Inver Grove Heights Environmental Commission
Thursday, June 23, 2022 at 7:00 PM
8150 Barbara Avenue, Inver Grove Heights, MN 55077

AGENDA

NOTICE TO RESIDENTS: If you are interested in participating on **Item 6. Public Comment**, please contact Ally Sutherland prior to this meeting via telephone 651-604-8511 or email (asutherland@ighmn.gov) to inform her - your name, address and to what you wish to speak on. Individuals may submit written public comments in advance of the meeting by emailing comments to Ally Sutherland (asutherland@ighmn.gov). Comments received prior to 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 23, 2022, will be provided to the Commission at or before the June 23, 2022 meeting.

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Roll Call**
3. **Presentations**
   - **A.** Operational and Gas Migration Updates at Pine Bend Landfill
4. **Approval of Minutes**
   - **A.** Minutes of Thursday, May 26, 2022, Environmental Commission Meeting
5. **Regular Agenda**
   - **A.** New Commissioner Introductions
   - **B.** Continued Discussion on Future Environmental Initiatives
   - **C.** Commissioners Appointments for Chair & Vice Chair
6. **Public Comment**

   Public comment provides an opportunity for the public to address the Commission on items that are not on the agenda. Comments will be limited to three (3) minutes per person.
7. **Commissioner and Staff Comments**
8. **Adjourn**

This document is available upon a three (3) business day request in alternate formats such as braille, large print, audio recording, etc. Please contact Ally Sutherland, Environmental Specialist, at 651-604-8511 or asutherland@ighmn.gov.

AGENDA ITEM _____

CITY OF INVER GROVE HEIGHTS

Staff Report

TITLE: Operational and Gas Migration Updates at Pine Bend Landfill

Meeting Date:	June 23, 2022
Item Type:	Presentations
Contact:	Ally Sutherland, 651-604-8511
Prepared by:	Ally Sutherland (memo); Aaron Janusz, Republic Services (presentation)

PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED

Pine Bend Landfill will present an informational presentation on updates related to operations and gas management.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

Solid Waste Permitting

Pine Bend Landfill, operated by Republic Services, is a Municipal Solid Waste Landfill located at 2495 117th St E in Inver Grove Heights. The landfill is currently operating under existing permits received through the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), Metropolitan Council Environmental Services (MCES), Dakota County (County) and the City of Inver Grove Heights (City).

In 2018, Pine Bend Landfill requested City, County and MPCA approval to expand the landfill's side slope capacity. The City approved this request through the following approvals:

- Resolution 18-70: Resolution Amending Resolution No. 6465 Granting a Non-Conforming Use Certificate for Pine Bend Sanitary Landfill for a Sanitary Landfill (April 9, 2018)
- Memorandum of Third Restated and Amended Host Community Agreement (May 8, 2018)
- Resolution 18-69: Resolution Approving a Conditional Use Permit to Allow Side Slope Capacity Expansion of Pine Bend Landfill (May 23, 2018)

In Fall 2021, Pine Bend Landfill received the final approval, Certificate of Need, from the MPCA for this expansion.

Annual Reporting

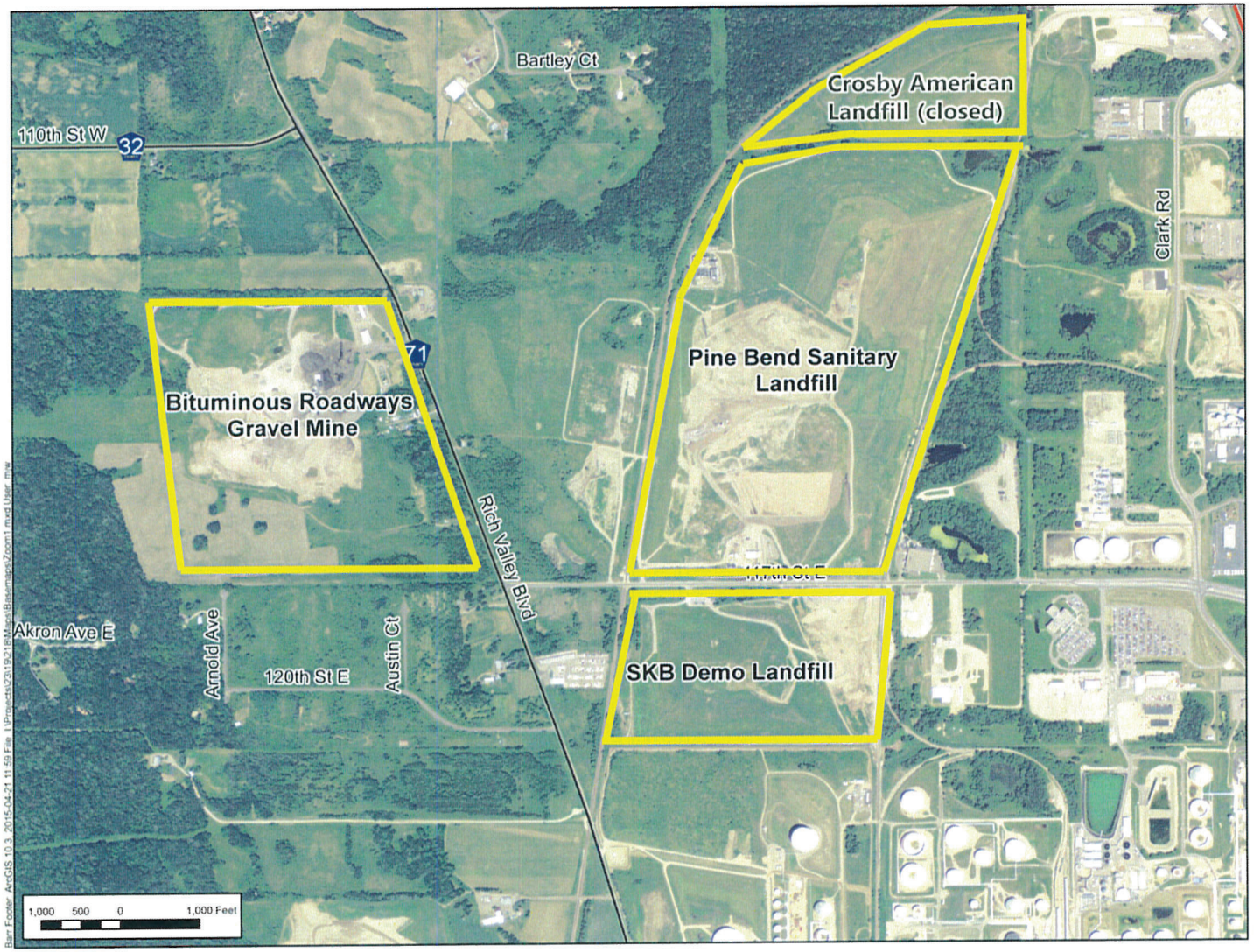
In the first quarter of the year, Pine Bend Landfill submits an Annual Report to the MPCA to show compliance with their MPCA Solid Waste Permit. Barr Engineering completes a technical review of the Annual Report on the behalf of the City for compliance of the following items:

- Conditional Use Permit
- Non-Conforming Use Certificate

- Gas/Leachate Dual Extraction System
- Landfill Gas
- Surface Water
- Financial Assurance
- Contingency Action and Closure Plans
- Groundwater Quality

Barr Engineering's review (dated October 2021) of Pine Bend Landfill's 2020 Annual Report concluded that compliance of Minnesota Rule 7035.2815 Subpart 11, related to gas management at landfills, was not achieved. Per Resolution 18-69 (CUP), until compliance is achieved, Pine Bend Landfill must present progress to City's Environmental Commission annually and report progress in their annual report. The City has requested that Pine Bend Landfill present progress to achieve compliance at the June 23, 2022 Environmental Commission Meeting. Pine Bend will also present operational updates related to the Landfill.

