**Public Liaison Committee (PLC) Meeting Minutes**
**Date:** December 10, 2024
**Time:** 6:00 PM – 7:50 PM
**Location:** Hybrid (In-person and Online)
**Chair:** Joe Lyng
**Recorder:** Shannon

**Attendee’s In person**: Don Constable, Tim Henry, Darlene Henry, Michele Drenters, Peter Kearney, Helen Kearney, Steve Papagiannias, Vijay Kotamarti

**Attendee’s Online**: Isabela Hermann, Steven Kirby

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

* Joe Lyng opened the meeting and confirmed online participants could hear and be heard.
* Roundtable introductions were conducted. Attendees included members from Emerald Energy, Brampton Environmental Alliance, Sierra Peel, and local residents.

**2. Agenda Review**

* No changes or additions were made to the agenda.
* Previous minutes were unavailable due to technical issues

**3. Housekeeping**

* A concern was raised regarding the Charter's commitment to post meeting minutes and dates online.
* The PLC currently consists of only two active members (Don and Vijay).
* Plans are in place to formalize the committee in 2025 and re-engage participants.
* Action Item: Shannon to draft a process for Charter sign-ons (members/observers) and ensure relevant materials are posted to the website.

**4. Operational Update**

* 2023 saw slightly above-average waste receipts (~150,000 tonnes)
* 2024 waste receipts slightly below average; expected to normalize due to seasonality.
* International Airport waste recovering post-COVID and returning to pre-pandemic levels. International Airport waste volumes have rebounded to pre-COVID levels.
* Unacceptable waste (e.g., mattresses) continues to be a challenge, particularly from York Region.
* Bottom ash reuse is lower than expected due to equipment repairs.
* APC residue and related outputs are tracking normally.
* Electricity and steam production remain within expected parameters.

**5. Emissions and Environmental Incidents**

* Three reportable incidents occurred in 2024:
	+ April 3: Power surge caused 23 minutes of bypass stack operation.
	+ June 17: CO exceedance at stack due to burner malfunction.
	+ September 24: Bird strike tripped turbine and triggered bypass stack.
* All incidents were reported to MECP with no ongoing issues.
* Stack sampling conducted early (September) with positive results:
	+ Mercury, dioxins/furans, cadmium, and lead all below limits.
	+ NOx emissions: 92 ppm (limit 105 ppm)
	+ Particulate matter low due to recent baghouse replacements.

Question regarding the power surge and using the Turbine as a back up generator:

* The turbine is designed to isolate itself from the grid during surges, but this process is not always reliable.
* When isolation occurs, it can only hold briefly (1–2 minutes) before turbine steam destabilizes, causing the turbine and generator to trip.
* These events are considered uncontrollable external factors.
* The plant is working to improve its self-protection systems and automate the switch to “island mode” during such events.
* When the turbine disconnects from the grid, generated electricity has no outlet, causing instability and tripping the system.
* If the customer (e.g., Cascades) also trips offline, steam has nowhere to go, triggering further complications.
* Emerald is always looking for ways to improve their system.

Discussion on Emissions Stack testing

**Minute Summary – Emissions Sampling and Stack Results**

* Stack sampling is conducted annually, typically aligned with the baghouse filter replacement cycle.
* Bags are usually replaced every three years; it was coincidental that this year’s sampling followed a full bag replacement, leading to especially low particulate emissions.
* NOx levels were slightly elevated this year compared to previous years but remained within compliance (limit: 105 ppm; typical operation: ~90 ppm).
* NOx fluctuations are influenced by waste composition and combustion temperatures—more plastic waste can increase NOx.
* Multiple stacks in the expansion would maintain the same concentration per stack, but total loading (volume) would increase.
* Hydrochloric acid (HCl) emissions are managed by lime injection and remain within the 18 ppm limit.
* Sulfur dioxide (SO₂) emissions are also indirectly controlled by lime; not continuously monitored due to legacy design but measured during stack sampling.

**6. Redevelopment Project Summary**

* Full project summary of water, air, ecology, and other elements presented.
* Clarifications provided around:
	+ Emissions standards based on concentration (not mass loading).
	+ Increased stacks will not exceed concentration limits despite higher volume.
	+ Ontario standards largely align with global standards; Ontario's dioxin/furan standard is among the strictest.
* Soil sampling for metals has shown no upward trend over 20 years.
* **Suggestions made to consider increasing proposed 70m stack height to 80m for improved dispersion.**
* Action Item: Emerald to discuss stack height increase with consultants and potentially revise submission.

**7. Steam Line Replacement Project**

* Project involves rerouting aging steam line to reduce maintenance risks.
* Estimated cost: $5–7 million.
* Archaeological review required prior to construction.
* Replacement supports renewal of steam contract with Cascades (current ends 2028; proposed renewal for 21 years).

**8. Hydrogen Pilot Project**

* Project received IESO approval; exploring vendor change due to membrane issues.
* Considering local company (Next Hydrogen) for alkaline process.
* Hydrogen use options being explored:
	+ Fuel cell trials with Peel/York/Simcoe
	+ Hydrogen injection into UPAC trucks (5-vehicle pilot proposed)
* Storage will be minimal on-site due to space constraints.

**9. Backup Power and Emission Control**

* Hydrogen, diesel, batteries, or natural gas may be used for backup.
* Discussions around large-scale batteries and UPS systems ongoing.
* Only critical systems (ID fans) would be powered in blackout.
* Site also evaluating rooftop solar options for offset, not backup.

**10. Public Comments & Health Risk Assessments**

* Concerns raised about cumulative impacts, air quality, and traffic.
* Health risk assessment by Intrinsik confirmed compliance with MECP standards.
* Reports available online; link to be circulated.
* Attendees encouraged to review Executive Summary first.

**11. Environmental Screening Process**

* Public comment period ends January 7, 2025.
* Comments should be submitted to MECP and Emerald.
* Ministry will assess and determine approval or further conditions.

**12. Next Meeting**

* Tentatively scheduled for late February 2025.
* Will provide updates on comments and next steps.
* Hybrid format expected again; space for 10 in-person attendees.

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM.

**Action Items:**

1. Shannon to draft Charter sign-on process and update website.
2. Shannon to circulate current meeting minutes.
3. Emerald to evaluate feasibility of increasing stack height to 80m.
4. Shannon to provide link to reports and submission instructions for public comments.

**Minutes prepared by:** Shannon

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