

Walker Brothers Quarries Neighborhood PLC Meeting
Tuesday, May 1st, 2007 ~ 6 pm to 7 pm
Walker Industries Holdings Limited Head Office

PRESENT:

Neighbours - George Nicholls, Grant Maloney, Margaret Pickles, George McIntosh

WBQ Team - Tim McVicar, Alison Braithwaite, Mike Deprez, Ed English, Teresa Page

Cc: Bill Costello, John Fisher, Ken Lucyshyn, Ed Lamb, Keith Porter

Emailed:

Niagara Escarpment Commission:	M. Frawley, M. Killian
Ministry of the Environment:	L. Gabriele, P. Nieweglowski
Ministry of Natural Resources:	D. Schwier
Regional Municipality of Niagara:	K. Forgeron
City of Thorold:	A. Arbour
City of Niagara Falls:	J. Barnsley

Meeting commenced @ 6:00 pm.

**Introduction ~ Tim McVicar, General Manager,
Landfill, Transfer Operations, Walker Brothers Quarries, Walker Asphalt**

- I am handling introductions in Keith's absence as he is on vacation
- Update on my new responsibilities:
 - John Fisher now President of Walker Industries
 - Mike Watt (V.P Strategic Alliances) now has Environmental Group under his wing
 - I have been given responsibility for all operations here at this site including landfill, quarry and asphalt plant

? There were no questions or concerns.

**Quarry Update ~ Tim McVicar, General Manager,
Landfill, Transfer Operations, Walker Brothers Quarries, Walker Asphalt**

- Since our last get together, we have completed the bridge work for our access into the Southeast Quarry
- Stripping of overburden has commenced in earnest and we have started to blast and extract aggregate from this operation
- The quarry was shut down for one month to allow for seasonal maintenance which included an overhaul of the primary crusher
- The asphalt plant was overhauled and new software installed to help with production and plant efficiencies

? There were no questions or concerns.



Landfill & Gas Collection Update

~ Tim McVicar, General Manager, Landfill, Transfer Operations, Walker Brothers Quarries, Walker Asphalt

Landfill

- Business in to the landfill has been a bit slower than anticipated due mainly to a slow down in construction.
- We have started to build our next cell (15A) for waste receiving
- The remainder of the year will see the final Cell (15B) constructed, a new access road installed with scales moving to Mountain Road along with power lines and the completion of enclosing the ground water trench.
- We have also just completed capping a significant portion of the landfill along Taylor Road and expanding our gas collection system into the area

Gas Collection

- We are nearing completion of our latest expansion of the gas collection system
- New wells and hook-up of our leachate collection manholes in the area of Cell 12 are near complete
- We have also expanded the main header which will provide for bringing the gas to the collection plant
- We are in the midst of discussion with Enbridge Gas to expand (double) the pipe system to take more of the gas to Abitibi
- We are also in discussion with St. Catharines Hydro in a joint venture to site a 1 megawatt generator at the site as well, where we will see power generated and sold into the grid

Question:

Margaret Pickles: (Re: Abitibi – alluding to a one day shutdown) - What does that mean to us? Will we get odours? If we smell it next week, it's just a temporary thing?

Answer:

Yes, odours are possible. However, typically it would take a longer period of time to actually see an effect of increased odours. We are asking the contractor to work as long as required to ensure that the conversion is completed within one day and they are looking for ways to minimize those odours.

Question:

George McIntosh: Where is the new entrance going to be?

Answer:

The new entrance will be located across from the entrance into the Woodington Systems Compound (Tim pointed to aerial photo to show area).

Question:

Grant Maloney: Going back to capping & collecting more gas, do you guys have a problem here? Just to clarify, a couple of months ago, around Christmas, at around 2 a.m., I woke up choking! I got up and checked out the kitchen first and then went outside for a walk. You would have ran! I drove around and walked over here; same smell here.

Answer:

We do have issues at times with some operations. For example, a drop in barometric pressure can cause the landfill to vent or what I call "burp". The compost facility can also have some issues that Mike can comment on next.



