

Transcript of Grimm's Fuel Company community leader meeting – Metro – January 23, 2019

[crosstalk]

- 0:08:08 Rob Nathan: I'm going to go ahead and get us started so I can get you all out of here on time. My name is Rob Nathan and I'm a community engagement specialist here in our Solid Waste and Permission Compliance and Cleanup Division. I know some of you have worked with -- have been to some of the public meetings in the past that I facilitated. I try to do my best to make sure everyone's voices are heard. We have a quick meeting with a long agenda today.
- 0:08:33 So, you know, we really do need folks to -- I'm going to go over some group agreements and I need folks to really commit to those so that -- we have a lot of stake holders in the room; we want to make sure everyone has numbers and are able to participate in today's discussion. We also have a lot of information we want to share with you so there's some real clarity about the process that we've gone through over the past year on this issue.
- 0:08:55 And so, again, I'm going to be a kind of -- I'm going to play bad cop today and I'm going to ask folks to follow our group agreements. And so when we go through those you'll have an opportunity to share if you think something's missing from that - or if you have any concerns about what's on the list. But before we go to that, I want to thank everyone for showing up really well on time today -- especially considering our parking lot's full. I'm sorry, I know some of you got parking passes and you weren't able to take advantage of those.
- 0:09:20 If anyone needs to leave during the meeting to go to the bathroom or refill your meter, feel free to do that -- take care of yourselves, be comfortable. And if you need anything during discussion that you don't know how to take care of, you can come see me and ask me. The bathrooms are right out this door. You go out this door or that door, and they're on the other side of this wall, along with a water fountain. So, if y'all can turn to page two, in your packet, I just want to go through our agreed group agreements and make sure we're all on the same page.
- 0:09:49 So, these are our basic group agreements. They're not the same as our public meeting, because this doesn't necessarily function as a public meeting. This is a closed meeting, where folks in the room are stakeholders on this issue and we just want to make sure we're respecting each other through this process. So, we want to be respectful. Speak for yourself. If there's something you don't understand about someone else's position, you can ask a question. But, please, don't try to speak for other people in the room.
- 0:10:17 Don't interrupt others. We're going to have a short group discussion after the presentation. And I'm going to do my best to facilitate that, so what I'd like for folks to do is turn their nametags up like this if they have something to say and I'll cue you when it's your turn to contribute. Limit side conversations. I know some of this topic is heated. We've got great attendance on this issue. I know it's affecting people's lives on a daily basis and we feel really strongly about this. This is about people's [indistinct], wellbeing.
- 0:10:52 Folks in the room work for different government agencies and they work really hard on this topic. It's really important that we don't side bar or form our own coalitions. In this room, we're all together having this discussion. Make sure to silence your cell phones, if

you haven't done that yet. And if you really agree with something, this isn't an opportunity to applaud. This isn't a show.

- 0:11:16 No whistle, no booing. Try not to [indistinct] people's [indistinct]. Everyone has a stake in this game and we all want to respect that. Is there anything missing from this list? Or do you all have any concerns about these group agreements? We feel really strong about following those.
- 0:11:29 Jeff: I have one thing to add. We are talking about a situation, not any particular person and any particular being. It's about a situation and occurrence so I want to make sure that everyone understands there's no attacks on any people in here.
- 0:11:50 Rob Nathan: I appreciate that, Jeff. And so keep it about the situation, about the issues -- not about specific people. Anything else? All right, great. I want to pass it over to our division director -- to our department director, Paul Slyman. Some of you may or may not have met him -- but he's going to introduce himself and talk about what our objective for the day is, and kind of outline the meeting. Paul?
- 0:12:16 Paul Slyman: Yeah. Thanks, Rob. I'm actually, I'm just writing down Jeff's note. I really appreciate that, Jeff. That's a nice reminder for all of us. Thank you. And then we'll get a chance to introduce each other, is that right, Rob -- after I'm done speaking?
- Rob Nathan: Yes. We don't -- yeah.
- 0:12:32 Paul Slyman: It may be that everyone knows everyone, but me. My name is Paul Slyman. I'm the Director of Property Environmental Services here at Metro. I've been here eight years, and Hila and Warren and Roy have been briefing me on this situation for a few years. They've been very involved in it. Mayor, thank you for being here -- appreciate your involvement in this. I'm the Director of Property Environmental Services for the next two weeks -- at which point I'll become a Chief of Staff to Metro Council President Lynn Peterson.
- 0:13:06 So I'll still be involved in this. And what you get, is you get someone who works directly for our council president, that knows about these issues and understands them. And as Brett knows, Council President Peterson has been briefed on Grimms and what's going on here. And I have kept all of our counselors informed about Grimms, for a few years now -- 18 months, I would say. I've been out to the site. It's been quite a few years. Formerly, I was with the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality -- and I worked there for 14 years. So I'm comfortable with the issues.
- 0:13:42 I'm comfortable with environmental regulation and everything involved in that. And I know that these are some of the hardest issues, that we work on. What I wanted to do is just, very briefly, sort of review the meeting objectives with each of you. Just like Rob sort of reviewed how we'll work together. You're giving two hours or more of your day today, and you've given many hours leading up to this -- just to be involved in this issue. So it's my hope that when you leave here, you leave here with an understanding and accomplishment of the objectives that were written down on the page.
- 0:14:13 So, what we wanted to do was make sure that when you leave here at 3 o'clock or thereabouts -- you understand what's changed in the license, because staff has made

