

Altona Properties Soil & Groundwater Meeting

Minutes and Record of Questions and Answers

Date: 24 February 2003
Location: Altona Conference Room
Time: 17:25

1 Present

Valerie Gemmell (Resident)
Rod McLeod (Welvic)
Tim Kitchen (EPA)
Judy Hindle (Resident)

Noel Ryan (APPL)
Dave Wenig (PB)
Stephanie Chan (PB)

2 Apologies for absence

Dave Adams (PB)
Rod Daniels (PB)

3 Confirmation of Agenda

Agenda confirmed as stated.

4 Greetings and Introductions

Rod McLeod (Managing Director of Welvic) was introduced to the meeting (replacing Guy Roberts). Although this is the second management change in twelve months, the shareholders have demonstrated a continuing confidence in Welvic. It is noted that the owners of APPL are the same as Welvic, namely, Orica and PolyOne.

Stephanie Chan, a newly appointed member of Parsons Brinckerhoff is introduced to the members.

5 Minutes of Last Meeting

Minutes of last meeting were accepted as true and correct.

6 Groundwater Treatment Update

Valerie commented that it was not necessary to re-send maps to members each time if they have not been amended. It was agreed that A3 copies of historical monitoring data (1997) would be forwarded to attending members for reference. The option of forwarding minutes and diagrams via email was noted though this might not be suitable for everyone.

David Wenig explained that the Operational Timeline Summary has not been updated since the last meeting because the GWTS has only had approximately 5 days of operation since then. This was due to equipment failures on the GWTS and disruptions to services due to commencement of demolition operations.

7 Groundwater Monitoring

Dave Wenig presented the EDC and VCM plume overheads for the June 2002 and December 2002 groundwater monitoring events, both of which demonstrated insignificant fluctuations in contaminant concentrations.

Valerie expressed concerns about what was meant by “anomalous” results. It was explained that “anomalous” results are those that do not fit with the expected pattern. For example, one result from a well might be high or low whereas all other results are within a narrow band. Alternatively, one result might not follow an emerging pattern, ie. where results have been decreasing, it is much higher, etc. Further monitoring is required to assess anomalous results to establish whether the anomalies are establishing a new trend or “one-off” results that have no bearing on an existing trend. Noel undertook to keep the Group informed of any problems encountered with monitoring results.

Noel agreed to attempt to place the EDC results from annual monitoring rounds in 1997, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002 and 2003 onto one A3 sheet to allow for ease of representation and comparison.

Valerie enquired about the consequences of the recent sale of Qenos land to SCT. Noel commented that Qenos could not guarantee access to monitoring wells south of the Altona Properties’ site from December 2003. Noel said he was unaware of SCT’s plans to develop the land so continued access to these wells was likely for some time yet.

Judy expressed concerns about future construction on the site and the possibility of well loss and contamination disturbance. Noel is intending to contact SCT concerning continued access to these wells.

Judy asked if the EPA could force SCT to comply with current environmental agreements for the area. Tim Kitchen replied that he would follow the matter up.

Valerie asked if the underlying basalt could be altered by vibration. Noel replied that it was a possibility.

Noel noted that the annual round of monitoring would commence shortly. The maps for the September round of monitoring are yet to be produced and circulated.

Stack monitoring results have been within the limits required by the GWTF’s EPA licence.

Dioxin and furan sampling was undertaken in February 2001 and September 2002. On both occasions an ambient sample and a sample from the exhaust stack were collected. All results were less than State Environment Protection Policy requirements.

Valerie would like to know exactly when the samples were taken and also what the wind direction was at the time. This will be followed up by Dave Wenig and reported back to the members at the next meeting.

8 General Discussion and Questions

Noel invited the community members to visit and provide feedback on AP Groundwater Management Plan website www.altonagroundwater.info

Noel committed to updating the website after each community meeting.

Noel advised that the front section of the Altona Properties site is on a separate title (from the land at the back of the site) and is planned for sale. The rear title comprises an access road and all of the land to the south of the administration building offices and control room.

Following Demolition and prior to sale, fences will be constructed to segregate the titles.

9 Next meeting

The next regular meeting was scheduled to be in three months – Monday, 26 May 2003. *(NOTE: This meeting has been postponed until **Monday, 18 August 2003** due to continued disruptions to power, water and gas from demolition activities at the site. The system will be restarted when no more disruptions are foreseeable.)*

Meeting closed at 7.10 pm.