as Technetium – 99, and the load was disposed of on site.

02/29/2024: A load was identified as Iodine – 131, and the load was disposed of on site.

03/07/2024: A load was identified as Technetium – 99, and the load was disposed of on site.

03/20/2024: The load was identified as Iodine – 131, and the load was disposed of on site.

03/22/2024: A load was identified as Iodine - 131, and the load was disposed of on site.

All the loads are reported to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.

SE Realignment Construction Activities: Waste Operations continue to be in the southeastern realignment - 2AB Phase I and Phase II.

Scott Brown

What is Technetium what's that usually come from?

Cody White

It's mainly used for medical treatment. So it's something it's getting like.....

Scott Brown

I haven't seen that one before.

Cody White

It's a newer used isotope that they've been.....instead of iodine because it doesn't mess with your thyroid as much.

Scott Brown

Okay.

Scott Brown

Thank you, Astor. All right, I will be going over my inspection reports. The Host Municipal Inspector Reports and highlights the DEP Inspection Reports for the first quarter.

Hanover Engineering Inspection Reports:

January 24th: Odor issues on January 24th there was gas odors detected from the roughly the Krasnansky property to Swint Salvage Yard. Before and after the actual landfill inspection, I'll do a tour around the outside the perimeter of the facility. Both times it was detected.

January 18th: A light landfill gas odor was again detected near the Krasnansky property to the self-storage building. Prior to landfill and after the landfill there was no odor detected.

February 1st: No odor detected before and after.

February 15th: Same - no odor before and after.

March 7th: Landfill gas odors detected from the landfill entrance to the Red Barn Auto, prior to and after the landfill.

March 21st: There was a slight odor was detected in the area of Swint Salvage Yard. Prior to the landfill inspection and after landfill inspection, a slight odor was detected near the area of the church on Applebutter Road.

Action Items:

These are basically observations that are made during the landfill inspection and just kind of giving a status throughout the following reports how they're progressing on addressing the action items.

January 4th: They're addressing the gas odors being generated at the SE corners of cell 2AB and the landfill was in the process of getting quotes at that point to start the capping project. They continue removal of some sediment around the blue leachate storage tank. It's kind of an ongoing process with stormwater, it just collects in there. It's a detainment pond around the basin around the leaching storage. Stormwater down channels through 4A and cell 3C are being repaired, and NAPA has completed the placement of the liner for the northeast realignment, NR-1 cell.

January 18th:

Received the quote for NAPA to complete the capping project at this southeast corner. DEP has been advised that they propose an intermediate capping project. NAPA was actually staging their capping materials at that point also.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

Scott, can you just explain what was happening at that southeast corner that requires the action item and discussion there?

Scott Brown

That's where that's where the gas odors were detected and noted in the DEP inspection for January 11th. They had some exceedances of gas from that area and they also could see some leachate and some actual gas bubbles in the leachate coming from the southeast corner. This has been an issue for close to a year, maybe a little less, that there's been an odor issue coming from that and Bethlehem Landfill has been trying several, you know adding more cover, they added more horizontal wells around the north and along the eastern edge. They've tried even just adding the road, adding a real thick cover of material overtop of the gas over the top of the fill at the southeast corner, and it didn't work. So that's when they decided the only solution really was to cap that southeast corner. So that's kind of where we were back in January. And as of now, that has been completed. And they're in the process of getting approval to put some vertical gas wells down into the waste, the waste pack underneath the lined area, which will help collect that gas and take it to the flare to be burned or whenever the gas to energy plant gets started, it'll eventually go to that point. So, and the odor. I know I'm jumping ahead here a little bit, but the odor has substantially subsided when I've been out, DEP has noted it. It's helping already without the gas wells even being in place.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

That's the capping process?

Scott Brown

That was the capping. Yeah, so they the capping process is just what it is. There's a 25 millimeter PVC plastic liner that gets tied in at the base and basically covers overtop of the waste, and traps the gas in there for a collection system to basically suck out the gas from underneath there and take it to the.....so that's when you see it when we go across the landfill, we see a lot of black material or green stuff, material. That's all capping over top of waste. It kind of creates an envelope for the gas to collect in and be drawn out.

Donna Louder

So basically, when the new gas company gets started up, that would probably eliminate 95% of that problem?

Scott Brown

The wells will eliminate it and right now the gas, the flare will handle that so I mean....

Donna Louder

Are they equivalent? Is the gas company equivalent to what the flare is pulling? Or will they both be pulling the same amount?

Scott Brown

Astor can answer that one.

Astor Lawson

The first source is, once the RNG plant is online, the first source is going to be the RNG plant, but we will also use the flare as a supplemental tool as well, just to have extra flow, so the most likely we will have RNG plant and the flare running simultaneously.

Donna Louder

Right, but what I'm trying to say and maybe I'm not being clear is basically once this company is online, and the pull is directly to them. Will that pull be stronger than what the flare is pulling from the area?

Astor Lawson

No, they're about the same.

Donna Louder

Okay, so we just had the conversation the company is going online somewhere between May 31st and June 16th.

Astor Lawson

Yeah, roughly.

Donna Louder

And the Township paperwork is holding some of that up?

Astor Lawson

No, that's what they're waiting on is occupancy permit from the Township, correct.

Donna Louder

Okay, maybe we can get that moving a little quicker because the summer is coming. Okay, that's about all thank you.

Ms. deLeon

What is being held up at the Township?

Astor Lawson

Yeah, I refrain from saying it's being held up with a Township, but they're waiting on the occupancy permit from the Township.

Ms. deLeon

The what?

Astor Lawson

The occupancy permit.

Ms. deLeon

Okay, so who's fault is....who's holding that up then?

Astor Lawson

That is what he is saying, I didn't say they were holding it up. That's what they're waiting on.

Ms. deLeon

Oh, because I don't want the Township.....

Ms. Gorman

We want to make sure that there's a formal review of everything on that occupancy permit.

Ms. deLeon

Absolutely, so I wanted to make sure we were in the clear.

Ms. Gorman

I will discuss it with the zoning officer tomorrow, but

Ms. deLeon

Okay.

Astor Lawson

I just want to be clear; I did not say the Township was holding anything up. That's what they're waiting on.

Ms. deLeon

Someone and.....I just wanted to make sure that we were in the clear.

Astor Lawson

Yeah, that's the last piece that they're waiting on.

Ms. deLeon

Thank you.

Scott Brown

January 18th: NAPA started placing the 24-inch stone cover over the northern realignment cell 1 project, so that's the furthest north new cell they are constructing. Sediment removal continues around the leachate storage tank and the stormwater channels through 4A and 3C are continuing to be worked on.

Matt McClarin

This one of my things is the sediment, the leachate storage tank, is that typically full all the time or no?

Astor Lawson

No, there's actually never been leachate in there yet.

