

MEETING	Public participation meeting: Vlakfontein	DATE	FILE NAME
VENUE	Vlakfontein Brickworks	19 Oct 2010	wgppm.min.2010.10.19.doc

ATTENDEES	APOLOGIES
As per attendance register wgppm.atreg.2010.10.19.	None received.

DISTRIBUTION	www.softchem.co.za website.
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Item	Minutes/notes	
1.	Introduction	
	JFCF welcomed everybody to the meeting.	
	SJ presented background to the project, Waste Giant and Envitech. Thereafter he gave a presentation on, <i>inter alia</i> , the new waste act, the location, geology, infrastructure and layout of the proposal, waste streams, liner systems, nature conservation, rehabilitation and a monitoring committee.	
2.	Questions (Q), comments (C) and response (R) session	
	Q LK	Water present in the current excavations, groundwater table, are you going to pollute that?
	R SJ	Illustrated what the liner system would involve to negate any groundwater pollution due to leachates from the proposed site.
	C JJ	I am the owner of the property that your vehicles would be travelling over, it is my servitude.
	Q PH	How will you prevent litter from blowing of the vehicles and keeping the area clean?
	R HS	We are not a municipality and for a private company as us, we have to comply to strict guidelines to adhere to, otherwise we get closed down. We will clean the area on a regular basis and one can also look at tarring the road.
	R IC	Have to use a vehicle that is covered.
	Q TV	But the paper still blows off. Will someone cleans it up?
	R IC	The community is part of the process, so yes we will clean it up, otherwise the community can complain to the authority.
	Q PH	Have you seen the Waldrift landfill site? I have problems with bacterial counts on my vegetable land. How will you prevent this from happening?
	R IC	Yes, but they are operated by the local government, we will have to adhere to stricter requirements.
	Q AG	Excavations right next to my property have been going on for 15 years, what will be done about it? Who is responsible for this?
	R SJ	Will be addressed if the project goes ahead. At present the current owner is responsible for the site.
	Q GvdW	There is no visual impact study, air, noise and traffic studies in the scoping report.
	R JFCF	That is correct, the scoping phase defines what must be included in the environmental impact report. These studies will be included in that.
	Q AG	Who is the current owners?
	R SJ	Vaalfontein Brickworks.

2. Questions (Q), comments (C) and response (R) session (continued)		
Q	AG	But what about the holes in the ground, who is going to fix it? Who is the current owners?
R	IC	We will have to fill them up for when we want to landfill the property.
C	JJ	I have battled with Koekemoer for more than 17 years with them driving over my servitude and damaging my property.
R	IC	That is the reason why we have this public participation to ensure that all people's issues gets addressed.
Q	LJJvR	What type of fence will be put up and where.
R	SJ	It's a security fence and it will be around the actual property (visually shown on map).
Q	LJJvR	What about buffer zones and why is the scoping report not yet finished.
R	JFCF	Explained what the scoping process involves, and when the actual environmental impact assessments will take place, with its associated reports.
Q	IC	We do not wish to underestimate the public's intelligence. Does the actual specialist reports not only go to the relevant government department for their feedback?
R	JFCF	Partially right, as part of the EIA report the specialist reports do go to government, however, the public also see the same reports for comments.
Q	HH	If all the impact studies have been done, and it is approved, what can we do if we do not want the project?
R	JFCF	Continued explaining the EIA process.
Q	HH	What if I am not happy with the outcome?
R	IC	Through the monitoring committee will have a say in the project.
Q	MG	My business is koi fishes, what happens if my fishes die.
R	HS	What in our project do you think will let your fishes die?
Q	MG	Your water treatment.
R	HS	None of our water will go through to your property.
Q	LCM	Have you drilled boreholes, how deep is the water level?
R	SJ	Yes - indicated on map where approximately 25 m and 12 m boreholes were.
Q	LCM	I have 10 000 gallons per hour borehole, can you guarantee that my water will not get polluted?
R	SJ	We install lining systems so that groundwater can not get polluted.
Q	LK	Who is going to work at the landfill site, and where will you get them. What about squatters?
R	IC	We will have two fences and there will be no squatters. Nobody will be able to get in. Think it will be better for the environment if we implement the project as we have to operate under specific conditions and regulations. To construct this plant will cost me R 35 million, I will not implement such a system, not listen to what the public says, and then they close me down after investing so much money. This is not going to be an ash dump ("ashoop") as people normally envisage for a waste site. At our site in Johannesburg we continuously have to do things that the municipal waste site a short distance from us do not do.
Q	LK	And that that was shown on special assignment (medical waste)?
R	IC	We are actually doing the clean up operation at Welkom. The department approved us for doing this.
C	JJ	The property borders for about 2 km onto my property. There is no fencing left, they kill my birds, and the pegs have been stolen.
Q	EF	The report refers to Portion 32 as undeveloped areas, is that correct?
R	SJ	According to our information this is undeveloped.
Q	EF	The footprint that we presently have, is that the footprint for the new site?
R	SJ	Yes.
Q	EF	Will an EIA be conducted for your proposed conservancy?
R	JFCF	More than one activity can be conducted via one EIA process within the same property.

