

**Continued meeting of the City of Reading Planning Commission
Recessed April 11, 2006 at 11:00 pm... Resumed April 25, 2006 at 7:00 pm**

Members present:

Ermete Raffaelli, Chairman
Michael Lauter, Secretary
Wayne Jonas Bealer, Assistant Secretary
Frederic dep Rothermel

Staff present:

Andrew Miller, City Planner

Others present:

Alex J. Morrison, The Arro Group
Bradley D. Smith, The Arro Group

Minutes:

Chairman Raffaelli resumed the April meeting. Though no agenda was distributed, Mr. Miller stated that the only item of business was the consideration of the Joint Municipal Authority's plan.

Review the final land development plan for the Sewage Treatment Plant – Solids Handling Modifications, a sludge-drying operation and other improvements proposed by the Joint Municipal Authority of the Wyomissing Valley at those parcels known as 601-701 Old Wyomissing Road.

Mr. Morrison thanked the Commission for the special meeting. Mr. Miller stated that the only issues outstanding were some minor drafting related revisions and the review by the Berks County Planning Commission.

Mr. Smith reviewed the corrections made, mostly some additional labeling and details on the outcome of the zoning hearing. He indicated that the plans were signed and sealed, and ready for the Commission's endorsement.

Mr. Morrison addressed the County's review, which was primarily focused on the developments effect on the Wyomissing Creek's 100-year floodplain. He said that, in the Arro Group's roughly sixty years as engineer for the Authority, floodwaters have never come inside the fenced area of the Treatment Plant. He explained that the railroad trestle immediately downstream creates a "backwater" situation, substantially reducing the velocity normally associated with floodwaters. He was confident that the Treatment Plant could still effectively treat sewage during a 100-year event.

Mr. Morrison indicated the note regarding solid waste storage and collection, per another County comment. He said the erosion and sedimentation control plan was still under review by the Berks County Conservation District. Mr. Smith stated that their area of disturbance was between the District's five-thousand square feet and one acre thresholds. Mr. Morrison assured that encroachment permits would be obtained from the State, as required. Of the Fire Marshall's review, he stated that the Marshall requested the Authority secure the necessary land development approvals prior to his full review. He said the dumpster building housing the dried sludge cake would be masonry-built and sprinklered.

Mr. Miller asked if they anticipated diverting all of the end-product from the landfills. Mr. Morrison cited some of the possible outlets for the bio-solids, including fuel for firing cement kilns, said to be an ideal fuel for the necessary sulfides it provides in the production of cement. He said that as a fertilizer, it is about one-quarter the strength of conventional lawn fertilizer, allowing heavier application, and with a slower nitrogen release.

Mr. Raffaelli asked about fire department coverage, given the West Reading Fire Department's new station at 223 Playground Drive. Mr. Morrison said that the City fire Department still has the responsibility, but that West Reading indicated its intent to respond to any incident, as well.

Mr. Bealer asked about the presence of metals in the bio-solids. Mr. Morrison said metal content does not change with the "class A" technology.

Mr. Rothermel noted the County's concern for hazardous material stored within the floodplain boundary. Mr. Morrison answered that a tank of sodium hypochlorite would be firmly anchored to its pedestal, adding that the Authority was considering ultra-violet light disinfection as a future Plant upgrade.

With no further questions, Mr. Rothermel motioned to approve the Authority's final plan. Mr. Lauter seconded. And the Commission voted unanimously to approve the final plan.

Resolution #15-2006

Mr. Bealer moved to adjourn the April meeting. Mr. Lauter seconded. And the Commission voted unanimously to adjourn the April meeting, 4 to 0. – 7:17 pm.