Matt McClarin

There has never been leachate?

Astor Lawson

No, not up to this point, there's going to be eventually but because the WWTP wants us to meter the water over. During some of the tropical storms, they got kind of inundated. So, with the new permit, they asked us to use the tank to meter it over.

Matt McClarin

So it's my understanding that the containment pond around there is a lined pond.

Scott Brown

Yeah.

Matt McClarin

In case there was ever a breach of the tank or the pipe.....

Astor Lawson

It would be like a secondary containment.

Matt McClarin

The amount of sediment that's in there right now is, is that designed to hold twice the tank? Or is it designed to hold 1.25%?

Scott Brown

Honestly, that was designed 25 years ago, I don't remember.

Astor Lawson

I would have to look into it.

Scott Brown

The sediment is clean.... some mud film that needs to be cleaned out.

Matt McClarin

I saw the pictures like near the pipes, it's probably like two feet.

Astor Lawson

We keep digging it out. and then they keep....so they were trying to get the stormwater to go around it again.

Matt McClarin

Yeah, that was never intended to hold sediment, obviously, it would fill up with water and then the water would need to be pumped out.

Astor Lawson

No, right.

Matt McClarin

So, there's an issue with sediment collecting around the tank.

Astor Lawson

Yeah, correct.

Matt McClarin

Has that liner ever been tested in the past 25 years to make sure it holds water?

Astor Lawson

So actually, unfortunately we have been working on this because as the WWTP asked us to use that tank. So they went through and cleaned it all out, changed all that liner out and then it filled with sediment again. So we will probably have to go change it all out again.

Matt McClarin

Okay, yeah, I know, typically the machine is down there, the liner, is it double lined or just single liner?

Astor Lawson

I believe that's just a single because it's just secondary containment, and I can double check to find out how much, what the capacity of that is.

Ms. deLeon

I don't remember.

Matt McClarin

I didn't know if the thing was ever full but if it is going to full, somebody may as well follow-up on it.

Scott Brown

Now it's a little more critical once it's being used.

Astor Lawson

Up until this point there has never been leachate in that tank.

Matt McClarin

Okay, understood.

Scott Brown

February 15th: At that point, NAPA had completed the grading overtop of the waste in preparation for placement of the new 25-millimeter liner over capping material over top of that. The ground grading was all completed, and that also completed placement of soil berm around the northern realignment, western and northern limits of the cell and starting the placement of the 24-inch stone cover over the liner when the weather conditions were conducive. Continuing to remove sediment out of around the storage tank.

March 7th:

NAPA completed the intermediate capping project and Bethlehem Landfill started working on the gas plan for installing the vertical wells ultimately for the DEP approval to install those

wells. NAPA was near completion of the 24-inch stone cover in the northern realignment, cell 1. Again, sediment removal around the leachate storage tank was continuing. The repair of leachate seeps in the northern section of cells, SE-2AB, that's where the active fill area is right now, those were repaired. Sediment trap A, its northern berm, that was also repaired and that was damaged during one of the heavy storms. It's located immediately to the west of the maintenance garage, if you're familiar with the landfill at all, and it basically flows towards the water that flows out of that pond, which is very small, flows to north down towards Riverside. It wasn't meant, it's not a stormwater detention pond like you see out front, it was more there for collecting sediment. The pond itself is, I'd say it's kind of triangular shaped, and it's maybe about 40 feet wide at the berm on the northern side and maybe about 70 feet long. So, it's about 1600 to maybe 1600 square feet total of area and not very deep. So, it's not like anything you see along the front of the landfill; those are large basins all along the Applebutter Road side.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

Can you explain that sediment trap? My understanding is from the DEP inspection reports in February, that it was identified as an area that just wasn't under regular monitoring, wasn't part of the permit for the landfill and then they discovered this issue, and can you just explain that?

Scott Brown

From my history, that sediment trap pond was part of cell 4F, the wall?

Maryann Garber

4F.

Scott Brown

So that was the high wall that was constructed just to the south and west of the maintenance garage, at the very top of the landfill. That was part of that construction project and it was left in place after that construction project was completed. There is no real, at the outlets where that spillway over that northern berm is, there was no designed kind of channel that DEP required to be put in so it just basically followed the natural grade down through the landfill which was probably 200 feet from the northern perimeter fence and then from that point, it would flow down the hillside down to Riverside like it has for millions of years. A lot of that water that used to flow down that northern side, to the North, was, about 10 acres of that water was then, because of the high wall project, was actually designed to actually flow to the south towards Applebutter Road. So, the high wall project actually took away 10 acres of area that used to collect stormwater and flow down towards Riverside and now takes it towards Applebutter Road and into the stormwater ponds that are along Applebutter Road at the landfill.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

Can you just explain, I think now with that, I don't want to use the wrong term. But where that escape section was that they found it's now a requirement under the DEP permit that (inaudible).

Scott Brown

Yeah, DEP asked now that that sediment trap be now included as part of the routine inspections and reporting; it was never required before. So, they're saying now the landfill

has to monitor it and report back and prepare reports for that. The Bethlehem Landfill is already, it is incorporated, the repair and obviously they're agreeing to monitor it, and I guess at this point, the discharge from that pond is also ultimately going to be permitted as a discharge point, but they can't create the permit until the design is completed for the discharge structure. So that will be in the process; that's down the road. It will be regulated more than it was, before it wasn't really a regulated flow after it left the sedimentation pond.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

And then just from what I understand, the landfill went and built up that berm where the, I wouldn't call breach, but that area where it was coming through.

Astor Lawson

It was fixed erosion. There was erosion on the outside of the spillway and we just repaired it.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

Right, okay, so now....

Astor Lawson

It is still the same, it is still designed the same. It just fixed erosion on the outside.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

It just repaired the erosion that, where it was going over the berm or going through the berm to the downslope to the Riverside Drive, right?

Astor Lawson

Correct.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

Okay.

Maryann Garber

And just to be clear the landfill did submit a written response to DEP with respect to that issue and the Township was copied. So, all of those details are included in a letter dated March 21st that the Township has a copy of.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

Thank you.

Matt McClarin

One of the concerns I have with that whole situation was that the typical guy who's out there inspecting these soil erosion and sediment controls every week had to, he signs off on whether there is a violation or not, every single time. It's a line item in here and implemented as per approved plans, gullies over nine inches repaired. So, what happened there is he was out on site, and he couldn't make that determination whether they're following the plans or not. So, to me, how much of this is being checked for the soil and erosion sediment control plans while he's out on site? You know, I don't know how far that goes, and I don't want to question DEP but is there approved set of plans, stamped plans, on site that he typically reviews?

Scott Brown

As far as I know from that Sed Pond A, I don't think, again there was no design structure. So, I'm not sure what he would follow. He's going to have to now because they are going to be preparing those and then, obviously, then they will have something to follow.

