



NORTHAMPTON LEAD TAILINGS PROJECT

MINUTES OF STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

21 AUGUST 2013

Present:

Mr Michael Jackson	Department of Lands (DoL) (Chair)
Mr Glen Bangay	Shire of Northampton
Mr Peter Beck	GHD
Mr Neil Broadhurst	Shire of Northampton
Mr Jon Cramer	Department of Lands
Cr Brad Cripps	Northampton Community Representative
Mr Noel Davies	Aurora Environmental
Mr Brad Dermody	Aurora Environmental
Mr Chuck Ellis	Department of Lands
Mr Lindsay Gillam	Department of Health
Dr Marisa Gilles	Department of Health
Mr Antoine Macmath	Department of Lands
Mr Andrew Miller	Department of Environment Regulation
Mr Grant Middleton	Shire of Northampton
Mr Warren Ormsby	Department of Mines and Petroleum
Ms Kylie Wells	GHD

Apologies:

Mr Gary Keeffe	Shire of Northampton
Mr Paul Morris	Department of Mines and Petroleum
Cr Gordon Wilson	Northampton Community Representative

1. Opening of Meeting and Review of Agenda

The Chair welcomed all participants to this first meeting of the Steering Committee.

Apologies were noted from Gary Keeffe, Paul Morris and Gordon Wilson who were not available for this meeting.

This meeting was conducted by teleconference from Perth, the Northampton Shire offices and Geraldton.

2. Overview of the Northampton Lead Tailings Investigation

Members noted:

- An overview of the project by Antoine Macmath.
- The Northampton region has a long history of lead and copper mining. The Northampton State Battery, located approximately 1.5 kilometres

west of the town site, was opened in 1954 in order to process heavy mineral ores including lead ore from the various mines in the area.

- Local contractors accessed the Battery site during the 1960s up until the 1980s and removed tailings for use as foundation and fill material throughout the town of Northampton. Property owners within the townsite have also accessed lead tailings from the Battery site to use for a range of purposes including driveways, garden areas and bases for outbuildings.
- In November 1984 the Battery was placed under 'care and maintenance'.
- In 1999, the Department of Health (DoH) was notified of a case of a 2 year old child and his sibling that had elevated blood lead levels.
- Since that time there had been several ad hoc investigations into lead contamination in the town.
- In 2010 the Battery buildings were demolished and the lead tailings at the Battery site were encapsulated in a containment cell in Northampton. Goldcorp is responsible for maintaining the encapsulation cell.
- In 2010/2011 Goldcorp engaged URS to facilitate consultation with the residents of Northampton and undertake some preliminary investigation work on a limited number of properties.
- The Western Australian Government has approved funding for Phase 1 of a three phased project.
- The overall objective of the project is: "To identify and effectively manage the lead tailings within the Northampton townsite to allow for the township to develop and prosper unhindered by legacy lead contamination issues."
- The project is proposed to be carried out in three discrete phases as follows:

Phase 1: Townsite-wide investigation into the presence and distribution of lead tailings

Phase 2: Investigation into the extent of lead tailings in the identified areas/properties and development of appropriate management strategies on a property by property basis.

Phase 3: Management/remediation of unacceptable human health and environmental risks associated with the identified lead tailings.

- Aurora Environmental has been appointed as the consultants to conduct Phase 1 of the project i.e. to conduct an accurate assessment of the presence of lead tailings on individual properties in Northampton, and in so doing to provide the basis/justification to undertake Phases 2 and 3 of the overall project.
- Aurora Environmental will undertake this work in the following stages:

Stage 1: Review of previous information

- (i) Includes the review and collation of historical information and previous studies including the review of previous reports, historical aerial photographs, government files, databases, anecdotal sources and other media and information sources (e.g. web based information, archived news articles, community newsletters, local library, State library, anecdotal information, etc).

- (ii) This information will be collated into a database, and
- (iii) Identification of data gaps in previous work undertaken.