ATTACHMENTS: Site Map
Minnesota Rule 7035.2815, Subpart 11


Bartley Ct
Crosby American Landfill (closed)
110th St W
32
Clark Rd
Pine Bend Sanitary Landfill
71
Bituminous Roadways Gravel Mine
Rich Valley Blvd
Akron Ave E
Arnold Ave
120th St E
Austin Ct
SKB Demo Landfill
1,000 500 0 1,000 Feet

(10) type of dedicated pump, sampling device or measuring device including manufacturer and model number, pumping capacity, dimensions, location of intake area, how secured at the desired elevation, type of material used for connecting lines or hoses, and type and location of power source.

R. Piezometers that will not be used to measure water quality must comply with items E to G, J to M, O to R, and T. They must be designed and constructed to accurately measure hydraulic head in the portion of the aquifer or formation immediately surrounding the screen or intake area and to minimize the time lag between fluctuations in head outside the piezometer and the inside water level. If the time lag is too large, the commissioner may require pressure transducers or other alternative designs to be used.

S. Surface water monitoring points must comply with the following requirements:

(1) A permanent marker must be installed on land adjacent to the sampling location. The marker must clearly identify the monitoring station. The commissioner may approve an alternate procedure if a sampling location is outside the permitted property and permission cannot be obtained to install a marker.

(2) Monitoring stations in a river or stream must be located upstream of the area of ground water discharge, downstream where the discharge has mixed with the stream flow, and within the area of maximum projected pollutant concentrations in the discharging ground water.

(3) Within 30 days after establishing a surface water monitoring station, the owner or operator shall submit to the commissioner a revised landfill plan sheet showing the location and identification of the sampling station and marker.

T. Sampling personnel must inspect monitoring points and markers each time the monitoring point is measured or sampled. The owner or operator must inspect monitoring points and markers at least annually. The owner or operator must correct damaged or obstructed monitoring points, or other conditions that interfere with the proper functioning of the monitoring point within the time periods required for monitoring wells in part 4725.1860, subpart 5, item E. The owner or operator must resurvey the elevation of the top of the casing immediately after any change or repair that may have altered its elevation. The owner or operator must revise the well construction log, the monitoring protocol under subpart 14, item H, and the facility plans to show the new elevations, previous elevations, and the date of each change in elevation and submit the revised log and plans to the commissioner within 30 days after the change or repair.

Subp. 11. **Gas monitoring, collection, and treatment system.** The concentration of any explosive gas must not exceed its lower explosion limit at the property boundary or 25 percent of its lower explosion limit in and around facility structures or any other on-site

monitoring point. A gas monitoring, collection, and treatment system must be designed to meet the requirements of items A to G.

A. The gas monitoring system, at a minimum, must be capable of monitoring gas build-up in a facility structure and at the property boundary. The commissioner shall establish monitoring requirements (including water quality parameters that indicate gas migration) in the permit, closure document, order, or stipulation agreement. Field inspection to detect odors and signs of vegetative stress, and portable or in-place probes to monitor explosive gases must be included in the monitoring system.

B. Gas monitoring probes must be placed between the disposal site and on-site structures or property lines. The probes must be placed no closer to the property line than the compliance boundary defined in subpart 4, item C, to allow for installation of control measures. If the owner or operator believes that monitoring probes are unnecessary or infeasible, the owner or operator shall submit reasons to the commissioner to support this belief. The commissioner will decide on the need for monitoring probes based on the waste characteristics, fill size, surrounding soils, the water table, and the proximity to occupied buildings.

C. Probe depths and locations must be based on the soils, site geology, depth of fill, water table, and depth of frost.

D. At a minimum, each mixed municipal solid waste land disposal facility must be designed and constructed with gas vents. The number and placement of the gas vents must release gas pressure in the fill area to prevent ruptures of the cover system and to encourage vertical gas migration.

E. The gas control systems must extend below the facility to the water table or to a subsurface soil capable of impeding the movement of gas. The gas control system must be located adjacent to the fill area.

F. The size of the gas collection system must be based on the volume and type of waste to be received at the site. The owner or operator must determine the need for a gas collection system and discuss in the engineering report how the need was determined. The commissioner shall review the determination during the permit review process and again at closure. Approval of a gas monitoring system without collection at the time of permitting shall not limit future requirements determined necessary by the commissioner based on the volume of gas generated at the facility, the proximity to residential or business property, or problems experienced at the facility in maintaining vegetative growth or accumulation of gas in site structures.

G. A gas monitoring program must include sampling and analysis for the amount and type of gas generated. The monitoring program must be included in the operations manual for the facility. The program must account for variation in gas generation and

migration due to climatic conditions, variation in the amount of waste in place at the facility, and the length of time the waste has been in place. The operations manual must include the techniques to be used to monitor gas at the site.

Subp. 12. **Construction requirements.** The construction requirements in items A to M must be incorporated into the project specifications for all major design features, at a minimum.

A. The owner or operator must notify the commissioner at least seven days before the day construction is expected to begin on the major design features, including phase excavation, phase construction, liner installation, monitoring well installation, and the placement of final cover.

B. The construction firm's inspector must record all procedures completed during construction at a mixed municipal solid waste land disposal facility. The record must document that design features were constructed in accordance with parts 7035.2525 to 7035.2815 and 7035.2855. This record must include pictures, field notes, and all test results.

C. The owner or operator must install a permanent benchmark on-site and show its location on the facility as-built plan.

D. The owner or operator must complete tests for compaction, Atterberg limits, grain size distribution, lab and field permeability, and field moisture density, at a minimum, on liners and final covers constructed at the facility to ensure the requirements of subparts 5 to 9 are met. The owner or operator must retain a portion of the field-molded and field-compacted samples of liners and the final cover layers until the construction certification is complete.

E. Unless otherwise noted in subparts 5 to 9, the minimum permissible cover slope is three percent and the maximum permissible cover slope is 20 percent.

F. As horizontal phases are installed, the liner must be joined to existing liners.

G. Flexible membranes must be installed during dry conditions. The seams joining membrane panels must be inspected as construction proceeds. Seams must be air tested and field seams must be tested for tensile strength. All flexible membranes must be protected after placement. The natural layer above and below the barrier layer must be free of roots, sharp objects, rocks, or other items that might puncture the liner.

H. Barrier liners constructed of in situ soils must be formed by scarifying and recompacting these soils.

I. All pipe used in constructing the leachate collection system must be tested for deformations. The allowable pipe deflection is five percent.

J. All pipes exiting the lined area must be fitted with antiseep collars.

Inver Grove Heights Environmental Commission

Pine Bend Landfill

June 23, 2022

Outline

- Aerial Photograph
- Pine Bend Team
- Site History and Information
- Current Projects
- Gas Migration

