

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Environmental Authority
Held on Tuesday, 31 August 2021
At the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Botanical Gardens, Paget
and Remotely using WebEx Teleconference**

PRESENT: Ms. Davida Morris, Chair, (by remote access)
Mr. Eugene Saunders, Member (by remote access)
Mr. Andrew Barnes, Member, (by remote access)
Mr. Willie Ferguson, Member (by remote access)
Mr. Jonathan Starling, Member, (by remote access)

ADVISORS: Dr. Geoff Smith, Environmental Engineer, DENR
Dr. Shaun Lavis, Hydrogeologist, DENR
Mr. Tarik Christopher, Principal Engineer (Water & Sewage), Acting Chief
Engineer, Public Works (by remote access)
Ms. Patricia Hollis, Environmental Officer, DENR, Recording Secretary

ABSENT:

Mrs. Susan Armstrong, Member
Mr. James Morrison, Member
Mr. Paul McDonald, Acting Senior Planner, Dept. of Planning
Mr. Armell Thomas, Senior Environmental Health Officer
Mr. Tom Crossan, Chief Environmental Health Officer
Mr. Kirk Outerbridge, Chief Engineer, Public Works,

1. Confirmation of Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 27 July 2021 were reviewed and accepted. They are to be signed at the next in-person meeting.

2. Corporation of Hamilton - Upgrades to Sewer and Treatment Plant

At the meeting held on 27 July 2021, it was reported that meetings had been held between the Corporation of Hamilton (CoH) and the MPW to discuss proposed improvements to the City of Hamilton waste water treatment plant. An agreement in principle had been reached such that funding will be approved for upgrades providing they are shown to be complementary to the Government's waste water master plan. Once DENR received a copy of the agreement, it would be shared with the Authority.

Mr Tarik Christopher, MPW Acting Chief Engineer, provided an update, informing the EA that there was no such agreement to move forward. It is understood that the Corporation of Hamilton would appeal to the Acting Minister of Public Works, Mr. Wayne Furbert.

The Environmental Authority **REQUESTED:**

that a letter be sent on their behalf to the Acting Permanent Secretary, MPW, Mr Steve Conway requesting for a progress report.

3. Elbow Beach Waste Water Treatment Plant - there was nothing to report.

4. BELCO Water Quality Monitoring –update

The Authority **TOOK NOTE:**

that in compliance with its Operating Licence conditions, water tanks at 5 properties were sampled in June 2021. In order to maximise the chance of collecting sediment particles that typically accumulate on the tank floor, the sampling protocols involved collecting water that had been pumped from the tanks via footvalves and into the household pumbing. The analytical results were reviewed by the Department of Health who determined that tank waters from all five properties were deemed to be safe for human consumption. There were no exceedences of the US or UK or WHO primary standards.

There were, however, two exceedences of the secondary standard for the metals aluminium and iron. The secondary standards are not in place to protect health, rather they are standards in place to control appearance and taste. Both elements are common in the environment and are not necessarily indicative of a Belco source, although the ash particles that have accumulated on roofs after an ash fallout event are known to contain high amounts of iron.

There were no polyaromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) detected in the tank water samples. Dioxins and furans were found in very low levels, and at concentrations significantly below the standard for the most toxic type of these compounds. It is noted that previous island-wide studies of the dioxins and furans in the sediment of water tanks show a characteristic signature that is indicative of soot from road vehicles.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources will be emailing the results and an interpretation of the data to the homeowners whose tanks were sampled.

5. Strategy for Future Request for Importation of Refrigerants

At their last meeting, the Environmental Authority approved the Airpro application to import R-22 for repair of two Government building air conditioning systems, subject to the Ministry of Public Works being notified that future import applications may be declined. It was confirmed that a letter was sent to MPW Permanent Secretary and Chief Engineer notifying them of the need to upgrade systems still using R-22.

The Authority **APPROVED:**

of the development of a new operational policy on refrigerant import that mimics the guidance of controlled chemical imports in the UK. The Environmental Engineer agreed to present a draft at the next meeting. It was recommended that the MPW be consulted on the policy.