Matt McClarin

I was on the Landfill Committee meeting, and this is probably almost a year ago, and I think how some of this stemmed off, but that sed trap is indicated on the E&S control plans as being a sed trap on their E&S control plans. So, where he came up with, he doesn't know, he has to go back to his engineer. Like I said, there's landfill inspectors and there's the Northampton County Conservation District. They only deal in erosion and sediment control. And where that line is, is it better to have the Conservation District accompany the DEP inspector when they go out and investigate this stuff?

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

That's a good question.

Ms. deLeon

Who is the Northampton County inspector? Do we have his name?

Matt McClarin

He is from the Conservation District, they typically, any construction site or site that has a PCSM plan open, erosion and sediment control plan open, they have the authority over that site within Northampton County.

Ms. deLeon

But the DEP inspection report, which says all this stuff where Scott is reading from doesn't have anything from the county on here.

Matt McClarin

No.

Ms. deLeon

Right. So, you're saying that there should? Like what would they do? What would they say?

Matt McClarin

Yeah, I think there's a difference.

Maryann Garber

I would just add it's a little bit of a different situation than your typical construction project, because the landfill as a whole is permitted by DEP, so those kinds of inspections are subsumed, whether the Conservation District can or should, or would come in and inspect, I don't know that the landfill would have problem with that. But the reason that that doesn't happen is because it's a DEP permitted facility.

Matt McClarin

But I think a lot of these issues will have to do with erosion and sediment control, obviously, there's sediment problems backing up a tank. There is obviously sediment problems in the past with basins not being cleaned out and that type of thing happened, and that's in some of these reports. I just don't know how sometimes this gets by a DEP inspector when

someone who's formally trained and this is all they look at, would be more well suited than possibly someone that has to deal with all this other stuff.

Ms. deLeon

Do all those things, right, right. And that's something we can maybe ask DEP.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

Yeah, I think it would be worth coordinating. And maybe this is something that collaboratively the landfill could do with the Township is say we would be agreeable to have Northampton County come in and look, to the extent allowed by law, to provide feedback on the sediment control issue and coordinate that with the DEP.

Maryanne Garber

Yeah, I don't know whether the, I don't think the Conservation District has jurisdiction so I'm not going to make any representation here about that. I can't. I don't have the ability to do that right now. But I hear what you are saying.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

Yeah, I think it would be instructive to understand whether or not because there is a DEP permit. The Conservation District isn't permitted to come on.

Matt McClarin

They are under the DEP, the Conservation District is an arm of the DEP.

Astor Lawson

I was going to say. on the March 14th one, this Bellanco and Harding, they're from the DEP Stormwater and Control. They actually came out and looked at every one of our ponds. Because Matt actually brought them out for that reason to come look at that sed trap and look at that other side of the road, and all the ponds. So that happened on the 14th.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

So I think what we have to do is figure out legally, whether the Conservation District can come out. Whether the DEP feels that that's something that they would allow under the DEP permit or that is required in the DEP permit and then coordinate that, depending on the legal position with the landfill. We just have to figure out legally whether the DEP permit means that you can't have the Conservation District. And I think it would be great for them (inaudible).

Matt McClarin

And I'm not saying the landfill is doing anything wrong. That's not my position. You know what I mean, but there's a lot of, there is even notes in that drawing, any exposed dirt, any exposed ground over, I believe that they give you 60 days or 30 days, needs to have intermediate cover placed. I don't know if that's followed through. Who knows? So that's the type of thing that I think some of this lacks and reported. And then just one other thing I had, and because this was one of my other conversations, it would be the repair of that 4A and 3C down channel that runs in the main sediment trap, what is it 4? I think.

Astor Lawson

The sediment pond, yeah.

Matt McClarin

My question is, will that channel stay in place after the landfill is closed? Or does that eventually get? It stays, right?

Astor Lawson

Yeah.

Scott Brown

It's a heavy rip rap.

Matt McClarin

Along with the benches with terraces going all the way up through.

Scott Brown

Yeah.

Matt McClarin

Okay.

Maryanne Garber

That's a post construction stormwater management plan that's approved for the site once it's capped and covered and closed.

Matt McClarin

I took a look at that post construction storm, and I didn't see that specifically called out. I looked at your final grading plan, and I didn't know if it was shown on there or not. But there was obviously a repair to something that was already installed. So obviously, there was a failure at some point of that channel. When that was constructed, how was it constructed? And why did it fail?

Ms. deLeon

You have a year that it happened?

Matt McClarin

It happened this year. It was repaired. Well, this is the ongoing thing where it was repaired.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

What month is that?

Matt McClarin

It's pretty much all the way down through every one.

Scott Brown

Yeah, it's been ongoing.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

Do we know what is the ongoing issue with that control and what happens to it that requires a repair? Can you explain what that is?

Matt McClarin

Let me just bring up one more point before they start. My concern is obviously, there's always what you guys put in a Form 37 is when you do a major construction project, right? It's stamped by your engineer who basically signs off on the work that was constructed per the plans. Now, that channel, and this is going back because I've looked at some of this stuff, has been eroding for many, many, many years. And my concern is how is it being repaired now, was there a Form 37 submitted for that? And what is the impact potentially, is this going to have to be repaired in 10 years? 20 years, 30 years, 40 years? And how much bonding is there for that channel if it failed now. What are we bonded out for? And what was the repair cost now? Because, on one of those photos, it's pretty much the whole channel going up the side of the landfill. That's my concern.

Scott Brown

I don't know the exact number but the bonding is.....

Maryanne Garber

It covers the entire site.

Matt McClarin

We are not talking 30 years, we are talking...

Scott Brown

My experience over the last 30 years. Where they start seeing continual problems there, they're improving the situation. And in this case, it's rip rap, it's rip rap baskets going in there. Before it was just, it was a stone channel.

Matt McClarin

It was stone or whatever.

Scott Brown

So, they're seeing, it had to be repaired too often. So, they're, basically improving the situation. And that will go on with the life of the landfill. When it closes, it doesn't close. It's like all the stormwater, all the gas.

Matt McClarin

No, I understand.

Scott Brown

Everything has to got to keep, be maintained.

Matt McClarin

Yeah.

Scott Brown

And again, I don't know the percentage of bonding, but it's huge. I'm sure it will far exceed what the cost of stormwater channels. I'm not stamping this stuff.

Matt McClarin

Yeah, you are not the guy stamping it.

Scott Brown

But it would be hard pressed to see that what they've done now is not going to hold up.

Matt McClarin

And that's my concern, if it was installed per plan the first time, and we had engineered drawings of what the stormwater calculations are going to be going down the side of that mountain. And it was installed at a time when everyone thought this is right, and now we have problems, whether it's 10, 15, 20 years later already, we're gonna have....like you said, you can't predict the future, but was there a Form 37 submitted for the repairs of that channel?