2. Questions (Q), comments (C) and response (R) session (continued)		
Q	EF	We already have a conservation area registered of which I am the chairman.
R	SJ	Yes, it is a different application for a conservation area and your conservation area can assist our application.
Q	IC	But then we can fence the complete conservation area?
R	EF	Yes, we will like you to help us.
C	IC	But that's why we are saying we can help each other to make this a better place to live in.
C	EF	The total area is approximately 2 800 ha. And we would like to protect one of the last green areas in the Vaal Triangle.
R	IC	But then we must have another meeting where we can discuss this, as I can guarantee you we will add more value to you as another person starting another brickworks.
Q	TV	The people you are going to employ, are they people of the street?
R	SJ	Will be using trained engineers and plant operators. Naturally also people for general labour.
Q	TV	Where are these people are going to stay?
R	IC	If you can make a statement that we can let our labourers having to stay on site, we can do so – makes it easier to us.
Q	TV	Have you considered area closure?
R	IC	We would like to do so.
C	PH	From Houtkop Rd to Falcon bridge we have already applied for four boom gates.
R	IC	Well, we can do one of them then you save already 25% of the costs of these. Then I would also like to propose for those of you interested we can organise a bus to take those interested down to visit Marionhill.
R	JFCF	We will minute this and propose 19 November as the date (a Friday). All those interested please email me to this effect.
C	RvB	I would like to see some other sites in Johannesburg.
R	JFCF	This can be organised locally.
	IC	Yes, we can show them a bad site and then our site.
Q	PH	The actual hole that you wish to close, on what properties does it actually lie on?
R	SJ	It lies on Portions 93, part of 32 and 84.
Q	PH	But your application is more than that, so you can later have waste sites on the other portions too?
R	SJ	Some parts will be used for buildings, and the geology of the area also prescribes what areas can be used.
Q	AS	The noise, what times will you be working.
R	SJ	Normal work hours will be normally 07:00 to 17:00.
Q	JJ	But the other trucks are driving up and down in the night?
R	IC	We will put in an application for trucks during night time as well, but if there is no precedent of such activity, it will most likely not be approved.
Q	AS	What is the expected life span of proposed waste site?
R	IC	Approximately 15 – 20 years.
Q	AvB	Which access road will be used for the site?
R	SJ	Probably the existing one to the site at present.
R	IC	That will also depend on what is stipulated within the actual license. So with four access roads one can decide which ones to use, and then prohibit access at the others boom gates. This will also be where the monitoring committee plays a big role, giving us a hiding if need be.
C	PH	I will need a piece of paper to know when you are wrong.
C	JFCF	The record of decision and the license will be such papers and be available to the public.

2. Questions (Q), comments (C) and response (R) session (continued)		
Q	RvB	What guarantee can you give me that our property values will not go down? I actually bought into this area as it was proposed as a conservation area.
R	IC	I can't see how a conservation area can actually add value if it is not fenced in for security. Then there is also a problem of squatting that can take place in the old brickworks area. I am sure that we can add value to the area.
R	SJ	One can not give a guarantee with regard property prices, however, in the Marionhill suburb the average values increased.
Q	EF	Can you please provide me the telephone number of the chairman of the Marionhill monitoring committee?
R	SJ	I will do so.
Q	TV	How long did it take to get Marionhill right?
R	SJ	Plant has now been in operation for 15 years, built the first cell and then started with operations – still in operation. Re-established a wetland there, with walking trails
Q	RB	What happens to rain water?
R	SJ	A requirement for the site is a water management plan, that will prescribes separation between clean and dirty water.
Q	RB	Will there be a water treatment plant on the site.
R	SJ	Yes (and explained via one of the drawings).
R	IC	That is why I maintain it is a good idea to actually go and see the Marionhill plant, then one can physically see what the plant would look like.
C	SJ	Explained some processes and background with regard medical waste in the country, incident near Welkom, and hydroclaves.
C	IC	Medical waste does not just get dumped into the waste site, it first gets treated.
Q	LM	Who will be in control of the plant?
R	IC	Waste Giant Landfill (Pty) Ltd will be the license holder, responsible for the plant and the site.
Q	AS	Who will do the testing of water?
	SJ	During the design phase we make use of external laboratories. But during operation the site will have its own laboratory and once a quarter will be checked by external auditor.
Q	NN	How does the buffer zone works?
R	SJ	They will do air dispersion modelling and then look at the wind pattern – looking at what concentration levels will be at various areas.
C	LLJvR	It should be 700 m according to the regulation.
R	SJ	There is no regulated values, as it can be from 400 m to 800 m, at Marionhill it is 200 m - this gets determined via the air modelling done.
Q		Will we get the air modelling report?
R	JFCF	It will be available from the website.
Q		Why did some of us not receive notification of the meeting.
R	JFCF	I personally handed papers to each adjacent property, and those with nobody present at the property were posted, and there were also newspaper advertisements. And then one will also rely on communities talking to each other, and based on the number of people here today it must be working.
R	IC	We are also not required to have the public meeting on the actual site. However, we decided to do so as it would make it easier for more people to attend, than say having it in Johannesburg.
Q	RvB	What about smells from the plant?
R	SJ	The medical waste arrives in containers and straight into the process within the containers.
Q		Where will we get more information available on the project?
R	JFCF	From our website at www.softchem.co.za .
Q		How long will it take to get the plant working?
R	IC	Probably about two years. Also explained on the various plants and processes that will be required have to be build on site.

2.	Questions (Q), comments (C) and response (R) session (continued)	
Q	TV	Where will the construction staff stay.
R	IC	They will not be staying on site.
Q	HS	Why the emphasis on workers?
R	TV	We have been building on our property and we have had lots of problems with theft in the area. You would need some guidelines during construction to say that the construction staff should not stay on site?
R	IC	That is where the monitoring committee will again play a role.
Q	PH	When will you start fencing the area.
R	IC	It will happen simultaneously to protect the materials to be used during construction in any case.
C	SJ	Invited the public to look at the display items.
3.	Closure	
<p>JFCF thanked the audience for the good attendance and valuable input into the project. A request was also made for the completion and return of the feedback forms available during the meeting.</p> <p>The minutes will be made available on the internet at www.softchem.co.za under news items.</p>		