

**MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT MONITORING TEAM MEETING HELD  
TUESDAY 21<sup>st</sup> March 2017**

**Present:**

<b>Resident EMT members</b>	<b>Qenos</b>
Judy Hindle	Rob Berton: Qenos SHE Manager (Meeting chair)
Dominique Dybala	Duncan Laslett: Qenos Olefins Operations Manager
	Les Harman: Qenos Senior Environmental Adviser (Secretary)
<b>CWW</b>	Alan Findlay: Qenos Environmental Health Coordinator
Joe Messina	Jamal Raza: Qenos Polymers SHE Coordinator
<b>Apologies</b>	
Kimberley Foss	
Chris Rider	<b>Dow</b>
Gary Lyon	Pram (Pramudana) Tan: Dow Environment, Health & Safety Delivery Specialist
A Olszewski	Nivanyah Kukan –Dow EH&S Technician.
B Gunn	

**1. Introductions**

Rob opened the meeting @ 18:10 with a round of introductions and welcome to guest presenters and visitors. Rob explained that this was the first complex EMT and that Qenos as the host was chairing the meeting.

**2. Agenda review and discussion**

Rob gave an overview of the reformatted agenda and asked people to identify any items of General Business that people wanted to discuss later in the meeting and the following was identified.

- Schedule Qenos annual audit. Alan Findlay
- Quick update on Qenos Olefins ethane outage Duncan Laslett.
- CWW update (Already Item 4 on Agenda) Joe Messina

**3. 2016 Company Performance reviews**

**Dow report**

Pram presented the Dow 2016 review that was distributed with the agenda.

A query was made about whether Enviropacific Services were going to come along to the meetings. Dow has invited them several times but has not yet come. They were going to give an update at last year's AGM but couldn't make it.

The resource efficiency trends have all shown improvement since 2013 after the Styron facility ceased production.

Dow completed a major shutdown in 2016 without incidents and implemented a number of safety improvements. One improvement was to remove a potential nitrogen exposure hazard in response to learnings of a fatality at an overseas Dow facility..

### **Qenos report**

Les presented the Qenos 2016 environment trends from the meeting papers. With production higher at 95% of plan most trends showed an efficiency increase.

A significant positive was consistent supply of recycled water from CWW to the Olefins plant which is now running above 98% recycled water

The transported waste was up in 2016 but was due to a tar tank clean which cycle producing 235 tonnes of waste are on a 3-4 year. Importantly Qenos waste treatment provider Veolia was able to arrange for more waste to be recycled are used for energy recovery.

Overall emissions were down however there has been an increased benzene trend from the LDAR program over the past two years. This is expected to reduce in the 2017 report and Qenos has reduced our EPA licence limit from for benzene by 50% (10 to 5 tpa) at a recent licence update.

Duncan presented the PSV graph. 2016 was a solid performance with the second lowest ever year of 6. Unfortunately we have had 4 SV lifts in early 2017. Two were steam system safety valves when the steam header pressure controlled malfunctioned and increased the boiler production. One was the SV on a hired Nitrogen facility used in SC-2 during the recent Ethane outage and the fourth was a hydrocarbon SV that briefly lifted during the restart.

Duncan then gave a brief overview of the SCAL-2 shutdown that was completed during an ethane outage while our supplier carried out maintenance on their plant at Long Island Point, Western Port Bay. Qenos took the opportunity to carry out a squat to complete maintenance which will allow SCAL-2 to run until 2023 for the next full turnaround. The shutdown was completed successfully without any community complaints or environmental incidents. A letter drop was completed in the lead-up to the shutdown. Unfortunately there was one medical treatment injury when a maintenance worker fell backwards onto a scaffold stillage.

Joe Messina noted that CWW would like to know about major maintenance activities in advance and discuss the potential for any trade waste excursions. It is always easier to work through management of these with some forewarning

## **4. CWW update**

Joe Messina gave a verbal update from CWW.

- No non-compliance issues for Dow or Qenos. Qenos olefins still have a standing non-compliance for Sulphides. (The new nutriox dosing project should address this.)
- CWW have been working with Melbourne Water (MW) the Essential Services Commission (ESC) to develop about twenty new trade waste acceptance standards. This will avoid the need for a number of variations that businesses need to apply for components that don't have an acceptance standard.
- CWW MW and ESC are also looking at a change is trade waste salt is managed. Looking to move from Total Dissolved Salt limits to a sodium limit to assist the treatment plant.
- CWW are also looking at 5 year plans for trade waste volumes. With population growth comes extra sewerage to treat and the increased volume needs to be planned for.

