

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Environmental Authority
Held on Wednesday 23 July 2025
At the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Botanical Gardens, Paget
and Remotely using Teams Teleconference**

PRESENT: Ms. Davida Morris, Chair
Mr. Eugene Saunders, Deputy Chair (remote access)
Mr. Andrew Barnes (remote access)
Dr. Tom Sleeter, Member
Mr. Jonathan Starling, Member

ADVISORS: Dr. Geoff Smith, Director, DENR (remote access)
Ms. Patricia Hollis, Environmental Officer, DENR
Dr. Shaun Lavis, Hydrogeologist, DENR
Ms. Crystal Baxter, Environmental Health Officer (remote access)
Mr. Tarik Christopher, Chief Engineer, Public Works (remote access)

ABSENT: Ms. Debby Correia, Member
Mr. James Morrison, Member
Mr. Paul McDonald, Assistant Director, Dept. of Planning
Mr. Armell Thomas, Acting Chief EHO, Health

1. Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes of the meeting No. 406 and 407 held on 25 and 26 June 2025 were approved and signed by the Chair.

2. Matters Arising

2.1 BELCO Complaints—June 2025

The Authority **TOOK NOTE:**

that there were seven soot complaints, four confirmed soot fallout events, and no odour complaints in June 2025.

There was much discussion on the continuing soot fallout events despite the efforts BELCO has made to address them. The Chair said that it appears that the only solution is for BELCO to use a cleaner fuel such as low-sulphur diesel. It was acknowledged that a previous assessment of this carried out by the Regulatory Authority concluded that this would probably result in an electricity price increase with consequent impacts on the general public. The Authority consider that use of natural gas (NG) to power BELCO engines is probably the most practicable option to reduce environmental impacts such as soot fallout and levels of certain air pollutants; it was acknowledged, however, that the previous Integrated Resource Plan did not allow BELCO to use NG to power its engines.

The Authority **REQUESTED:**

a letter be sent to BELCO and copied to the Regulatory Authority requesting an update on BELCO's plans for addressing the soot fallout events.

The Authority **REQUESTED:**

that the DENR Technical Officers meet with the Regulatory Authority (RA) to inform them of the Authority's position regarding ongoing soot complaints and the need for the use of cleaner fuel (such as NG). The Authority asked for an invitation be extended to the RA to attend one of their meetings.

3. Applications for Construction Permits and Operating Licences (New)

3.1 OL-1300 Invisible Trenching Ltd

The Authority **APPROVED:**

the application for replacement sand sifter licenced under OL-1100 because it was beyond repair, subject to standard conditions. The sand sifter is to be used at 2 Marsh Lane, Devonshire and at sites with valid Building Permits. The crusher will remain licenced under OL-1100.

4. Applications for Construction Permits and Operating Licences (Reissues)

4.1 MPW & H Waste Disposal Facilities

4.1.1 OL-004 Tynes Bay Waste to Energy Facility

The Members expressed dissatisfaction with the current operational practices whereby a few of the Operating Licence Conditions are not being complied with because of apparent budgeting shortfalls (e.g. raw ash being disposed of because of cost of cement, lack of trucks) or other reasons (Marsh Folly wood chippings being incinerated at Tynes Bay). They said it is unacceptable to carry on without improvements and adequate budgets.

The Authority **DEFERRED:**

the TBWEF Operating Licence reissue application. The Chair asked that letter be sent to the Permanent Secretary and Minister of PW&E relaying the Authority's dissatisfaction with compliance with Operating Licence conditions and requesting explanations for the non-compliance matters.

4.1.2 OL-168 Airport Waste Management Facility

The Authority **DEFERRED:**

consideration of the Airport Waste Management Facility Operating Licence reissue application pending circulation of conditions to Members for their review.

4.1.3 OL-349 Marsh Folly Compost Facility

The Authority **APPROVED:**

the reissue of OL-349 providing MPW & E demonstrate that the spreading of wood chips over the site (as opposed to the use of well-spaced windrows) is acceptable to the Bermuda Fire and Rescue Service.

4.1.4 OL-387 Sallyport Special Waste Facility

The Authority **APPROVED:**

the issuance of the Sallyport Special Waste Facility operating licence subject to the same conditions as before.

4.1.5 OL-452 Materials Recovery Facility, Bailey's Bay.

The Authority **APPROVED:**

the issuance of the Sallyport Special Waste Facility operating licence subject to the amendments proposed by MPW & E Solid Waste Manager. These changes were requested to facilitate better reporting.

4.2 The Authority APPROVED:

the applications for reissue of operating licences listed on the two-page printout, subject to standard conditions.