significant changes to the license. And it's important that the people in this room understand that. Also, you understand what is and what is not included -- And, why. If these issues were simple, none of us would be here, right? We'd be back doing the other things that we do in our lives. So it's important that you understand why certain things were or were not included. We also want to ensure that parties are understanding of one another's concerns.

- 0:14:52 We think that we have worked really hard to understand the community concerns. I would tell you, as an observer to the community processes, and observing Rob and others that have facilitated meetings, it has been extensive, our efforts to hear -- to really hear what the community is saying to us. And as you can probably guess, the community does not speak with a single voice. Nor should they. And so we just want to check that with you and make sure that all the parties here are understanding of each others' concerns.
- 0:15:21 We have some information to make clear about the timeline and the path moving forward. If there are any surprises, we wouldn't want them to be as they relate to the timeline or specific processes. And those of you from the City of Tualatin, you know that there are certain timelines and processes that must be followed in these kinds of things. And then, we also hope you understand our objective is we do need to get some licensing vehicle in place. We have extended the present license for a few months.
- 0:15:51 We need to get some licensing vehicle in place -- and that's important to us, and it's certainly important to the community and to the facility operator. I bet this is Dan. I, unfortunately, have to leave at 1:45. Any of the Metro staff know how you can reach me - - so if there are things I said that didn't make sense or things that you didn't hear from me or you didn't get as part of the meeting, many of the Metro staff know how to reach me.
- 0:16:23 The mayor has my card. Brett knows how to reach me as well. So, I'm as available as I can be to you. I think we wanted to comment on this. I'll let Rob do that, and then do some general introductions, okay?
- 0:16:42 Rob Nathan: Oh, yeah, so this meeting is going to be recorded and then transcribed. And the transcriptions will be available. We just want everyone to know that there is a recording device -- just so we have everything on record. And just -- I really want to honor time, because I want us to, you know, we can get through this presentation as quickly as possible. Have an opportunity to have longer discussion time. David.
- 0:17:08 And so I'm going to actually ask us to speed through introductions. On the agenda here, you can see we have anticipated meeting attendees. And so I'm just going to name the stake holders here. So everyone if you can raise your hand and folks can see their names -- you can also see their name tags. So, who can -- Metro folks in the room raise their hand? Okay. Oregon Department of Environmental Quality? City of Tualatin?
- 0:17:41 Grimms Fuel Company? Oregon Air? And Clean Air Safe Environment -- CASE? Am I missing anyone who is not on this list, or from a group that's not represented on this list? Great. So, Hila, you want to take it off? Actually -- I'm sorry, I just want to interrupt one more time.

