

Rookery South CLP Meeting 25 Notes - Revised

Monday 17th April 2023 – 6.00 pm, Rookery South Board Room

Present:

CLP Members – Representatives from: Marston Moreteyne PC; Millbrook PM; Wootton resident on behalf of Wootton PC; Lidlington PC; Lidlington Resident; Marston Vale Community Rail Partnership; Marston Vale Forest Centre; CBC - Cllr Sue Clark (SC); Brogborough

Observers/Presenters – Rookery South Ltd: Judith Harper (JH), Anita Taylor (AT); Encyclis: Paddy Kelly (PK); Central Bedfordshire: Roy Romans (RR), Facilitator: Bob Fisher

Apologies: Cllr Tim Hill; Dee Walker; Neil Grimstone, Neil Goudie, Emma d'Avilar, Nick Henderson.

1. Approval of Notes from Meeting 24

Questions following the previous meeting **were incorporated in a revised set of notes which were circulated.** The notes were approved.

2. Matters Arising from Meeting 24

- i) Location of the Green Wall/brown roof was clarified as on the upper west-facing levels of the building.
- ii) Limited amounts of waste travel to the facility from London and Wales because it is likely there is no capacity at plants closer to the source. Economic/commercial reasons also play a part.
- iii) Community Energy Initiative payments – see section 4.
- iv) Notes of the previous meeting have not yet been posted on the website. RSL has difficulty modifying the website, which is currently still managed by Covanta in the USA, but Encyclis is testing a new website which will be a lot more accessible.
- v) Referring to the report on the water management system, is firefighting water being tested before discharge to the storage lagoon? A response confirming details and frequency of water sampling will be provided via the Environmental Manager. **ACTION**
- vi) The outflow from Rookery South Lake (formerly known as the attenuation pond) is pumped into the Mill Brook, flowing into Stewartby Lake which falls under the jurisdiction of the Bedfordshire & River Ivel Internal Drainage Board (IDB) for flood management purposes. The water levels in Rookery South Lake are managed through the pumping station which also facilitates water level control from Rookery North.
- vii) RSL is paid for the Renewable Energy Guarantee of Origin certificates for energy generated from renewable sources, being that related to the biogenic fraction of the waste. When the facility starts exporting energy as heat this will only have a minor effect on the power export as there will be a corresponding reduction in the amount of cooling required. It will not affect the capacity market obligations.

3. Facility Manager's Update (PK)

Performance of the ERF is going well. The boiler is averaging 98.5 % availability; turbine just under 100% availability. Electricity output 50,000MWh per month

Quite a lot of warranty maintenance work has been carried out. HZI is being proactive on this.

The facility will be 100% fully staffed for first time from w/c 24th April.

Annual Maintenance Outage May-July:

- 1st Line - 7th May 2023 – 18th May 2023
- 2nd Line – 10th June 2023 – 23rd June 2023
- 3rd Line – 21st June 2023 – 4th July 2023
- Common outage (all lines shutdown) 21st -23rd June.

This is quite a complex operation with 'full-on' maintenance. PK is very pleased with the preparation status.

The works will be internal involving tasks such as cleaning and inspections so are not likely to cause any audible noise outside of the site. There is not expected be any black smoke at start-up. This may possibly occur if the Emergency diesel generator has to be used.

Emissions reports (please refer to website and slides).

There has been one reportable exceedance which was of CO. Encyclis reported this to the EA as required under the permit but has not had any response from EA since submissions in August. PK has escalated it.

There was no actual exceedance as the plant was not running at the time, but the "Waste On" signal was still active due to a known issue with the shutdown logic as defined in the Environmental Permit. This particular incident was reported to the EA as a breach, but should be discounted when reviewed by them.

The CO occurrence was on 21st December when a feed chute blockage occurred on Line 2 resulting in the boiler being shut down.

The process following a reportable occurrence is as follows: operator raises a Schedule 5 notice Part A within 24 hours of the incident, and a Schedule 5 Part B Notice is subsequently issued setting out the outcome of the investigation.

PK demonstrated the data available on the website. It was noted that operators are not required to record emissions during start up and shut down, as they are not representative. AT noted that there is a pdf document on the website which explains the emission level data presented.

CLP members were concerned about emissions during start up and shut down procedures, It was noted that permit emissions limits do not include start up and shut down periods. The reasons for this are to be queried with the EA.

PMN - The EA clarified that emissions levels during start up and shut down need to be reported to the EA but emission limits do not apply, except for mass releases.

