

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

Minutes of February 21, 2013, Meeting

County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Conference Room B
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
Gerardo Villalobos, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Charles Modica, City of Los Angeles

OTHERS PRESENT:

Bahman Hajialiakbar, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Emiko Thompson, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Dave Nguyen, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Linda Miller, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Russell Bukoff, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Karlo Manalo, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Lukas Przybylo, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Saeid Shirzadegan, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition, Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council
Nicole Stetson, Waste Management, Inc.
Richard Lavrinc, Waste Management, Inc.
Becky Van Sickle, Republic Services
Patti Costa, Republic Services
Greg Ainsworth, Environmental Science Associates

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 11:05 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 15, 2012, MINUTES

A motion to approve the Minutes of the November 15, 2012, meeting was unanimously approved.

III. CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED FINDING OF CONFORMANCE FOR THE LANCASTER LANDFILL AND RECYCLING CENTER

Mr. Karlo Manalo provided a [PowerPoint presentation](#) to the Subcommittee for their consideration of the proposed Finding of Conformance for the Lancaster Landfill and Recycling Center (LLRC).

The LLRC currently receives waste from Lancaster, Palmdale, unincorporated areas of the Antelope Valley, and other areas outside of the County. The LLRC accepted an average of 870 tons per day (tpd) of refuse in the first quarter of 2012. By September 2012 the amount of refuse accepted at the Landfill dropped to an average of 270 tpd, with the difference going to Antelope Valley Landfill beginning August 2012.

Waste Management submitted a Finding of Conformance (FOC) proposal to the Task Force on November 15, 2012. The FOC proposal includes the following:

- Increase in daily tonnage acceptance of municipal solid waste from 1,700 tpd to 3,000 tpd
- An additional acceptance of up to 2,100 tpd of inert debris and beneficial use materials
- Up to 10 tpd of bio-solids
- Receipt of non-hazardous soil contaminated with petroleum hydrocarbons for daily cover and disposal
- Correction of the total permitted refuse footprint from 209 acres to 210.3 acres due to refinement of the measurement of the unlined portion of the landfill refuse footprint

The proposal does not include a vertical or lateral expansion of permitted airspace.

The Conditional Use Permit (CUP) was approved on December 14, 2011, and the revised Solid Waste Facility Permit was approved on February 19, 2013. Both permits have the same tonnage limits of 3,000 tpd of municipal solid waste, and 2,100 tpd of inert debris and beneficial use materials.

The Reclaimable Anaerobic Composter (RAC) was permitted by the Local Enforcement Agency (LEA) on September 20, 2011, and authorized to operate for up to 2 years with 2 additional years of extension. According to Mr. Manalo, the RAC is an in-vessel research composting operation that is completely sealed. The RAC unit consists of an anaerobic composting pod system for batch treatment of feedstock, such as green waste, manure, and food waste. The RAC utilizes materials currently accepted at the Landfill. Ms. Betsey Landis asked about the status of the required approvals and was informed that the project had received approval by the Regional Water Quality Control Board (Water Board), Local Enforcement Agency (LEA), Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District (AVAQMD). The Los Angeles County Department of Public Works (Public Works) is currently working with LLRC on the approval.

Mr. Mike Mohajer asked if the CUP allows operation of any composting facility on-site and whether potential odor is addressed. Ms. Linda Miller confirmed that odor was specifically discussed in the Environmental Impact Report (EIR). The EIR did not discuss a full scale composting facility, but the EIR allowed a small research operation through the CUP.

Mr. Mohajer stated that the CUP allows certain types of facilities and questioned if the RAC is also defined as a facility. Mr. Carlos Ruiz responded that the CUP allows 2 types of facilities: ancillary facilities and diversion facilities. Mr. Ruiz explained that the RAC would be allowed under the CUP as a diversion facility and would need to be consistent with the Waste Plan Conformance Agreement which would be entered into by the operator and the County of Los Angeles.

Mr. Mohajer asked for the capacity of the RAC. Mr. Manalo answered that the RAC has six pods on-site and that each pod can process up to 1,000 cubic yards. Mr. Gerardo Villalobos informed the Subcommittee that under the requirements of a research project in Title 14, unless otherwise approved by the LEA, the maximum allowable materials on-site at any one time is 5,000 cubic yards. Ms. Nicole Stetson of Waste Management, Inc., indicated that the 5,000 cubic yard regulation is related

to the amount of compost material on-site, and that the RAC units currently producing approximately 250 cubic yards of end-product.