- 0:18:07 Hila Ritter: That's fine.
- 0:18:12 Rob Nathan: I want to make sure that folks know my role here is to make sure all the information is understandable. I'm not a technical person, when it comes to some of this [indistinct] stuff. I'm a community person. [indistinct]. So if I don't understand something, I'm going to interrupt. We do a lot of acronyms here at Metro, see a lot of technical terms. Please make sure -- if during the presentation, please don't interrupt to comment or question.
- 0:18:37 Let's save those to the end. However, if you need clarification on what's being said and you don't understand terminology, please raise your hand and I'll make sure Hila responds to that. Thank you.
- 0:18:50 Hila Ritter: So, my name is Hila Ritter. I'm the Authorization Coordinator for Metro. So that means that I manage the licenses for the solid waste facilities in the region -- which includes garbage, recycling, and compost facilities -- and the community engagement that it's involved with the licensing of those facilities. So I write the actual licenses and the staff reports that inform the decisions that we make here regarding those facilities.
- 0:19:20 I'm going to do -- on the agenda -- I'm going to do bullet points kind of two and three together, so that I get all my talking done at once and then we can move on from that piece. And I've got a few slides to go through to kind of go with it, so I'm just going to jump right in. So, I'm going to start off by taking just a minute to talk about Grimms Fuel Company as a business -- because we talk a lot about the odors and the big pile, but we haven't really talked much about them and their role in the process.
- 0:19:50 And when I say "them" I'm talking about it, the business, management and facility. So thank you again, Jeff, for bringing that up at the start. So, we've said it before in meetings that Grimms takes about 60% of the yard debris for the Metro region. Over behind Rob, we've got a map -- it's difficult to read from afar but that's the solid waste facility system map. So all of the, you know, the circles and the triangles and all of that are different kinds of solid wasted facilities within the Metro region.
- 0:20:23 And I want to make sure that we're all on the same page -- that Grimms is a yard debris site only. That's the only type of material that they're authorized to accept. And as communities and cities are deciding to take food waste out of the garbage cans, and put them in to yard debris bins, that mixed food waste and yard debris material is not going to be going to Grimms. So, 60% of the region's material means that they're an important part of our solid waste system -- and, specifically, the composting infrastructure for our residents and businesses in the region.
- 0:21:01 The business employs between 50 to 65 people -- fluctuating seasonally. They are a third generation family-owned business that's operated at the Tualatin site since about the '70's. And then we've also heard from Grimms management -- and at community meetings -- we've talked about that they are acknowledging that the static pile method of composting is problematic in increasingly urbanizing areas, and they are converting to an aerated static pile method of composting.
- 0:21:35 And they've hired Green Mountain Technologies to bring that into fruition. And we'll talk more about that in a few minutes. Grimms also spent the summer after receiving the

Green Mountain Technologies report touring and researching compost facilities. They also sent one of their operators to compost school in Washington last fall, and reduced the incoming feed stock this last fall from their commercial customers -- to make sure that they're meeting their recent pile height requirements from the fire department, which we'll talk about as well.

- 0:22:09 So, Grimms is obviously here and during our discussion they can talk more about their plan specifically -- but I wanted to start off the conversation making sure that everybody is on the same page. That this is a yard debris only site, and a little bit of the history, and that going forward their operations are substantially changing.
- 0:22:27 So this -- you have a printout in front of you. It's very hard to see. So this is just a timeline of what we've been doing the last couple of years. And so back in early 2017, when Grimms' license was up for renewal and it came on my radar for up for renewal, we identified it as an authorization that was going to merit additional attention and focus.
- 0:22:57 We knew that odor was a concern. That the enormity of the pile was a concern, and that we would be embarking on an engagement with the community, who had recently gone through a similar process with DEQ and was frustrated with the outcome of that permitting process. So we reached out early to the community group CASE -- Clean Air Safe Environment -- and the City of Tualatin, and Grimms -- to introduce ourselves.
- 0:23:22 Grimms obviously knew who Metro was. They didn't know who I was. And introduce our process, and ask questions, and to get input from all of those stake holders for how to proceed with that renewal process. So we learned, and are continuing to learn a lot from this community that's engaged, well informed, and from the very beginning has been really forthcoming about what will and will not work for them. We've also learned a lot from our contractor, Green Mountain Technologies, who wrote us a detailed report with clear recommendations -- and from Grimms.
- 0:23:55 And from the other composters that we've -- in and around the region -- that we've worked with as we began to look at implementing changes to the license. So going through this timeline a little bit, we'll start at the top. We reached out to Grimms to let them know that they needed to apply for a renewal of their license, and received that application from them in February of 2017. We met with the City of Tualatin in March, to let them know about the upcoming renewal.
- 0:24:22 That original license expiration was coming up in June of that year -- June of 2017. So we reached out in March with the city. We reached out to the Clean Air Safe Environment -- the CASE committee - and had a meeting with them in Tualatin, to understand their concerns better. And we issued in May -- we issued a 6-month extension of the license, to allow for a public comment process. And that was part of the input that we had received from CASE -- and I'll talk about that more in a minute.
- 0:24:54 So we extended the license as is to allow for additional comment at that time. Then in June we opened a 60-day public comment period. We hosted a public hearing in Tualatin, a public meeting. There were about 35 people in attendance at that meeting. And solicited input on how to move forward with the licensing. It became pretty apparent to us that we needed more information and we needed to bring more voices to the table.

