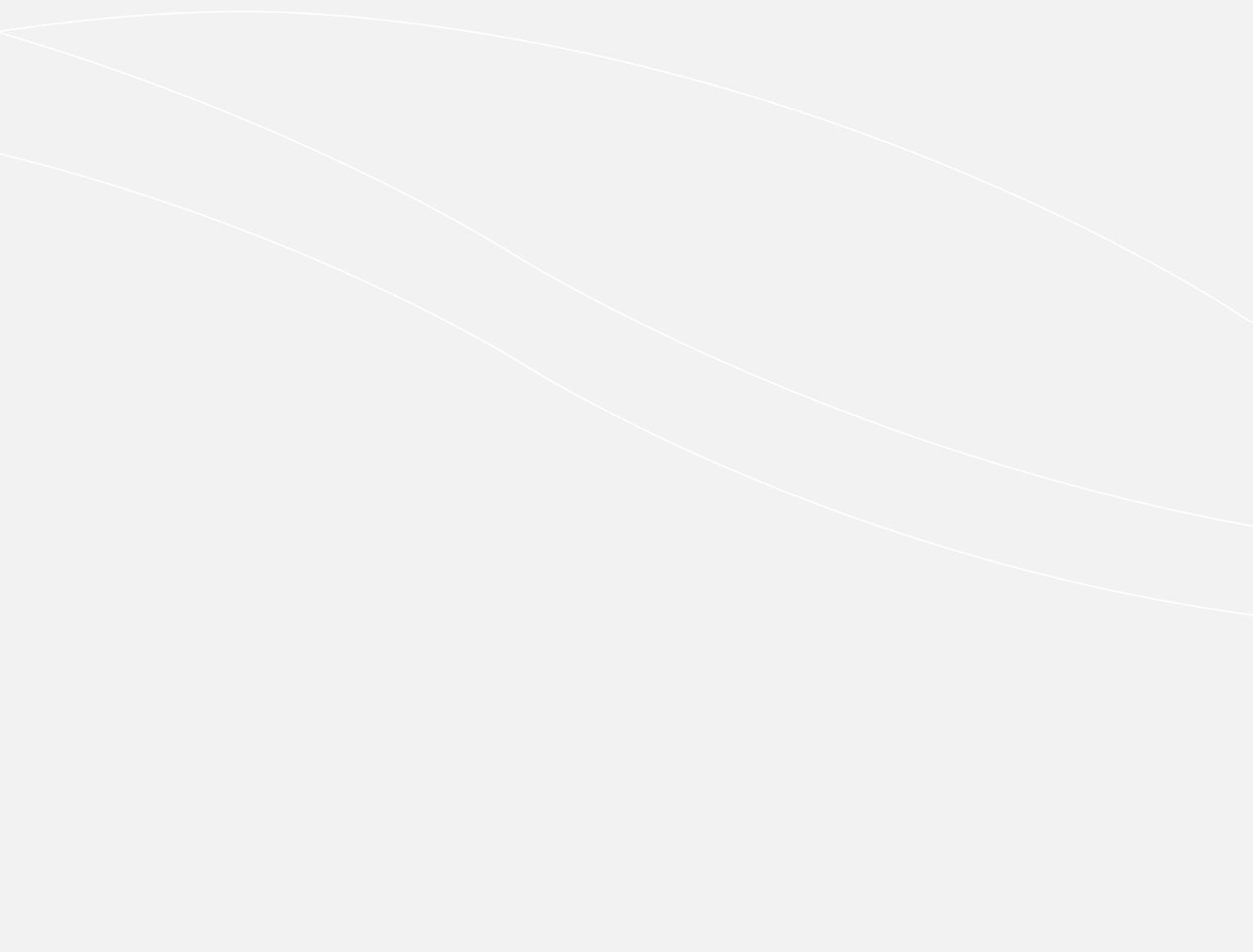


Appendix 1

Community Consultation Strategy



Community Consultation Strategy NEC Gasification Facility Office Road, East Rockingham

1. Introduction

This strategy has been prepared to assist in the planning of community consultation in respect of the waste processing facility that NEC proposes to develop at East Rockingham WA.

The Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) and Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) regulate the establishment and operation of waste management facilities, and the monitoring and control of emissions to the environment caused by the operation of those facilities.

Public consultation is an integral part of the environmental approval process.

NEC Community Consultation Principles

- Community consultation is a vital part of the environmental approval process.
- Community consultation is essential to identify public concerns, interests, perceptions and the degree of public support or opposition.
- NEC will disclose all information about the potential impacts the facilities may have on the surrounding area. This information will be clearly communicated during the community consultation process.
- Consulting with the community is much more than an information providing exercise. It must provide for active listening and communication to enable public perceptions to be identified and responded to.
- Community consultation will be maintained during the operating life of the facilities, so that issues that might arise at some point in the future may be promptly identified and addressed. A community reference group (CRG) will be formed once the plant is established to facilitate this important process.

