



ALAB ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES LTD

MINUTES OF THE INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE
SEATON MEADOWS LIAISON COMMITTEE

6TH SEPTEMBER 2006

THE STAINCLIFFE HOTEL, SEATON CAREW

Present:

Jim Allen (Resident)
Steve Cooper (Countryside Warden)
Ian Fenny (Alab Environmental Services Ltd - Chair)
Geoff Lilley (Cllr)
Roger Robinson (Alab Environmental Services Ltd)
Peter Tweddle (FoE)
David Young (Cllr)

Apologies for absence were received from the Environment Agency.

Agenda

1. Agree Principles of Committee
2. Agree Venue for Future Meetings
3. Establish Basis for Committee
4. Seaton Meadows
 - a. Landfill Operations
 - b. Complaints
 - c. Environmental Monitoring
 - d. Gas to Energy Operations
 - e. Tyre Recycling Operations
 - f. Hazardous Treatment Plant & Drum Recovery
 - g. Proposed Works for the next 6 months
 - h. Aggregate Recycling
5. Current Applications and Submissions
6. Future Applications and Submissions
7. Landfill Tax Credit Applications
8. Any other Business
9. Date of Next Meeting

Minutes

1. Ian Fenny opened the meeting, welcomed those present, laid out the **principles of the committee** and distributed the Terms of Reference. He explained that in previous employment in the industry, he had always instigated such committees as a way of providing communication and a primary point of contact between sites, local residents and other interested parties. It was stressed that discussions would be restricted to Alab's activities at Seaton Meadows, and could not include other companies sites such as TERRC.
2. It was agreed that the **venue** was satisfactory for future meetings.
3. The **basis of the committee** was discussed, notably the need for a balance between restricting size (so that discussions did not become fragmentary) and avoiding "exclusivity". It was agreed that a maximum size of around 12-14 members was preferable.
4. The Alab representatives presented a brief explanation of the **current operations** at Seaton Meadows. It was proposed to organise a site visit for committee members: Ian Fenny will arrange a date and provision of PPE for this.
 - a. The types of waste accepted and general **operating** procedures were detailed. The issue of asbestos wastes was covered at length, since this material is a historic concern in the town. The operating life of the site was queried: this is permitted until 2030, but in practice is likely to be much less, with possibly another 8-10 years capacity remaining. This would be equivalent to a maximum of approximately 5.5 million tonnes of waste deposited.

It was confirmed that there were no plans to commence 24-hour operations on the site.

When operations cease, the responsibility of the site remains with the operator for a further 60 years, covered by financial provision agreed at the outset.

Post-closure, the site is designated to become a nature reserve. This will probably be managed by Tees Valley Wildlife Trust.
 - b. It was reported that the number of **complaints** were generally small. Most common issues were mud on Brenda Road (controlled by regular road sweeping, the frequency of which is increased if the weather is wet), and odours. These latter are often believed to arise from neighbouring sites.

Wind-blown litter has been a problem in the past: this is now monitored more closely by using a weather station on site. If the problem is identified in future, Alab operators can be detailed to collect it.
 - c. The **environmental monitoring** requirements of the controlling permit were explained. These can be found in the permit, which is posted on the Alab web site (see below). The Environment Agency's method of "scoring" breaches of the permit conditions was detailed.
 - d. The environmental monitoring and controls include landfill gas management, which is why the flare was installed. This will eventually be replaced by a **gas-to-energy** plant when gas production reaches an adequate level. This will continue to operate post-closure as part of the after-care of the site, until gas production declines after some 15 years or so. In response to questions, Ian Fenny explained that landfilling organic material such as municipal waste was not a cost-effective method of generating energy from the methane gas produced, due to operational costs such as treating the leachate produced. However, given that the gas needed to be dealt with, recovering energy by electricity generation was preferable to wasteful flaring.
 - e. The commencement of **tyre recycling** on site was discussed. Ian Fenny commented that the fire risk was very small, given the relatively large size of the recycled material. The potential uses of shredded tyres were detailed. It was explained that the operation will cease before the site closes, as the area used will form part of the final landfill cells.
 - f. The proposed **Treatment Plant** operations were discussed, including the planning permission appeal that is pending. Drum recovery is already performed: empty steel drums are crushed for recovery, and plastic ones are shredded so that the plastic can be recycled.

- g. In the **next six months**, work will commence on preparing the next discrete landfill cells (Phase 7) ready for future use.
 - h. **Aggregate recycling** has been introduced as a way of recycling clean soils and hardcore from mixed wastes received. It is often not cost effective or feasible for small producer sites to do this, but when a larger volume is amassed at the disposal site, the process can become cost-effective and reduces landfill volumes.
5. There are no **current applications or submissions** to report, apart from the ongoing Treatment Plant referred to above.
 6. In the **immediate future**, resolution of the Treatment Plant situation is the main concern.
 7. Ian Fenny drew attention to the availability of funds from the **Landfill Tax Credit Scheme**. These are available only for environmental projects in the local area, but Ian offered to pass details to those interested¹.
 8. **Other business** was then discussed. It is intended to post these minutes on the Alab web site, with an invitation for comments. The existence of the committee can be communicated to the press or other interested parties.
As part of their service to customers, Alab make presentations on waste disposal regulations and similar subjects: these presentations can be adapted for local groups if any are interested.
 9. The **date of the next meeting** was agreed as 28th November 2006, at 3:00pm at the same venue.



Roger Robinson

¹ See the web site at <http://www.ltcs.org.uk>