Ms. Landis asked how long it takes the RAC to turn a load into compost. Mr. Manalo replied that the typical cycle time for the RAC is about 30 to 90 days.

Mr. Mohajer stated that odor is the main concern with the permitting of compost facilities and must be addressed. Mr. Villalobos confirmed that the LEA and AVAQMD reviewed and approved the RAC plan. There was an Odor Impact Minimization Plan (OIMP) that was incorporated as part of the Operations Plan for the purposes of odor control because of food material in the feedstock. Mr. Mohajer requested a copy of the OIMP and a copy was subsequently passed out to the members.

Ms. Landis asked if Waste Management was reporting on the RAC results. Ms. Stetson answered that they report quarterly to the Water Board, and as required by the CUP, any odor complaints would be reported to the County regardless of whether the odors come from the RAC or Landfill.

Mr. Manalo continued his presentation and said that no special waste or regular solid waste will be processed within the RAC system. Waste Management is requesting the Task Force to consider issuing an FOC for the LLRC pursuant to Section 10.4 of the Countywide Siting Element (CSE), dated June 1997. If granted, this FOC will supersede the previous FOC granted to the LLRC. Staff reviewed Waste Management's application for compliance with the requirements for granting of an FOC as established in the CSE. It is staff's finding that the application meets all the requirements. Therefore, staff recommends granting the FOC subject to the "Conditions of Approval" as specified in the Staff Report.

Mr. Manalo indicated the following staff recommended revisions to the FOC:

- Insert underlined verbiage to the end of Condition 3 (pg. 7): disposal are nonhazardous contaminated soils as defined in Title 14, California Code of Regulations, Section 17361(b) and sewage sludge and bio-solids as defined in Title 27, California Code of Regulations, Section 20220(c).
- Insert sentence at the end of Condition 4 (pg. 7): The maximum tonnage limit of sewage sludge and bio-solids that may be disposed of at the facility shall not exceed 10 tpd.

- Insert underlined verbiage at the end of Condition 7a (pg. 8): (Attachment F), or on October 19, 2041, whichever occurs first.
- Insert underlined verbiage within Condition 7b (pg. 8): the CSE, such as development of a Conversion Technology at the facility that requires compliance with the California Environment Quality Act; or the operation of the facility is prohibited by any regulatory agency, judicial court, or County of Los Angeles. The term Conversion Technology shall mean the various state-of-the-art technologies capable of converting post-recycled or residual waste, including solid waste materials currently available to the landfill, into useful products, green fuels, and renewable energy through non-combustion thermal, chemical, or biological processes.
- Insert new condition 19 (pg. 10): Reclaimable Anaerobic Composting (RAC) – The owner/operator must comply with the requirements of the Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District; the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Lahontan Region; the Local Enforcement Agency; the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works; and any other applicable regulatory agencies for the operation of the RAC, which is an in-vessel research composting operation. Composting is as defined in Public Resource Code, Section 40116.1. The RAC shall be completely sealed with geosynthetic membranes on the bottom and side walls and on the top. The feedstock for the RAC shall be limited to materials permitted to be accepted at the facility, such as green waste, manure, oil and grease, and food waste, and shall exclude sewage sludge and bio-solids. The operation of the RAC shall be consistent with the Final Supplement Environmental Impact Report. Quarterly reports on the status of the RAC shall be provided to the Task Force within 30 days of the end of the quarter. Project status will be reviewed by LEA in 2 years pursuant to Title 14 Section 17862(d).

In response to Ms. Betsey Landis' question on how the geosynthetic membrane is sealed, Ms. Stetson indicated that the covers are welded on all four sides and a vacuum is applied to collect any gas generated. Any gas leaks can be detected if there is O₂ present.

Ms. Landis asked for details on how well the geosynthetic membranes contain odors, and requested that the quarterly reports include an update on the condition of the geosynthetic membrane.

Mr. Mohajer requested the Subcommittee be provided with detailed construction plans for the RAC, goals of the project, and how these goals would be monitored.