2. NEC Community Consultation Objectives

Successful consultation and communication can only be achieved if stakeholders establish trust in a decision-making process that is committed to protecting the environment and public health.

The public need to be kept well informed about the project and opportunities for participation through the decision making process.

It is important that NEC anticipate potentially contentious or controversial issues relating to the project e.g. contamination issues, future use of the facility, public and worker health and safety, and amenity issues which may impact on the public.

A community consultation strategy is an essential part of the environmental approval process for the establishment of the NEC East Rockingham facility. Consultation and communication goals need to be specific, well understood by the organisation responsible for carrying out the consultation process, and communicated to stakeholders at the beginning of the consultation process.

NEC's community consultation objectives are as follows:

- the decision-making process associated with the establishment of the facility will be clearly communicated;
- the consultation process adopted will enable easy public participation;
- the process will clearly inform the stakeholders of what NEC has done, is doing, and plans to do;
- the process will be designed to deal with the resolution of any conflicts;
- the process will allow for any issues to be identified and investigated, and solutions to be worked out and proposed to the community; and
- the process will demonstrate and maintain credibility with all stakeholders and interest groups.

3. Community perceptions and concerns

a. In framing NEC's community consultation program, NEC will be prepared for a number of questions and concerns commonly raised in connection with waste treatment facilities, including the following:

- is there any risk to public health?
- what about air pollution?
- what about odour?
- what about noise?
- is there any potential impact on groundwater?
- how is wind-blown litter going to be managed?
- might the facility create dust? If so, how will that be managed?
- won't rodents and other pests be attracted to the facility?
- the facility is bound to generate extra traffic on nearby public roads. What extra traffic volume will be created? How will it be managed?
- what would be the operating hours of the facility?
- there might be fire risks associated with the facilities. How would these be minimised?
- what arrangements will be made for the disposal of by-products or waste from the plant?

b. Data and information related concerns

- what's gasification?
- what do the numbers relating to air quality, noise and odour numbers mean and how did they come from?
- will the information be reviewed by an independent third party?
- how does your design compare to world's best practices?
- are there other similar plants elsewhere in the world?
- how much energy is recovered from the process?
- what about greenhouse gases?
- what about nanoparticles?

c. Concerns with the decision-making process

- why East Rockingham?
- did NEC consider alternative sites?

4. NEC Community participation process

a. Step One: Identify Stakeholders

Identify the stakeholders and interest groups that may influence or be affected by any outcomes.

Stakeholders include City of Rockingham, nearby residents, environmental groups, the local media, and government agencies including the EPA, the DEC and the Department of Planning.

b. Step Two: Prepare a Community Consultation Plan

Prepare and document a community consultation plan. The plan will need to take into account the characteristics of each stakeholder group and ensure that needs and perceptions of each are identified and documented.

The plan will clearly outline the type of community consultation and participation that is going to be implemented. This may include public notices, workshops, meetings or mail-outs.

The plan may need to be updated from time-to-time to take into account any changes to the project or emergent issues.

c. Step Three: Notify Stakeholders

Invite stakeholders to participate in the community consultation process by advertising in local newspapers.

Advertisements will include a brief description of the proposal, the venue and time of any workshop or consultation meeting(s). Advertisements will also refer people to NEC's website for detailed information including FAQs. Instructions on how to make a submission to the EPA will be included on the website.

The notification of stakeholders will be timed to coincide with the EPA advertising. Inviting public comment on the NEC proposal.

d. Step Four: Implement the Consultation Plan

Implement the community consultation strategy, and monitor and review its progress at appropriate points. During the consultation process, any issues, resolutions and agreements should be documented.

d. Step Five: Provide feedback and Options

Provide all stakeholders and interested parties with feedback regarding any issues raised during the consultation process.

e. Step Six: Ongoing Monitoring and Review

Once environmental and planning approvals have been obtained and stakeholders have been informed of the outcomes, the development of the facilities can commence. Community consultation will be maintained during the construction stages and throughout the life of the facilities' operation.

Community participation during the operational life of the facilities can be based on a monitoring role. A community reference group will be formed for this purpose. It will comprise key stakeholders that were involved in the initial participation stages, and should focus on surveillance of the operation against company commitments, the environmental conditions of licence.

Appendix A: East Rockingham Facility Community Consultation Plan

East Rockingham Facility Community Consultation Plan

1. Objectives

NEC Community Consultation Plan objectives are as follows:

- to consult the Rockingham and Kwinana communities and stakeholders regarding NEC's proposal to establish a waste gasification plant at the selected site at Officer Rd East Rockingham WA, and in so doing:
 - obtain and document community and stakeholder feedback; and
 - develop appropriate responses to issues raised by the community and stakeholders.
- meet the community consultation requirements expected by the EPA and DEC in their respective environmental approvals processes; and
- establish a mechanism for ongoing operational community consultation.