Question:

Margaret Pickles: You skimmed very quickly over the generator on Mountain Road. Is that going to be noisy?

Answer:

Alison Braithwaite: We are in the process of seeking approval for the generator now. Part of this process is to ensure that it meets MOE noise guidelines. We do not expect noise to be generated that would impact neighbours. The generator is going to be located near the existing landfill gas utilization building on the closed portion of Mountain Road near Townline Road.

Comment:

Grant Maloney: Won't be any noisier than a boat going through the canal. It's quieter here at the quarry than the canal.

Mike Deprez: The gas collection project at the Britannia Road Landfill, Mississauga, has 3 generators which are also located much closer to a residential area. There are no issues there.

Biosolids Facility Update ~ Mike Deprez, General Manager, Organics, IMS

- As you are aware the Niagara Biosolids plant began operations earlier this year. We are still in effect working the bugs out.
- We are currently processing up to 3 loads per day out of the Garner Rd biosolids storage lagoons. Plant performance on this material is excellent and the end product looks very good.
- We have re-directed the Stanley Avenue biosolids to the landfill in an effort to reduce odours and are in the process of investigating what actions could be taken at the Stanley Ave plant to prevent offensive odours from emanating from the biosolids plant while we optimize odour mitigation at our plant.
- There was a problem with the acid scrubber injection nozzle (takes ammonia out of the air stream before going to the biofilter. NBC was waiting for a replacement nozzle so they could start running the scrubber with acid. We are now able to use acid in the scrubber and should start to see performance improvement.
- The biofilter is being topped off with more wood to increase retention time within the filter.
- Unloading procedures at the biosolids plant are being reviewed in order to more effectively manage the material that gets hung up in the truck
- We are investigating the use of push trailers rather than the dump trailers that are presently used to allow for the receiving doors to be loader and more effectively unload the material.
- In early summer RWDI, our air consultant, will attend the site to do source testing for odours emissions from the biofilter

Question:

Grant Maloney: Is there a market for it?

Answer:

Yes, our partners, N-Viro Systems are currently marketing similar material from Sarnia and Leamington and once we have CFIA approval to ship we will start selling in the Niagara area as an agricultural product.



Question:

Grant Maloney: It's environmentally friendly then?

Answer:

Yes, the process eliminates any pathogens from the product and it is mainly used as a fertilizer approved by the Fertilizer Act. It has good organic matter and nutrients and also used as liming agent.

Question:

Grant Maloney: Are the standards in the States as high as ours?

Answer:

No, Canada has some of the most stringent standards (including Compost) in the world.

Question:

George Nicholls: This is steps ahead of "what we call sludge"?

Answer:

Yes, it is a product approved under the Fertilizer Act. It has been treated with lime and dried in a high temperature dryer.

George Nicholls: If it's being sold to the co-ops, they are farmers.

Question:

Grant Maloney: Is it guaranteed to grow grass?

Answer:

No, I'd use compost. It is more of a liming agent that is good for agricultural use.

Question:

Grant Maloney: This is mixed with lime?

Answer:

Yes

Question:

What are the ingredients?

Answer:

Lime & municipal biosolids.

Mike offered to take Grant on a tour of the Biosolids Facility if he was interested (other neighbours are more than welcome also)

Response: *Grant Maloney: Yes, I'd love that.*

Compost Update ~ Ed English, Compost Manager

- The Soil Depot Opens on Saturday May 5, 2007 with the "Grand Opening" on Saturday May 12, 2007. The Grand Opening will include free hot dogs and hamburgers and one free bag of compost per customer.
- The depot will mainly draw from existing customers that drop off garbage at the drop off facility or leaf and yard waste at the compost site. They can then pick up soil products to take home or in the case of private landscape companies, to take back to their job sites.