Aerial Photograph – October 2020

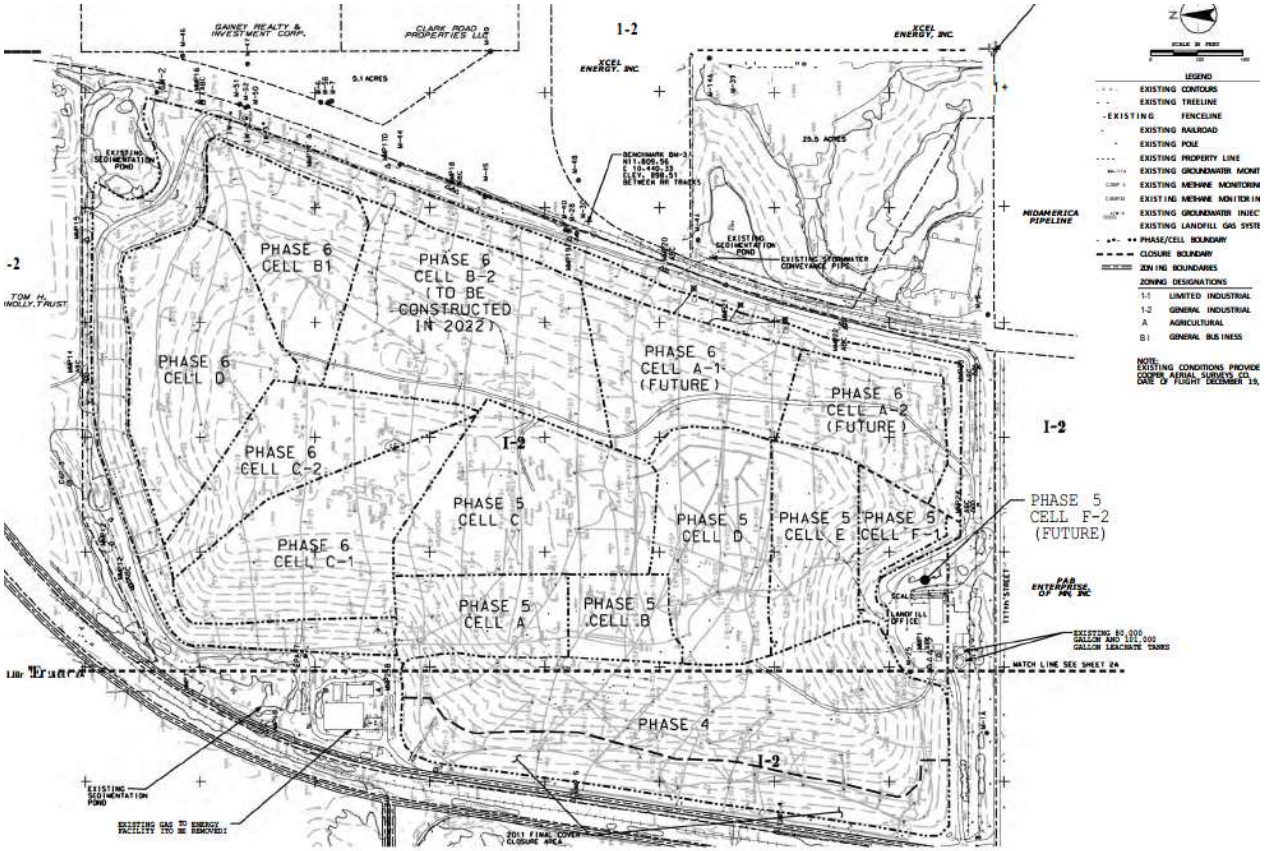
Pine Bend Team

- Tyler Kraft, General Manager, 4 years
- Chris Parker, Operations Manager, 2 years
- Ross Ziegenhagen, Operations Supervisor, 1 year
- Aaron Janusz, Environmental Manager, 15 years
- Gratias Sessou, Environmental Specialist, 2 months
- Operators (8) / Mechanic (1) / Scalehouse/Lab/Laborer (3)
- Consultants – Stantec, GES, SCS

Landfill Development

- MSW Landfill
  - MPCA Permit SW-45
  - Dakota County License/Host Agreement
  - Inver Grove Heights CUP/NCUC/Host Agreement
- Landfill Operations Started September 1971
  - Phase 1 and Phase 2 (Northern Portion) - Unlined
- Subtitle D (Engineered Landfill)
  - Phase 3 – 1986
  - Phase 4 - 1999
  - Phase 5 – 2005 (Vertical Expansion)
  - Phase 6 – 2019 (Vertical Expansion)

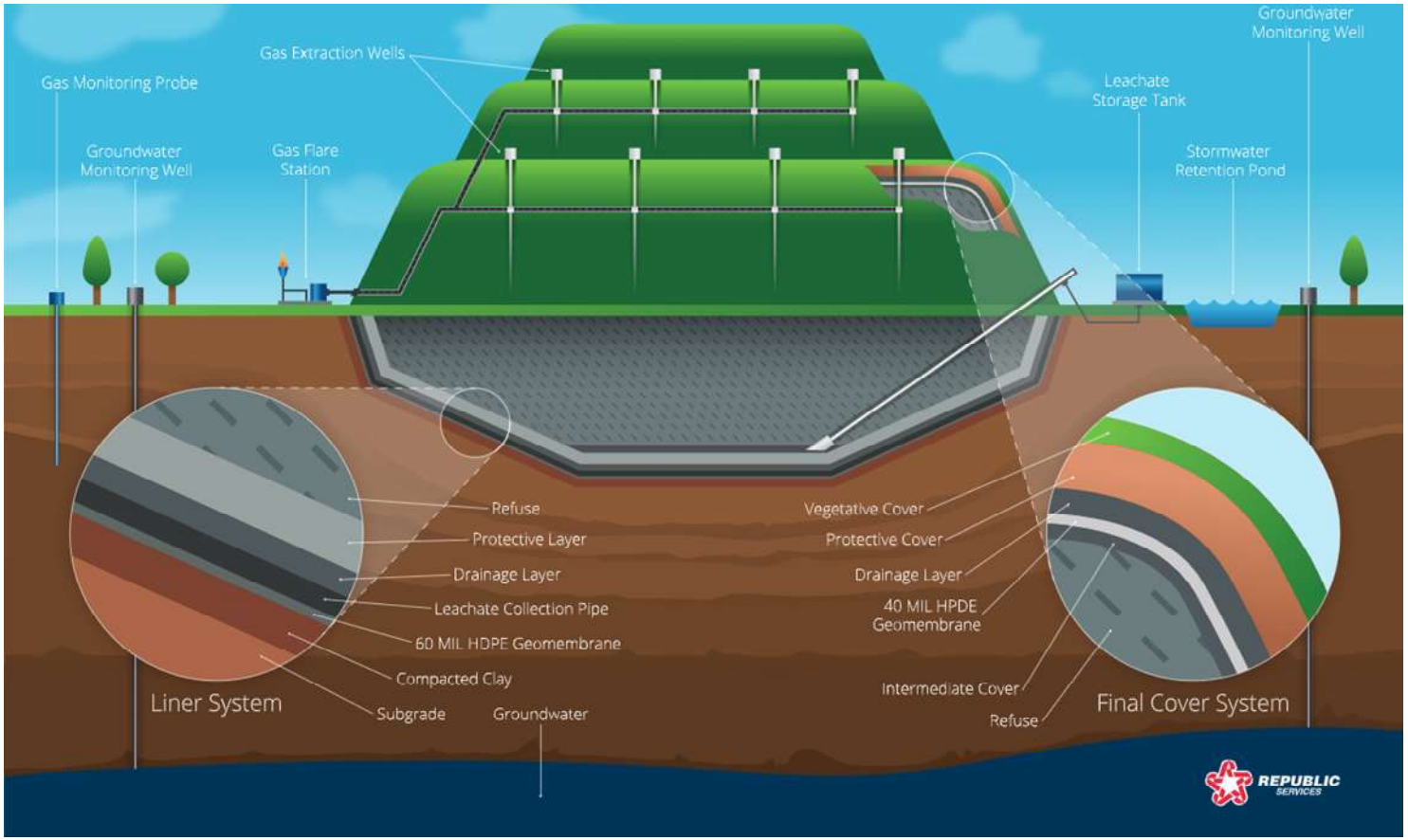
Landfill Development



Landfill Information

- Total Area – 358.7 acres
  - Permitted landfill – 192.1 acres
  - Current footprint – 188.9 acres
  - Final cover area – 40.0 acres
- 2,000 tons MSW per day
- 3,000 cubic feet per minute of Landfill Gas
  - Renewable Natural Gas (RNG) Plant
- 10,000,000 gallons of leachate per year
  - Hauled to Metropolitan Council Environmental Services (MCES) for treatment and disposal