Stage 2 – Property Inspection and Interviews

- (i) Includes preparation of a generic property inspection plan (e.g. systematic walkover, photographing, XRF testing, confirmatory sample collection etc.) for the different broad types of land uses within Northampton e.g. residential/commercial, vacant bushland, recreational areas etc.
 - (ii) The preparation of a Property Inspection Schedule
 - (iii) Community contact, consultation and liaison to arrange access to each property.
 - (iv) Undertaking property inspections with XRF instruments (Nitons) and collecting confirmatory samples were required to validate XRF screening results.
 - (v) Laboratory analysis of physical soil samples collected (if and where required) to verify results of XRF testing.
 - (vi) Interviews (where possible) with land owner/occupier during inspections or through a follow-up phone call/email to ascertain a greater level of anecdotal historical information on the potential presence and distribution of lead tailings throughout the town.
 - (vii) Interpretation of results, updating of database and representation of findings onto maps.
- GHD has been appointed as the Department of Environment Regulation accredited contaminated sites auditor to carry out an ongoing review of the project.
 - A paper prepared by Peter McCafferty from the ChemCentre on how best to conduct sampling in the area in view of the mineralisation of the Northampton area. The report and recommendations had been accepted by DMP and DoL. The recommendations had subsequently conveyed to Aurora Environmental for implementation.
 - Four Nitons had been made available for the Northampton project. Two were provided by the ChemCentre and two by the Department of Transport. The ChemCentre had arranged for the instruments to be calibrated.
 - Advice from Warren Ormsby that the veins of lead bearing material in the Northampton region were about 600 to 800 million years old and in some areas these veins were at or close to the surface. Other metals such as copper and cadmium were also present in these ores.

3. Terms of Reference of the Steering Committee and Scope of the Project

Members noted:

- Draft Terms of Reference for the Steering Committee prepared by DoL and an agenda paper prepared by Aurora environmental on Project Scope and Data Quality Objectives. These papers addressed similar issues and were discussed together.
- That it was important to clarify the scope of the project particularly as other sources of lead may be identified during the progress of the investigation.

- That the approval from government and the associated funding was for “an investigation into the presence and distribution of lead tailings in the town of Northampton and to develop and appropriate management strategy for those impacted properties”.
- The scope of the project is therefore restricted to the Northampton townsite and its immediate area. In the event that enquiries are made about lead tailings in other areas for example Horrock’s Beach, these areas would be outside the scope of the investigation.
- The scope of the investigation is primarily focussed on lead tailings derived from the former Battery site in Northampton however it was recognised that other sources of tailings from workings within the town would be difficult to differentiate and would therefore be included in this investigation.
- In the context of this study, the term ‘tailings’ meant the residual material remaining after mineral processing or mining.
- That the investigation is likely to detect elevated lead levels in soils due to the weathering of lead ores naturally present in the soil. It is also likely to be difficult to analytically differentiate these lead residues in the soil from lead derived from lead tailings. Where such elevated lead levels are detected in soils on properties, further investigation and sampling of the site may be necessary. Instances such as these will need to be assessed by the Steering Committee on a case by case basis.
- The scope of the project does not include lead from other sources such as lead from paints, batteries, sinkers, flashing etc. Whilst lead from these sources might be detected, the scope of the project did not include further investigation and eventual clean-up or remediation of lead from these sources.
- That the purpose of the investigation was primarily to protect the public health of the Northampton community. This basis should be reflected in the Terms of Reference. Lindsay Gillam and Marisa Gilles would prepare a draft form of words for inclusion in the Terms of Reference on this point.

Action: The Terms of Reference should be revised to include the following:

- (i) A definition of ‘lead tailings’;**
- (ii) Reference to the geographical scope of the investigation i.e. the Northampton townsite and its immediate area; and**
- (iii)The public health basis for the investigation.**

The revised Terms of Reference to be referred to Members out of session and discussed at the next meeting.

4. Confidentiality Statement

Members noted:

- A draft Confidentiality Statement pertaining to the private information of residents and test results has been prepared by DoL.
- This statement had been based on a similar document developed by the Steering Committee for the Esperance Clean-up and Recovery Project.

- The confidentiality statement is necessary because committee members will be provided with various confidential documents and data. This is likely to include private information about residents (medical/blood test results) and analytical data arising from the Northampton property inspections and analysis.
- That the Steering Committee was established for this investigation and was not a statutory committee. As such it was necessary to have appropriate governance issues in place.
- The confidentiality statement applies to members of the Steering Committee only. Participants from Aurora Environmental and GHD are not required to sign this document (confidentiality clauses are covered in their contracts with DoL).
- Signed statements would be retained on the appropriate DoL file.

Action: The confidentiality statement should be referred to Members out of session for signature and subsequent return to DoL.

5. Introduction to Aurora Environmental

Members noted:

- A background paper and summary presentation by Noel Davies on the Aurora Environmental team which would be involved in the Northampton project. This paper set out the background qualifications and experience of Noel Davies as the Project Director/Government and Community, Greg Milner as the Project Director –Technical/Operational and Brad Dermody as the Project Manager/Operational.

