



# King County

Department of  
Natural Resources and Parks  
**Solid Waste Division**

## Cedar Hills Regional Landfill Community Meeting Notes

**October 24, 2012**

**King County Library Service Center, Issaquah**

### **In Attendance**

#### ***King County Solid Waste Division staff***

- Laura Belt, Landfill Engineer
- Kathy Hashagen, Facilitator
- Kevin Kiernan, Solid Waste Division Assistant Director
- Kathryn Killinger, Strategic Policy & Planning Advisor
- Dean Voelker, Operations Manager
- Polly Young, Communications Planner

#### ***Bio Energy Washington (BEW) staff***

- Ron Earnest, BEW Plant Manager

#### ***Interested Parties***

- Kim Brighton
- Rick Brighton
- Karen Dawson
- Gladys Gilbert
- Richard Gilbert
- Mark Heinzen
- Edie Jorgensen
- Tim McCarthy
- Mike Welling
- Sharon Woodruff

### **Environmental Monitoring & Construction Activities**

(Kevin Kiernan)

#### ***Landfill Gas***

In October 2011, Solid Waste Division (division) staff informed landfill neighbors about detections of landfill gas at the west perimeter of the landfill at Gas Probe 33 and 30 that exceeded regulatory limits of five percent methane by volume. The division reported these exceedances to the regulatory agencies. Since then, we increased the frequency of monitoring of the gas probes in that area from monthly to daily. Division staff also installed seven gas extraction wells along the west side of the landfill. Monitoring has confirmed the effectiveness of the extraction wells and there have been no additional detections.

#### ***Noise Study***

In November 2010, a noise study was performed in response to community concerns. The results are posted online at <http://your.kingcounty.gov/solidwaste/facilities/documents/CHRLF-noise-level-survey-2011-03.pdf>.

The division committed to undertake a second noise study when Bio Energy Washington operations restarted. That second study began on Sept. 25, 2012 and lasted about a week. The division is now evaluating that data and when there is something to report, the information will be posted on the website.

### ***Groundwater Monitoring***

Cedar Hills has an extensive groundwater monitoring system. The monitoring data continues to be good and shows we're in compliance.

### ***Construction of Area 8***

It's been a quiet year for construction at the landfill. The division is still in the engineering design phase for the construction of Area 8. Neighbors should see minor construction work in 2013 and more major construction work in 2014.

### ***Leachate Force Main***

The leachate force main transmits leachate from ponds at the landfill down the hill into pipes along Cedar Grove Road. In 2013, preventative maintenance work is planned on the 20-year old pipes that run along Cedar Grove Road. This work will result in some traffic impacts. The division will notify area residents about that project.

### ***Department of Ecology Compost Rule Making***

The Department of Ecology (DOE) is proposing amendments to solid waste handling standards related to composting. DOE is looking at upgrading composting controls. A hearing on this issue is being held at DOE's office in Bellevue today. More information can be found on DOE's website: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/swfa/rules/rule350.html>

## **Operational Activities**

(Dean Voelker)

### ***Buffer Maintenance***

It's been a "push, pack and cover" operation at the landfill this year. In the summer, division staff cleared up vegetation along the roadways within the landfill property and also cleared vegetation in the buffer area. In the winter, we go into the buffer area to clear any trees or limbs that have fallen after a storm.

### ***Construction on Areas 6 and 7***

This past summer, construction work was completed on the interim closure of Area 6. Next summer, construction work will begin on the interim closure of Area 7.

### ***Backup Alarms***

The division has nearly completed replacing the backup alarms on the entire fleet of equipment used at the landfill. The new alarms were approved by regulators and have a quacking sound rather than a beeping sound. The intention of switching out the alarms is to have backup alarms that are less intrusive to neighbors.

### ***Weekend Operations***

Weekend staffing and operations at the landfill have been reduced. We used to do construction and maintenance work on the weekends, but now it is done on weekdays.

### ***Feedback on October 20 Landfill Tour***

More than twenty people participated in the tour and the feedback was positive.

The division offers one landfill tour a year to the local community, but we can provide tours anytime there is an interest; we encourage people to visit the landfill.

### ***In response to questions from participants, the division provided the following information:***

- The recent noise study was done for five continuous days after BEW restarted their operations.
- On a map displayed at the meeting, the seven red dots indicate where the seven landfill gas extraction wells were installed along the west side of the landfill to address the landfill gas exceedances. The landfill gas extraction system is working well.
- The division is not going to do preventative maintenance on the weekends anymore. The division used to have landfill staff scheduled seven days on and seven days off. The volume of garbage dropped on weekends so staff schedules were changed to match the garbage volumes.
- The division has a total of 70 trucks.
- On average, 120 to 140 trucks per day go to the landfill.
- The Solid Waste Division is not responsible for making road improvements, particularly to address traffic backups at Cedar Grove Road and SR 169. The King County Roads Division does traffic studies and assesses capacity improvements. We are not aware of planned road projects at that intersection.
- Sound suppression blankets have been added to the North Flare Station blowers to minimize noise from that facility. Noise comes from gas moving through the blowers. Sound blankets will be installed on the plenums next; plenums are long fiberglass pipes. The division is looking at different alternatives for the sound blankets for the plenums and is close to deciding which system to use. The results of the noise study will give us information about sources of noise.
- The landfill gas collection system operates continuously to draw gas from the landfill. Gas collected by the system that is not sent to BEW is disposed of through flares.
- The division is working to fix the humming noise coming from the North Flare Station.
- An acoustic blanket is one method of damping down sound.
- A shed or building cannot be put around the flares; they need ventilation in order to operate safely.

### **Bio Energy Washington (BEW) Update**

(Ron Earnest)

Ron Earnest, BEW Plant Manager said a lot has happened since our last meeting in April 2012. He has overseen the plant operation for six months. Updates include:

- BEW staff is working on completing several improvements and mechanical changes to their operation.
- Currently, BEW is awaiting nitrogen stripping supplies; this will help address the main problems the plant was having.

- On July 27, BEW received permission from Puget Sound Energy and Williams Pipeline to export gas, which enabled the plant to run at about half speed.
- In the second week of August, BEW received the final equipment to allow full operation. By the end of August, the plant was running at full production.
- In the last six weeks, the plant has been running at full production and they have been able to take all of the gas from the North Flare Station.
- BEW is meeting their design goals and are now fine-tuning their operation with the end goal of running the plant smoothly 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- Noise mitigation measures have been taken which included installing new sound blankets and reinstalling all blankets removed while they were not operating.
- BEW is pleased to be at this point now.

***In response to questions from participants, BEW provided the following information:***

- It's possible that neighbors who started hearing noise in July were hearing the plant.
- The BEW is primarily a gas producing facility. BEW imports electricity from Puget Sound Energy; it takes more electricity to run the plant than the 2.8 megawatts produced by the plant. The plant is not designed to produce enough electricity to run the plant.
- Currently, the plant is operating at 95 percent capacity.
- BEW expects that the plant will not produce any more noise than it currently produces.

A neighbor commented that she was really happy that BEW did something to address the noise issues.

Ron indicated that he has a plant process flow diagram if anyone would like a copy. Contact Ron at [rearnest@bioenergy-wa.com](mailto:rearnest@bioenergy-wa.com) for a copy.

Meeting adjourned.