

NEW JERSEY NOISE CONTROL COUNCIL (NCC)
DECEMBER 8, 2015
MEETING MINUTES

ATTENDEES: Arnold Schmidt (Chairman, Public Member), Joseph Lepis (Vice Chairman, Public Member), John Lago (Department of Community Affairs), Steve Szulecki (Public Member, Ecologist), Dr. Iris Udasin (Public Member, Medical Doctor), Norm Dotti (Public Member, Industrialist), John Kapferer (Public Member), Eric Zwerling (Director of the Rutgers Noise Technical Assistance Center) and David Triggs (Department of Environmental Protection, Noise Control Council Liaison).

I. MEETING MINUTES

The meeting minutes for November (John Kapferer motioned and Norm Dotti seconded) were approved with minor changes. Temporarily posting the meeting minutes on the Rutgers Noise Technical Assistance Center website with a web link to the NCC website may be an alternative to not having them available on line. Eric Zwerling agreed to look into the feasibility. David Triggs will look into whether a web link is acceptable to the Department.

II. CHAIR REPORT

- Mr. Triggs has received certificates of completion for the required ethics training from NCC members John Kapferer, Joseph Lepis, Arnold Schmidt, Steve Szulecki, Randy Hauser, Eric Lieberman and John Lago. Norm Dotti took the training but could not print the certificate of completion.
- Bios for the NCC website have been submitted by Arnold Schmidt, Dr. Udasin, Eric Lieberman, Jerome Feder, Joseph Lepis, John Kapferer, Norm Dotti, Randy Hauser and Steve Szulecki. John Lago agreed to send his bio to Chairman Schmidt. The bios will not be posted until they are all submitted.
- The NCC is waiting for a letter from the Commissioner of the Motor Vehicle Commission before acknowledging Donald Dinsmore's appointment as Susan Debiec's replacement. A vacancy will be posted on the NCC website for Carl Acettolla who recently resigned. Eric Zwerling will also announce the vacancy at his noise certification classes and in his newsletter.
- Chairman Schmidt will be on vacation for the January meeting. Pending a potential weather cancellation and attendance, newly appointed Vice Chairman Steve Szulecki will run the meeting.
- Chairman Schmidt asked if anyone attended the November League of Municipalities (LOM) Conference. Joseph Lepis stated that while he has attended in the past to answer the public's questions from a consulting table, the LOM decided to not offer this service this year due to low participation. They instead will provide a list of names to contact on a website. Mr. Lepis volunteered to be the contact for noise-related questions.

III. OLD BUSINESS

- *Motor Vehicles Entering/Exiting Facilities:* Norm Dotti reached out to other noise consultants to meet and discuss how noise from vehicles entering and exiting a facility should be handled. While there seems to be interest, no meeting has been scheduled. The best option would be to meet immediately after a regularly scheduled NCC meeting.
- *Penalty Assessments:* Chairman Schmidt drafted a proposed penalty matrix modeled after the air regulations as a prototype towards drafting guidance that our noise inspectors can use. Guidance may be needed since the counties demonstrate a lot of flexibility when issuing noise penalties. Eric Zwerling agreed to ask his students during his noise certification class what their policy for issuing penalties is.
- *Round Table (Part 150 Study):* The Roundtable is not just looking at noise issues but also at airport infrastructure such the monorail at Newark Liberty International Airport. Each regional airport will have a separate Part 150 Study. The studies will include baseline modeling using a year's worth of noise data which can be used to develop sound contour maps.

- *Stakeholders Meeting on Emergency Generators*: Joseph Lepis is still working on the statement summary. Chairman Schmidt edited the original “Best Practices” document which can be provided to the public on the noise control website, the Rutgers Noise Technical Assistance Center Newsletter and by sending it to municipalities via e-mail once finalized. Providing links to websites with suggested quieter models was also suggested. A letter from the counties or municipalities to consumers can include language stating “*just because you have a permit to operate the system does not absolve you from the applicable state regulations.*”
- *NCC By-laws*: The by-laws were tabled until the next meeting.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

Guest speakers from Rm Engineering Inc., (RM) (Michael Samuel, Gregory Brady) and Dunzik & Besold Architects (D&B) (Daniel Dunzik), gave presentations on proposed standby generators at the Sayreville Pump Station, which services the Middlesex County Sewage Authority. The upgrade will generate power by multiple fuel sources (3 diesel, 1 natural gas) during an emergency. The facility was incapacitated by flooding and power losses during Hurricane Sandy, which resulted in raw sewage being released into the nearby waterways. The project is being funded by FEMA, which includes a reinforced concrete flood wall. While noise from emergency generators on commercial/industrial property during an emergency is exempt, the consultants stated that it will be necessary to start the pumps fifteen to twenty minutes before an event hits to allow the surge system to cycle through separately before any pumps can be restarted to prevent backflows and the flooding of raw sewage. The time prior to starting the pumps would depend on the severity of an anticipated event, which may occur an estimated twenty-three time per year on average. Running the generators before power is actually lost may not be exempt from the noise regulations. While there are nearby residents, no one has ever issued a noise complaint. RM and D&B are attempting to design an enclosure that would reduce the potential generator noise down to permissible levels. The NCC suggested considering the totality of noise from the facility, not just the generators and the potential for octave band noise. It was also suggested to notify the neighbors to determine the best times for testing. While raising the flood wall nearest to the residence and planting trees to help reduce the noise is encouraged (approximately 200 trees to be planted to offset the removal of existing trees), the planning stages should also consider sound reflected off of the proposed wall as well as the existing and planned buildings.

V. OPENING OF THE MEETING TO THE PUBLIC

See new business. No other member from the public was in attendance.

VI. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting date is scheduled for January 12th
 (The meeting will be run by newly appointed Vice Chairman Steve Szulecki in Arnold Schmidt’s absence)

Respectfully submitted:

David E. Triggs, NJDEP, Liaison to the NCC