6. Project Schedule

Members noted:

- A document prepared by Aurora Environmental setting out the approximate timeline for the project.
- The overall timeframe for the project had originally been estimated to be 44 weeks. Aurora Environmental anticipated that this timeframe could be reduced to about 40 weeks.
- The review of historical information had commenced on 24 July and was anticipated to be completed by 21 August.
- The initial trial of sampling methodology would be carried out in conjunction with the next meeting of the Steering Committee in Northampton and the Open Day on 13/14 September. This initial sampling/testing would be carried out on reserves and public open spaces in the Northampton townsite.
- The field sampling program was anticipated to begin on 30 September 2013 and conclude 31 January 2014.
- The review and analysis of results would be carried out between 31 October 2013 and 31 March 2014 and the reporting would be over the period 31 October 2013 and 31 May 2014.
- A presentation on the sampling methodology would be made at the next meeting of the Steering Committee. The presentation would also include the analysis of identified data gaps and project design.
- Aurora Environmental had prepared a letter to Northampton householders introducing themselves as the consultant carrying out the

project and advising of the intended schedule of the project. This letter together with a letter of consent would be mailed to householders in the week of 26 August 2013. The letter of consent seeks the consent of the owner or occupier of the premises to undertake sampling on their property, to the release of the results on analysis to be made available to the Steering Committee and to any ongoing monitoring of their property. A copy of the letter of consent is set out in Attachment 2. Members agreed that once the consent of the owner or occupier had been obtained, then sampling could be conducted.

- The Open Day would provide a good opportunity to encourage property owners or occupiers in Northampton to sign the consent form.
- Aurora planned to prepare a schedule of screening/sampling for the townsite when a significant number of consent forms have been received. This would enable advice to be provided to residents on when their properties would be screened/sampled. The screening of properties is likely to be conducted in a two week period.
- That several requests for early screening/sampling had already been received by DoL and Aurora Environmental. These requests included schools in the town. Screening of these schools would be given priority and conducted in the school holiday period.
- Officers from the Shire of Northampton would facilitate the screening process and assist Aurora staff.

7. Introduction to GHD

Members noted:

- A verbal presentation by Peter Beck on the background and relevant experience of GHD to this investigation.
- Peter Beck is an accredited DER contaminated sites auditor and has held that role for about 10 years. He has qualifications in geology.
- GHD has relevant experience in Northampton lead issues and is currently the auditor for GoldCorp's management of the lead containment cell for the lead tailings from the former battery site in Northampton. GHD was also the auditor for the previous URS investigation in Northampton.
- GHD will maintain an ongoing independent assessment of all stages in the Northampton Lead Tailings Investigation. This will ensure that any potential issues of concern are identified at an early stage and addressed.
- In addition, GHD will utilise a panel of independent experts to assess the project and provide advice. The panel includes recognised toxicologists.
- Kylie Wells will assist Peter Beck in this role.
- Arrangements have been made that Aurora Environmental will make all work plans available to GHD for assessment before they are implemented.

8. Northampton Public Open Day

Members noted:

- Advice from Jon Cramer on proposed arrangements for the Public Open Day to be held in conjunction to the 96th Annual Agricultural

Show in Northampton on 14 September 2013. This is the day after the next meeting of the Steering Committee meeting in Northampton.

- This date and venue had been recommended by the Shire of Northampton as it provides a unique opportunity to contact members of the Northampton community.
- A marquee had been hired for the 'display' on the Northampton Lead Tailings Investigation.
- The display is planned to include the following:
 - A large banner on the Lead Tailings Investigation
 - A map of the town showing the planned timetable of sampling by sector,
 - Geological Survey of WA Maps showing the geology/mineralisation of the Northampton townsite.
 - Plans photos and maps of the former State Battery site depicting lead ore processing and how tailings are formed and what has been done to stabilise the tailings,
 - A Niton (XRF) instrument which will be used for the screening of properties,
 - Several containers of lead tailings,
 - Figures and plans showing the proposed approach to sampling,
 - Information from the DoH on the health effects of lead,
 - Information on the Contaminated Sites Act,
 - Copies of the Consent forms,
 - Examples of other sources of lead such as lead flashing, sinkers lead batteries together with pamphlets on other sources of lead,
 - Samples of the type of naturally present lead ores (galena) found in the Northampton area,
 - A laptop running the DoL webpage for Northampton on lead.
- Advice from Grant Middleton that the show times were from 10am to 6pm and it was anticipated that about 1,500 people would attend the event.
- That it would be desirable if members of the Steering Committee, together with staff from Aurora Environmental and GHD, could attend the Open Day. It would be particularly valuable if Marisa Gilles could attend the Open Day to address any concerns by members of the community on health effects of lead, blood lead testing etc.
- Officers from the Northampton Shire offered to have aerial maps of the Northampton townsite. Such aerial maps would be useful for the Open Day.
- Warren Ormsby offered to provide A1 maps showing the geology of the Northampton townsite.