- 0:25:29 And so that's when we started discussing and looking into -- and ultimately in October, issued a request for proposals for an independent assessment of the facility. So we received three proposals, and to review those proposals and to do an evaluation we had an evaluation team that consisted of City of Tualatin staff, DEQ staff, Grimms staff, a member of the CASE committee, and Metro -- Metro folks.
- 0:26:00 The license extension that we had previously done was through December. And so in December of that year we issued a one-year license extension, with one additional condition to the license, and that one condition was that Grimms had to cooperate in good faith with the contractor that we were going to select. And that was the only thing that had changed.
- 0:26:25 In January of 2018, we hired Green Mountain Technologies and they began their independent assessment of the site -- and I'll talk more about that again in a minute -- including as part of that a community survey to continue to understand what the needs are from a diverse audience. Then, moving forward, in May we hosted another community conversation -- this time in Sherwood. There were approximately 150 people at this event.
- 0:26:56 You may have seen there was a little bit of media coverage on this one as well -- so you may have seen this one on the news. We partnered with the Clean Air Safe Environment -- the CASE group -- at this meeting. The purpose of that meeting was to bring -- because we are aware that its complicated to understand who all the authorities are and what the overlap of those authorities is and is not, where the buck stops, essentially.
- 0:27:25 So we invited all of the groups that we could think of at that time to be present, with either authority or expertises that relate to Grimms, to answer question of the community directly -- because there are things that Metro is not able to speak to, so we brought those experts into the room to make them available to the community. So we had City of Tualatin, DEQ, we had Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue, Washington County Health Department, and of course Metro.
- 0:27:55 Then in June Green Mountain Technologies' report was complete and it was provided to Metro, published on our website, provided to stake holders. We hosted another community event in July, where Green Mountain Technologies came and presented their findings and their recommendations, and they walked through the science and all of the things they had worked really hard to compile for us. There were approximately 50 people at that meeting.
- 0:28:21 We also, at that time, met individually with CASE and Oregon Air -- because at that time Oregon Air had been established, so we were working to partner with both groups. And we met with them individually before we hosted the larger community meeting, to make sure that we were addressing their questions and hearing their concerns. Then, moving into later that summer we followed up with Grimms.
- 0:28:51 Again, inviting some of our government partners to go with us to hear what their plans are. Essentially, okay you got the report "whatcha gonna do" meeting -- and tour of the facility to see what they had already accomplished and what their plans were going forward. And at that same time, Metro was assessing the recommendations from Green

Mountain Technologies and figuring out what we were going to be doing going forward, and how we were going to be changing our license going forward.

- 0:29:15 Then in October we released -- we opened another 30-day comment period and we released the proposed amendments for the license renewal to the community, with all of the changes -- which I'll go into in just a minute -- from Green Mountain. We also hosted -- it was actually on October 30, not in November, but anyway -- on October 30th we hosted another community meeting. There were about 40 people at that event to talk about the license and the proposed conditions and the things that we're going to be changing, and to hear what people thought of those changes.
- 0:29:55 Our original intention was to have the license issued by the end of the year. We were requested to extend that for a couple of months, which we did. In December we extended it through the end of February, so that we could have this conversation, so that we could release -- we made changes to the license after the close of the comment period, based on community input. So we've released the license in full, with those changes, for an additional opportunity for folks to comment.
- 0:30:28 That comment period is still open. It closes on February 5th. I've got some more details about that later in the presentation. So you see in the little box at the end there -- those dates have changed slightly based on, you know, the request to extend things and scheduling of this meeting and the timeline of the public comment period -- so those dates are extended slightly. But our intention continues to be to issue a license in February with an effective date of March 1, with the changes going forward.
- 0:31:07 So, this is a slide from our July 2018 meeting. And I just include this to demonstrate that we've been working on this new license and promising the community and the facility that these new standards will be in place. If we just change one number on that slide, we're still following it in winter 2018/19. We're still in the winter, still in the same timeline. Moving forward. To talk a little bit more about our public outreach.
- 0:31:44 So, it's really important to me that we recognize all the effort and time that the community, the city, DEQ and others, and Grimms have spent over the last two years of this renewal process. That's really the story that this slide is trying to demonstrate. So before we opened our very first public comment period in 2017, we met with CASE and we were asked to increase the mailing radius of the public notice from ¼ mile to a mile -- which we did.
- 0:32:14 We were asked to extend the public comment period from 30 days to 60 days, which we also did, and to host a public meeting. And that first meeting was the one in the Tualatin and then three more followed after that. So knowing that the static pile method of composting was likely the source of the anaerobic conditions and therefore the odors, we decided we needed to bring on a third party independent expert to do an assessment of the operations.
- 0:32:44 And when we did that, we didn't have a foregone conclusion of, you know, what of Grimms needed to change their composting methods -- with the exception that we knew we needed odor mitigation strategies. So that was part of the original RFP. But we were open to whatever that third party expert's analysis and recommendations were going to

