

Altona Properties

Soil & Groundwater Meeting

Minutes and Record of Questions and Answers

Date: 28 October 2002
Location: Altona Conference Room
Time: 17:25

1 Present

Valerie Gemmell (Resident)
Rod McLeod (Welvic)
Tim Kitchen (EPA)
Beatrice Schupfer (CWW)
Ken Lambert (Resident)

Noel Ryan (APPL)
Guy Roberts (APPL MD)
Dave Adams (PB)
Dave Wenig (PB)

2 Apologies for absence

Rod Daniels (PB)
Judy Hindle (Resident)

3 Confirmation of Agenda

Agenda confirmed as stated.

4 Greetings and Introductions

Guy Roberts, Managing Director, APPL and Rod McLeod Chief Financial Officer, Welvic convey a warm welcome to the members at the meeting. It is noted that the owners of APPL are the same as Welvic, namely, Orica and PolyOne. Guy expressed his commitment and that of senior management to the involvement of the community in issues relating to the APPL site. Moreover, Guy encourages community feedback and is positive towards the manner in which the community and other parties have been engaged by management.

Valerie Gemmell thanks Guy Roberts and Rod McLeod for their time and acknowledges and appreciates the transparency of APPL in dealings with the community.

5 Groundwater Treatment Update

5.1 GWTS Water Spill

Approximately 300-325 kL of potable water was lost due to a part failure, specifically, the filter housing for the emergency eyewash. Aside from a water utilisation point of view, the environmental impact of the incident is negligible given the water quality. Possible explanations for the part failure include:

- Vandalism/tampering
- Excessive water pressure beyond the filter housing's rated capacity (600 kPa)

Subsequently, security arrangements for the site will be reviewed and amended if necessary. A more durable stainless steel filter housing will replace the broken fixture.

Q. How many water filters are there on-site and what will be done to prevent a similar occurrence?

A. There is one additional filter housing for the safety shower near the GWTS. Water filter housings currently in service in other areas will be replaced with more robust equivalents. Filters that are no longer required will be isolated.

Q. Should the remediation program continue?

A. Based so far on the success of removing contaminants from groundwater, the remediation program will continue.

5.2 Treatment Progress

David Wenig presented the progress on treatment. An overhead showing contaminant treatment extracted by the GWTS was presented (see the hardcopy graph entitled "Cumulative VCH (as EDC) Extracted" or the electronic file labelled "EDCextractionSept2002.pdf"). It was explained that total volatile hydrocarbons were represented as 1,2-dichloroethane (EDC) as this comprised the major component of the contaminant stream being drawn from the ground, through the GWTS. Contaminant treatment had been largely successful through EDC extraction and aerobic degradation. It was explained that carbon dioxide (CO₂) was a major component extracted from the ground. Carbon dioxide is a bio-degradation indicator of contaminant treatment.

Q. Was there 16 tonnes of EDC extracted in May?

A. No. Approximately 12 tonnes was extracted up to May.

In the next overhead, David Wenig showed the cumulative volatile chlorinated hydrocarbons as EDC in waste streams (expelled following treatment by the GWTS) (See hardcopy graph entitled "Cumulative VCH (as EDC) in Waste Streams" or the electronic file labelled "EDCinwastestreamSept2002.pdf"). Sampling of the GWTS stack for EDC/VCH occurred on the 12th September 2002.

David Wenig presented an overhead showing cumulative resources consumed and the wastes produced (See hardcopy graph entitled "Cumulative Resources Used & Waste Produced" or the electronic file labelled "Resources&WastesSept2002.pdf"). To summarise the graph it was shown that the greatest waste produced was greenhouse gases through the consumption of electricity and gas to power the GWTS and the break-down of EDC.

Q. *Why is the GWTS emitting more carbon dioxide than water?*

A. *The consumption of natural gas contributes a significant proportion of carbon dioxide to the waste stream.*

It was noted at the meeting that the graph entitled "Environmental Impacts Measure" appeared to be incorrect. The cause of this error has now been established, and the issue along with revised graphs will be discussed at the next meeting.

5.3 Operations Summary

David Wenig presented an overhead showing the operation timeline of the GWTS (See hardcopy graph entitled "GWTS Operational Timeline May 2002 – October 2002" or the electronic file labelled "timelineOct02.pdf"). The timeline shows operational issues, when problems were identified and rectified.

5.4 Air Monitoring

It was requested at the previous Soil and Groundwater meeting (27th May, 2002) that an explanation of the air modelling/stack emission limits would be given. David Wenig presented two overheads showing air concentration contours of Vinyl Chloride Monomer (VCM) and 1,2 Dichloroethane (EDC), (refer to the hardcopy entitled "Australian Vinyls – Groundwater Treatment System Vinyl Chloride Monomer GLCs" and "Australian Vinyls – Groundwater Treatment System 1,2-Dichloroethane GLCs"). The respective electronic files for these overheads are "GWTS_VCM_buildingmod_srcgp1_36A.pdf" and "GWTS_EDC_buildingmod_36.pdf". A summarised air-monitoring table was also presented indicating the EPA approved limits and the stack contaminant concentrations. The modelling of air contaminants as well as modelling assumptions for the EPA Research, Development and Demonstration (RD&D) approval was discussed. Air monitoring found that the contaminant concentrations often breached RD&D limits (refer to the hardcopy entitled "Summarised results of GWTS air sampling undertaken at the Catox inlet and emission stack for the period 23 February 2001 to June 2002" or "R01a78P132A_air monitoring table.pdf"). When the current Waste Discharge License was issued, higher limits were granted. It was noted that even these higher limits were still much lower than Air SEPP thresholds.

