

King's Cliffe Local Liaison Group Meeting

4th December 2013

Present

Phil Watson (PW)
Eleanor Nicholson (EN)
Gene Wilson (GW)
Simon Moyle (SM)
Daphne Sharpe (DS)
Kevin Burton (KB)
Heather Smith (HS)
Palden Dorje (PD)
Fiona Cowan (FC)
Chris Leuchars (CL)
Roy Mantas

Representing

Northamptonshire County Council (NCC)
Jennings Nicholson Associates (for Augean)
Augean
Augean
Easton on the Hill Parish Council
EA
Councillor (NCC – Prebendal)
East Northamptonshire Council
Collyweston Parish Council
Kings Cliffe Parish Council
Environment Agency

1. Apologies

None.

2. Minutes from Previous Meeting

2.1 Agreed.

3. Matters Arising

3.1 No outstanding actions.

4. Operators Update

- 4.1 **SM-** Phase 5b constructed and CQA Verification report is with the Environment Agency. No waste can be taken in until this is approved
- 4.2 The new mixing system in the soil stabilisation plant has been installed (the old system has not been as reliable). The new system is going through commissioning. JR Boone did the engineering and Silo Services (a local company) did the installation works, are commissioning and will undertake the maintenance as well.
- 4.3 Leachate wells have been checked. 5 blocked wells were cleared and all of the sumps are being pumped down.
- 4.4 LLW is being imported to the site. A joint environmental monitoring exercise was undertaken with the Environment Agency (EA) with regard to the radioactive waste.
- 4.5 A further joint monitoring exercise to be undertaken in Feb for LLW and possibly March for hazardous waste.

- 4.6 A sludge lagoon has been constructed next to the mixer. £450K was spent on the soil treatment pad this summer on engineering improvements. This was subject to quality assessment (CQA) and the Environment Agency has agreed this as acceptable.
- 4.7 **GW-** In response to a query about what was meant by sludge GW responded that the definition is very vague. He emphasised that no liquid can go into the landfill. The sludge material is mainly from dredging and it is allowed to settle. The dredgings are mixed with ash. The lime in the ash combines with the water in the dredgings to form a solid.
- 4.8 **Question-** How much LLW has been deposited up to now? GW explained the site had received approximately 3,000 tonnes = £15k for the community fund.
- 4.9 **GW-** advised the group that the business is being rationalised and Augean are concentrating on processing of waste. He emphasised that Augean's new Chief Executive Officer is committed to environmental safety.
- 4.10 The Development Consent Order (DCO) which was granted by the Secretary of State (for the site extension) has been implemented. The permit variation applications are in preparation.
- 4.11 The open day held on 14 September 2013 focussed on the soil treatment plant. It was attended by 10 people. There were representatives from various parish councils and many new ones came along. They were also able to see the new engineered cell. Open day for cell also held 8-10.
- 4.12 **Question –** It was asked if the permit variations were likely to be difficult. In answer it was explained that there were no new issues, and it was just a matter of bringing the permits into line with the DCO permission.
- 4.13 **Question –** Is the amount of LLW input to the site low? Answer – The volumes of LLW input to the site are lower than anticipated. The contractual procedures are complex and slow and are developing.

5. Community Fund

- 5.1 **HS-** Confirmed that the format and form for dealing with the monies has been agreed. It is to be processed through the Empowering Councillors and Communities Scheme. HS confirmed that in the absence of any meetings of the King's Cliffe Environmental association she has approved 2 applications for King's Cliffe projects. These amounted to £3k for the Underground Youth Club and £3k for King's Cliffe Active.
- 5.2 The total amount in the community fund for 2012-13 was £6844. A small amount of money is left and there is some left in her other NCC monies (Empowering Councillor fund).
- 5.3 There was discussion about the King's Cliffe Environmental Association and the arrangements for it to meet. Contacting the parish council representatives was suggested as a way of ensuring a meeting was arranged.

6. Environment Agency Update

Radioactive Waste

- 6.1 **RM-** Explained the latest position regarding the groundwater monitoring being undertaken by the EA which has confirmed that there are no issues relating to increased radioactivity.
- 6.2 **Question-** Does Radon impact on groundwater management? RM explained that the analysis doesn't actually monitor for radon, but they do measure radium. Radon is a gas and it doesn't exist in groundwater as it escapes as a gas when it is brought to the surface. Radium is naturally occurring. It is long lived with a 1600 years half life.
- 6.3 **RM-** Radon gas can be an issue for houses but not for groundwater.
- 6.4 **Question-** Is there a process of accreditation for groundwater monitoring? RM- Yes this is done. Regarding future monitoring RM confirmed that there is £30k budgeted for the next monitoring exercise at the moment but he can't be sure if this will continue to be available. The EA is being rationalised and savings are required. However, at the moment it is still going ahead.
- 6.5 **RM-** Explained that another potential funding stream is the Defra Radioactive Waste in the Food Environment (RIFE) programme used around nuclear power stations and RM already started process to go to this. It's not quite as extensive as current monitoring but still a fall back option.
- 6.7 The working relationship with Augean working well. Any issues/questions relating to consignments are properly discussed.
- 6.8 The permit variation process to bring in the DCO is starting. This is a major variation which will involve public consultation around the 2nd quarter of next year (2014). A full monitoring exercise was not undertaken by RM not done this year (2013) due to other priorities but he hopes to complete this in the New Year.

Hazardous Waste

- 6.9 **KB-** Independent groundwater monitoring work has been compared with Augean's work. This shows good quality groundwater. Sampled 15 points and 20 chemical species were tested.
- 6.10 Chemical species include magnesium, sodium, potassium, and calcium There was a very good correlation for 7 species easily met the drinking water standards. For 5 chemical species the correlations were ok. 8 correlations were poor due to trace levels. However, these are at the end of the measurement spectrum and the ability of equipment and testing method is more uncertain. He commented that they can do more work to see if a better correlation can be achieved in future. The main conclusion is that the water is good, and clean to drink.
- 6.11 The Environment Agency is intending to repeat the exercise next March (2014).

Leachate Levels

- 6.12 **KB-** Levels had risen due to rainfall and Augean have been working this year to reduce these levels and they are completely compliant now. Pumps and management systems are now in place to keep compliant, including progressive capping of landfill areas with clay.
- 6.13 Leachate depths are set in the permit as a maximum of 1 metre, and 2 metres at the sump.

Soil Treatment Plant

- 6.14 **KB-** Improvements to the process have been agreed and Augean also looking to achieve this. Hence, the new mixing plant is part of this.
- 6.15 Geological work is being undertaken. Clay cores have been taken from the western extension to test the clay. This is all part of the extensive information required for the permit application for the western extension. Core samples are examined by the EA geo-technical expert.
- 6.16 **CL** – Commented that he was surprised that the Secretary of State made the decision on the DCO without this being determined.
- 6.17 **GW** - Planning permission about the use of the land and whether in principle the site is acceptable. Detailed proof is needed in permit process.
- 6.18 **KB** – Confirmed that the EA is looking to protect public.

7. Any Other Business

- 7.1 **CL** – Asked whether NuLeAf had made any progress with the Government regarding community benefits and have they written to the Government.
- 7.2 **PW-** commented that it is part of NuLeAF's programmed work and he would find out the latest and circulate. **(An update on community benefits is on the agenda for the NuLeAF officer meeting on the 5 March 2014).**
- 7.3 **CL** – It is possible that some money can be obtained to ensure ongoing monitoring.

8. Date of Next Meeting

14.00hrs Wednesday 11th June 2014 at King's Cliffe Memorial Hall.