Astor Lawson

I would have to check.

Matt McClarin

Okay.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

Can you just explain what is the, it sounds like there's a repetitive issue with the stormwater channel that causes it to erode?

Matt McClarin

And which fills up the sediment trap.

Maryanne Garber

Just to be clear, I mean, I don't necessarily agree with that characterization. If we can sort of take out some of the words like repetitive and things like that and just ask Astor to....

Scott Brown

It wasn't that it was fixed and then destroyed. It wasn't, this has been, they've been making this improvement over many months of putting these stormwater channels in.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

Okay.

Scott Brown

So it's just an ongoing construction project. It wasn't like, they finished it and then a month later, it was all destroyed again. That's not....it was basically, start at the top and work their.....

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

So it is not something that it is getting washed out then?

Matt McClarin

It is.

Scott Brown

Well, there was some damage towards the very bottom, we had some of those 8-inch storms. I mean....

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

Right.

Scott Brown

But they were still constructing the channel to upgrading it to that new, I don't want to call it standard, the new design for it. So, there was some damage down at the southern, at the low end, from some of those heavy storms. But that's unfortunate. And that was under God's control because I don't know how you.....stormwater channels aren't designed to even handle that kind of stuff. That was.....so it's not....

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

So, I'm just trying to understand because I don't have the background of the three of you. So, I'm trying to understand, there's a sediment collection that's happening at the bottom that happens after you clean it out and you get more sediment again, you clean it out, you get more sediment again. Is that sediment collecting there because of this channel? Or is that a different issue?

Scott Brown

Some got in there when it was destroyed, you got some in there, but that's those are sediment ponds, that's the intention of those ponds. So, there's, markers on them on those ponds that when they reach a certain height, because they are designed to collect the sediment and let out, clean the water, free of - roughly free of sediment. That's the purpose of them; it's not just the hold water and meter it out. It's to let sediment settle. So, they're doing what they're designed to do. And then...

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

Okay.

Matt McClarin

So, the area north of the trap, it's not all final capped yet either, right?

Scott Brown

North of what trap?

Maryanne Garber

There's a distinction between, like Sed Trap A to the north. That's not a stormwater basin.

Matt McClarin

Yeah, I know that.

Maryanne Garber

That's different. So, are you talking about Sed Trap A or the stormwater basin?

Astor Lawson

Basin 4.

Maryanne Garber

Basin 4, okay.

Astor Lawson

So directly above it is, correct, it is final capped.

Matt McClarin

It is. And there's I saw, isn't there piled up? All the way up on top anymore or no, that's that's pretty much all final cap going down to that basin.

Astor Lawson

Correct. On the (inaudible) slope.....yeah.

Scott Brown

They store some rock at the very, very, very top. There's a staging area.....

Matt McClarin

I thought there was a big staging area for fill or proposed for above that area with the northern realignment, I didn't know if there was a big pile up there. That's all I was getting at.

Scott Brown

No, not above that, no.

Matt McClarin

If the sediment is actually coming from a pile on the top, or it's coming from the area that's final capped is what I'm getting at. Any sediment that's going into Sediment Trap 4 is from a capped area of the landfill.

Astor Lawson

Yeah. Yeah. So it's capped, vegetated, I mean, I'm not.

Matt McClarin

Okay, that's all I have.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

So, I'm sorry, I just want to understand this, the sediment channel, this channel that's getting repaired, has there been new designs that's been submitted to address the washout of it?

Or is it just that you have new technology or different data to change what was there before? Because what I understand is that it was one thing and then it changed to something new and you're in the process of putting something different there.

Astor Lawson

From the beginning of this, to answer the question, we never felt like it was constructed properly. Berg did not do a great job putting it in.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

Okay.

Astor Lawson

I was trying to do it right. I would have said that a while ago, but....

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

Sorry, who didn't construct it properly?

Astor Lawson

Berg Construction.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

The first construction company that was supposed to....

Astor Lawson

Yeah, when I got here in 2019 is when they constructed that down shoot.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

Okay.

Astor Lawson

And we were never happy with it, they actually had them come back out for free, and try to fix it again. And that's why we just, when NAPA came up to do the cell, we're having NAPA do it right because we've never been happy with it.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

Okay, so it wasn't functioning the way that we intended it to function.

Astor Lawson

The way that we wanted it to.....correct. Yeah.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

So now we're having a different company try.

Astor Lawson

Yeah,

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

To try to create one that is functioning?

Astor Lawson

Correct.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

Okay. And then what is the timeline for that?

Astor Lawson

We would have liked it to be done already. But just with the storms and snow that we had, it slows everything down.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

Is there, have they given you a projection?

Astor Lawson

I would have to check to see. I struggle with the projections because the weather controls everything. So, I mean, the gas plant was supposed to be on last June. So, I mean, it's, you know, for me, sometimes when it's done, it's done.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

Okay. Is it possible to add that as an update, like you could provide a status of it? Is that something doable? Okay.

Astor Lawson

Yeah. And that down shoot I mean, that's something that Matt Glogowski and Matt Vipond look at every time they come out.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

Okay, thank you. I appreciate you bringing that to our attention.

Ms. deLeon

Victoria, were talking about the next agenda update, or the next or just....

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

For our Landfill Committee meetings, he has the information on when we have the gas to come online, when certain things are going to be completed. It'd be nice if he added in, you know, update on the stormwater channel. You know, where they are in the, I guess the update, upgrade?

Ms. deLeon

So, we don't have to wait for the next quarter to get this report.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

Oh, well, that's a different question. I was expecting them at the next Landfill Committee meeting, which is a quarter away.

Ms. deLeon

Which is too too far.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

So if you know, I don't know, how often do are they on site daily?

Astor Lawson

NAPA?

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

Yeah.

Astor Lawson

Yeah.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

Okay, but we don't know how like, they haven't?

Astor Lawson

Well, I mean, they're doing a bunch of different projects. So things get prioritized right now they have the channel set. But yeah, it's not done but I'll get you an update.

Maryanne Garber

And I think Scott, you report in on the status of that work when you do your....

Scott Brown

Yeah. I give a rough....

Ms. deLeon

When he goes for his inspections.

Maryanne Garber

Correct.

Ms. deLeon

Okay, that would be great.

Brian Mauro

Are inspections scheduled ahead of time or are they unannounced, I am just curious.

Astor Lawson

Through? Depends.

Scott Brown

My inspections are scheduled.

Astor Lawson

His are scheduled. Matt Goglowksi's are scheduled. Vipond's are a surprise.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

So maybe the best thing is directed to Scott, to provide us like an update on maybe, you know, when you do the inspection. Maybe ask them what is their projected completion date?

