

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

Minutes of March 20, 2014, Meeting

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

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Gerardo Villalobos, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health

OTHERS PRESENT:

Stephen Beitz, Real Energy, LLC
Kevin Best, Real Energy, LLC
Russell Bukoff, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Bahman Hajjaliakbar, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Patrick Holland, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition/Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council
Jason W. Jones, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Karlo Manalo, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Dave Nguyen, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Emiko Thompson, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 11:10 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 20, 2014, MEETING MINUTES

A motion to approve the Minutes of the February 20, 2014, meeting was unanimously approved, subject to the following revision:

- Revise the term “Fish and Wild Life” to “California Fish and Wild Life” in the first and fourth paragraphs on page four of the Minutes.

III. UPDATE ON THE SUNSHINE CANYON CITY/COUNTY LANDFILL

Odor Complaints, Surface Emissions, and Leachate

Mr. Karlo Manalo provided the Subcommittee with an update on odor complaints, surface emissions, and leachate at the Sunshine Canyon City/Canyon Landfill (Sunshine Canyon Landfill) for the month of February 2014.

During the month, a total of 37 complaints were made to the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) hotline.

- In comparison with January 2014, the number of complaints received in February increased by 16 percent (from 32 to 37 complaints).
- Compared to February 2013, the number of complaints received this February decreased by 66 percent (from 108 to 37 complaints).

Of the 37 complaints in February:

- 1 was verified to be trash odors
- 5 were verified to be landfill gas odors
- 15 were called in, but inspectors could not verify the odor upon arrival
- 16 were not responded to by AQMD’s staff

AQMD did not issue any Notice of Violations (NOVs) for odors during the month of February.

Mr. Manalo presented the following graphs depicting data pertaining to rainfall, surface emissions, the amount of leachate collected, and the number of odor complaints at the Landfill between 2009 and 2013:

- [Surface Gas Emissions and Number of Odor Complaints](#)
- [Surface Gas Emissions and Rainfall](#)
- [Leachate Collected and Number of Odor Complaints](#)
- [Leachate Collected and Rainfall](#)

Among the four graphs, the graph titled, [Surface Gas Emissions and Number of Odor Complaints](#), which depicted the number of odor complaints and surface gas emissions for the period of January 2009 through December 2013, showed the greatest correlation between variables. Mr. Manalo identified fluctuations that appeared to correspond between the surface gas emissions and odor complaints, particularly during the period from May 2012 through December 2013.

To a lesser extent, the graph titled, [Leachate Collected and Number of Odor Complaints](#), appeared to indicate a correlation between the leachate collected at the Landfill and odor complaints during certain periods (primarily during the year 2012), while it did not appear to indicate a correlation during other periods.

There appears to be no direct correlation on the other two graphs.

Discussion ensued, and the Subcommittee commented that other variables, such as when breakdowns occurred in the Landfill's gas collection system, when expansion of the gas recovery system occurred, and when the Landfill began increased its daily tonnage should be considered to enhance future versions of these graphs.

Mr. Carlos Ruiz informed the Subcommittee that, as part of the ongoing efforts in working with the Interagency Working Group, staff will continue to obtain more information pertaining to pertinent events at the Landfill to determine if there are any correlations between those events and the odor complaints.

Update on the Community Advisory Committee Meeting

Mr. Russell Bukoff provided a summary of the Sunshine Canyon Landfill Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting that was held on March 6, 2014.

At the CAC meeting, Mr. Michael Stewart of Republic Services provided the following report:

- The Landfill's sewer line project is scheduled to commence in one to two weeks.
- Since the last CAC meeting on January 9, 2014, Republic Services installed approximately 3,000 linear feet of horizontal gas extraction wells, and will be installing 10 to 12 vertical wells in the next week or two.
- The Order for Abatement expired on December 31, 2013, and Republic Services has satisfied all of the measures in the Order. Accordingly, Republic's Consultant, Brown and Caldwell, will no longer be monitoring the Landfill, and overnight monitoring has ceased.
- The number of odor complaints has been reduced. Thirty two complaints were made in January and 37 were made in February 2014, which are significantly lower from the same periods last year.
- As a result of the rains, a mud flow ran onto San Fernando Road, and was subsequently cleaned up. This was reported to the Water Board and the Local Enforcement Agency (LEA).

In a response to a question from the audience at the CAC meeting regarding the number of water pumps Republic Services has on site, Mr. Stewart responded by saying that they have 63 pumps, of which 50 are active, and that they alternate them on an as needed basis to dewater wells.

At the CAC meeting, Mr. David Jones and Mr. Larry Israel, of the AQMD, reported that recent odors have been detected in Canyon Ridge, Timber Ridge, and Mission Tijera. Notices of Violations have not been issued in January or February. After the presentation made by AQMD, the CAC made a motion to request the AQMD to open proceedings for a new order of Abatement, and it passed with one abstention.