5. Applications for Water Rights (New)

The Authority **APPROVED:**

5.1 WR 5855 submitted by the Department of Parks for a commercial sewage disposal borehole at 4 Marsh Folly Road, Pembroke providing the borehole is sealed at least 60 feet below sea level, subject to standard conditions.

5.2 WR 5856 submitted by Sean White for a domestic abstraction well for household supply at 11 Floral Lane, St. George's, subject to standard conditions.

5.3 WR 5858 submitted by Alicia Nimo-Saavedra for a domestic abstraction well for supply to a 4000 IGPD reverse osmosis plant at 17 Mill Shares Road, Pembroke, subject to standard conditions.

5.4 WR 5859 submitted by Alicia Nimo-Saavedra for a domestic borehole for the disposal of reject water from a 4000 IGPD reverse osmosis plant at 17 Mill Shares Road, Pembroke, subject to standard conditions, and providing the borehole is sealed at least 40 feet below sea level.

5.5 WR 5860 submitted by Robin and Jean Swan for a domestic abstraction well for household supply at 25 Loyal Hill Pass, Devonshire, subject to standard conditions.

6. Applications for Water Rights (Reissues)

6.1 The Authority **APPROVED**:

the reissuance of Water Rights on the four-page printout, subject to standard conditions, with the exception of five indicated as withdrawn.

7. Permission to Burn Prohibited Debris (Expired Explosives)

The Authority was advised of an application to burn prohibited debris at the Government Quarry, Baileys Bay had been submitted by the Ministry of Public Works and Environment.

The Authority **TOOK NOTE**:

1. The Quarry holds a large amount of out-of-date explosives held in two magazines; One magazine contains detonators and the other contains explosives.
2. The explosives were assessed by the Joint Service Explosive Ordnance Disposal (JSEOD) team in Dec 2021.
 - a) All of the explosives without exception are out of date and in need of disposal.
 - b) Previous reports recommended burning the explosives in a burn pit or exporting them off-island.
3. Handling of the explosives is considered highly dangerous and should be minimised.
 - a) burning is the preferred disposal method.
4. Wide consultations taken place with all government stakeholders (over several years): no objections have been raised.
5. Under the Clean Air Act 1991 and the Clean Air Regulations 1993:
 - a) the explosives are defined as “prohibited debris”
 - b) permission to burn from the Environmental Authority (EA) is required.
6. A demonstration burn is proposed to test the method and assess impacts to the surrounding environment.
 - a) The demonstration is planned for 5 Sept. 2025
7. It is anticipated it will take several months to burn all the explosives, even with four burn pits running simultaneously, 4 days/week with staff working ten-hour shifts.
8. The explosives need a decision by Government or else they will continue to deteriorate and create a more complex problem in the future.

The planned burn of prohibited debris includes a demonstration burn and then continued burns as needed:

1. Demonstration will burn explosives on 3 concrete platforms.
2. Platforms located in area of the quarry that minimises risks to workers and residents.
3. Providing weather conditions are suitable, burn is scheduled for 5th Sept. 2025.
4. Full burn project (est. 6 months) will begin at the end of September 2025.

The Authority **APPROVED**:

the demonstration burn scheduled for 5 September 2025, subject to acceptable weather conditions and that the public is advised beforehand.

The Authority will **CONSIDER**:

the application for subsequent burns after receiving reports of the demonstration burn.

8. Disposal of Large Electric Vehicle Batteries

The Authority **TOOK NOTE**:

that the Ministry of Public Works and Environment (MPWE) is seeking a disposal solution for large batteries from electric vehicles and the like. Presently, constraints on disposal options need to take into consideration that:

- only batteries weighing less than 75lbs may be exported for recycling (international shipping regulations and US import legislation);
- electric batteries are dangerous to remove from vehicles unless they are appropriately handled by trained technicians;
- lithium batteries present a large fire risk.

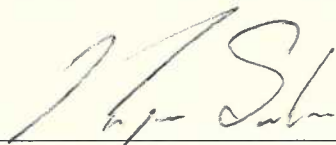
The Authority **TOOK NOTE**:

That MPWE is seeking advice from experts overseas for viable options of battery disposal. One long-term method may be to shred the batteries on island and ship the product overseas

for recycling. There are limited short-term options because of the significant fire and health and safety risks associated with storing and/or dismantling large batteries on-island. After considering many possible solutions, the most practicable option might be to immerse EV vehicles and large batteries in seawater at the Airport Waste Management Facility. Comprehensive studies on the leachability of batteries and vehicles would need to be completed (along with long-term environmental monitoring program assessments) before this option would be implemented. Other options will be investigated.

9. Date of the Next Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday 19 August 2025.



CHAIRMAN

19 August 2025

DATE