

Thane Public Liaison Committee Terms of Reference

Background

Thane Developments Limited re-smelted aluminum dross from primary aluminum foundries in order to recover the remaining aluminum. The dross stored on-site was the raw material for the operation, therefore, its storage and use were not regulated under Part V (Waste) of the *Environmental Protection Act*. When the company ceased operation and abandoned the site in 1997, the dross and salt slag waste left on-site became a waste. Residents are concerned about the off-site migration of contaminants.

The ministry has conducted several studies on the Thane property. Studies provide no evidence that either the Maskinonge River or the local aquatic ecosystem was being adversely affected.

In July 2007, the ministry issued a Director's Order which requires the owners to hire a qualified consultant to create a report that assesses: the quantity of waste located on the site; soil, groundwater and surface water contamination at site; actual and/or potential off-site impacts; remedial recommendations to prevent the migration of contaminated groundwater and surface water from the site; and, to register notice of the order on title.

Due to the site owner's financial hardships and inability to comply with the other requirements of the Director's Order, a "Notice of Intent to cause things to be done" was issued by the ministry on October 19, 2007, thereby allowing the ministry to implement the requirements of the order. The ministry retained a consultant to fulfill the requirements of the order. A final report was provided to the ministry in July 2008. The report confirmed onsite soil, groundwater and surface water impacts, as well as limited offsite groundwater and surface water impacts resulting from the Thane slag wastes. It also determined a potential for contamination in the Maskinonge River, and presented several removal or containment options to address impacts.

1.0. Purpose

The purpose of the Thane Public Liaison Committee (PLC) is to provide a forum for stakeholder consultation and engagement in the evaluation of remedial options.

2.0 Membership

The Public Liaison Committee shall be comprised of the following:

- a) Chair and host - Ministry of the Environment
- b) Site owner – Howard Sniatowski
- c) Elected Representative – Ward 1 Councillor Margaret Jordan
- d) Community Representatives
 - i) a member from Save the Maskinonge – Deb Gordon
 - ii) a residential member – John Hicks
- e) Municipal Representatives
 - i) Town of Georgina – Sue Plamondon
 - ii) Regional Municipality of York – Michele Maitre
- e) Representative from Lake Simcoe Regional Conservation Authority – Phil Davies.

Interested members of the public may make application to the MOE to provide a 10 minute deputation at a PLC meeting. Presentations and an outline of the deputation will be required prior to meeting.

3.0 Meeting Format

- The frequency and dates of the meetings will be determined by the PLC after it has been established. A minimum of three (3) meetings a year are held. The meeting schedule will be adopted for 1 year, with additional meetings scheduled at the discretion of the committee.
- Meetings will be held at the Ministry of the Environment Newmarket Satellite office during working hours of Monday to Friday, 8:30 am to 4:30 p.m.
- All decisions made by the PLC will be based on consensus.
- The PLC will act in an advisory committee to the Ministry of the Environment.
- Draft meeting minutes will be provided two weeks following a meeting where possible. Comments, corrections and amendments to the draft minutes are to be provided by the membership to the MOE (Shyrin Hirji) within 1 week of receiving the draft minutes. Minutes will be finalized and distributed within 2 weeks of distribution of draft minutes.
- Copies of the agenda minutes shall be provided with a minimum notification period of two weeks prior to the meeting.

4.0 Roles and Responsibilities

Each member shall:

- a) Consider and address any matters, issues or information presented;
- b) Strive to operate in a consensus mode, where participants openly discuss views and opinions and seek to develop common ground;
- c) Ensure that the discussions and decisions are accurately recorded in the meeting records or in additional reports that members may determine are needed; and,
- d) Ensure that information discussed at the meetings is disseminated to those people/agencies who they represent.

5.0 Conflict of Interest

Members must declare a conflict of interest prior to becoming a member of the PLC and/or prior to addressing matters addressed which invoke a conflict.

6.0 Alternates

In the event a member of the committee is unable to attend a meeting, members may nominate someone to attend in their place.

7.0 Facilitation and Secretariat

Facilitation and secretariat services for the PLC will be provided by Ministry of the Environment. These services will include:

- i) Organization and facilitation of PLC meetings;
- ii) Distribution of meeting notices and PLC contact list management;
- iii) Development of meeting agendas and other support materials;
- iv) Record keeping and minutes for PLC meetings;