Landfill Cross Section



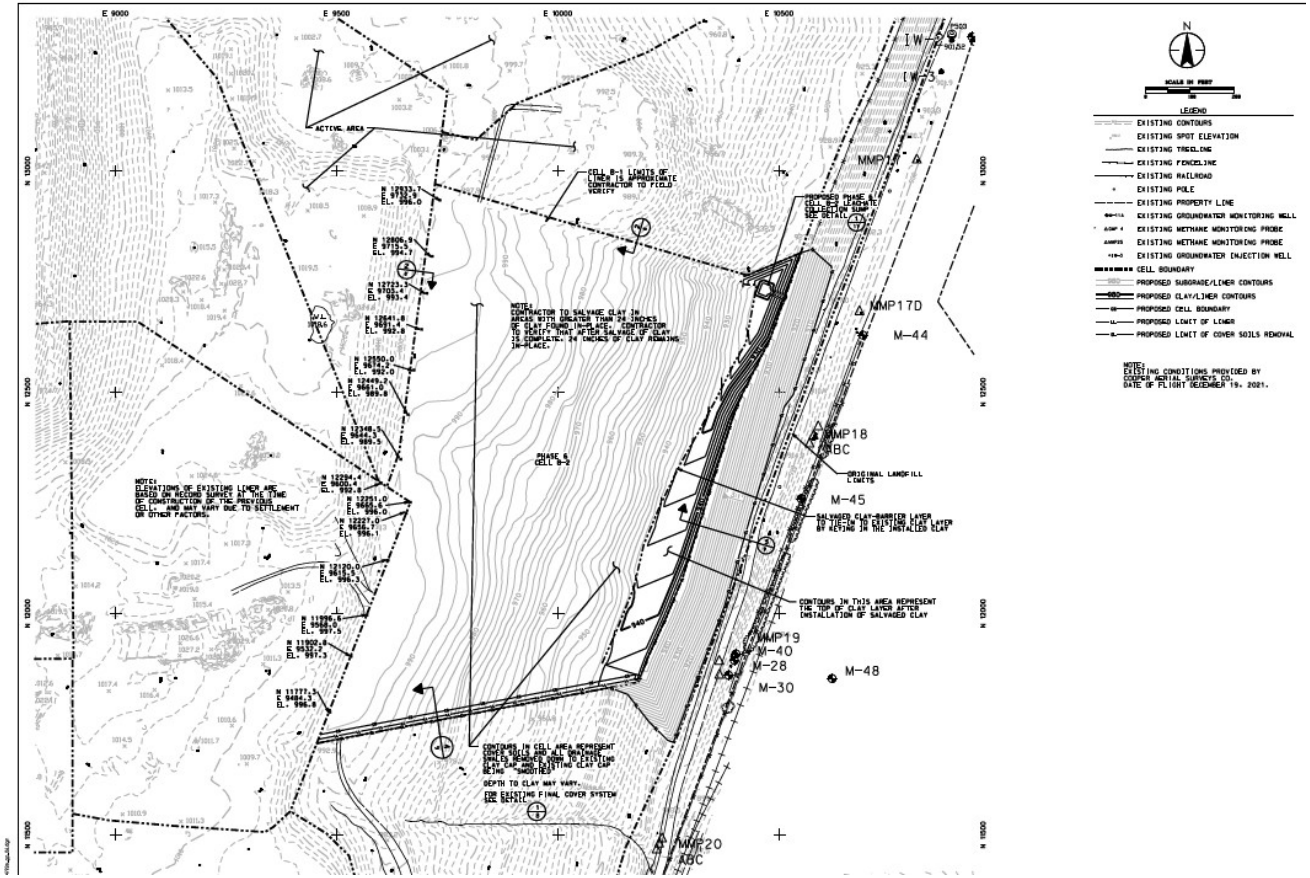
Project Updates

- Certificate of Need (CON)
- Phase 6B-2 Cell Construction – Sideslope Expansion
- Renewable Natural Gas (RNG) Plant Construction – Opal (formerly Fortistar)
- Vertical Expansion
- Gas Migration

Certificate of Need (CON)

- MPCA Process - Required for MSW Airspace
- Pine Bend Granted 2,398,746 tons Metro MSW in December 2021
- Based on 7-yr Metro County Estimates