CLP members were concerned about the delays experienced in receiving a response from the EA and requested that CBC as Joint Minerals and Waste Authority write to the EA express this. **ACTION**

4. General Manager's Update (AT)

- (i) **Community Trust Fund** – 5 applications have been received so far for this round. It is less than usual but the value exceeds available amount. Of the previous grants, 4 recipients are still working on pre-app to get funds; the remainder have been contracted or delivered. So far £69,000 has been spent.
- (ii) **Community Energy Initiative** - The deadline for submission of claims is Wednesday 3rd May. Payment of the claims are phased due to the number of payments required to be processed. The monies are currently being paid to claimants every two-week period. Claimants should have been notified that they will be paid by the end of June although, in many cases, this may be sooner as GrantScape work through the claims.
- (iii) **Charitable Donations** - £2500 was awarded to Kimberley College for an environmental project. Work is in progress & is being well-received by students.
- (iv) **Rookery Circular path** is open. RSL received an adoption certificate from BBC 23/03/23 but is still awaiting CBC (the CBC/BBC boundary crosses Rookery North), following which the planning authority can confirm that RSL has met its s.106 obligations. RSL is designing wayfinder signs and four information boards, which will be installed in the next couple of months approximately.
- (v) **Visitor centre** – 120 Year 6 students from Bedford Modern School are visiting next week over 4 days. This will be the biggest group to date.
- (vi) **Website** – as mentioned in item 2 this is still in final development. It is planned to go live early May. *PMN – The website switched over on Thursday 27th May. It should be noted that the URL has changed from rookerysouth.co.uk to rookerysoutherf.co.uk (as part of common naming convention for all Encyclis facilities) – however, a redirection is in place so anyone using the old address (eg, through a bookmark) will automatically be taken to the new page.*
- (vii) **Rooftop Solar panels** project is still on course. Further clarifications are being sought.
- (viii) **District Heating project** – nothing to report.
- (ix) **Landscaping** – the bank outside the office block has been turfed and olive trees planted at the top of bank. Litter picking is being carried out.

5. EA Update (Written report provided)

Due to an on-going criminal investigation elsewhere, Emma d'Avilar is unable to attend and Neil Goudie diary clash also means that he is unable to attend. In future the EA hope to commit to attending these CLP meetings twice yearly, with written updates every other quarter, as that would allow them to maximise their input and provide a more consistent representation given the resourcing challenges being experienced at the moment.

"In terms of a written update:-

- 1) The monitoring reports continue to be submitted satisfactorily and we can provide an update on the 2022 performance banding at the next meeting once all of that year has been validated.
- 2) No water emission non-compliances in 2022.
- 3) We continue to discuss, at a National Sector level, the consistent interpretation around the definition of 'other than normal operating conditions' (OTNOC). This will provide a more consistent approach to compliance monitoring of air emissions in 2023; this is unlikely to impact performance banding.

- 4) We will be completing an Operator Monitoring Assessment to Air in May 2023. This is essentially an audit reviewing the quality and management systems in place for monitoring emissions to air and ensuring it meets the requirements of EN14181 (continuous emission monitoring standard) and the various periodic monitoring standards. Staff development and continuous improvement is also assessed as part of that audit.
- 5) Since the last meeting in January we have not required any compliance and enforcement action to be taken and the operator keeps us informed of any relevant issues that maybe permit related.
- 6) There have been no substantiated complaints relating to the site between 1 January and 31 March 2023.

Other Information - Phillip Duffy will replace Sir James Bevan as CEO of the Environment Agency on the 1st July 2023. He is currently Director-General of Growth and Productivity at HM Treasurer.”

It was noted that the proposed Operator Monitoring Assessment is scheduled during the planned maintenance period, which Encyclis was not aware of and considers inappropriate.

Members of the CLP were unhappy with the EA's stated intention to reduce attendance at the CLP to twice per year.

6. LA Update

The Planning authority continues to monitor the site. There have been no complaints reported regarding the DCO or s. 106.

There was a discussion about trucks arriving before Rookery opening hours (7am) and parking adjacent to the Marston Moreteyne Little Chef off the A421. The s.106 agreement only restricts parking on Green Lane. The planning authority considers they should be using designated parking near M1 Junction 13, but should not be arriving early. RSL can put pressure on hauliers through its waste suppliers if evidence is provided.

7. AOB

- (i) The MVCRP noted that the Marston Vale line will resume services during the Autumn with a full timetable operating from January 2024. A steam train will be running along the line on 26th April, calling at Ridgmont station at 09:40. Information is on the MVCRP website.
- (ii) It was noted that there have been complaints again about RCV drivers dropping off crews on Green Lane and/or Rookery North Entrance with one urination incident. CBC to follow up. **ACTION**
- (iii) RSL is very keen to host visits from the Parish Councils as mentioned previously. So far only two groups of residents from Houghton Conquest and Cranfield have attended. Visits can be arranged via Anita Taylor by contacting vc@rookerysouth.co.uk or via the 'Contact us' form on the Rookery South Website.
- (iv) Noted that the former representative from Houghton Conquest is no longer on the parish council. RSL has asked that they nominate another person.

8. **Next Meeting** Proposed date Monday 24th July
9. The meeting was followed by a walk to view the Penstock valve, including the outlet to the Mill Brook.