

HARVEST POWER COMMUNITY LIAISON COMMITTEE MEETING - HIGHLIGHTS

16 MAY 2016

1. Attendees

- Susan Morgen – South Vancouver
- Cathy McMorine – West Richmond
- Trish McRae – Richmond
- James Lockhart – East Vancouver
- Phil Karlsson – Steveston
- Kathleen Beaumont – Steveston
- Peter Russell – City of Richmond
- Stephen Bruyneel – Moderator
- Greg Gillespie – Harvest Power

2. Update on Committee Membership

- Although Richmond business representatives (x2) were present at the Organizing Meeting held in March 2016, they did not attend this meeting.
- 4 new people from Steveston and Richmond attended the meeting which addresses previous concerns about lack of Steveston/Richmond representation.
- City of Richmond attendance was positively received by committee members.
- Committee members expressed significant concern regarding lack of representation from Metro Vancouver. Comments included a suggestion that the Committee reach out to Metro Vancouver in writing. Harvest Power will engage Metro Vancouver again and express the Committee's desire to have them attend future meetings.

3. CLC Terms of Reference

- Extensive discussion occurred regarding overall Purpose, including need for broader dissemination of information to public. Suggestions included distribution to people on Harvest Power email list (~130 respondents from 2015 public comment period), media release, and communication with regional politicians.
- There was a general desire to increase understanding of what Harvest is doing to address community concerns. Harvest currently updates its website <richmondairpermit.ca> with relevant Community Liaison Committee information, including agendas, minutes, handouts and contact information.
- City of Richmond representative discussed the City's role and agreed it made sense as described in the Terms of Reference, i.e. ex officio with no voting.

4. Harvest Operational Update

- There was good discussion regarding the recent work done on the CASP aeration pipes. All pipes have now been replaced with noticeable improvement in air flow. Harvest shared a recent Memo in this regard, highlighting "before and after" pictures of the pipes.
- Questions included:
 - How did the old pipes get that way? Our facility is located on a former landfill and the ground continues to shift and settle over time. This results in some movement and settling of the pipes. In addition, pipes may be bumped out of place when old material is removed and new material loaded onto the CASPs.
 - When was the last pipe inspection? The pipes are typically inspected every 2nd unloading/loading of the CASPs (i.e. approximately every 4 months).
 - How durable is this solution? Constant vigilance will still be required with regular inspections and testing of the CASPs and pipes.

- What is in place to monitor/inspect so it doesn't happen again? We will continue to inspect the pipes every 2nd unloading/loading of the CASPs and will allow for repairs as needed. Operators have been trained to look for undesired settling/movement of pipes and a senior staff member has taken on the role of GM, Compost. This is a management level position whose sole responsibility is to ensure smooth yet vigilant compost operations.
- Questions/discussion about the overall approach taken by Harvest, for example;
 - Is this a proven approach for composting or is it a “developmental” industry? Use of Covered Aerated Static Piles (CASPs) is an established methodology for composting. In fact, our pipe on grade is the most common Aerated Static Pile system in use today. Other methods include positive aeration CASPs, windrows and in-vessel composting. Our CASPs are not developmental.
 - Can we point to another facility where it works/deals with odour issues? Our consultant, ECS, has indicated that Jepson Prairie Organics, located east of Vacaville, California, is one of the largest food scrap composting operations in the US. They used to have significant odor problems; however, by installing the pipe on grade CASP system they were able to reduce their odour considerably.
 - What level of design striving towards? i.e. gold/silver/bronze standard? Again, use of CASPs is an established methodology for composting. Harvest is focusing on improving the existing infrastructure and operations as opposed to building a brand new system. The analogy used was “if your trusty Volvo needs a tune up or repairs, you fix it and maintain it rather than throwing it out and buying a new Tesla.”

5. Odour Complaints Update

- There was a general consensus that things seem to have gotten better over the past few months; however, there have been some ‘bad days’. Some members pointed out that things tend to get worse in the summer months which are still ahead.
- Harvest Power shared the most recent Odour Complaint Report from April 2016 showing a substantial decrease in complaints.
- Some Committee members could smell a compost odour on the way to the meeting.
- There was a comment made about the link between meat scraps and odours. While there may be some residual meat scraps in the curbside organics that Harvest receives, Harvest does not accept large commercial meat scraps or carcasses. Overall, the amount of meat received would be less than 1%.

6. Air Emissions Permit Update

- Committee members had questions regarding:
 - What are the next steps? Harvest has submitted several Supplements to its original Application that address regulated limits, new measures and answers to some Metro Vancouver questions. This material is being reviewed by Metro Vancouver and negotiations are ongoing.
 - What is the timing of any new permit? The current Permit expires June 30, 2016. While Harvest is working towards finalizing a new Permit by this date, Metro Vancouver has indicated an extension may be necessary.
 - Would there be a progressive plan and /or incentives to keep improving? From a business perspective, Harvest is not sustainable if it is constantly causing a problem with our neighbors. It is in our best interest to fix the odour problem and not be a nuisance in the

community. Having a 'phased' permit, where certain measures or actions are taken by a certain time is an option; however, nothing has been finalized as negotiations are still underway.

- There was some discussion on how to separate emissions vs odours. A comment was made that VOCs are a proxy for odour; however, both Metro Vancouver and Harvest disagree with this statement, as outlined during the Town Hall forum in March 2016.
- Harvest indicated that the current Permit is public information and posted on the Metro Vancouver website. A copy will be forwarded to Committee members.

7. **Summer Meeting Schedule**

- Harvest committed to reviewing any new Permit with the Committee once received and will notify the Committee if an extension is requested/granted. As such, the next meeting will likely be in the early Fall.