be. And if it meant that they needed to change operations, we wanted them to include a road map of what that would actually look like.

- 0:33:18 So we relied on the community and on the city and DEQ and Grimms to help inform our decision. That's when we got the stake holder presentation on the RFP review committee, got everybody together and it was a unanimous selection of Green Mountain Technologies to perform the assessment. And then we continued to check in on a smaller group basis with the communities.
- 0:33:45 We've hosted those four events -- one of which I already talked about was the panel of several government agencies with authority or expertise as it relates to Grimms. Because, like I said, we have the technical expertise on solid waste, but we don't have -- we rely on other agencies to inform things like their potential for health impacts and environmental impacts and traffic impacts.
- 0:34:07 So as I said before we've extended, essentially, a status co-license and we've invited the public comment multiple times -- to allow for additional input so that our process is better informed. And we've coordinated really closely with a lot of folks who do not agree. So let's talk a little bit more about that, and what we've heard to date.
- 0:34:36 So, this slide is representative of the most recent public comment period -- that was open from October to November, end of October to November. And they were responding to the proposed license conditions that had changed. So, our licenses are generally like 25 pages long, with several sections that don't change from one to another -- like our indemnification clauses and things like that. So our intention of releasing just the sections that we're changing was to provide increased clarity.
- 0:35:08 And all of those changes were based on recommendations from Green Mountain Technologies, and I'll discuss that in just a minute. So as you can see, the comments that were submitted to Metro were not unanimous. I am going to try -- as I go through these next couple of slides -- to present these comments as neutrally as possible. I know that the people in this room are not neutral in their feelings and opinions about any of these things.
- 0:35:40 So -- and I've also heard that because people were solicited by one party or another to make comments, that that somehow invalidates what was said one side or another. So I'm just going to ask for these couple of slides that you just hang tough with me and that we can just get through this, and then thank you in advance. Let me just talk about this real quick.
- 0:36:01 The pros and cons were really hard to categorize because in the same sentence people would express differing opinions. For example, someone would say that they liked Grimms, but a little change couldn't hurt. So for me, that was a pro comment. And then someone else would say that the proposed conditions weren't strong enough, or they used subjective language -- so that is a con comment.
- 0:36:25 So the free form comments and the organized comments that just represent -- the organized comments are groups that are position statements from Oregon Air and CASE. And there's a breakdown of the numbers there, and then free form comments are just things that didn't fall into the organized comment category.

0:36:52 Man: I have a question and clarification. We like Grimms and we wanted changes made. So were our comments pro or con?

Hila Ritter: What do you mean by "our comments?"

Man: Okay, my comments. It sounded like, in clarity, what you said earlier if someone said we like Grimms, we want them to stay but we think a change needs to happen, put that in the pro category, correct?

0:37:13 Man: He's referring to his specific comments, however.

Hila Ritter: Yeah, con because they were -- the license conditions weren't strong enough. They were -- so this was in -- "a little change couldn't hurt" is an example of a pro because they were in support of the changes that we were putting forward generally. And a con is not in support of the changes we were putting forward generally.

0:37:39 Man: So pro/con for the license conditions?

Hila Ritter: Mmm-hmm.

Man: Ted, do you have clarification?

Ted: Yeah, to me, the approach needs to be differently changed. This doesn't present what Peter added because all of this [indistinct] percent are either a customer of Grimms or they are not [indistinct] the community that are suffering so people from somewhere else [indistinct] can say yes but depends on where you live. You know, somebody from Beaverton can say "yes," somebody from Sherwood can say "yes."

0:38:29 Man: Sorry to interrupt you. I'm going to keep that comment. We can come back to that [indistinct].