- The soil depot will allow local accessibility to the compost products for people that have pick up trucks or small trailers or just want to purchase a few bags of compost to put in the trunk of their car. This option is not available at present as there is no space to do this on the compost pad.
- The Soil Depot will be open for business seven days per week from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm for the convenience of our customers.
- We are planning to purchase a large commercial mixer next year for debagging the Source Separated Organics (SSO) from Niagara Region and to provide a better blend of the SSO with tub ground leaf and yard waste, as part of the initial formation of the windrows. This will furnish us with a more efficient operation but more importantly it will further help us to control and lessen on site odours during the initial composting phase.
- We have been receiving more SSO tonnage from the Niagara Region, at their request, to help them service additional households that are participating in the source separated organics program. We have done this to insure that all organics collected at the curb are processed into a quality compost product. The increase in the SSO is another reason why we are investing money back into the operations in the form of a commercial mixer.

Question:

George McIntosh: Is the soil bagged or do you have to bag it yourself?

Answer:

For that day (Open House), yes it will be bagged. We are working on that but most people come to the site with their trucks & trailers and load it in bulk.

Comment:

Mike Deprez offered to all the neighbours present a "free yard of compost" as our "Thank you" for coming out to the meeting.

Ed English graciously offered to transport the compost to our neighbours with his own company vehicle.

Annual Report Summaries

~ Alison Braithwaite, Director of Environmental Performance

Walker Brothers Quarries Receives New Permit to Take Water

Walker Brothers Quarries Annual Reporting

- Alison reviewed the information that was already provided in the Walker newsletter, Walk of the Town, April 2007 Edition, distributed before the meeting.

East Landfill Annual Report - 2006

- Report was prepared by Gartner Lee and submitted to MOE on April 30th, 2007.
- There were 11 odour complaints in 2006
 - 5 - corresponded to days where there were minor issues with the landfill gas collection system
 - 5 – occurred on days when there was nothing unusual happening at the site
 - 1 – fresh garbage smell at intersection relating to proximity of tipping face



- 614,238 tonnes of waste were received in 2006
- There is \$5,532,260.02 in the Ministry of the Environment's security fund; only \$3,857,475.30 is required by the approval.

- **Conclusions of the Report:**
 - an inward groundwater gradient is being maintained
 - there is no indication east landfill is adversely affecting ground or surface water quality
 - there is no indication of leachate in the storm water pond

- **Recommendations:**
 - continue monitoring program with no changes

Question:

Grant Maloney: You do have to cover your garbage every day?

Answer:

Yes, the waste must be covered at the end of each day.

Question:

Grant Maloney: Is it mandatory?

Answer:

Yes, it is a requirement of the approval.

Question:

Grant Maloney: Where is the smell coming from then?

Answer:

There are several potential sources of odour at the landfill:

- *incoming loads*
- *gas collection system components malfunctioning*
- *manhole risers (which are sealed to prevent gas escaping)*

Question:

Grant Maloney: What are you using at night to cover the garbage? If I come by at any time of the day to see a supervisor, the face will be covered?

Answer:

Soil-like material is used. At the end of the day, the tipping face will be covered. There may be pieces of plastic, etc. sticking up but generally, it is covered. It is a challenge in wet weather to maintain the daily cover because of erosion.

Question:

Margaret Pickles: I assume that the meeting is now open for general questions?

I am presenting the same question again as I had back at the October 3rd 2006 meeting: "What happened at the corner of Mountain Road/Garner Road?" It still looks terrible! I was told that this would be looked into and I haven't gotten an answer; I'm still curious.

Answer:

Tim to contact Cary Clark and obtain an explanation and call Margaret with the information asap.

Action: Tim McVicar



Question:

Grant Maloney: I don't want to be nosey, but I like to walk with my dog a lot and we go through the bush. There's a "no trespassing" sign on the property. Am I ok to walk my dog in this area?

Answer:

There was some confusion as to which area Mr. Maloney was referring to. It was determined by Margaret Pickles & Alison Braithwaite that it was the Snyder Woodlot area. Alison advised that this should be ok, it's not an issue; but for safety reasons, please stay off the south east quarry property.

Meeting concluded @ 7:15 pm.

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, October 2nd, 2007

6 pm – 7 pm

Walker Industries Head Office ~ Main Board Room

**Copies of the minutes and newsletters are posted on
our website @ www.walkerind.com**