- CWW have reviewed a request by Qenos to use Amerscent 50 in a trial to reduce odours at the Olefins effluent treatment plant. They are happy for the trial to proceed at the dosing rates planned without the need for any variations to the licence.

## **5. Complaints**

Alan discussed the complaint presentation distributed with the agenda. Three complaints since the last meeting, one for Noise which was classified outside complex, one for odour accepted by Qenos Olefins in December. In February an odour complaint was classified as Source not identified – Unlikely complex.

## **6. General Business**

Qenos 2017 Odour Audit.

Alan asked the community members whether they wanted to do a Saturday morning again this year or move back into a week day.

Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> April was identified as a suitable tentative date. This has now been confirmed.

The other GB items have been covered above.

## **7. Qenos 2017 EIP**

The final 2016 EIP status and the 2017 EIP were distributed with the agenda. Les noted that there were seven carry overs which have been included in the 2017 plan. He asked the meeting whether anyone wanted to discuss or wanted clarification of any of the 2017 actions. No queries were advanced.

## **8. Qenos Groundwater update**

Les gave two presentations.

1 2016 Groundwater report

This summarised the findings on the annual groundwater sampling and Light Non Aqueous Phase Liquid (LNAPL) removal which is required by the Qenos Groundwater Quality Management Plan (GQMP).

It was a positive report with none of the trigger levels in the GQMP exceeded and the number of wells with LNAPL reducing significantly which is being attributed to the LNAPL removal activities.

There are three locations where mounding of groundwater and low salt levels indicate potential recharge from leaking underground services. Analysis of DEA near the Olefins Effluent treatment plant indicate the possible leak from the sewer at this location which will be investigated by Qenos.

There are several locations including BH34QO south of the Olefins site which need to assess again next year to confirm if there are increasing trends of some contaminant species.

2 Qenos PFAS assessment.

Les outlined the background of PFAS at Qenos and the activities to date. PFAS and in particular PFOS and PFOA have been ingredients in firefighting foams for decades. These foams are being phased out worldwide due to concerns their impact on the environment. People should look up PFAS at government and EPA websites if

they want to understand these concerns in more detail. (There are some links in the presentation). Qenos has historically used these foams and is transitioning to foams that do not use PFOS or PFOA as an ingredient. We decided to carry out some PFAS screening in tandem with our 2016 groundwater sampling program and two locations were selected.

The Fire Training Ground and the Black oil tank farm where we had the Tank-807 fire in 1991.

The screening study identified PFAS in the groundwater at both locations above the screening levels used. (Vic EPA only has interim levels at this time). Qenos has notified the EPA about the discovery as non-compliance for the discovery of a new contaminant and has had briefing sessions with Qenos employees about the discovery. The EPA issued Qenos with a Clean Up Notice in December to complete a site PFAS risk assessment and to develop an EPA appointed auditor approved Clean Up Plan. Our environmental consultants have developed a proposal to complete the risk assessment which is well underway. The Risk Assessment has to be completed by the end of August 2017 and the Clean Up Plan by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018.

Qenos will update the ACNCG on progress at future meetings.

## **9. Meeting Close.**

Discussed 2017 Meeting schedule. At the November 2016 ACNCG it was decided to reduce the number of meetings to a total of four in 2017 compared to maintain the status quo which would have scheduled a total of ten meetings. The four meetings will consist of two combined EMTs and two ACNCG meetings and will alternate with one meeting in each Quarter.

The first ACNCG is usually set for the second Thursday in April which is on the eve of Easter and a number of people are unavailable. The EMT endorsed moving this meeting to May and it has been rescheduled to Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> of May.

Judy Hindle proposed that the last two meetings for 2017 be scheduled for August and November leaving December meeting free which is a difficult time for people to commit to. This was accepted by the meeting. The updated 2017 program will be a discussion topic for May 11<sup>th</sup> ACNCG meeting. With the reduction of meetings there is a need to be more efficient in the way we present, share and discuss information.

8:00 Meeting closed by Rob