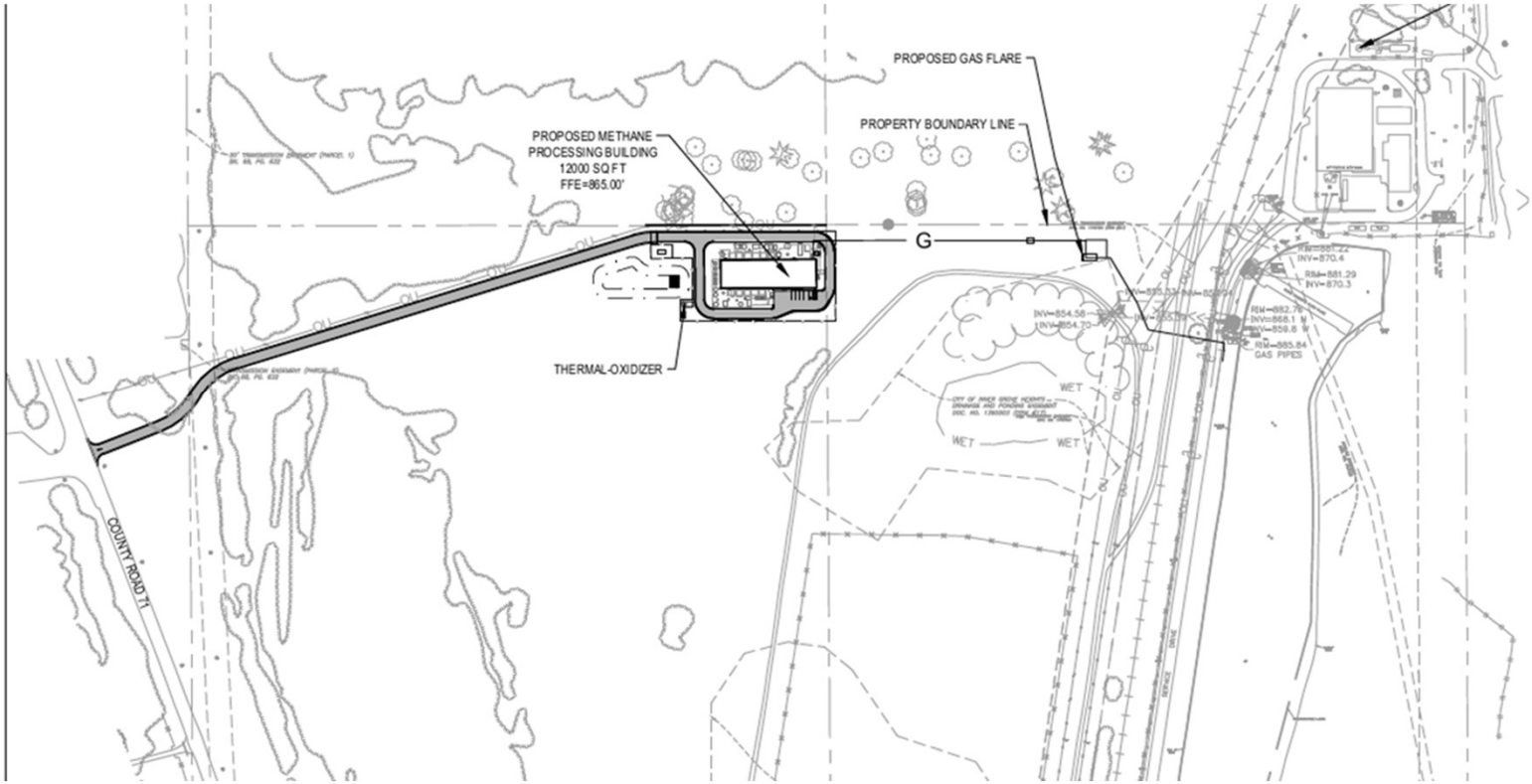
Cell Construction – Cell 6B-2



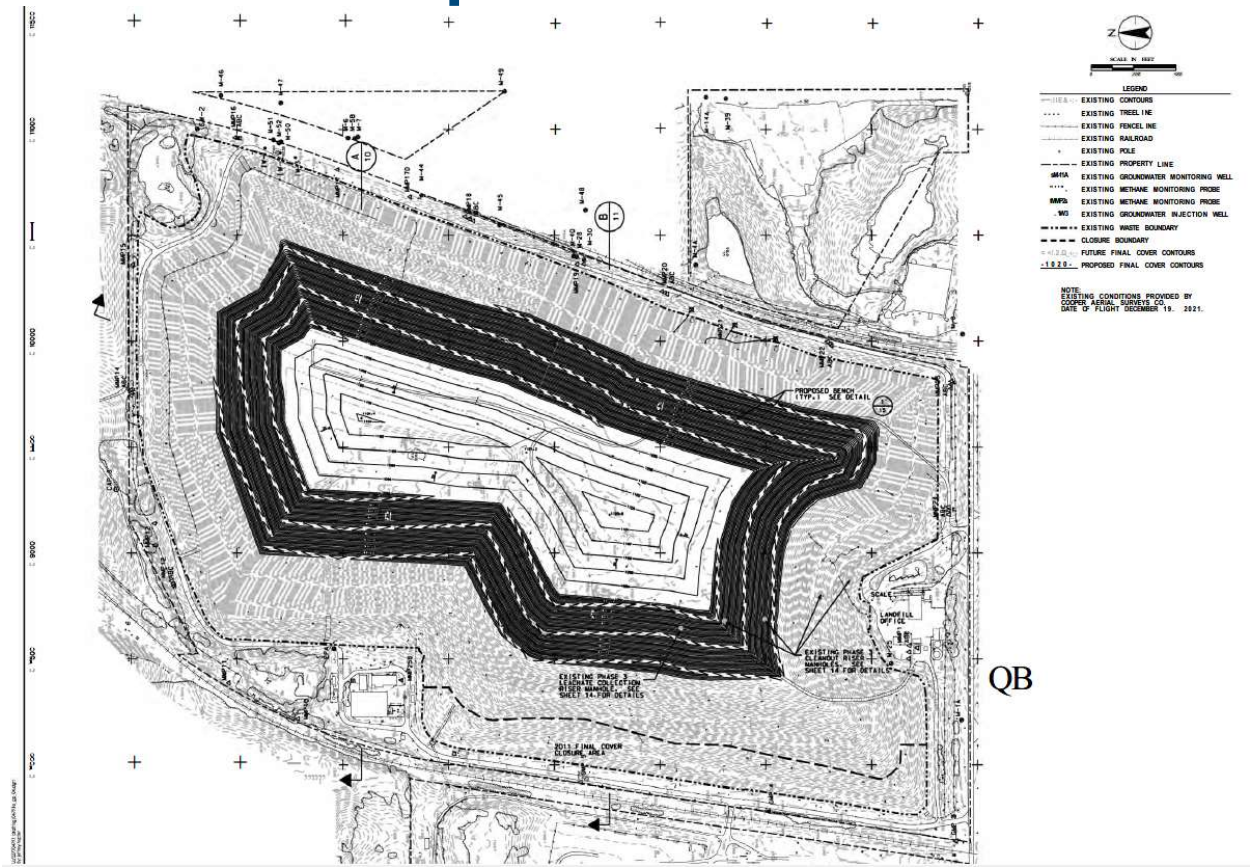
Renewable Natural Gas (RNG) Plant

- Opal Fuels (formerly Fortistar)– Plant Owner and Operator
- Convert Pine Bend's Landfill Gas to RNG – 18,000 tons methane per year
- 6.3 Million gasoline gallons equivalents of RNG per year
- Displaces 44,000 tons per year of CO_2
- Facility construction completed June 2022
- Currently commissioning – expect RNG to Xcel pipeline mid-July

RNG Plant


PROPOSED GAS FLARE
PROPERTY BOUNDARY LINE
PROPOSED METHANE
PROCESSING BUILDING
12000 SQ FT
FFE=865.00'
G
THERMAL-OXIDIZER
COUNTY ROAD 71
WET
WET
WET
GAS PIPES

Vertical Expansion



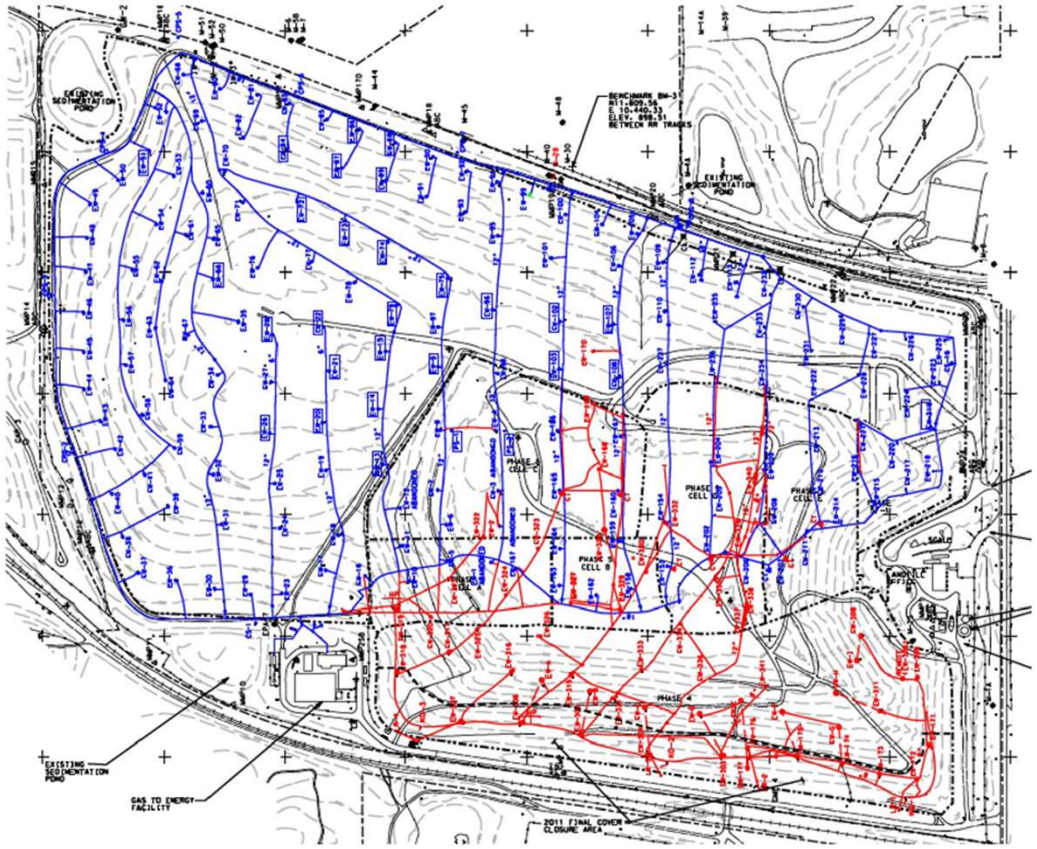
- Application submitted to MPCA on June 6, 2022
- Additional 85 feet elevation at highest point
- Additional 8.2 Million cy – 10 – 12 years of airspace

Gas Migration

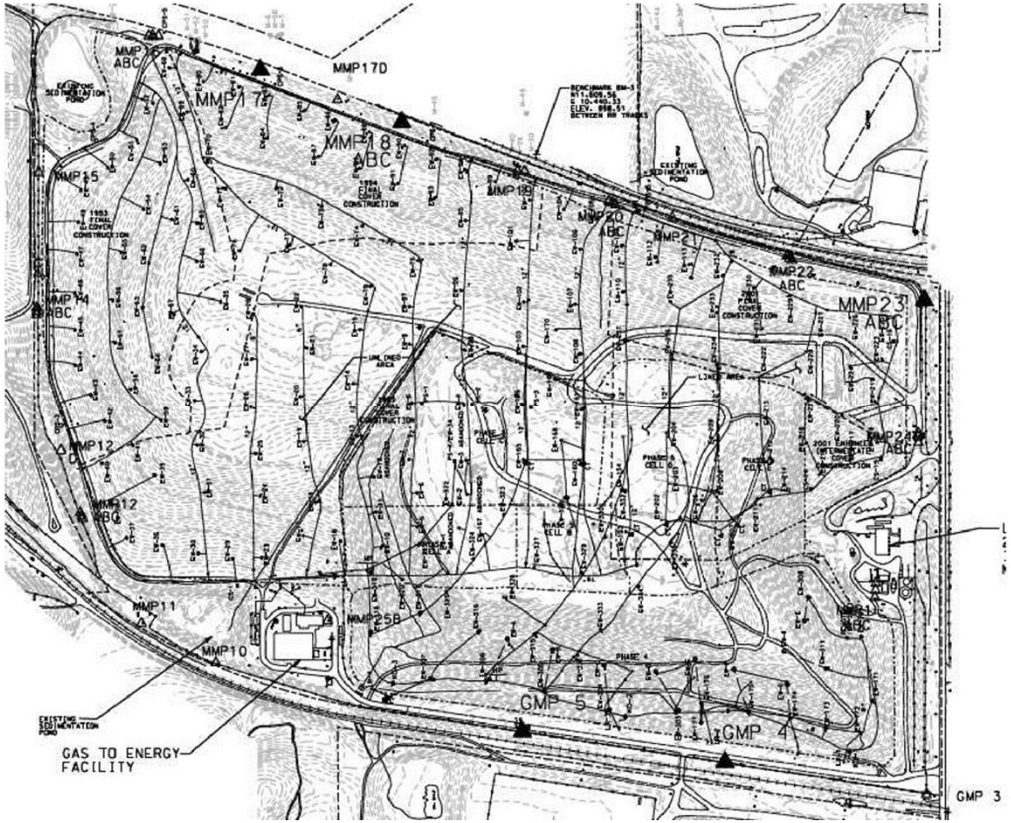
MN Rule 7035.2815 Subp. 11.
Gas monitoring, collection, and treatment system.
The concentration of any explosive gas must not exceed its lower explosion limit at the property boundary or 25 percent of its lower explosion limit in and around facility structures or any other on-site monitoring point.