2. Level of Assessment

The level of assessment for NEC's proposed East Rockingham facility set by the EPA is formal (public environmental review).

A proposal is assigned an assessment level of PER by the EPA if:

- the proposal is of regional and/or State-wide significance;
- the proposal has several significant environmental issues or factors, some of which are considered to be complex or of a strategic nature;
- substantial and detailed assessment of the proposal is required to determine whether and, if so, how the environmental issues could be managed; or
- the level of interest in the proposal warrants a public review period.

3. Community Assessment

In the period leading up to NEC's submission of the PER documentation for assessment by the EPA, NEC has consulted with the City of Rockingham, the Town of Kwinana and the Kwinana Industries Council (KIC), as well as key prospective customers.

The level of community interest in NEC's proposal is likely to be high. Well-publicised problems with odour at the Southern Metropolitan Regional Council's AWT facility in Canning Vale are likely to have sensitised the community in the area. As gasification is a form of waste to energy technology new to Australia, NEC's public information will very clearly explain its gasification technology and any potential environmental impact the plant might need to manage.

4. Public Information

Information made available to the public, both in printed and electronic form, will:

- clearly explain the gasification technology and its proven nature;
- provide detail on potential environmental impact including air emissions, odour, noise, and fauna and flora;
- include a site plan and an artist's impression of the facility;
- highlight the benefits of the project, especially the generation of renewable energy; and avoidance of landfill disposal of waste; and

- provide contact details so stakeholders can easily make submission.

A list of responses to frequently asked questions (FAQ) is already included on the website but will be reviewed to take into account feedback received by NEC on its proposal to date.

5. NEC Outline Project Plan

5.1 NEC Consultation prior to completion and submission of PER documentation

5.1.1 June 2011 – August 2013:

Initial consultation with key stakeholders including:

- City of Rockingham;
- Town of Kwinana;
- Kwinana Industries Council Communities and Industries Forum.
- Local parliamentary representatives (both State and Federal);
- EPA;
- DEC; and
- Minister for the Environment.

5.1.2 December 2012

- Review and update community consultation plan by December 2012. Consider effectiveness of the previous Port Hedland / Karratha community consultation for the NEC Pilbara facility and decide if changes are required to how the sessions are conducted.
- Review and amend public information uploaded to website to date (and add information specific to the East Rockingham facility similar to that for the Pilbara site by the end of December 2012 including:
 - project overview;
 - Office Road site plan;
 - artist's impression of facility;
 - technology description and process diagram;
 - environmental impact information;
 - air emissions assessment;
 - odour assessment;
 - noise assessment;
 - solid residue management;
 - waste type accepted;
 - renewable energy generated;
 - project benefits;
 - FAQs; and
 - project timeline.
- Lodge PER documentation with the EPA by June 2013.

- Book a City of Rockingham community hall for public consultation sessions during PER period (Nov – Dec 2013)

<http://www.rockingham.wa.gov.au/City-and-community/Community-places/Halls-and-community-centres.aspx#Hillman>

5.2 NEC consultation following submission of PER documentation

- NEC to meet with City of Rockingham to discuss NEC's community consultation plan following submission of PER.
- NEC is to brief the Care of Rockingham Environment (CORE) group.

5.3 NEC consultation following public release PER documentation

As the level of assessment is set at PER, a formal PER public comment period will be applied. This will comprise a six week period during which the public and decision-making agencies (DMAs) may present formal submissions regarding the proposed development and its environmental management strategies. In this period NEC will:

- Prepare media release and public notices by mid-November 2013.
- Brief local newspapers *Sound Telegraph*, *Weekend Courier* and *Kwinana Courier* prior to public release date (estimated as mid November 2013).
- Place public notices in *Sound Telegraph*, *Weekend Courier* and *Kwinana Courier* two weeks prior to the information sessions.
- Conduct public information sessions in Rockingham during the second half of November 2013 as follows:
 - three sessions: 0930 - 1130 hrs; 1330 – 1530 hrs; and 1700 hrs - 2000 hrs.
 - four tables set up, each furnished with a full set of project information;
 - discussion format to be two representatives on each table to brief interested parties and respond to queries;
 - record names and contact details of attendees; and
 - record issues and concerns.
- Following public information sessions, meet with and brief City of Rockingham on conduct of the community consultation and feedback to date.
- Develop management response to issues and concerns and respond to community and stakeholders as appropriate.
- Document the conduct and outcomes of the community consultation program for submission to the EPA.