Brian Mauro

Because if you look at the scheduled dates of when the inspections took place, and the complaints related to smell, there's usually not smell complaints on the days inspections take place or very minimal. Coincidence?

Astor Lawson

I doubt it, I mean they are random surprise inspections. I would say it's by coincidence unless somebody knows when he is coming out.

Brian Mauro

But you said Matt's are scheduled and Scott's are scheduled.

Astor Lawson

Matt Goglowksi and the engineering inspector. Yeah, but Vipond's are random.

Brian Mauro

I was just looking at the dates on here.

Matt McClarin

One more quick question I have, I'm sorry.

Scott Brown

You said you were done last time.

All

(laughing)

Matt McClarin

No, no more. One more. I got one more. The Form 37s that are submitted by the landfill's engineer, you don't review those at all. Those are strictly through to DEP. Right?

Scott Brown

Correct.

Matt McClarin

So, all the construction activities that take place there and an engineer signs off from the landfill, goes to DEP, he's approves it, and you don't review that right?

Scott Brown

No, no.

Matt McClarin
Okay. That's it.

Ms. deLeon
Good questions.

Astor Lawson
Matt Gogowski is the one who reviews it.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro
Right now, I don't think the Township does have anybody on the Township side that looks at what your submissions are to cross check what the landfill engineer submits.

Matt McClarin
Do you perform stormwater? When they put storm pipe in the ground or gas pipe in the ground? Does Hanover inspect any of that or it's pretty much what they submit?

Scott Brown
No.

Matt McClarin
I'm assuming you guys submit for every pipe that goes in the ground.

Astor Lawson
Yeah.

Matt McClarin
Okay. So, you're not in charge of any inspections onsite besides the...

Scott Brown
Not the construction inspections, no.

Matt McClarin
Not the construction inspections, okay.

Scott Brown
I don't believe the Township ever really had on even when the committee was had the engineers, the staff, that was not something that Township ever had requested.

Matt McClarin
That's all I got, no more.

Scott Brown
March 21st, #6. Repair of the leachate seeps observed during the March 7th inspection had been repaired. BL is continuing to prepare the plan for the submission for the vertical gas wells in the southeast corner in the recently capped area. Removal of the sediment around the leachate was ongoing; that was on and off due to a lot of weather conditions, rain and

then also obviously with the capping project kind of taking precedent, the contractor moved in there, and obviously that was kind of higher priority since the leachate storage tank hasn't even been used yet so far.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

Can you just explain what the leachate seep is?

Scott Brown

Leachate seeps occur and Astor can jump in - you're better, but it's basically when we get a lot of rain it percolates down into the waste, the active area, percolates down into there. And sometimes, instead of getting down into the leachate collection system, it'll hit a barrier some place below that of waste and come out on the surface. So basically, how they repair that and that's in the waste and that is why it smells like it does, it's from the gas, all that down there. So basically, once they see a seep, they'll get an excavator out there and start digging into the waste to try and get down and remove the basic barrier and the waste, whatever is stopping it and get it down, direct it back into the waste so it can get down into the leachate collection system back down where it is supposed to go.

Maryanne Garber

So that can happen for example, like if there's a mattress or some type of waste in the mass where instead of the water being able to percolate down, it's getting blocked by that. And it goes to the point of least resistance and it seeps up. So, they go in they excavate it, they recreate the path so that it's able to percolate down to the bottom. And that is just sort of the nature of the operations a little bit and it's exacerbated when there's a lot of precipitation.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

Okay, so when you're doing the excavation, where do you where do you place the excavated soil or material?

Astor Lawson

The waste goes back to the same place.

Scott Brown

Back in the same hole. You put stone, some stone....

Astor Lawson

Yeah, we fill the hole with stone so the water can continue to drain down and then we put dirt back on top.

Scott Brown

The waste goes back up top.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

So, it goes back up top?

Scott Brown

Yeah.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

Okay, so the leachate seeps are something that can happen ebb and flow with water and whatever happens to be underneath?

Scott Brown

It's a common thing at any landfill. They happen. It's routine maintenance. It's a pretty simple repair.

Astor Lawson

In places where there's a lot of precipitation. Coming from the desert in California, I didn't deal with a lot of seeps. Being in PA now I deal with seeps.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

You said that was your challenge, right?

Astor Lawson

It's a challenge, that's right.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

Okay. Just so I can visualize this, when did you guys start trying to address the odors on that southeastern cell?

Maryanne Garber

In March 2023, and that's all outlined in that letter that the Township got a copy of.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

The one that you said was dated from March?

Maryanne Garber

I think the date is February 22nd.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

February 22nd. And that was that was the one that was in response to the DEP?

Ms. deLeon

And it was from you, BL?

Maryanne Garber

That was from Waste Connections from Bethlehem Landfill, yes, and it was to DEP with a CC to the Township.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

Okay so the issues in that cell started in March 2023 were continuing with what you were doing to try to mitigate or reduce the issues. But I think now at this point, it's being capped, right?

Maryanne Garber

It is capped, yes.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

It's capped, and we are just working on the gas wells.

Scott Brown

The gas well....

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

Okay. So I just want to, I think it's important for the public, because a lot of at least, I look at it and I see the odor complaints and the locations of those complaints, which are not, there are odor complaints that come from residents but then also, the DEP looks like they had done a number of additional drive by or inspections, and they have confirmed that the odors were from the landfill as opposed to another outside source. A lot of people talk about the wastewater treatment plant, they talk about the train garbage, or like just whatever burning or whatever is happening in the community. I think it's important for the community to understand that this process with this area that we've had this odor from has started from March 2023, we're now in April of 2024 and they're doing wells to try and still collect that gas. But that is where that came from. And it's a process that goes, it takes this time, the landfill is doing its job in trying to mitigate it and trying to capture it, trying to deal with it. But the issue in and of itself is something you can't predict ahead of time, it happens. And then it takes this much time to try and mitigate and in that that period of time, in a year's worth, there are the issues that the residents are experiencing, or the people in the community are experiencing during this time of mitigation or repair. So I just want to.....

Maryanne Garber

And just to be clear that there are odor complaints, and you can see in all of the inspections, where they note an odor is that the landfill is the source of an odor or they can't determine what the source is, whether it's other what the nature the odor is. So, I just want to be clear that not every odor complaint that is called in is attributed to the landfill. So, to suggest otherwise, I just want to make clear.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

I'm not suggesting every odor complaint is. I've also heard the flip side that none of the odor complaints are related to the landfill and they must be from some other source.

Maryanne Garber

That is not a representation that the landfill has made that it's never had an odor. Infact, I think to the contrary, that we've acknowledged when there is a source of odors....

