

COMMUNITY LIAISON GROUP
EIS FOR REMEDIATION OF THE ALLIED FEEDS SITE
MEETING 1 NOTES

Location: Rhodes Community Centre, Blaxland Road, Rhodes.

Date: 13 December, 2001

Time: 5:30 pm - 7:30pm

Attendees:

Committee Members

Jeff Holdsworth	Rhodes Resident
Nigel Routh	Concord West Public School P&A Association
Dietrich Willing	Friends of the Earth
Sundar Mahtani	King Street Areas residents
Louise Hayes	Meadowbank and West Ryde Progress Association
Paul Hanly	Rhodes Peninsula Group
Carmel del Duca	Mayor of Canada Bay
Don White	Nature Conservation Council
John Toohey	Meadowbank and West Ryde Progress Association
Craig Redfern	Ryde City Council
John Pym	Independent Technical Reference Person
Jenny Nicholls	Rhodes Community Group
Kate Hughes	Independent Technical Reference Person
John Kent	Independent Chairman
Carol Kendall	Rhodes Residents' Group
Lauire Gordon	Auburn Greenspace

Observers

Franco Fuccenecco	Meriton Apartments
Slyvia Hravatin	Meriton Apartments
Jamie Guthrie	Student

Project Team

David Snashall	ERM
Ruth Kelly	ERM
Genevieve Kelly	ERM
Bengt von Schwerin	Earth Tech Engineering

Apologies:

Committee Members

Nicole Campbell	Sydney Olympic Park Authority
Carmen Gravatt:	Greenpeace
Andrew Komli	Liberty Grove
Paula Majstorovic	Rhodes Resident
John Pike	Rhodes Peninsula Group

1.1 INTRODUCTION:

The meeting began with a brief introduction from the Independent Chair, John Kent, who introduced the ERM Team and Earth Tech Engineering representative. Each person in the room then introduced themselves.

1.2 PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

Earth Tech Engineering has been commissioned by Meriton Apartments to remediate the Allied Feeds Site at Rhodes Peninsula. ERM is preparing the EIS for the remediation of the Site. A CLG meeting has been called to allow the team to learn about the issues that the representative groups and residents identify as being important to the community, so that these can be addressed in the EIS and remediation process.

Introduction from ERM: David Snashall

David extended his thanks to everyone for coming at short notice. He noted that ERM and Earth Tech Engineering believed it was important to hold a brief introductory meeting before the Christmas break, due to the time frame of the project.

The Allied Feeds Site adjoins the Lednez Site to the North. An EIS for the remediation of the Lednez Site is currently being prepared by PPK Consulting, on behalf of Theiss who are remediating the Site. This process is separate to the remediation of the Allied Feeds Site, although the companies will need to work together closely.

The Allied Feeds Site was identified as the preferred name to use for the Site in question. It was noted that only the land was being remediated, remediation of the Bay is not part of this project. It is a private project, with no government funds being used.

1.3 ROLE OF CLG

An EIS for remediation is a requirement under existing *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*, and the Minister for Planning will need to approve the EIS before remediation works can be undertaken. ERM and Earth Tech Engineering felt that the

existing CLG was representative of the community and knowledgeable of the issues relevant to the Site and impacts. ERM was keen to meet with the CLG to ensure that the EIS recognises and addresses the concerns of the community and stakeholders, and to educate the community on issues relevant to the project. ERM approached PPK, as they had previously established the CLG with regards to the Lednez Site. ERM and Earth Tech Engineering envisage separate CLG sessions to discuss the Allied Feeds Site. ERM propose to complete the EIS by April 2002.

A draft Terms of Reference was distributed to the CLG members at the meeting.

1.4 THE TEAM

Introduction from Earth Tech: Bengt von Schwerin

Earth Tech Engineering are engineering and environmental consultants and contractors. Their core services include global water, global transportation, global engineering technology, and global environment services.

Earth Tech Engineering has been established in Australia for 18 months, although Bengt's personal experience in Australia has extended over 15 years. Their experience in Australia includes the remediation of former gas works sites, and other remediation work's in progress that cannot be disclosed due to confidentiality with the client.

Earth Tech Engineering has extensive experience in site remediation. They use a strategic approach to remediation, and assess all aspects of site contamination. Earth Tech Engineering has a stringent policy of maintaining close liaison with the community and they manage all site works.

1.5 PROPOSED PROCESS

The Site will be cleaned up to residential standards, using a risk based approach. Earth Tech Engineering proposes the use of direct thermal desorption as the likely method used to remediate the Site. Direct thermal desorption eliminates the offsite processing of materials, and has been proved as efficient technology, which complies with relevant regulatory requirements (eg air emissions, noise, dust etc) in the past. Earth Tech Engineering will be using sub contactors for parts of the remediation process.