Action: Preparation for the Public Open Day as follows;

- (i) DoL to prepare display materials/information**
- (ii) DoL to provide aerial maps of the Northampton townsite**
- (iii) DMP (Warren Ormsby) to provide A1 maps showing the geology of the Northampton townsite.**

9. Communication strategies

Members noted:

- Advice from Chuck Ellis on the action taken to date and planned action in relation to communication strategies for the project.
- A letter from the A/Director General of DoL to property owners and occupiers in Northampton advising details of the project and the next steps to be taken, and encouraging cooperation in the investigation. This letter had been distributed by Australia Post to all residents in Northampton.
- The dedicated project webpage on the DoL website as follows; www.lands.wa.gov.au/northampton.
- A document setting out Frequently Asked Questions about the Northampton Lead Tailings Project.
- A media release about the project had been issued on 19 August to the local media in the region including ABC for the Midwest region. There had been no response at the time of the meeting.
- Contact had been made with the local member Hon. Shane Love to ensure that he was fully informed about the project.
- Advice from Grant Middleton that another media avenue is the Northampton Community News and the next issue will be released on 23 August. Contact details for this paper would be provided through the Chair.
- Chuck Ellis would continue to be the media contact for this project. However this should not restrict officers from the Northampton Shire in providing comment to the media on the project if they are contacted by the media. Chuck Ellis to ensure that the Northampton Shire receives all media releases regarding the Northampton project.
- Officers of the Northampton Shire also offered to inform 'front line' staff of the project in the event that members of the community sought advice through the Northampton Shire office. Officers also offered to receive completed copies of the consent forms and then send these on to Aurora Environmental.
- Officers of the Northampton Shire also offered to inform DoL and Aurora of any community meetings where a presentation on the project to the Northampton residents would be appropriate.

Action:

- (i) Grant Middleton to provide contact details for the Northampton Community News.**
- (ii) Chuck Ellis to provide details of the project to the Northampton Community News**
- (iii) Chuck Ellis to ensure that the Northampton Shire receives all media releases regarding the Northampton project.**
- (iv) Front line Northampton Shire officers to be informed about the project. Shire to receive any consent forms from the community and forward to Aurora Environmental.**

10. Next meeting and close of meeting

The next meeting of the Steering Committee will be held on 13 September 2013 at the offices of the Shire of Northampton. The meeting would be preceded by a light lunch and convene at about 2pm.

The meeting closed at 12.10pm.

NORTHAMPTON LEAD TAILINGS INVESTIGATION**STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING****21 August 2013****SUMMARY OF ACTIONS****1. Terms of Reference of the Steering Committee and Scope of the Project**

Action: The Terms of Reference should be revised to include the following:

- (i) A definition of 'lead tailings',
- (ii) Reference to the geographical scope of the investigation i.e. the Northampton townsite and its immediate area, and
- (iii) The public health basis for the investigation.

The revised Terms of Reference to be referred to Members out of session and discussed at the next meeting.

2. Confidentiality Statement

Action: The confidentiality statement should be referred to Members out of session for signature and subsequent return to DoL.

3. Northampton Public Open Day

Action: Preparation for the Public Open Day as follows;

- (i) DoL to prepare display materials/information
- (ii) DoL to provide aerial maps of the Northampton townsite
- (iii) DMP (Warren Ormsby) to provide A1 maps showing the geology of the Northampton townsite.

4. Communication strategies

Action:

- (i) Grant Middleton to provide contact details for the Northampton Community News.
- (ii) Chuck Ellis to provide details of the project to the Northampton Community News
- (iii) Chuck Ellis to ensure that the Northampton Shire receives all media releases regarding the Northampton project.
- (iv) 'Front line' Northampton Shire officers to be informed about the project. Shire to receive any consent forms from the community and forward to Aurora Environmental.

NORTHAMPTON LEAD TAILINGS INVESTIGATION (NLTI)

Consent for Sampling and Testing

Name of owner or occupier:	
Property address:	
Telephone contact:	

- I have read and understand the purposes of this investigation.
- I acknowledge that I will receive a copy of the results of the testing of samples taken from my property.
- I understand that the results will be kept confidential, but that they may be used in a general manner which does not identify the results to my property.
- I consent/do not consent* to the investigation team taking samples from my property.
- I agree/disagree* to the release of the results of sampling my property to the members of the NLTI Steering Committee [Members of the Steering Committee have signed a Confidentiality Agreement]
- I consent/do not consent* to further sampling being carried out on my property if the initial testing results indicate that elevated lead concentrations are present.
- I consent/do not consent* to ongoing monitoring of my property.

Signature of Owner/Occupier*.....Date.../.../.....

Northampton Lead Tailings Investigation
 Aurora Environmental
 149 Kensington Street East Perth WA 6004
 Telephone 9261 4900
 Fax 9261 4999
 Email info@auroraenvironmental.com.au

*Please strike out the words which are not applicable.
 Attachment: Northampton FAQ