Richmond Landfill Public Liaison Committee

Minutes of Virtual Meeting on September 28, 2021

Invitees & Attendees

* Bill McDonough Waste Management Moderator
* David Arnott MECP
* Trevor Dagilis MECP
* Dave Pinnell Napanee Council
* Todd Harvey Napanee Staff
* Ian Munro CCCTE
* Jeff Whan CCCTE
* Carolyn Butts CCCTE
* Steve Medd CCCTE Invited but unable to attend
* Noah Wayt Waste Management
* Gail Maracle Deseronto Invited but unable to attend
* Chief Maracle Mohawks Bay of Quinte Invited but unable to attend
* Reeve Phillips Tyendinaga Township Invited but unable to attend

The meeting was called to order by Bill McDonough at 9:00 AM.

Bill McDonough discussed that the purpose of the re-instated PLC was focused on the existing closed landfill and not the proposed expansion.

Invitations to participate in the PLC were sent to the MECP, local communities including the MBQ and the CCCTE. At this point in time participation is open to all who wish to attend virtually.

Those in attendance introduced themselves to the other participants.

Bill McDonough discussed the construction that is taking place at the site. The leachate management system is undergoing a major upgrade. Power has been extended to the north sump where a permanent pump is being installed and a force main constructed to bring the north side leachate around to a 750,000 gallon leachate storage tank that has been constructed on the south side of the landfill. All the pumps and piping in the south sump have been replaced with a new forcemain to the leachate storage tank. A pump building is being constructed next to the leachate storage tank that will have a pump that will pump the leachate to a load out pad on the south side of the landfill where trucks will be filled to haul the leachate to the WWTP. The pump building contains flow meters for all the pumps along with the control system for the expanded leachate management system. The control system will allow all functions of the leachate management system to be viewed and controlled remotely.

Waste Management was asked if the leachate lagoon north of the site will continue to be used. Mr. McDonough stated that no leachate has been pumped to the lagoons since January 2020 and that they are in the process of removing all leachate from the lagoon. Due to the construction this year, that process will not be completed until next year. Once the new system is constructed there should be no reason to use the lagoon in the future.

The landfill stopped accepting waste on June 30, 2011. The cap was completed by September 30, 2011.

Mr. McDonough next updated those on the call with the status of the contaminant plume extending south from the landfill across Beechwood. There are 2 aquifers at the site. An upper aquifer that extends from ground surface to the top of the bedrock and varies in depth from 3 – 5 meters. Contamination is seen in the aquifer in a “halo” around the northwest corner of the closed landfill and also along the edge of the landfill on the south side. The original unlined section of the landfill is in the northwest corner and it appears that the contaminants are leaking from that unlined area. Drawings showing the site are attached. Contaminants also show up in the shallow aquifer in the central part of the CAZ proposed area south of Beechwood Road. The intermediate aquifer is hydrostatic in this area and the source of the contamination is the upward flow of groundwater from the deeper intermediate aquifer in the area.

The primary contaminant of concern is 1,4 dioxane. It is additive to solvents to make them more effective. It is a suspected carcinogen although the level at which it can cause problems has not agreed by everyone. Health Canada has set an advisory standard for drinking water at 50 parts per billion(ppb). The contaminant level in the landfill plume tends to range from 30 ppb near the site to 3 – 4 ppb at the edge of the plume. Laboratory detection limits are about 1 ppb. Beyond the plume it is non-detect at 1 ppb. The presence of 1,4 dioxane has been used to determine the extent of the plume.

The intermediate aquifer is approximately 30 meters deep. The attached drawing shows the extend of the plume. It is narrow near the closed landfill and spreads out like a teardrop as it moves south east. The groundwater flow direction is generally to the south and southeast.

In late August of this year, the MECP has determined that WM has defined the extent of the plume. WM is to submit an application to the MECP to incorporate the proposed CAZ property into the sites permit. This is to be submitted by early December. This submittal will include an updated Environmental Monitoring Plan (EMP) and also an evaluation if a pumping option using purge wells can be used to keep the plume from extending to property east of the landfill that WM does not control.

After some discussion it was decided that there should be another PLC meeting in December after WM has submitted the permit application.

Question can be sent to:

Bill McDonough, WM Senior Project Manager

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Information on the site can be found at brec.wm.com, under Current Operations, then About Richmond Landfill, and then Reports.