6. Applications for Construction Permits and Operating Licences (New)

6.1 OL-1152 – OL-1158 Meyer Agencies “Crystal Symphony”

The Authority **APPROVED:**

the applications for seven controlled plant (auxiliary engine, boiler, waste water treatment plant, dry cleaning facility, air compressor, oily water separator, emergency diesel generator) on board the “Crystal Symphony”, subject to standard conditions for vessels.

6.2 OL-780-1 – OL-780-7 Meyer Agencies “Norwegian Breakaway”

The Authority **APPROVED:**

the applications for seven controlled plant (4 generators, 2 boilers, one waste water treatment plant) on board the “Norwegian Breakaway”, subject to standard conditions for vessel.

6.3 CP-734, OL-1159 Arias Auto Repair, 2 Curving Court, Pembroke

The Authority considered an application submitted by Arias Auto Repair for a spray paint facility at 2 Curving Court, Pembroke. It was noted that the Department of Planning had no objection to the use of this site as a spray paint facility as it has a history of being used as such (although none had been issued operating licences).

The Authority considered that recently two unverified complaints had been received about the spray paint facility at 2 Curving Court. Despite attending the site on two occasions, DENR did not observe active spray painting, although the spray booth had been recently used.

The Authority **APPROVED:**

the application for a spray booth at 2 Curving Court, Pembroke, subject to standard conditions, providing no objections are received during the advertised period and the hours of spray painting are restricted to 8:30 am to 5:30 pm Monday through Friday and not on Saturdays, Sundays, or public holidays.

6.4 OL-229-4, OL-229-5 BHB KEMH 7 Point Finger Road, Paget

The Authority **APPROVED:**

the applications submitted by the Bermuda Hospitals Board for two (2) 750 kW diesel generators at 7 Point Finger Road, Paget, subject to standard conditions. It was noted that these are units to replace older generators. The Authority requested the Applicant to be notified that their agent was not mindful to follow established procedures, which resulted in excessive use of technical officers' time.

7. Applications for Operating Licences (Reissue)

7.1 The Authority **APPROVED:**

the reissue of operating licences on the two-page printout, subject to standard conditions, with the exception of OL-114 BELCO engines which were deferred pending submission of the annual report and presentation to the Authority.

8. Applications for Water Rights (New)

The Authority **APPROVED:**

8.1 WR 5702 Hamilton Warehouse Co, 27 Woodlands Road, Hamilton, Commercial WR for disposal of treated sewage effluent, subject to standard conditions and providing the borehole is sealed at least 40 feet below sea level.

8.2 WR 5703 Hamilton Warehouse Co, 27 Woodlands Road, Hamilton, domestic WR for disposal of rain water subject to standard conditions.

8.3 WR 5704 Hamilton Warehouse Co, 27 Woodlands Road, Hamilton, domestic WR for disposal of tank water overflow subject to standard conditions.

9. Applications for Water Rights (Reissue)

The Authority **APPROVED** the reissuance of Water Rights on the two-page printout, subject to standard conditions, with the exception of 3 indicated as withdrawn.

10. Regulatory Authority: Request for Environmental Authority to be Consulted on IRP

The Authority **APPROVED:**

the draft letter to the Chairman of the Regulatory Authority requesting the Environmental Authority be formally consulted during the development of the integrated resource plan.

11. Establishment of a framework for a Water Authority: Request for Environmental Authority to be Consulted

The Authority **APPROVED:**

the draft letter to the Chief Engineer, Ministry of Public Works, requesting the Environmental Authority be formally consulted during the establishment of a framework for a Water Authority. The Water Authority is expected to be charged with regulating water supply in Bermuda, and so the input of the Environmental Authority is considered relevant.

12. Major Oil Spill Exercise

The Authority **TOOK NOTE:**

that the recently updated National Oil Spill Contingency Plan will be exercised on Wednesday, 8 September at Whale Bone Bay, St. George's, subject to the weather. Participants include the Coast Guard, Public Works, Department of Health, Marine & Ports Services, DENR, BFRS, Parks, National Disaster Planning Team, RUBIS Energy Bermuda Ltd, SOL Petroleum Bermuda, ports representatives, and representatives from private companies who participated in recent oil spill training from Government.

13. Date of the Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting was set for 8:30 am, Tuesday, 28 September 2021.



CHAIRMAN

26/10/2021

DATE

