

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Environmental Authority
Held on Wednesday, 5th February 2020
At the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Botanical Gardens, Paget**

PRESENT: Mr. Eugene Saunders, Acting Chair
Mrs. Susan Armstrong, Member
Mr. James Morrison, Member
Mr. Jonathan Starling, Member

ADVISORS: Dr. Geoff Smith, Environmental Engineer, DENR
Dr. Shaun Lavis, Hydrogeologist, DENR
Mr. Kirk Outerbridge, Chief Engineer, Public Works
Mr. Tarik Christopher, Principal Engineer (Water & Sewage), Public Works
Mr. Armell Thomas, Senior Environmental Health Officer
Ms. Patricia Hollis, Environmental Officer, DENR, Recording Secretary

ABSENT: Mrs. Winnifred Fostine-DeSilva, Chair
Mr. Andrew Barnes, Member
Mr. Tom Crossan, Chief Environmental Health Officer

1. Welcome to New Member

The Chairman welcomed a new member, Mr. James Morrison, to the Authority. It was noted that Mr. Morrison had served on the Authority from 2003 to 2012

2. Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the meetings held on 27 November 2019 and 21 January 2020 were approved and signed by the Chair. The Authority noted that the previous meeting had been held electronically and for the avoidance of doubt ratified all decisions made.

3. Elbow Beach Waste Water Treatment Plant

There was no update to report.

The Authority requested a letter be sent to Elbow Beach to stress the importance of the installation of a backup borehole for sewage effluent disposal and to ask for the submission of a contingency plan should the present borehole become blocked.

4. Tynes Bay Waste to Energy Facility disposal of unconsolidated ash at the Airport Waste Facility

There was no update to report.

5. Corporation of Hamilton Operating Licence for Front Street Pump Station

The Members were reminded that the Corporation of Hamilton cannot comply with some conditions in their Operating Licence because the Minister of Home Affairs has not approved expenditure of money for upgrades including the installation of a mechanical primary treatment system using Salsnes screens to improve effluent quality. Questions have been raised over the procurement process when a stated Fats Oils and Grease (FOG) removal efficiency cannot be guaranteed by the developer/Original Equipment Manufacturer. Laboratory trials indicated approximately 58% removal efficiency of FOG.

It was noted that there is to be a meeting in the coming week between the Permanent Secretary of Home Affairs and the Minister of Health to apprise her of the risk to health should the upgrade not be permitted.

6. Bermuda Electric Light Co. Operating Licence

The proposed changes to BELCO's operating licence were reviewed, including insertion of a condition to require BELCO to report major spills sooner than the present limit of 4 hours and the need for immediate notification of spills that had the potential to enter waterways and which may require external resources.

The Authority **REQUESTED**:

that proposed wording for BELCO to notify DENR within a short time period (e.g. within 60 minutes of the discovery of the spill), be circulated to them via email for their consideration and approval and that consideration be given to storage, handling and disposal conditions for their proposed lithium polymer batteries.

7. Proposed Amendment to Policy on Dry Cleaning Facilities

The Authority **TOOK NOTE**:

that some new dry cleaning facilities are using a cleaning fluid that does not require an exhaust vent to the outside and therefore may not need an operating licence. The matter will be brought back to the Authority after further research and consultation with industry.

8. Applications for Construction Permits and Operating Licences (New)

8.1 The Authority **DEFERRED** the following applications pending submission of additional details:

- a CP-613, OL-989 Clarien Bank, 40kW Kohler, Diesel genset, Point Finger Road
- b CP-363, 368, OL-1028 & 1029 AECON, 2x 1500 kW Diesel gensets, Airport
- c CP-610, OL-986 C. Lopes, 40 kW genset, Lot 1, Mission Crescent, Paget
- d CP-665, OL-1062 US Consulate, 33 Wilkinson Ave, Hamilton Par. 55kW Diesel genset.

8.2 OL-1068 Tony and Ricky Cabral

The Authority **APPROVED**:

the application for a mobile sand sifter for use on approved building sites, subject to standard conditions.

8.3 CP-668, OL-1066 Phoenix Stores, Warwick

The Authority **APPROVED**:

the application for a construction permit and operating licence for a 20 kW diesel generator at Phoenix Stores, 49 Middle Road, Warwick, subject to standard conditions.

8.4 CP-666, OL-1063 Rupert Trust

The Authority **APPROVED**:

the application for a construction permit and operating licence for a 20 kW diesel generator at 9 Point Shares Road, Pembroke, subject to standard conditions and providing a sound absorbing blanket is installed on the gate in front of the genset during its operation.

8.5 OL-1067 Bermuda Police Service, Headquarters Hill, Devonshire

The Authority **APPROVED**:

the application for an operating licence for a 50 kW diesel generator as a replacement for existing 25 kW and 30 kW generators, subject to standard conditions.

8.6 CP-583, OL-943 Ringsted, 20 Shore Lane, St. George's

The Authority were reminded of the history of this application and the complicated siting challenges.

The Authority **APPROVED**:

the application for a construction permit and operating licence for a 150 kW diesel generator at 20 Shore Lane, St. George's, subject to standard conditions and providing sound absorbing panels and exhaust sound reduction equipment are in place when the genset is in use (except for short periods of routine maintenance and testing).

8.7 CP-669, OL-1069 John and Jutta Harvey

The Authority **APPROVED**:

the application for a 20 kW propane generator at 50 Tucker's Town Road, St. George's, subject to standard conditions, following submission of modelling showing that the noise guidelines will be met.

9. Applications for Operating Licences (Reissue)

9.1 The Authority **APPROVED**:

the reissue of operating licences on the one-page printout, subject to standard conditions, with the exception of OL-629 Collingwood Holdings Ltd. propane storage and filling facility, which was deferred pending submission of the letter from the Chief Fire Officer, Bermuda Fire & Rescue Service.

10. Application for Water Rights (New)

10.1 WR 5648 Vanell Ingham, Sunny Cote Laundromat

The Authority **APPROVED** the application for a commercial water right for the disposal of aerated laundry effluent at 1 South Avenue, Southampton, subject to standard conditions and providing the borehole is sealed 60 feet below sea level.

10.2 WR 5652 Johnny Lima Construction Ltd.

The Authority **APPROVED** the application for a domestic water right for the disposal of treated sewage effluent at 7 Fairylands Road, Pembroke, subject to standard conditions and providing the borehole is sealed 40 feet below sea level.

11. Applications for Water Rights (Reissue)

The Authority **APPROVED:**

the issue of water rights as listed on the one-page printout with the exception of three indicated as withdrawn.

12. Request for Representative on BOPP

It was noted that the Bermuda Government has established the Bermuda Ocean Prosperity Programme (BOPP) to create a marine spatial plan of the seas around Bermuda. A representative from the Environmental Authority is being sought for the BOPP. Information on the BOPP will be circulated to the Members.

13. Boat Fires, Pier 41, Dockyard

The Authority **TOOK NOTE:**


that there was a recent fire at Pier 41, Dockyard, that destroyed two large (60 foot) live-aboard yachts. The cause of the fire has yet to be confirmed but is believed to have been an electrical malfunction. About 1,000 gallons of diesel leaked into the marina area which required significant efforts of DENR, Marine & Ports, Works & Engineering, WEDCo, and the Bermuda Regiment to contain and collect in addition to large amounts of charred debris. The total weight of bagged spent oil adsorbent pads/boom and charred remains that was sent to Tynes Bay Waste to Energy Facility was 6 Tonnes.

14. Date of the Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting was set for 8:30 am, Wednesday, 19 February 2020.



CHAIRMAN



DATE

