Anchor Yeast / Rymco (Pty) Ltd
STAKEHOLDER MEETING
Minutes of meeting held in person at Umbogintwini Primary School At 16.30 on Tuesday 10 December 2024

Present:
(As per attendance register)

Ewan Alanthwaite (EA)	AECI Operations
Kyle Dass (KD)	AECI Property Services
Mumsy Tlholoe (MTh)	Anchor Yeast
Meliny Danielz (MD)	Resident
Nan Berry (NBe)	Resident
Natisha Padayachee (NP)	Anchor Yeast
Nomali Msomi (NM)	AECI Operations
Nomzamo Gumede (NG)	AECI Property Services
Orlena Pillay (OP)	Anchor Yeast
Renisha Govinder (RG)	Resident
Rob Mill (RM)	Resident
Ruveshen Reddy (RRe)	BASF
Vasu Pather (VP)	BASF / Resident
William Middleton (WM)	Anchor Yeast

Secretariat

Rose Owen (RO)	Phelamanga

Apologies

Rajesh Ram (RR)	AECI Mining
Abdulla Shaik (AS)	Dyefin

KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS – ALL MEMBERS	
AS	Abdulla Shaik
BM	Bongani Mkhize
CM	Charles Mzobe
DS	Daya Sumanth
EA	Ewan Alanthwaite
KD	Kyle Dass
MB	Mark Bezencon
MD	Meliny Danielz
MK	Momelezi Kolase
MS	Maria Sepolveda
MTh	Mumsy Tlholoe
MZ	Mcebisi Zulu
NB	Ntokozo Bhengu
NBe	Nan Berry
NG	Nomzamo Gumede
NMk	Nest Mack
NM	Nomali Msomi
NMt	Nozipho Mthethwa
NN	Nolizwi Ntsonsto
NP	Natisha Padayachee
NS	Natasha Sodalay
OP	Orlena Pillay
RG	Renisha Govender
RM	Rob Mill
RO	Rose Owen
RR	Rajesh Ram
RRe	Ruveshen Reddy
SG	Sumaya Goldstone
SH	Sixolile Hlongwane
SM	Siya Mkhize
TM	Thubelihle Mazibuko
VM	Vusi Mthalane
VP	Vasu Pather
WM	William Middleton

	ACTION
1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS 1. RO welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending. 2. Introductions were done. It was noted one of the stakeholders had difficulty hearing the speakers. Speakers were requested to stand on a preferred side of the room and ensure they spoke clearly. 3. RO informed the meeting that there was a Dictaphone for Minute purposes and if anyone had any concern or wished for something to not be recorded, they would need to make it known. 4. RO asked all in attendance to introduce themselves and who they represent.	
2. APOLOGIES 1. Apologies were noted as recorded above.	
3. SAFETY BRIEFING 1. The exits and bathrooms were indicated.	
4. PURPOSE AND FORMAT	

	ACTION
1. RO gave an overview of the purpose of the meeting as per the outline on the agenda. 2. To ensure that all stakeholders are informed and are afforded fair and adequate opportunity to make input regarding issue of nuisance odours. 3. To provide relevant information and knowledge to the stakeholders that may otherwise not have become available. 4. To promote transparency and provide advice to both the industry and the stakeholders based on the meaningful contribution of key parties.	
5. ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA 1. The meeting accepted the agenda.	
6. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 7 NOVEMBER 2024 1. Minutes were accepted and signed. 2. Stakeholders were informed that there is a page on the Phelamanga website for the forum, where all minutes and Agendas will be available.	
7. REPORT FROM ANCHOR YEAST / RYMCO (PTY) LTD *[Link to a .pdf version of the presentation is available in the annexure]* 1. WM gave an over view of the plant, Anchor Yeast is the largest Yeast producer in Southern Africa, it produces and distributes yeast for the South African market enabling the production of baked, brewed and distilled goods. 2. The yeast is produced in large scale fermenters, as well as being dried for use at home. 3. The Anaerobic Digester (AD) Plant is a unit operation of Anchor Yeast, the AD plant treats the plants effluent to reduce the organic content by 50 – 70 % and produce biogas. This improves the effluent, making it more environmentally friendly before it is discharged. 4. Biogas is a renewable source of energy. Using renewable energy reduces greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution associated with energy production. 5. It has been noted that there has been a steady increase in the complaints since we began tracking in 2022. 6. They had delineated the complaints of odour, to “Rotten”, “Sweet” and “Other”. The categorisation is to help address potential sources on site.	
7.1. SCRUBBER UPDATE 1. Packing was sourced and place into the scrubber to improve its function in November. This helps with improved contact between the scrubbing solution and the gas. 2. Arrangements to source and dose an alternate scrubbing agent, sodium hypochlorite, were made. This involved the installation of pumps and suitable dosing apparatus for the safe handling of the solution. Ongoing work with experts in the field is being done to evaluate its efficacy. 3. The normal maintenance schedule is being kept ensuring that the system operates well. This involves an hour of down time to clean and change the nozzles on the system. 4. Work has started with an external company Proxa, who has extensive experience with odour scrubbers, to better optimize the system. 5. Initial data collection has taken place (November – December). 6. Awaiting recommendations on changes to be made to the system (December – January). 7. They have committed to provide online continuous data loggers for monitoring. 8. Constrained by administrative processes, it is anticipated they will begin monitoring in Mid-January 2025.	
7.2. BUFFER TANK 1. Buffer tank has been kept to the appropriate levels whenever possible. The lack of heavy rain in November made this more manageable.	
7.3. NOISE LINK INVESTIGATION 1. The noise survey has been done. Anchor Yeast to share the results and report with NM for onward sharing to stakeholders via this forum.	**WM, NP** to follow up
7.4. LALLEMAND PLANT FEEDBACK	