- Landfill Gas (LFG) is 50% Methane
- Methane Lower Explosive Limit (LEL) is 5%

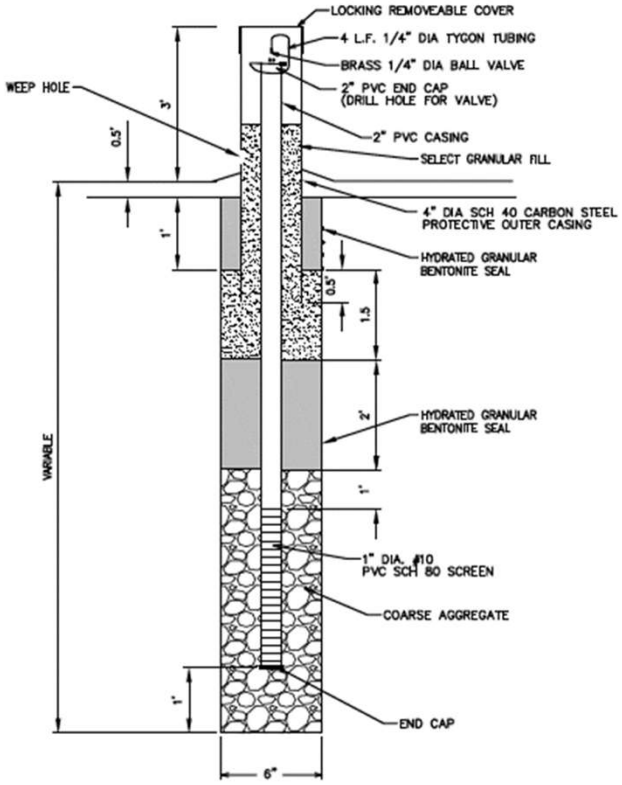
Gas Migration – Gas Collection System



Gas Migration – Gas Monitoring Probes



Gas Migration – Probe Detail



GAS MONITORING PROBE DETAIL

NOT TO SCALE

Gas Migration – Probe Monitoring

- 39 probes monitored quarterly
- Probes with exceedances monitored monthly
- Historical exceedances on east, south, and west side of landfill
  - Unlined area
  - Narrow buffer area
- Working with MPCA since 2006
- No off-site impacts
  - Building monitors in all on-site buildings
  - Building monitor at Recycling Center

Gas Migration – Source Controls

- Active Gas Collection
  - 220 collection points – gas wells, horizontals, leachate risers
  - 2020 - Phase 4 gas header, Phase 5 horizontal collection
  - 2021 – Additional gas wells, well redrills and piping repairs
- Phase 6 Sideslope Expansion
  - Additional liner/cover
  - Additional gas wells

Gas Migration – IGH CUP

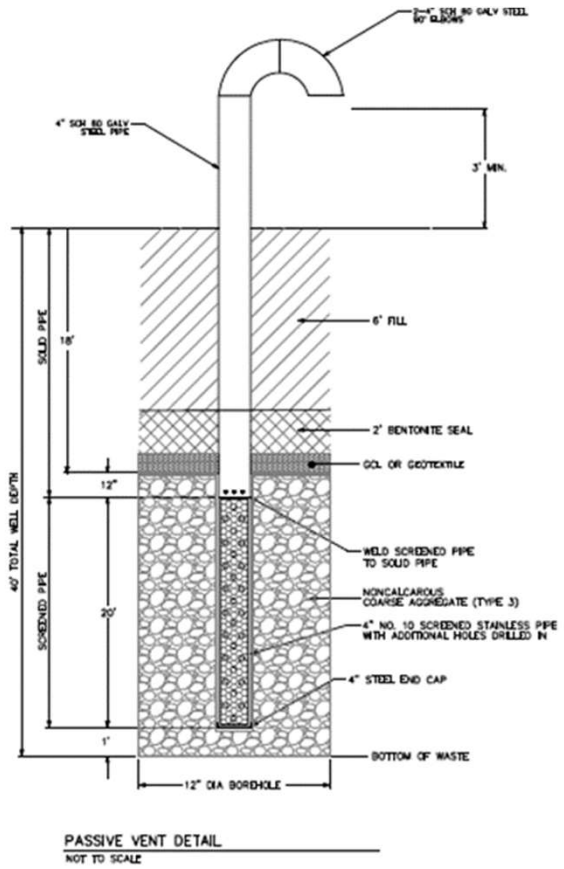
- April 9, 2018 Res. No. 18-69, Condition 14
- Compliance with MN Rule 7035.2815 for six consecutive months prior to January 1, 2025
- Annual updates to Environmental Commission
- Progress reports in MPCA Annual Report
- City review and comment on work plans and reports

Gas Migration – Timeline

- 2006 – Geoprobe investigation and "fingerprint" analysis
  - No detections across RR tracks to the north
  - Detection near Recycling Center across RR tracks
  - Installed building monitor at Recycling Center
- 2012 – Probe evacuation
  - Apply vacuum to two probes and monitor
  - No decrease in methane concentration
- 2013/14 – Geoprobe investigation
  - East and west side
  - One exceedance on east side (Recycling Center)
  - Exceedances on West 100

Gas Migration – Timeline

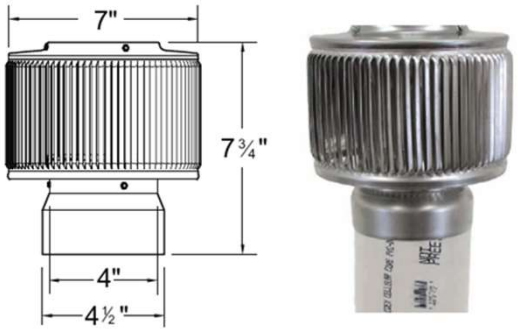
- 2015 – Geoprobe Investigation and Work Plan
  - Geoprobes at 5 locations adjacent to probes
  - Proposed installing passive vents

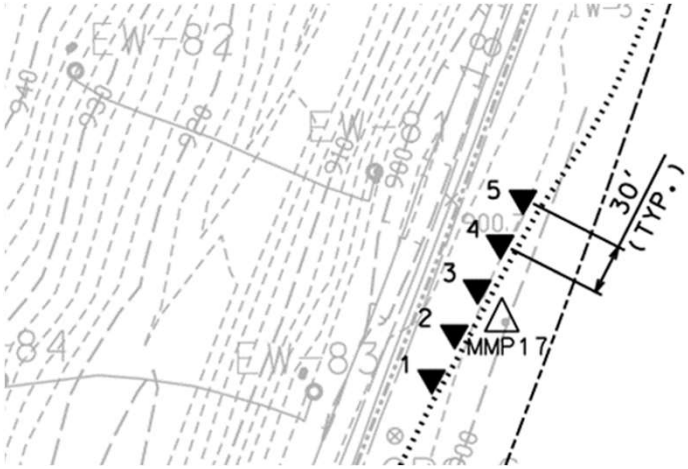


PASSIVE VENT DETAIL
NOT TO SCALE

Gas Migration – Timeline

- 2016/17 – Passive Vents and Work Plan
  - Passive vents installed adjacent to MMP17
  - Proposed installing wind turbines