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

I'm not even saying it's coming from you, I'm just saying in general, there's like two different. I've heard from the community two different sets, I've heard from one set, it's always from the landfill another set that is never from the landfill. And just like anything else in life, there's something true to both sides. So, in that situation, you go to the DEP and you look at what the DEP has done with, they have identified as you indicate, some are, some are not. And

during this year process, they've worked with you and you've worked with them, and the Township to try and repair the issues that were, are believed to be the cause of the odor. So that's what we're trying to deal with now. It's just the process from March 2023, April 2024, and what has occurred in the meantime, which now is resulting in additional wells being drilled to help mitigate the gas that's coming from that section. Right?

Maryanne Garber

Correct.

Ms. deLeon

Right. And the other thing too, is the caller, when they call in complaints, may not be educated on knowing what to describe or how to describe the odor. And if they're not saying the right words, they are not recorded the right way. So, I think it just depends on who's calling it in too. Because, you know, it's not, there's a difference between the sewage treatment plant and smelling landfill gas, you know, there's huge difference.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

I appreciate that, thank you.

Ms. deLeon

So anyway, but like, like she said, but if there was an odor, we want to fix it.

Maryanne Garber

Yes, and that's why we absolutely encourage, in addition to calling to DEP, I think the site can be the most immediately responsive to that, and Astor and his team make themselves available 24/7. So, you know, again, I would urge anybody who smells an odor to call the landfill so that they can get out there and determine whether it's coming from the landfill, if it is, what the source is, and to get in there and immediately do the work necessary to fix.

Brian Mauro

So, in your next newsletter, can you include the contact information for people to call?

Ms. deLeon

Well, the first call should go to DEP because the DEP knows, and I say knows what an odor is and how to describe it. And then if the resident wants to call the landfill. I encourage that too; I don't discourage it.

Maryanne Garber

And we can add that to the newsletter. It's also posted on the Township website and it's posted on the landfill's website.

Ms. deLeon

Right, and it says to call DEP first and then you guys I'm pretty sure it's....

Maryanne Garber

I'm not sure what the order is. All I'm suggesting is that.....

Ms. deLeon

I'm telling you the order is the first is DEP.

Maryanne Garber

I'm just suggesting that the landfill be called so that they can be immediately responsive. And the hotline number is posted on the Township website, on the landfill's website, and we're happy to include that in our next newsletter.

Brian Mauro

Thank you. Because I know a lot of my neighbors have no clue to even find the Township website.

Ms. deLeon

Well, it's on our website?

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

I don't think anybody under the age of 40 would go to a website as their first source for a piece of information. Unfortunately.

Maryanne Garber

No one under 40 would go to a website for information?

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

No, as their first place for information.

Maryanne Garber

Where do they go, Twitter?

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

I don't know I think that they go to like Tiktok or some kind of social media outlet or their friend texting. But that's just anecdotal, not based on any.....

Scott Brown

Section 7 DEP Inspection Reports. So, I wanted to note any violations that were noted in the DEP inspection reports.

January 11th, where the DEP noted the gas exceedances at the southeast corner. And also that they noticed some of the seeps and the gas bubbles at that point and we discussed that a little bit earlier.

January 26th, the report had no violations. And it did note that the Bethlehem Landfill is actively addressing the seeps and the odor issues and repair and the capping project for the southeast corner.

February 21st, no violations noted during the inspection. But it did note that a Notice of Violation was sent on February 8th to the landfill regarding the odor issue, the seeps, and the gas exceedances.

Maryanne Garber

And that is what that February 22 letter was in response to.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro
Response letter.

Maryanne Garber
Correct.

Scott Brown

February 26th Report, no violations.

March 15th, again, no violations and that again that the Bethlehem Landfill, they continue to note that they were working with BL but then they also did note that the breach of Sed Trap A and that that needs to be repaired and then also put into a program which by inspection that BL has done.

Maryanne Garber

And I would just note that we submitted a written response on that issue as well and that letter was dated in March 21st and the Township was CC'd on that.

Scott Brown

Observations that were noted during the inspection reports. January 11th report noted possible stormwater collection from Pond A at that point but that was, there wasn't a violation noted for that. It was just the DEP, they continued working on the seeps and the capping project at the southeast corner. This shouldn't have been DEP inspections.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro
Where are you at?

Scott Brown

It should have been DEP violations.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro
In A2?

Scott Brown

Yeah, it's the same thing.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro
Okay.

Scott Brown

February 21st report:

They reported that breach in northern berm sedimentation pond, Sed Trap A and that DEP requested the BL submit a plan to address repairs in Sediment Trap A. They did also note strong gas odors detected southeast corner cell SE-2AB at that point of the active capping project area. So that could have been caused by excavation work that was going on, not caused by, but made the problem at that particular time.

February 26th: No offsite odors were detected. And I think I covered that already sorry, March 15th: No landfill gas odors were detected along the south slope. The geosynthetic liner, tarps have been installed. Liner has been installed at the southeast corner and DEP notes that it appears to be mitigating the fugitive gas emissions. So, DEP is basically saying that it looks like what they've done so far is working to help with the gas emissions. And again, there's still the wells to be installed, which will further enhance that situation. The repairs to Sediment Trap A, the area of concern is February inspection report have been implemented and corrected.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

So, I understand, what is the timeline for the gas wells that you're working on right now? Do you have an idea for them?

Astor Lawson

They're out to bid right now. So, we have designed for 12 wells in that area.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

So that the cell SE-2AB, you want to put how many wells?

Astor Lawson

We have design right now for 12 wells.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

A design for 12?

Astor Lawson

Yeah.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

And you're putting that out for bid?

Astor Lawson

Yes.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

When is the bid supposed to be returned? Or what's your deadline to receive it?

Astor Lawson

Martin & Martin, they're supposed to have that stuff to this by the end of this week. And then we'll submit it out. So, usually put it out for about two weeks.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

Okay. In your bid, do you specify, is there a specification of how quickly you'd like it to be completed by?

Astor Lawson

We would like it to be done by July 31st, but obviously, if they're available, we'd like it to be done soon, sooner than later.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

Okay, so then your hope is to have the 12 wells installed and operational by July 31st.

Astor Lawson

By Q3, yeah, but again, our goal is sooner.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

Or sooner, whichever. Okay. So then hopefully in our next, our next landfill committee meeting, we can have an update on what's going on with them, and how they're working.

Matt McClarin

Is that part to final grade? Or no? You're going to have to go back there?

Astor Lawson

That will be final grade.

Matt McClarin

It's at? Like the.....

Maryann Garber

In that southeast.....

Astor Lawson

It's where....