Bio-remediation trials are occurring on the Site, however this is not being undertaken by Earth Tech Engineering, and is not a suitable technology to remediate the Site.

1.6 CLG ISSUES

Issues raised by the CLG members included:

Contaminants:

- A risk assessment will be undertaken to establish the types of contaminants that are on the Allied Feeds Site.
- The current remediation strategy has been based on data from past testing, which have identified contaminants on the Site. There will be further testing of the Site in future to refine the remediation strategy.

Remediation technology and processes

- The tonnage of the material that will be treated will be defined further, after additional testing of the Site takes place. It is estimated that there is 4 ½-7 metres depth of contaminants on Site, covering an area of 1.7 hectares. The future land use on the Site will be residential (Meriton Apartments). The future land use of the Site will not affect the extent of remediation, as the Site will be remediated down to rock.
- There are two main types of direct thermal desorption emission control methods, these include baghouse at high temperature cooling system and the rapid quench system. Both of these options are still being considered.
- Technical advancements in the remediation technology have occurred in the recent years at the 'back end' of the cleaning system. Emission control systems have been improved significantly. For example, new techniques to control and monitor temperature have been developed.
- Indirect thermal desorption is not preferred because of issues such as the transfer of waste material off the Site, problems with sludges, timing, air emissions and transport. This will be discussed in detail in future meetings.
- CLG would like a person to discuss the direct thermal desorption method explained to them in more detail.
- It is anticipated that the remediation process will take two years to complete. This period allows for lead up time to the remediation process, such as the transportation of equipment on the Site.
- The Department of Public Works and Services (DPWS) will address the sediments and remediation of Homebush Bay. The issue will be covered in the EIS for the Lednez Site.

- Sub-contractors will be used for some of the work on the Allied Feeds Site. The CLG/ community indicated that they want protection from sub-contractors who don't perform their duties properly, particularly with regards to monitoring the Site.
- CLG would like a Community Liaison person on Site, to handle complaints and queries.
- Is the seawall being remediated? A meeting between DPWS and Waterways, Meriton and Earth Tech Engineering in late December will discuss this issue.

Dust

- How will the dust be dealt with?
- What are the trigger levels for dust?
- What are the technologies for dust monitoring?
- Will people be able to contact a community liaison person on the Site if they have enquires?
- Will there be a chain of command established with a clear contact point for when a perceived problem arises?

Reporting back to the community and distribution of information

- CLG would like the Minutes and relevant documents to be placed in Concord-West Library so the residents may also have access to the material.
- CLG would like meetings to continue once remediation on the Site begins. Earth Tech noted that reporting back to the community may continue, but is dependent on timing and costs.
- CLG would like updates on the works taking place within the Site once remediation has commenced. The use of newsletters, or website were options that were raised by the CLG members, ensuring frequent reporting back to the public, particularly when specific events occur.

The EIS

- It is anticipated that the Director Generals requirements will be received in mid January, although Earth Tech Engineering will be progressing, based on the requirements for

including the remediation of the Lednez Site (adjoining the Site to the south). Earth Tech Engineering is currently formulating a Remediation Action Plan, Health and Safety Plan and HAZOP.

- The issue of dilapidated buildings was raised. There was concern about excavation as problems for residents. ERM and Earth Tech noted that dilapidation surveys would be considered, and that issues such as vibration will be addressed in the EIS.
- There will be a peer group review of Earth Tech Engineering's remediation by an independent auditor who will review all works and documents relating to the Site. There will also be a Risk Assessment, and Health and Safety Plan discussed in the EIS.
- The EIS is scheduled to be on public display in early April. Both the Allied Feeds Site and Lednez Site EIS should be on display concurrently. However, as each process is being carried out separately, the timing of either may change.
- The CLG would like health issues to be addressed in the EIS. Particularly with regards to the emotional and psychological impacts of living with the ongoing development on Site.
- Meriton Apartments will develop the residential use in a staged development. There is currently no masterplan for the Site. Only the remediation of the Site is being addressed in the EIS.

Terms of Reference

- Terms of reference clause taken out regarding the sitting fee for peak environmental groups of \$92 per meeting. ERM acknowledged that it would pay the fee on request.

1.7 MEETING DATES

- The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 24 January 2002, at 5:30pm at the Rhodes Community Centre. The CLG meeting will begin at 5:30pm with a site walk over (see attached Agenda for details).
- Guests of CLG are welcome, so long as they notify Genevieve Kelly prior to the meeting.