

Port Nelson Environment Committee

Meeting #156

4 April 2012

PNL Visitor Centre

Minutes & Apologies

Attendance: Thomas Marchant, Matt McDonald, Jacquetta Bell (PNL), Phil Wilson (NPIL), Stuart Slack (Friends of Haven), Joanna Plows (Green Party), Dave Reece (TOS Marine Biosec), Grant Jones (NEC), David Francis (EDA), Stephen Lawrence (NCC), Vicki Caldwell Douglas (MAF Biosec).

Welcome to new members: Helen Richards (Forest & Bird), Lionel Solly (Dept of Conservation), Neil Henderson (NCC Env Officer).

Apologies from Grant Rutledge (Nelson Forests Ltd), Murray McGuire (PNL).

The Rena Oil Spill

Stephen Lawrence from the National Oil Spill Response Team gave a personal view on the Rena oil spill. He attended the spill as Planning Manager during the later stages of clean up. Points of interest:

- Human error can cause a spill in unexpected circumstances
- Importance of volunteer effort – coordination of H&S gear needed before cleanup could start.
- SCAT (Shoreline Cleanup Assessment Technique) split coast into segments, looked at shore substrate, wildlife, iwi sites etc then prepared response for each segment.
- Debris rather than oil was the main issue when Stephen got there. Spotter plane used for oil spills & containers – trails of milk powder.
- Effect from hazardous substances unknown but not all hazardous goods eco-toxic.
- Liaison with iwi was interesting – especially to access areas across Maori land.
- Sandy beaches easier to clean than rocky shores.
- Leaving oil to naturally degrade in remote areas may be less environmentally damaging than clean up.
- Booms don't work in heavy seas or currents more than .7kts.
- Effect would be a lot worse if there was a tanker accident.

Could it happen in Tasman Bay? Of course! Boulder Bank would be very difficult to clean. The Cut is the biggest risk, or ship vs ship in Tasman Bay - but this is well controlled by pilots. Nelson's high tidal range limits response. Oil travels at speed of current and 3% of wind. Cook Strait & Sounds present a greater risk.

Oil Spill Response

Tier 1 – Able to be handled by spiller - spiller cleans it up.

Tier 2 - regional council is involved when beyond ability of Tier 1 operator to clean up

Tier 3 - national response through Maritime NZ

Best protection is prevention. Stephen said fines have proved effective in countering spills.

PNECC EMS Objective Review

The points raised at the last meeting have been refined into PNL Environmental Objectives as part of the EMS, which is reviewed 3-yearly.

1. To implement innovative best practice approaches to environmental management that achieve PNL and stakeholder requirements.
2. To integrate sustainable environmental management, including resource efficiency and pollution prevention, into PNL activities, business processes and decisions.
3. To establish clear lines of accountability for environmental outcomes.
4. To raise the environmental awareness of PNL personnel through education, training and ready access to necessary information.

5. To measure and report environmental performance as a part of a process of continual improvement.
6. To manage energy consumption and carbon emissions responsibly to reduce our carbon footprint.

Jo asked about cost effects of timber fumigation recapture, whether cost affected trade through Port Nelson. Matt said it does to some extent.

PNL Energy Use

EECA has funded an energy audit that is being done by Enercon – recommended by Nelson Pine. They will be at PNL on April 16.

Solar Project

400kw system is proposed for shed roofs closest to operational area. EDA have offered advice. Would provide 10% of PNL energy requirements.

ISO14001 Audit March 2012

This was a 'Surveillance Audit', the full reassessment is next year. It was done by Alex Daniel from Verification NZ Ltd. Alex noted some minor issues and made some recommendations regarding procedures. He asked for a review of current management review processes to ensure that the results of the evaluations of legal compliance are included as part of the inputs to this committee. Grant asked about waste disposal – Thomas said it is a big issue. Commendation to Sealord for disposing of e-waste through transfer station.

Noise Variation

Matt advised the Noise Variation has been accepted by NCC. This is a major milestone in terms of the port's environmental issues. There has been a big improvement in noise with just two complaints so far this year.

A charcoal economy? Thomas read out an article by Paul Beleski that Stuart had tabled. It suggested squaring off logs for more efficient shipping, with the off-cuts used for energy via charcoal - can be used as a smokeless heating fuel or to generate energy. Philip said NPI 'turns round logs into square packages' via MDF & LVL, with waste used to generate energy. Noted that Canterbury University is doing research on pyrolysis. Added that squaring a log does not get the best cuts of wood from it. Phil commented that China makes half the MDF in the world – hard to beat them for economies of scale.

Meeting closed 1.35pm

Next meeting June 5.