Matt McClarin

Southeast corner, yeah, it's at final grade

Astor Lawson

Yeah, once we finish up there, we are finishing up there right now.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

And then, I think you mentioned it, but the gas to energy plant

Astor Lawson

The goal is....again, everything's constructed and ready to go. They said there's waiting on occupancy permit and the dates that they gave us was May 31st at the soonest and June 14th at the latest. But if all they need is occupancy permit, if they can get that, then hopefully it's before then.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

Great. And so that process currently being reviewed by our third party....

Astor Lawson

Was it Keycodes, right?

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

And so we want to make sure that that third party does the sufficient job that we want.

Astor Lawson

Yeah, no doubt.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

So, we're making sure that that's done properly. And then hopefully, it will be online and the objective would be so everybody understands, the flare burns the landfill gas which goes into the atmosphere, which is not good for the environment, very bad. Landfill is going to create gas no matter what. So, obviously, this gas plant, the idea is to turn it into natural gas so that it can be basically recycled or repurposed to be used by some other entity who utilizes natural gas. So, I am looking forward to that. What's the update on the PFAS?

Astor Lawson

That is still going through. That had a Form 37, so that's what the DEP and then they're finishing up some of their construction, but that's where we're at with that. So that should be online fairly soon.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

What is the anticipated PFAS monitoring expected to be? Like how often are you going to be testing for PFAS?

Astor Lawson

I don't know if I have anything set for that.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

I'm sorry. I didn't hear what you said.

Astor Lawson

Yeah, I don't know the answer for them.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

Is there anybody that does?

Maryanne Garber

It's a treatment plant so it will be treating the input and monitoring the output.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

Okay.

Maryanne Garber

There are no requirements for that. And so you know what the specific specifics are for that, I don't know, but there's no monitoring, there's no requirement for the pretreatment. There's

no monitoring requirement. So, we're sort of out ahead of the curve on this one. So I, you know, I don't have the details, I assume they're monitoring it all the time. They're going to be testing it all the time. That's part of the point, I think.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

Okay. Will the landfill be agreeable to provide their testing results to us once it's online, the township?

Maryanne Garber

No, we're not in a position to agree to that, there's no obligation for us to do that, when that becomes an obligation, we will certainly comply with our obligations.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

Okay. So, I want everybody to understand, PFAS, forever chemicals, come from the landfill in the leachate, and while we're having this wonderful system that's going to treat the PFAS, my understanding is, as far as what PFAS is being treated, what you've got out of it, all of that data is protected within the landfill's knowledge and operations. So, we don't get to understand what was in there or how it gets discharged to the wastewater treatment plant. And what happens to it there.

Maryanne Garber

Well, just to be clear, there are, to the extent that there are PFAS, and there are hundreds of different types of PFOS and PFAS, and we don't have to get into the science of it all. But the landfill doesn't use those. They don't create those. Those constituents are in the waste.

Astor Lawson

The garbage does not create it. It's in the garbage.

Maryanne Garber

That's coming in from the waste that's coming from neighborhoods and institutions and all the things. We, as a passive receiver, are voluntarily treating our leachate, and the data that we're gathering from that treatment program, that's going to be that that treatment plan is going to be permitted by DEP. The data that we gather is our data, and when we're obligated, I mean, I suspect that when the industrial waste discharge permits are renewed for any of the industrial waste discharges to the POTW, there's going to be a monitoring requirement. And obviously, we, and every other industrial discharge permit holder, are going to have to monitor and report.

Ms. deLeon

So then it will be public.

Maryanne Garber

I suspect that's going to be what's coming.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

Right. Otherwise, you wouldn't spend I'm assuming millions of dollars to create the PFAS treatment plan, if you didn't expect to have to treat it anyway, at some point in the future.

Maryanne Garber

I mean, I think that yes, industries across the board understand that this is an issue. And you know, we're fortunate that Waste Connections is voluntarily trying to get out in front of this instead of waiting to get some sort of order demanding them to do something.

Ms. deLeon

I appreciate that.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

Okay.

Matt McClarin

So, we have, there's a portion that's unlined. Underneath the lined landfill. The portion that's unlined, basically takes the groundwater, pumps it to the Bethlehem Sewage Treatment Facility, I'm assuming, right? That water won't be.....

Maryanne Garber

So just to be clear, the unlined portion has been covered and capped.

Matt McClarin

Yes, that is what I mean.

Maryanne Garber

So there is no new precipitation coming through that waste mass.

Matt McClarin

Yes, correct.

Maryanne Garber

The precipitation coming through that waste mass is captured and run through an abatement system.

Matt McClarin

Yes. So that the new system will only account for what's from the liner up, not the old waste.

Maryanne Garber

No, everything is getting directed to the treatment to our onsite pretreatment and then will go out to the POTW

Matt McClarin

That's, that was what I wanted.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

But the old waste, what you're saying, what you put a cap over the, I think the assumption is because you capped it, and there's and the idea is if you cap it, there's no precipitation reaching the old that it would not generate any leachate.

Maryanne Garber

No, that's not true. There's an.....sorry, go ahead Scott.

Scott Brown

No, no, no, actually, the abatement wells that are all along, that run parallel to Applebutter Road in front of the landfill. So those are all sucking out groundwater. (inaudible) depression that's part of the old treatment, how to correct the contamination from the original, very original landfill.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

Right.

Scott Brown

So, all that water that's being pumped all goes in, right now goes into, so, it's going to get directed into there.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

Okay. Thank you because I didn't understand that. Thank you.

Ms. deLeon

So that' the original abatement wells that were putting years ago to, right.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

The abatement well leachate plus the current, whatever is from the newer landfill that's lined, all go into the treatment.

Ms. deLeon

Remember the bathtub and the straws at the zoning hearing board? Do you remember that?

Maryanne Garber

Was that a Rick Wagner analogy?

Ms. deLeon

No, it was another guy. I forget his name. But they said picture of bathtub. And all the abatement wells have straws. And the plume, because it was polluted back then it's now clean, most of it is cleaned up.

Maryanne Garber

Yeah, yeah, they are running.....

Ms. deLeon

The abatement wells did a good job. And there's little straws, and they're going in there and they're sucking up little pieces of flint, or whatever. And that's the pollution. And that's how it worked. That's what they said at the zoning hearing board.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

I think we were hopeful to have Scott give us an overview of just show everybody the different cells of the landfill and where the current operating phase was, but it looks like our tech is down. So maybe we'll save that for the next landfill committee meeting.

Ms. deLeon

I appreciate what you, or Astor of course what you report on but Scott, this this extra stuff really helped. Thank you.

Scott Brown

Is there anything else from the committee members?

Ms. deLeon

I didn't hear what you said.

Scott Brown

Is there anything else from the committee members? We will move onto the next....

Ms. deLeon

No, you guys did a good thing, good questions.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

I don't have any right now.

Scott Brown

If not, then just take questions from the audience.

