

Roane County Environmental Review Board Meeting Minutes, January 15, 2015

Attendees:

Tom Brown, Guest citizen
Bob Deacy, Guest Speaker (SVP TVA)
Scott Gregory, RCERB Member
Mary Anne Koltowich, RCERB Member
David Martin, Interim Chair, RCERB
R. L. Pope, RCERB Member
David Reichle, RCERB Member
Scott Stout, Representative from County Executive's Office
Dennis Wilson, Guest citizen
Ron Woody, County Executive, ex-officio Member

RCERB Members Absent:

Carolyn Granger
Allen Townsend

Proceedings

- 1) Discussion of changes to Kingston Fossil Plant (KFP) NPDES permit to allow chemical injection for reduction of Hg stack emissions -- R.L. Pope: The existing effluent treatment method only removes oxidized forms of Hg. The new method, which uses calcium bromide, is more efficient and will oxidize elemental Hg so that it can be removed; about 40% - 50% of the Hg in coal is elemental. Other power plants across the country have used the new method, but testing will be required to know just how much Hg will be removed at the KFP. The KFP's NPDES permit is expired (2009) but administratively continued until a new permit is issued. TDEC prepared a draft permit in 2010, but it was never finalized. The renewed permit is expected to be issued in late fall 2015, after new effluent limitation guidelines applicable to this type of wastewater are issued. It was suggested that Bob Alexander, the TDEC NPDES Permit Writer for this permit, be invited to speak to the Board.
- 2) Update on landfill permit modification at KFP -- David Martin: The comment period on the permit modification was extended by TDEC into February. The letter transmitting the RCERB comments to the draft permit was sent and received by TDEC. Ron Woody informed the Board that the County Commission asked his office to send a letter supporting the Board's position and he would do so. It was mentioned that though the landfill would receive coal combustion residuals in addition to the already permitted gypsum waste, the waste types would not be comingled. Bob Deacy from TVA gave an overview of the landfill construction details, including the liner and leachate collection system. He also addressed how identified karst features were handled. He also described how the originally planned landfill height was reduced so that it would not be above the tree line as viewed from the Ladd Landing area. A Board member pointed out that the concern with height was not only about aesthetics but about landfill

stability. Some discussion was had about marketing of coal combustion residuals and Mr. Deacy informed the Board that some was already being marketed. Mr. Deacy described how bottom ash is now handled wet during the initial removal, then it is stored dry. The handling process will be changed and it will be removed in a dry form in the future. He also pointed out that in the modified landfill where material will be dry stacked, the slope angle and moisture content of the stacked material will be controlled to maintain stability. Mr. Deacy suggested that the next RCERB tour of the TVA site include the landfill and that the tour occur before final comments on the permit modification are due to TDEC; the Board accepted the offer, and the tour will be scheduled. Discussion ensued around communication between the Board and TVA over landfill inspections, and it was suggested that Mr. Deacy or someone at TVA suggest which inspection reports/documents would be most appropriate and useful for the Board to review. It was also suggested that someone from the RCERB be allowed to tag along on a future annual inspection.

- 3) Briefing on the Bull Run Annual Report as it pertains to Ash Storage -- Mary Anne Koltowich: R.L. gave an overview about the level of detail that might be expected from the various landfill inspections (weekly, monthly, etc.). The more frequent/routine inspections (less than annual frequency) would not normally include a professional engineer. Mary Anne pointed out that the inspection reports that she reviewed do not identify who performed the inspection nor the inspector's qualifications.
- 4) Additional Review of Operations Manual for KFP -- Mary Anne Koltowich: Mary Anne was impressed with the engineering rigor and detail that went into evaluating the landfill site with the detail provided in the operations report; the report documents engineering design calculations on surface water management, slope stability, seismic evaluations, leachate collection system, puncture testing of the liner, and settlement analysis. The manual also included a QA plan and post closure plan. It includes a work plan on how to investigate a dropout. Other board members expressed questions about safety/environmental culture at TVA and management follow-up when issues are raised by inspectors.
- 5) Roundtable Discussion:
 1. The proposed new DOE CERCLA cell (ORR EMDF) was briefly discussed. Ron Woody will visit the proposed site, probably in first week in February. Concerns still exist among some members of the Board regarding long term post-closure maintenance and its funding.
 2. The new bailer at the recycling facility was also briefly discussed. It was reported by Ron Woody that TDEC officials have expressed how impressed they are with Roane County's execution of grant-funded projects. Other communities have not fared as well, have in some cases turned grant money back to the system, and the state officials seem to be looking at Roane County's efforts as a model for other communities. At the dedication ceremony for the new bailer, the officials brought a check for another \$25k – investing where there is success. All county departments and employees who have worked hard on these efforts should be proud.
 3. A motion was made for the County Executive's Office to submit the RCERB's landfill comments to TDEC with no additional changes; the motion was approved. Ron was invited

to the February RCERB meeting to provide input and guidance about future directions for the Board.

- 6) The meeting was adjourned at 7:35PM.