



Covia Canada Ltd. / Public Liaison Committee

Meeting Minutes

May 5, 2023

Date: May 5, 2023
To: PLC Members
Copies: Blue Mountain Modernization PLC Engagement Files; posted on www.CanadianNepheline.ca website
Subject: Public Liaison Committee Meeting

Meeting Date: Friday, May 5, 2023

Time: 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm

Location: Blue Mtn Plant – New Administrative Office

Attendees:

Kasshabog Lake Representatives: Dawn Mitchell, John Davison, Mike Delsey

Township of Havelock Belmont Methuen: Jim Martin

Covia Canada Ltd: Dan Lyon, Michele Oxlade, Cale Reeder, Carol DeNure

Regrets: Janet Humber and Rick Rye

Agenda Items:

1. Safety Share
 2. Review Minutes from the last meeting
 3. Modernization Update
 4. Open House Event
 5. Review Terms of Reference
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1. Safety Share

Dan shared a story that happened to him not too long ago where he was walking and tripped on a frozen line and fell. We must always watch where we are walking and keep our eyes on the path. Dan also informed the group that he came upon a moose on County Road 46 and we should all be aware of our surroundings and to watch for wildlife this time of year as they are on the move.

2. Review Minutes from Last Meeting

Dan Lyon introduced himself and welcomed everyone. Dan went through the minutes from the prior meeting. Only one adjustment to make to ensure Michele's name is spelled correctly and to revise the minutes.

Dan explained to the team that Alex Vanags left in December of 2022 and that he was brought here to the plant to help get the Blue Mountain Plant up and running to its potential. Dan is originally from Wyoming but is loving Canada.

Shane McShane wanted to be at this meeting but had an ill family member it and sends his regrets.

3. Modernization Update

Michele informed us that the Modernization permit was originally in 2018. It has since been amended once.

John Davison: Do you have a time limit to date to complete the project?

We originally had 8 years from the date of the modernization permit to install the acoustic abatement devices and complete the acoustic audit.

In April 2022 we received the amended air. Four years had gone by and now they have given us 4 years to complete the installation of the abatement devices and complete the acoustic audit.

When installation is complete, we will have to hire a consulting firm to perform the assessment and then send their finding for approvals.

We have a strong desire to wrap up the modernization project within the next 60 days.

We have been running the new main components and new dryer now for 6 months and it has been running well. We did find that the dust system was inadequate, and we were having a lot of dusting issues within the plant so, we added a slurry system to pump the waste product out to the tailings to help reduce the dusting within the plant.

The modernization project will not change the process it is just new equipment, and built to make more product, increase capacity.

Dawn Mitchell: You now have a slurry rather than powder?

Yes, we add water to the waste product sooner to help reduce dusting. It was all indoors and more to do with Occupational Health and Safety for our employees.

Our new burner was officially certified by TSSA May 12th, 2023.

Our old office building and our old lab facilities were torn down last month.

Dawn Mitchell: Has Nephton closed?

No, not at this time

Mike Delsey: Is it closing?

We are not sure at this time when it will be closing. We haven't achieved the capacity at the Blue Mountain Plant at this point necessary to close Nephton. In August Nephton may be going to 3.5 days a week with reduced hours and reduced workforce.

There are 4 Nepheline operations in the US and Canada. We are working to optimize this network of plants.

4. Noise and Dust update

John Davison: At that time will you be putting out the noise monitors?

Yes, we will but that will all be noted in the audit as to where the equipment will need to be placed and we will be following the Ministry guidelines that are set out in the report.

When we start testing the equipment in the final stages, all of the new equipment will be running at the same time, we do not limit operational restrictions to do the report, it will be running at full capacity for proper testing. The purpose of the audit is to show the modeling report submitted with the air application is accurate. The Ministry of Environment sets the ratings, regulations and all guidelines are spelled out.

Dawn Mitchell: Is the crusher still running at Nephton?

Yes

Cale Reeder: We do try to pinpoint noises that you hear so it is not a bad thing that you report your concerns to us via email. It helps to know what you are hearing, the time you are hearing it and any details that you can give us. Without your information it is hard for us to make any necessary changes if required. The noise may not even be our plant so we need as much detail as you can give us so we can address it. There are usually a lot of additional factors that have to be considered also. The atmosphere and weather can play a big factor on certain noises and how it carries.

Jim Martin: We used to hear more on rainy or humid days.

John Davison: The dry season is coming up, do you still have a plan for your dust control?

Our focus is still on keeping our tailings from dusting, we have evolved over the years and been doing it long enough. We keep an eye on the weather reports daily. We are actually using less irrigation than previous years and we now spread hay and straw to any exposed areas to keep the dust down. We have a spreader that chops the hay and straw then spreads it. This keeps the moisture in as well. We submit to the Ministry annually our dust mitigation plan which includes the number of bales that we are using. The irrigation is more of a backup.

Dawn Mitchell: Who decides when the irrigation gets turned on?

The irrigation team is meeting next week to hook up all of the irrigation lines to ensure that all is in working order and ready to go.

5. Environmental

Covia's ESG report (Environmental Social Governances) has NSO (Blue Mountain and Nephton plants) featured in the report. We will send a link to the Cottagers Association so everyone can review it. This report shows how Covia as a whole

helps in all the countries that we operate. We provide community and environmental support which illustrates how important these are to us.

We went to Mexico last year and helped a small community teaching them how to market what they are selling to help them grow. This is an annual event now and it has made life changing differences to these small communities.

Mike Delsey: Will your permit numbers change?

No they won't.

6. Other business

Jim Martin: Has Covia looked into manufacturing here?

We are looking into that yes.

Dawn Mitchell: If you brought manufacturing here it would bring more jobs as well.

Terms of Reference will be updated and will send those out shortly.

Jim Martin: Would it be possible for the Town Council to come on a short 20-30 minute tour on May 23rd so they can look at Unimin Road and what it will need to fix it for you.

If and when the Township fixes Unimin Road, we should keep the fencing that is up protecting the turtles.

Our Open House event will be taking place this year Wednesday August 16th and Saturday August 19th. We will be putting up signs to promote it as well. This event is open to all of our neighbors in the surrounding area.

Jim Martin: You should talk more about what you do here! Covia does a lot of amazing things for the Community and you should inform more people. You might want to put an ad in the Havelock Rail flyer as well!

7. Closing

Dan Lyon closed the meeting thanking everyone for their attendance and taking the time to come.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 3:30pm

Tentative Next meeting time: October 11, 2023 @ 2:00