Mark Ozimek

You have the torch and it is burning off the excess gas and you see the flame. After it burns, what does it become? Like a car burns fuel and then it comes out carbon monoxide or dioxide whatever. What happens to the gas when it burns? The flame is there. And the leftovers protrude into space? What is that gas?

Maryanne Garber

I mean, that's a complicated question to answer. I think what I would emphasize is that's a permitted flare that's monitored, and we have to remain in compliance with our permit requirements for that flare.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

What's the gas though? Do we know what the gas is?

Astor Lawson

I mean, I think it becomes a gas right? Yeah. So burn off becomes an after product. Right? Like some sort of exhaust what that is? I don't.... Again, I could look into it.

Mark Ozimek

I'm just curious.

Matt McClarin

It's a good question.

Cody White

Mark, just to elaborate on that. So, we do testing each year annually on the emissions because we have to run it through to see how much, when it is burned off, there's a calculation to show what byproducts are left. And we do report that every year for our Title Five Permit. And that's public.

Mark Ozimek

Okay, where do I find that then?

Cody White

DEP

Maryanne Garber

The Township probably also has copies of those reports.

Ms. deLeon

Because that's what, renewable every five years? You have to renew that?

Maryanne Garber

The Title Five Permit.

Astor Lawson

The permit is yeah, but we have to submit the report semiannually.

Maryanne Garber

And that would be like the SCS reports that you get.

Astor Lawson

Correct.

Scott Brown

Okay, is that, that's it. And then we can adjourn the meeting.

Ms. deLeon

Thank you everybody.

Brian Mauro

Just to address all the complaints related to this smell or the odor. I know we kind of talked around about doing some of the other things, the new gas company coming online. But to me, I needed to be for the record that it is very concerning. And people are smelling it on Lower Saucon Road at the Preserve, Redington Road when they historically have never smelled it. And just as you can see, has become worse and worse.

Ms. deLeon

I don't think I've ever seen this many pages. It's actually a small print.

Lynn Hill

In my travels around the area, I do smell landfill odor on Lower Saucon Road near Easton Road in that area, coming up the hill toward our Island Park Road toward the landfill, you can smell pockets of gas. I live 2-3/4 miles south of the landfill, and when the wind is coming from the north, which is not very often, thank goodness, I can sometimes smell the landfill by my front door. And that's pretty far away. So, and again, it's rare. You know, it's like maybe once every couple of months, because the wind doesn't come from the north that much. But I do notice that the landfill gas does seem to be traveling further from the landfill these days.

Scott Brown

But again, that's I mean, I think that's acknowledged by everybody. And it is has been a problem for the last year and so you should be seeing, again, already some noticeable differences and once these 11 did we say 11?

Astor Lawson

Twelve.

Scott Brown

12 gas wells are installed. So, all that gas that used to make it to the atmosphere is now going to be captured by those gas wells and so it should correct the huge part of the problem.

Lynn Hill

I hope so. Yes, I know it's being worked on. And hopefully, that will resolve because that's pretty far distance for to travel.

Scott Brown

If the winds are right, yeah, it can, it can go and if it's heavy winds are right, and you got a very humid conditions, low cloud cover, it can should be. It should be mitigated substantially now.

Lynn Hill

Yeah – thank you.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

I think that was going to the point that I was trying to make before is that I think I will acknowledge, and I think it's important for people to acknowledge that the landfill does try to address problems as they arise. It's important to see that. What is something that we have to deal with, which will be something we always deal with when we have a landfill in the Township, is that when there is a problem, it can take this amount of time to finally find the source of the problem and use the proper mitigation to address the problem. So, from March 2023, to hopefully, July 31, 2024, the issue of the gas at this particular corner that is entering into the community causing odor complaints and whatnot, is an ongoing problem for that period of time. So, it's a year plus three months. Now other issues might be able to be addressed in a month, some take longer, but it is the nature of the business that we have to

contend with when we have a landfill. I wish there was a different way to deal with it. But unfortunately, we can't. I hope that we do see an end to this odor issue when the wells are drilled, and then that will finally address the problem. But it is unfortunate that landfills create this problem, and we have to deal with them.

Ms. deLeon

Right, and I encourage people to call in because if they don't call in to notify DEP that there's an issue, DEP doesn't know because they only come out once or twice a month and if they're not smelling it the day that they come out there. There's no record of it. So, by people calling in, there's records and as we can see by these pages and pages, and when they start seeing pages and pages like that, they're going to make the landfill do things to change their method of collecting the gas, and that's what we're seeing here. So that's a result in my opinion of people calling in. So, I want to thank the residents for doing that.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

We are the best watches of our community. We are the only people that can really protect it.

Mark Ozimek

So, you have garbage and you have gas, because when I called the EPA and I talked to the girl over there, we had some lengthy talks. She wants to know does it smell like gas? Does it smell like garbage? To me, it's a garbage dump, it smells like garbage. I don't know what to tell the difference between gas and garbage. But I know when I leave garbage in my little can on my countertop too long and there's something in it that is rotten, it smells like garbage. So are you trying to tell me that all the smells coming from the landfill are from the gas that it generates, and not the garbage itself.

Astor Lawson

I think it can depend on the day, they're gonna be days when it's a garbage odor, and you smell it. We're on the very top if the wind is right. Scott said, if it's humid or the air is heavy, it pushes everything down, you might smell the garbage. But if you know, when we have the gas issue on that southeast corner, like we've been having predominantly. I mean, when you go up and down Applebutter, that's predominantly all gas that you're smelling right there, like Red Barn down to Ringhoffer. That's, gas odor.

Mark Ozimek

Okay.

Ms. deLeon

If it smells like the back of a dump truck with garbage in it, it's the daily when you do the daily stuff. If it smells gassy, then it's landfill gas.

Mark Ozimek

Well I still haven't figured out how to tell the difference.

Maryanne Garber

It's hard to tell the difference. I know that there was a lawsuit that was filed against the landfill for landfill odors and it turned out that there were odors from the POTW. So, it's not an exact science, unfortunately. But, you know, to the extent that we know if we know that someone's experiencing an issue, and you call the landfill, we do go out and we can investigate because obviously, you know, we are operating in a community, and we want to address any problems that are being created by the landfill. And, you know, I think that's obviously Astor, it's very important to him to run a tight ship, and I think he's been very responsive.

Ms. deLeon

Right, and those residents in that lawsuit were over in Freemansburg I think.

Maryanne Garber

Yes.

Ms. deLeon

They weren't even around here. So, they probably were smelling this sewage treatment plant because that would be in their direction. So, people didn't know about the landfill.

Mark Ozimek

Well, you could tell the difference between the sewage treatment plant the garbage dump. But anyway, it smells out at my house a lot more than it ever did. Which is unusual, you know. Thank you.

Ms. deLeon

Thank you.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

Thank you. I think we're done.

Ms. deLeon

Meeting adjourned.