

Digester Meeting 10-23-18

The Town of Holland Planning Board met at 7pm at Van Abel's on October 23, 2018 for a presentation given by BC Dynamics. The presentation would be given and a question and answer period. Chmn Rotzenberg called the meeting to order. Mr. Dan Nemke proceeded to explain the operation of the digester system. There would be 16 digesters located on a parcel of land located on the corner of Old 57 Road and Lamers-Clancy Road. This operation would cover over 30 acres taking all of the manure under contract and converting it into natural gas, dried fertilizer and clear water discharge into a nearby creek. Mr. Nemke stated that there would be fewer trucks on the road, manure could be piped from nearby farms. There was a question asking how many cows would this plant service? Answer-22,000. Local farms are now contracted included Gerritts, Wiese, Brick and VandeHey.

Question: Are there special needs for emergency provisions?

Answer: Built into the design and local fire departments are informed.

Question: Is gas stored on site?

Answer: Only on the top of the tank.

Question: What are the lengths of the farmer contracts?

Answer: 20 years

Question from Atty Kamps: Are all permits listed?

Answer: Yes

Question: Can this operation handle more than 25 per cent non-manure?

Answer: It would need more permits.

Question: How is this plant able to handle a break or rupture?

Answer: It will be electronically monitored and when personnel are not there there will be berms to catch any leakage.

Question: What about flames?

Answer: A flare system will be used as a backup.

Question: Permit needed for stacks?

Answer: Part of air quality permitting.

Question: Power outages

Answer: Generator backup

Question: Will manure from other counties come?

Answer: No reply

Question: Any constraints as to numbers and size?

Answer: This could be done in the Conditional Use Permit (C.U.P.)

Question: Any way to stop your growth?

Answer: Usually it is limited to what is submitted.

Question: To the person from Waterloo regarding a plant running for 10 years for 1.5 million gallons of manure it produces 633 KWPower, 90 per cent manure, 10 per cent food waste.

Mike Geiger stated it is the same amount of tillage with or without manure.

Dave VandeHey: There could be a reduction trucks on the road.

Dan Pleshek: How much noise from flares, generators, etc.

Answer: Tanks would act as buffers.

Question: What about water going into creeks?

Answer: It would be of a better quality.

Question: Is this system on the grid?

Answer: Have system to protect, offsite

Question: Any tax base for digesters?

Answer: No

Question: How long will you be here?

Answer: Until system is running successfully and then sold to private ownership.

Question: How is the land leased?

Answered: From the current leasee

Question: Fire departments need training and equipment. Are you willing to contribute?

Answer: Could be part of the C.U. P.

Question: If this is exclusive ag, how can this be used for digesters?

Answer: Fits subsection 3A stated attorney for digesters.

Sup. Steve Deslauries stated due to the nature of the facility this could cause undue hardship on the town.

Question: Where does the piping go and who checks for leaks and ruptures?

Answer: WPS and Wisconsin/Michigan Gas and the Town of Holland.

Question: Mike Hanaway asked, "What is your expertise in this field, is mechanical engineering, mining engineer, project manager for municipal waste. How many years in digester business?"

Answer: 15 years

Question: Will there be an odor measurement and what recourse exists?

Answer: Digesters not working, correction needed and financial penalty for smell.

Question: Can we have a list of working plants?

Answer: We are not a technology company.

Question: Where is the gas going?

Answer: Mill Road

Question: Could you do this without the 15 million dollars in tax money?

Answer: No

Question: Where did the maps come from?

Answer: Was mailed to them.

Question: When was the grant applied for?

Answer: July 2017

Question: Will the C.U.P. follow the land?

Answer: No policy goes with the company.

Question: What is the footprint of the land, has funding been secured?

Answer: Funding is pending on the footprint and 30.8 acres owned by Port Resources.

Question: Any plans to improve the roads?

Answer: No, improvements for intersection at Lamers-Clancy and Old 57 Road would be at the town's request.

Question: Will this energy be used for transportation?

Answer: No, it is brown gas.

Question: What is the contract between you and the farms?

Answer: We do not pay for manure, we pay for trucking. Wiese's and Gerritts' may pump.

Question: What about the others?

Answer: It would be 57 to Lamers-Clancy then to the site.

Question: Will all of the trucks go past 3 schools?

Answer: Only 7 loads per day from New Horizons.

Question: Who are the ones whose pockets are getting greased?

No answer

Chmn Rothenberg made the motion to close the meeting at 10pm. Atty Sickel stated the planning board would evaluate the information from the meeting and from Atty Kamps' recommendation as to the environmental policy that the towns options are.

This is an abbreviated minutes, the entirety of the meeting can be listened to on the Town of Holland's website.