6 Groundwater Monitoring

David Wenig presented an overhead showing historical (May-June 1997) groundwater flow (see the hardcopy map entitled "Interpolated Groundwater Contour Category 2 Wells, Top of Upper Aquifer, Quarterly Groundwater Monitoring, May-June 1997" or the electronic file labelled "Cat2_SWL_ MayJune1997.pdf") and recent groundwater level assessment (June 2002) (see the hardcopy map entitled "Interpolated Groundwater Levels Category 2 Wells, Top of Upper Aquifer, Quarterly Groundwater Monitoring, June 2002" or the electronic file labelled "Cat2_SWL_June2002.pdf"). These maps did not indicate any significant change in the groundwater flow regime and therefore that the GWTS was determined not to have influenced groundwater movement beneath the Altona site. The information contained on the contour map for quarterly monitoring is smaller than annual monitoring because the sampling program is limited to a smaller number of wells.

David Wenig presented contour maps displaying past and present contaminant concentrations for EDC (refer to the hardcopy maps entitled "Interpolated EDC Concentration Category 2 wells, Top of Upper Aquifer, Annual Groundwater Monitoring May-June 1997", and Interpolated EDC Concentration Category 2 wells, Top of Upper Aquifer, Quarterly Groundwater Monitoring June 2002" (or their respective electronic files labelled "Cat2_EDC_MayJune1997.pdf" and "Cat2_EDC_June2002.pdf")) and VCM (refer to the hardcopy maps entitled "Interpolated VCM Concentration Category 2 wells, Top of Upper Aquifer, Annual Groundwater Monitoring May-June 1997" and "Interpolated VCM Concentration Category 2 wells, Top of Upper Aquifer, Quarterly Groundwater Monitoring June 2002" (or their respective electronic files labelled "Cat2_VCM_MayJune1997.pdf" and "Cat2_VCM_June2002.pdf"))).

Q. What is the EDC graph/map saying?

A. Noting that only targeted (smaller number) wells are sampled during the quarterly monitoring round (compared to annual monitoring events), the contaminant concentrations haven't really changed much under the site.

7 Groundwater Management Plan Updates

7.1 Environment Improvement Plan

Gerry Hein has reviewed the Electronic Operations Manual. Noel Ryan extends his gratitude to Gerry and will be forwarding a letter of thanks to him. The Electronic Operations Manual is accessible at <http://www.altonagroundwater.info>.

Q. Are recent monitoring results posted in the library?

A. No. The minutes from the community meetings have been passed onto the Altona Complex Neighbourhood Consultative Group which in turn are forwarded to the library.

It was put forward that minutes of the community meetings be made available at the libraries. APPL acknowledges this request and will discuss with Council how to implement.

Comments in relation to the EIP have been welcomed and requested by Noel Ryan.

8 General Discussion and Questions

8.1 Site Title Plan

The future of the APPL site was articulated by Noel Ryan with respect to sale, salvage, demolition and final divestment of the property. With the exception of the control room, PB site office, administration buildings and the workshop, all remaining plant is to be demolished. Demolition will commence mid-November and finish around mid-2003.

Two titles constitute the APPL Altona property (refer to hardcopy plan entitled "Title Boundaries" or the electronic file entitled "siteplan_titleboundaries.pdf"). It is anticipated that the north title will be sold following the completion of demolition. Guy Roberts noted that the shareholders were keen to not see the land remain idle and indicated that the land would be better utilised by others in the community.

The Group agreed with the proposal that APPL seek to amend the waste discharge licence with the EPA based on the southern title alone.

Q. Where will the demolition materials go?

A. The site will be demolished and salvageable materials will be recovered for resale, recycling or scrap. Asbestos will be removed from the front title only with the North Store asbestos cladding to be left as is. The asbestos contained in the North Store is in good condition and presents very low risk to employees and the community in its current state

Q. What are the requirements for asbestos on the north title? How will the issue be addressed?

A. There is no requirement for APPL to remove the asbestos provided it is in good condition.

Q. What route will be taken by the trucks?

A. Asbestos will be transported, most likely to Brooklyn, in accordance with regulatory requirements. Remaining plant materials will be auctioned, recycled or sold to scrap.

Q. Will the property be re-zoned? What will be the affect of property values on neighbours?

A. Given the industrial nature of the neighbouring properties, it is unlikely that the land will be re-zoned. Any future re-zoning will entail comprehensive environmental investigations of soil and water. The sale of the northern portion of the APPL site should not affect residential property prices.

9 Next meeting

The next regular meeting was scheduled to be in three months following this – February 3rd 2002.

Meeting closed at 7.15 pm.