Gas Migration – Timeline

- 2017/18 – Passive Vents and Work Plan
  - Turbines installed on passive vents at MMP17
  - Passive vents installed adjacent to MMP22 and MMP24
- 2019/20 – Monitoring
- 2021 – Workplan
  - Probes with passive vents – trending downward, with intermittent exceedances
  - Geoprobe investigation
  - Connect passive vents to vacuum source and mini-flare

Gas Migration – Timeline

- 2022 – Passive Vent Vacuum and Geoprobe Investigation
  - Radon Fans Installed on Existing Passive Vents
  - Geoprobe – Methane present in area of MMP17, potential "bubble"
  - Observing decline in methane concentration in probes near vents
- 2022 – Future
  - Additional passive vents and radon fans in locations with historical exceedances
  - Relocate MMP25
  - Continued monitoring
  - Prepare report and work plan

Gas Migration – Radon Fan

RadonAway
The world's leading radon fan manufacturer

RP PRO SERIES

Installs white, stays white

Radon Mitigation Fan

All RadonAway® fans are specifically designed for radon mitigation. RP Series Fans provide superb performance, run ultra-quiet and are attractive. They are ideal for most sub-slab radon mitigation systems.

Features

- Eternalast™ polycarbonate plastic housing
- Energy efficient
- Ultra-quiet operation
- Meets all electrical code requirements
- Water-hardened motorized impeller
- Seams sealed to inhibit radon leakage (RP140 & RP145 double snap sealed)
- ETL Listed - for indoor or outdoor use
- Thermally protected motor
- Rated for commercial and residential use
- HVI certified fan performance

MODEL	P/N	FAN DUCT DIAMETER	WATTS	RECOM. MAX. OP. PRESSURE "WC	TYPICAL CFM vs. STATIC PRESSURE WC					
					0"	.2"	.5"	1.0"	1.5"	2.0"
RP1401	28460	4"	14-19	0.6	152	120*	64*	-	-	-
RP145	28461	4"	34-66	1.7	169	150*	124*	81*	42	4
RP260	28462	6"	47-65	1.3	251	210*	157	70	-	-
RP265	28463	6"	96-136	2.3	375	340*	282*	204*	140	70
RP380	28464	8"	96-138	2.0	531	490*	415*	268*	139	41

*HVI Certified Values. † Energy Star® Rated.

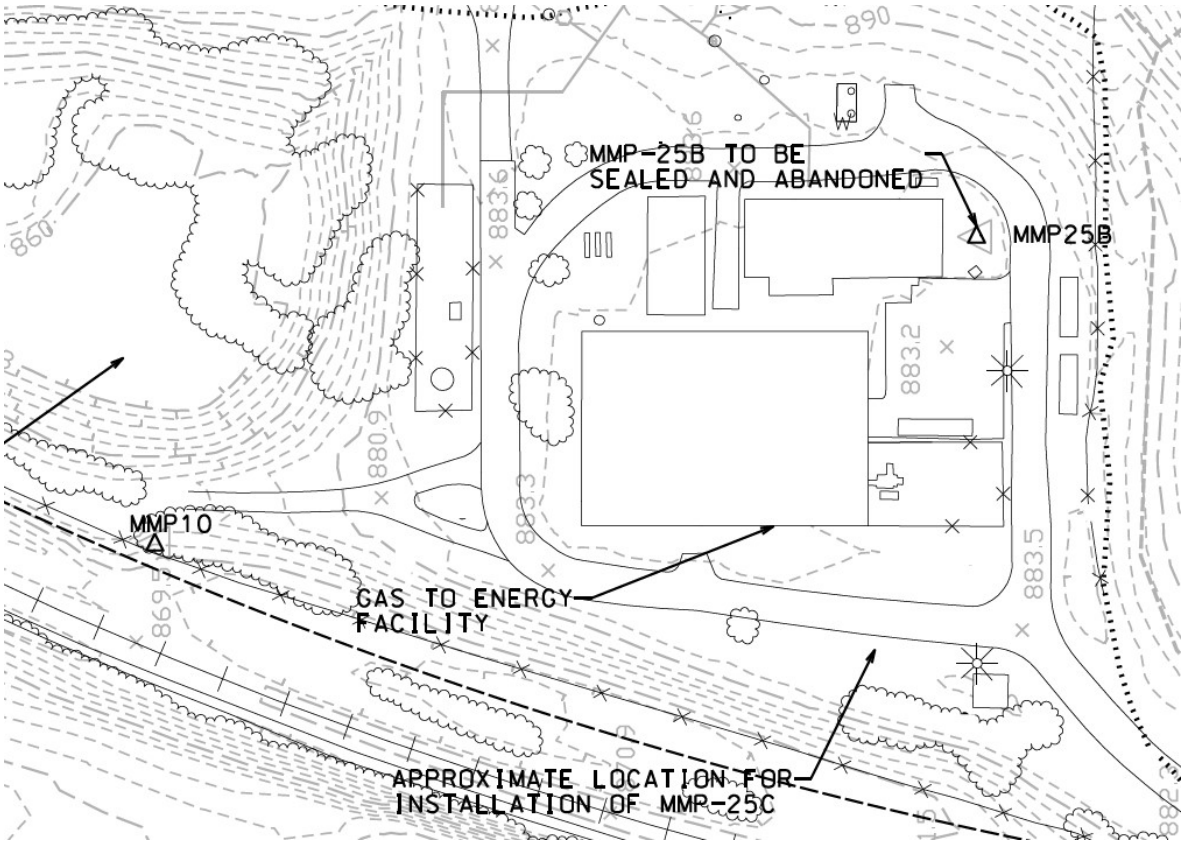
MADE IN USA

ETL Listed

All RadonAway® inline radon fans are covered by our 5-year, hassle-free warranty.

Model	A	B	C
RP140	4.5"	9.7"	8.5"
RP145	4.5"	9.7"	8.5"
RP260	6"	11.75"	8.6"
RP265	6"	11.75"	8.6"
RP380	8"	13.41"	10.53"

Gas Migration – MMP25 Relocation



Thank You!

- Aaron Janusz – Environmental Manager
- 651-434-9843
- ajanusz@republicservices.com

Inver Grove Heights Environmental Commission
8150 Barbara Avenue
Thursday, May 26, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order

The Environmental Advisory Commission of Inver Grove Heights met in City Council Chambers on Thursday, May 26, 2022. Vice Chair Sarah Brass called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Present: Vice Chair Sarah Brass; Commissioners Brian Barner, Larry Moehring, Todd Kruse, Nichole Boehmke
Absent: Chair Ted Trenzeluk, Commissioners Pat Todd, Matt Mills, Kathrine Teiken (excused)

3. Presentations

4. Approval of Minutes

A. Minutes of Thursday, February 24, 2022, Environmental Commission Meeting

Motion by Commissioner Todd, seconded by Commissioner Barner to approve the minutes from Thursday, February 24, 2022 as submitted.

Ayes: 5
Nays: 0 Motion carried.

5. Regular Agenda

A. Discussion on Future Environmental Initiatives

Environmental Specialist Ally Sutherland presented the item to the Commission. The Commission was asked to discuss the preliminary list of future environmental initiatives included in the agenda packet and provide comments and suggestions to staff. It was noted that the City's current environmental and sustainability efforts are guided by regional trends and programs such as the Minnesota GreenStep Cities, Xcel Energy Partners in Energy, Dakota County Community Waste Abatement Grant, and more. Background information and links to additional resources were included in the of potential environmental initiatives list provided in the agenda packet. The list of items is in no particular order, and additional research is still required for all items before they could move forward. Feasibility of projects will vary based on requirements related, but not limited to, staff time, project costs and available funding, support from other departments, and City Council approval. The following items were noted as ideas for future environmental initiatives: participating in SolSmart, participating in Dakota County's Organics Drop Off program, developing Residential and/or Business Sustainable Recognition Programs, supporting No Mow May, hosting an annual Litter CleanUp Event, providing Home Energy Squad® Buy-Downs, and joining the Electric Vehicle Ready Certification Program.