After some discussion on where biosolids will be disposed of at the Landfill, Mr. Mohajer suggested adding a condition that biosolids shall not be disposed in the unlined portions of the Landfill.

Mr. Salomon asked Ms. Stetson if she agreed with the proposed changes to the FOC, and she concurred. Mr. Salomon proposed moving ahead with the FOC and its proposed changes. Mr. Villalobos indicated that the decision of the FOC could be affected based on a detailed review of the Operations Plan of the RAC.

To address a concern regarding what may happen should the RAC become a full blown composting operation, Ms. Linda Miller stated that a full blown composting operation will require a CEQA process and it would also require Waste Management to apply for a new FOC.

After further discussion on the FOC, the Subcommittee required:

- Staff to look into the disposal acreage discrepancy and send a survey team to verify the information if necessary.
- Change the word “refuse” to “solid waste” in the discussion on permitted hours on page 3 of the FOC.
- Delete conditions of approval 1. b. c., and d. on page 6 of the FOC.
- Delete the words “Department of” from “Department of Regional Planning Commission” in Section 2 of the Conditions of Approval Section on page 6 of the FOC.
- Revise Section 3 on types of waste materials to describe that the Landfill will accept solid waste materials pursuant to Section 40191 of the Public Resources Code.
- Change the term “at the site” to “within the disposal footprint of the Landfill” in Condition 4 on page 7 of the FOC.
- Include a requirement in Condition 4 that Waste Management provide a report to the County with a copy to the Task Force with their activities and achievements in the past quarter.
- Revise Condition 13 to include the Task Force as a recipient of reports.

- Revise Condition 17 to state that no off-site migration is allowed.
- Revise Condition 11 to require Waste Management to submit quarterly progress reports on the development of a Conversion Technology facility at the Landfill.
- Add a condition that requires Waste Management to submit a copy of the Landfill's Closure and Post-Closure Maintenance Plan as approved by CalRecycle and the Water Board.

The Subcommittee agreed to postpone consideration of the FOC until next month's meeting when Waste Management will be able to provide detailed drawings of the RAC, along with goals and details of the research project.

IV. Update on the Sunshine Canyon City/County Landfills

4th Quarter 2012 Vegetation Report

Ms. Becky Van Sickle of Republic Services, Inc., provided an update on the pilot sage mitigation project on the City side of the Landfill where Republic would be testing different methods for planting and grading and assessing which methods will work the best. She informed the Subcommittee that a pre-construction meeting was held on February 18, 2013, with grading to begin on February 26, 2013.

Ms. Van Sickle described that Republic will be fine grading the site and varying the topography to include mounds ranging from 12 to 18 inches and using boulders to ensure there are places for seeds and vegetation to take hold, and for proper drainage. She also said that coastal sage species would be part of the plant palette, 12,000 tons of soil from the sedimentation basin would be used as cover, and that the soil had been tested for contamination.

Odor Complaints

Mr. Lukas Przybylo reported that 82 odor complaints were made to AQMD in the month of January.

- 5 were verified by inspectors to be trash odor
- 13 were verified to be landfill gas odor
- 2 were verified to be a combination of trash and landfill odors
- 26 complaints were called in, but inspectors could not verify the odor upon arrival

- 36 were not responded to by inspectors

Compared to December 2012 (132 odor complaints), the number of complaints decreased by 40 percent. The number of complaints in January 2013 was half compared to those filed in January of last year (163 odor complaints).

Leachate Management

On Republic Services' attempts to get a sewer line to San Fernando Road, Mr. Przybylo reported that in January 2013 the Landfill contacted the City of Los Angeles Department of Public Works (Bureau of Engineering) to renew their permit and allow sewer connection at San Fernando Road and Balboa Road. The Landfill has indicated that a sewer connection would be provided as a discharge option to the landfill during the wet season when not much water is needed for dust control. Staff was not able to contact the City of Los Angeles for an update.

Due to time constraints, Ms. Landis requested that this item be revisited at the next Subcommittee meeting.

V. OPEN DISCUSSION/PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Mohajer inquired about the status of his request at the November 15, 2012, Subcommittee meeting for FOC quarterly reports to be provided to the Subcommittee. Mr. Przybylo answered that staff is waiting for one more overdue quarterly report. Once this overdue report is received, all the quarterly reports would be distributed to the members as one package.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 1:03 p.m.