



Build something great™

Minutes of meeting between CLC members, Pine Gro and EPA

Monday 26th August 2013 at 11:00am

Present: Marion Martin (Resident), Clare Brennan (Resident), Myles Whelan (EPA), Troy Kraska (EPA), John Van Meel (Pine Gro), Jamie Bigham (Pine Gro), Darren Gregory (Boral Landfill), Greg Crawford (Boral CMC)

Apologies: Eyal Cohen (Resident)

Greg explained that this group was part of the Deer Park Community Liaison Committee (CLC) given the task of meeting with Pine Gro and the EPA to discuss the ongoing odour complaints. The purpose was to have an open discussion between the 2 operations that have the potential to emit odour, residents, and the EPA as the Regulator, to gain a better understanding of what the 2 operations are doing to reduce odour emissions, and how the EPA responds to complaints.

1. EPA

Myles emphasised the importance of reporting odour incidents to the EPA. Troy also emphasised that reporting is necessary for the EPA to take action

Below is an extract from an email from Myles outlining the EPA procedure followed when responding to a complaint:-

The following outlines the procedure for determining a call out (response by an officer) by EPA for odour in the surrounding areas of the Boral landfill & Pinegro compost operations.

The purpose is to confirm complaints to determine whether the source is the Boral Landfill or Pinegro (which share the same site). It will also confirm whether there are any other potential sources in the area.

EPA will call out officers for 2 credible complaints within 2 hours, where it is likely that we will be able to confirm odours and where the odours are coming from (either Boral or Pinegro and what area of site).

EPA will contact one of the reporters to confirm or obtain the following details:

- a. Is the odour still there, is it constant*
- b. Will you be home to meet an investigator and for how long*

When called out the EPA officer will:

- 1. Confirm odour report with at least one of the reporters*
- 2. Trace the odour to the premises*
- 3. Eliminate upwind sources*
- 4. Visit the premises to determine where on the premises odour is coming from.*

*A reminder of our Pollution Report Line number: **1300 EPA VIC***



The issue of response time was discussed. There was a suggestion that passing on phone numbers of residents to the EPA may assist in the timely investigation of sources of odour.

2. General Discussion

Whilst discussing EPA response times, Marion & Clare indicated that odours tended to last from 30mins to 2 hours on average. Therefore a 2 hour response time may not be adequate.

Marion & Clare also pointed out that odour complaints in the Leader newspapers is common. They also identified a group "Cambridge Coburn and Watts Residents Association" who also raise odour issues in the media.

Marion & Clare suggested that we should know more about other industries in the area that could be sources of odour. They mentioned a disinfectant smell that they have experienced in recent times.

John Van Meel informed the meeting of the odour controls at Pine Gro. Keeping the composting "aerobic" is the aim, with minimal "turning". This has been improved over the last few years. They are currently developing an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) to further identify and control odour emissions. One option they are trialling is a biofilter layer over the windrows.

Darren spoke briefly about the sources of odour, and controls for the landfill operation. Odour is generally from the tipping face, as landfill gas is extracted and either burned in the engines, or flared. The landfill has commenced trials with a "grape" odour masking agent. Quick cover materials are also being investigated.

Myles mentioned that EPA inspections are being planned for both the Landfill and Pine Gro.

It was suggested and agreed that the next CLC meeting tour in November should be of Pine Gro rather than the Concrete Batch Plant.

3. Conclusions

- Report odours to the EPA, but continue to contact the Landfill as they can generally respond more quickly.
- The EPA will respond to odour complaints as per the procedure above.
- Residents can pass on their phone numbers to the EPA to assist with investigations.
- Community concern over odour issues is increasing.
- Both Boral and Pine Gro are improving their operations to reduce the potential for unacceptable odour emissions.
- Tour of Pine Gro in November