At the CAC meeting, Mr. Dave Thompson and Mr. Eugene Tseng, from the LEA reported the following:

- The LEA issued a violation in the first week of February to Republic for a situation when trash was not completely covered by soil at night due to extremely foggy conditions on site which made visibility less than 20 feet, and the Operations Supervisor ceased equipment operations due to safety concerns. Although the daily cover material had been placed, there were a few small areas where trash had not been properly covered.
- The Sunshine Canyon Landfill Board of Directors will be holding a meeting in April.
- The waste characterization study will be underway soon which will be used to determine the composition of incoming waste to the Landfill and potential causes of odor.

Lastly, Mr. Bukoff informed the Subcommittee that the next CAC meeting is scheduled for May 8, 2014.

In reference to the mud flow on to San Fernando Road, Mr. Mohajer asked how well the Landfill's retention basin performed during this event citing mud flow as a potential problem previously identified by UltraSystems, the independent consultant. Mr. Mohajer requested that he would like to see the most recent report prepared by UltraSystems for the Sunshine Canyon Landfill Technical Advisory Committee. Ms. Emiko Thompson assured the Subcommittee that the next report will be forwarded to them when available.

Notice of Violation Settlement Between the AQMD and Browning-Ferris Industries (Republic Services)

Mr. David Nguyen provided the Subcommittee with a report on the NOV Settlement Agreement between AQMD and Republic Services. The Settlement Agreement was issued in September 2013 for 29 NOVs issued by the AQMD to the Landfill during period of July 2012 through September 2013. These NOVs were issued due to the Landfill's violation of AQMD's Rules 402 and 1150.1. Rule 402, in part, prohibits "the Discharge of air contaminants which cause injury, nuisance, or annoyance to any considerable number of persons or to the public." Rule 1150.1 "requires a landfill operator to operate the gas collection system to prevent the concentration of total organic compounds measured as methane from exceeding 500 parts per million per volume (ppmv), as determined by instantaneous monitoring, or 25 ppmv, as determined by integrated monitoring.

Without admitting liability or violation of any District Rules, Republic Services entered into this settlement to avoid the risks and cost of litigation. As part of the settlement, Republic Services agreed to pay AQMD \$82,000 in fees and contribute \$208,000 to AQMD to fund a Supplemental Environmental Project to evaluate and make recommendations on the gas collection system and the use of daily soil cover at the Landfill.

AQMD's Consultant Services for Developing a Conceptual Landfill Gas Collection System Design

Mr. Nguyen reported to the Subcommittee that in October 2013, the AQMD Board of Directors authorized a sole source, two-year, \$208,000 contract with Hydro Geo Chem, Inc., and Dr. Ramin Yazdani to carry out the Supplemental Environmental Project.

The scope of work for this project consists of 3 components:

- Testing and evaluating the current gas collection system
- Developing an understanding of the gas flow nature of the Landfill and identifying the mechanisms that create odors
- Developing a conceptual gas collection and control system plan to control gas odor for the site

Mr. Nguyen informed the Subcommittee that although this is a two-year contract, AQMD anticipates the actual testing and evaluation will require approximately nine months to complete. The results of the study will be shared with all involved agencies and will allow AQMD to be more precise in identifying the sources of odors at the Landfill and develop further solutions to mitigate the odors, as necessary. At this time, AQMD is moving forward with this project and their consultant is planning to have a series of coordination meetings with Republic Services to discuss the logistics and project schedule. Mr. Nguyen stated that staff would continue to monitor the project and provide updates as new information becomes available.

Ms. Landis asked if there was a deadline set for completion of the contract. Ms. Thompson informed the Subcommittee that the project was contracted for two years with an option to extend as necessary.

IV. DISCUSSION ON FINDING OF CONFORMANCE QUARTERLY REPORTS

Mr. Manalo reported that the next set of Finding of Conformance (FOC) Quarterly Reports is expected to be submitted by various landfill operators by the end of April. Therefore, the next update on the FOC Quarterly Reports will be given at the May or June Subcommittee meeting.

Mr. Mohajer asked if staff has been receiving regular waste characterization studies from County landfill operators as required in the FOCs granted by the Task Force. Mr. Manalo confirmed that staff has been receiving the studies and are expected to receive the latest studies by the end of April. Mr. Mohajer asked if the studies from the last two years could be used, in conjunction with 2008 Statewide Waste Characterization Study, to determine how much of the municipal solid waste disposed at landfills are considered organic and how this information could be used in complying with the mandatory commercial organic waste recycling.

Mr. Ruiz commented that staff will review the latest complete year of waste characterization studies for various landfills in the County pursuant to the FOC and compare them to the 2008 Statewide Waste Characterization Study for staff to present at the next Subcommittee meeting.

V. OPEN DISCUSSION/PUBLIC DISCUSSION

There was no further discussion or comment.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.