The Environmental Commission provided the following comments to staff:

- City departments should collaborate on environmental and sustainability initiatives when possible.
- The Environmental Commission is interested in getting more directly involved with future initiatives, such as helping to recruit volunteers for an event like the Litter Clean Up Day, for example. It was suggested to involve schools, such as Simley Highschool and Inver Hills Community College, in these types initiatives. It was also suggested to pair this with existing community events such as IGH Days or initiatives such as Adopt a Park.
- The Commission is happy to hear over 400 Inver Grove Heights residents already participate in the Organics Drop Off program and feel like this is evidence residents would like an IGH site. They also recalled the resident that spoke to the Commission requesting an IGH Organics Drop Off at a previous IGH Environmental Commission meeting.
- The Commission thinks the City should consider participating in the programs that have no cost to participate, aside from staff time, such as the Organics Drop Off program and SolSmart, when possible.
- Suggested the City combine No Mow May with education about less temporary ways to support pollinator habitat.
- City can consider promoting a "Turn off the Light" event to reduce light pollution.
- City can consider promoting unique environmental features in Inver Grove Heights to the community that they may not be aware of, for example the Macalester weather box located in the city.
- The Commission asked to review examples of Home Energy Squad buy downs and SolSmart participation. The Commission noted that as residents, they don't receive education on renewable energy options for their house. It was noted this is a gap the City should continue to fill.

The Environmental Commission concluded the discussion noting it was most interested in the City researching the potential to pursue participation in Dakota County's Organics Drop Site program and SolSmart. However, the Commission was aware three new Commissioners would be joining in June 2022. The Commission requested the discussion was continued in June to incorporate feedback from new Commissioners. The Commission also requested Staff begin discussing these two programs internally with staff and provide feedback to the Commission at the June 26, 2022 Commission meeting.

6. Public Comment

7. Commissioner and Staff Comments

8. Adjourn

Motion by Commissioner Barner, seconded by Commissioner Boehmke to adjourn at 8:03 p.m.

Ayes: 5
Nays: 0 Motion carried.

AGENDA ITEM _____

CITY OF INVER GROVE HEIGHTS

Staff Report

TITLE: Continued Discussion on Future Environmental Initiatives

Meeting Date:	June 23, 2022
Item Type:	Regular Agenda
Contact:	Ally Sutherland, 651-604-8511
Prepared by:	Ally Sutherland

PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED

The Environmental Commission is asked to continue the discussion from the May 26, 2022 Commission meeting related to environmental initiatives the City of Inver Grove Heights could consider pursuing in the future. Staff will provide an internal update and requests the Commission continues to provide comments and suggestions on future initiatives.

BACKGROUND

On May 26, 2022, Staff presented a list of potential environmental initiatives the City could consider pursing to the Environmental Commission. The list presented included initiatives that support existing environmental and sustainability programming goals. The City's existing efforts are guided by regional trends and programs such as Minnesota GreenStep Cities, Xcel Energy Partners in Energy, Dakota County Community Waste Abatement Grant, and more.

On May 26, 2022, the Environmental Commission concluded the discussion noting it was most interested in the City researching the potential to pursue participation in Dakota County's Organics Drop Site program and SolSmart. However, the Commission was aware three new Commissioners would be joining in June 2022. The Commission requested the discussion was continued in June to incorporate feedback from new Commissioners. The Commission also requested Staff begin discussing these two programs internally with staff and provide feedback to the Commission at the June 26, 2022 Commission meeting.

The preliminary list of environmental initiatives discussed at the May 26, 2022 was updated and attached for the Commission to review and provide feedback on. Updates include incorporating the electric vehicle readiness certificate and pollinator lawns with No Mow May. Background information and links to additional resources are included. Items are listed in no particular order. It should be noted that additional research is still required for all items before they could move forward. Feasibility of projects will vary based on requirements related, but not limited to, staff time, project costs and available funding, support from other departments, and City Council approval.

ATTACHMENTS

- Preliminary List of Environmental Initiatives *(draft)*

Preliminary List of Environmental Initiatives
Updated 6/23/2022

SolSmart: SolSmart is a solar-ready certification program focused on helping communities adopt best practices for solar readiness. The city is eligible for receive free technical assistance from Great Plains Institute (GPI) on solar projects, land use and permitting standards, and educational and outreach initiatives does require entering the program. Minnesota has almost 40 communities that have achieved certification and their achievements which can be viewed here.

Organics Drop-Off: Dakota County is expanding opportunities for residential organics recovery. Specifically, to co-develop and provide assistance (e.g., hauling and enclosure reimbursement, resident education, training) for residential organics drop-off sites with cities until curbside organics collection is widely available. Cities provide the location and site maintenance. Drop-off sites include organics dumpsters that may be enclosed in a fenced-in structure. Any Dakota County resident can sign up to use this free service. Cities with existing drop-off are include Burnsville, Eagan, Farmington, Hastings, Lakeville, Mendota Heights, Rosemount, and West St. Paul.

Residential/Business Sustainable Recognition Programs: Many communities in Minnesota recognize their residents and/or businesses for taking sustainable actions that help create a greener, more resilient community. Examples of city sustainability recognition programs include: Eden Prairie, St Louis Park, Hopkins, Coon Rapids, LaCrescent, Burnsville Neighborhood Grant, Burnsville Community Builder Award and more.

Pollinator Lawns and/or No-Mow May: Initiatives such as pollinator/bee lawns and No Mow May were created to provide habitat for pollinators that have been in decline for years. Bee lawns made of a tight mix of grasses and low-growing perennials that offer high-quality nutrition to pollinators. No Mow May was developed to increase pollen and other foraging resources for pollinators emerging from dormancy. The initiative is promoted by Bee City USA and cities such as West St. Paul, Edina, Crystal, New Brighton, Vadnais Heights and Mendota Heights by temporarily suspending zoning codes. IGH received at least 7 inquiries from residents about No Mow May in May 2022.

Litter Clean-Up Event: Various cities organize city-wide litter clean-up events in Spring or Fall. Picking up trash, litter, and other debris protects water quality by preventing pollutants from entering the storm water system. Volunteers are typically organized into groups and designated to sites around the city such as parks, streets and school grounds. Examples of existing events/programs include Eden Prairie, St. Paul, Minneapolis, Lakeville, Dakota County, Champlin, Fridley, Duluth, Vadnais Heights, Roseville and more.

Home Energy Squad® Buy-Downs: The 2020 Inver Grove Heights Energy Survey results identified cost as the number one barrier to completing energy efficiency projects in home and businesses. Home Energy Squad visits are the first step to identifying home energy problems, and how homeowners can save money and reduce energy usage. Other Minnesota cities offer "Buy Downs" of home energy squad visits to reduce cost barriers to home energy improvements. City programs vary, where they pay for a portion of the visit or offer a select number of free visits annually. Cities such as Burnsville, Coon Rapids, Golden Valley, Richfield, and more participate.

EV-Ready Certification Program: Program partners of the GreenStep Cities program are releasing an Electric Vehicle (EV) Ready Certification Program soon. No details have been released yet for the program, but one of the program partners, Drive Electric, has developed a list of five principles for what constitutes an EV-ready city which the program will likely focus on: 1) Policy: Adopt policies and plans that support electrification, 2) Regulation: Implement development standards that enable public and private sector EV use, 3) Administration: Create predicable, transparent, and well-documented administrative processes for installing EV charging infrastructure, 4) Programs: Develop public programs to overcome market barriers to EV use and installation of charging equipment, 5) Leadership: Demonstrate EV viability in public fleets, facilities, public transit, and alternative transportation modes.