	ACTION
1. For the Yeast Fermentation processes, the systems continue to be closely monitored. 2. No abnormalities have been seen during fermentation. 3. Contact with other Lallemand sites has been established, to receive insight into smell mitigation, however no feedback has been provided. 4. There is ongoing liaison with other sites.	
7.5. STRAINER CLEANER 1. AECI will install improvements on Kingsway pipeline which will reduce pipeline maintenance downtime, aiding effluent management (January 2025). 2. It is anticipated that the down time will reduce to potentially only 1 hour. 3. EA confirmed the valve is on site, they have done the risk assessment, and the valve will be replaced during the shutdown.	
8. DISCUSSION 1. NB noted the low cloud cover could be causing some of the difficulties and there is no dispersion of the odours. 2. NP and WM to take this into consideration when they undertake maintenance, noting maintenance takes an hour. 3. RO reminded all stakeholders to please contact the site when they have a complaint as the site needs to be able to understand what is occurring on site at the time when there are complaints. 4. NP asked all to also, if possible, to please give a classification of the smell, rotten, sweet or other, this assists them to undertake a focused investigation, otherwise it just is a standard investigation. 5. NB noted many residents are not aware of where they can report the smell to, or where it is even coming from. 6. RM was in agreement, and he further highlighted that Anchor Yeast need to regain the trust of the community. He hopes the forum will help rebuild the trust. 7. NP highlighted that Praxo will be able to provide continuous monitoring. This was further explained that there would be a monitor in the line, gas from the tank will be monitored at the inflow to the scrubber and at the outlet of the scrubber to monitor H2S, to determine how efficient the scrubber is. 8. They will us Hydrogen Sulphide as the indicator of odour, and other gases will be picked up from the solutions. If there is no Hydrogen Sulphide coming through but there is odour, then it will be able to provide information for investigation. 9. The monitoring should start in Mid-January. This information will inform the scrubber design review. 10. It was noted that there is an AD plant at the Estonia Site, however they are not located near urban areas. The Baltimore site is not currently running. The odour issues have been unique to this site, they are engaging with their international sites regarding Yeast production and looking at it in relation to the South African site production. They can manage the process variables as they are working with molasses. Are there ways to improve the process, it is challenging to identify options, but they are engaging on this. 11. MS noted it might be useful to understand the Buffer tank levels and management thereof on the AD plant in Estonia. 12. EA asked if there is stormwater separation from effluent, this is something AECI are working with all tenants to address. MT and NP to follow up and confirm the stormwater is separated from effluent on the site. 13. MT noted they are looking to cover the sumps to further reduce any stormwater in the effluent. 14. KD asked for clarity on where the H2S comes from? WM confirmed it is in the breakdown in fermentation, the sulphates are required for yeast fermentation. NP further indicated there is a high organic load as they use molasses. 15. It is formed in the process; it is a sugar based process form the molasses. The Sulphate form Sulphide in the process. EA asked if the molasses source impacts in any way? NP clarified it is marginally and most of the molasses is coming from the same region. 16. RM asked if there are nay health issues related to H2S? WM clarified it has health risks only when	**MT and NP** to follow up

	ACTION
there is an extremely high concentration can it be problematic, in excess of 200pbm (parts/per/million). There is no health implication from communities, it is a nuisance factor.	
9. WAY FORWARD: 1. RO noted that the agenda would continue as it stands, with feedback on the Praxo findings. 2. The next meeting is to be at 16.30 on Tuesday 4 February 2025. RO will engage with the school to secure the venue.	
10. CLOSURE RO thanked all for the proactive engagement, the respectful responses and opportunities provided for stakeholders to express their concerns. She wished all a good festive season. There being no further business the meeting closed at 17.27.	

Read and confirmed this day of 20

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Signature

ANNEXURE
The following links to the folder containing the presentations referred to above will be available in the Phelamanga Dropbox until the next meeting.

PRESENTATION	LINK	FILE SIZE
Anchor Yeast Presentation	https://www.dropbox.com/s/1ziw64rvybdha1s/AECI%20and%20AY%20Stakeholder%20Engagement%20meeting%20December%202024.pdf?dl=0	530 KB
Noise Survey Report	https://www.dropbox.com/s/3h9clstzkgrhtfl/GS887%20Anchor%20Yeast%20Noise%20Monitoring%20Report%20-%20July%202024.pdf?dl=0	2 450 KB