Ted: I'm sorry.

Man: It's okay. We're just going to stick to clarification, but I appreciate your passion.

0:38:42 Hila Ritter: So let's just for a minute go over the changes that were included. And again, this is from the original set of conditions that were put forward -- and if you were at the October 30th meeting, this is just going to be a quick recap. So these are the things that were put into the license.

0:38:59 So, 14 foot pile height limit; required to design, operate, and maintain an aerated system; a cover for the piles is required; they must maintain adequate bulk density within those piles; there's a 15-day period which the piles can not be disturbed -- that's an odor control, most of these are odor control, but that's an odor control method specifically; establish a training program for qualified operators; and continuing education program so they are staying current with best practices and current best practices for composting facilities; capture and treat the air over the processing equipment -- the other meeting I showed some pictures where this has been put in place at Grimms; and the monitor -- there's increased monitoring for the temperature and oxygen and other parameters that

have all been added, which are all new things in the Metro license; pathogen reduction is required -- pathogen reduction in composting happens with time and temperature, so there are specific time and temperature requirements to achieve PFRP which is the process to further reduce pathogens; and the establishment of a community engagement plan.

- 0:40:21 So, the community engagement plan is -- there's timelines that it has to be submitted to Metro. And there are different ways to achieve community engagement plan, there are different options and ideas that are put forward in the license but the requirement is around establishing a community engagement plan. So there were -- before I move on -- there were four things that were not included in the license that were part of Green Mountain Technologies' recommendations.
- 0:40:54 The first one is removal of relic objects from on site. This is not included in the license because those things were removed to Metro's satisfaction prior to the release of this license, so it was moot point. Implementation of an odor-monitoring tool. We believe that it's premature to implement an odor standard device until further evaluation is conducted. The implementation --
- 0:41:23 Rob Nathan: Hila, can you be more clear about what when further evaluation is conducted on the device? Or on the facility? I'm not sure what you mean by that.
- Hila Ritter: Yeah, on a lot. Yeah, and let's get -- let me just table that, and we'll come back to that in a minute. And I'll just say that the nasal ranger was the tool that was -- there were several that were outlined in the report. The nasal ranger was the one that was recommended and further evaluation needs to be conducted for both the actual device itself, the standards to which to measure, you know, the readings on -- and, generally, better understanding of you know regulatory framework.
- 0:42:12 What is being used and what works, you know, in other jurisdictions.
- Rob Nathan: Thank you.
- Hila Ritter: Yeah. The third thing that was not implemented was California's mitigation strategy menu. That is helpful for operators to diagnose issues. It reads like -- it reads like a, you know, if it smells like this it could be this. Which is a great tool, but it's not a regulatory enforcement tool so it's not something that we implemented as part of the license.
- 0:42:48 And then, finally, the fourth is about requirement of consistency of land use options. And zoning is in the purview of the City of Tualatin and a change of zoning is not being proposed by Grimms at this time. So opening up the land use isn't in Metro's purview.
- So, this is a chart that shows the comments. And I'll go through this and talk about the comments that we received. As you saw in the previous slide, there were 119 total comments during the comment period.
- 0:43:32 You'll notice that these columns don't add up to 100%. So each column is 18% of 119 comments where about mentioned land use in some way. 53% of the 199 comments mentioned being a good neighbor in some way. So, I'm going to go through these. Within

each of these topics areas, the comments were varied. This is a very condensed version of 119 unique comments. You'll notice as we go through these within each one there is a wide range of opinion.

- 0:44:11 So we've worked very hard to capture them, and I'm just going to go through these to show the kinds of things that we heard from the people who chose to comment. Excuse me one second. Wet my whistle, as my grandpa used to say.
- 0:44:26 So land use. We heard that Grimms was there first and that people moving into the area should have done their due diligence to know what they would be living near. We also heard from those who believe that composting should not be allowed near residential housing, or that static pile composting shouldn't be allowed near residential housing. And, again, this is just a quick snapshot.
- 0:44:49 In the good neighbor category, we heard from both residential and commercial neighbors to Grimms who stated in one way or another that they are or have been a good neighbor and others who stated that the livability in the adjacent areas has significantly decreased, especially in the last 3-ish years, because of Grimms. On fair treatment, most of the comments that talked about unfair treatment towards Grimms were about the timeline specifically -- that the timeline was unrealistic.
- 0:45:23 And others said the government should just get out of the way and leave Grimms alone. Economic impacts -- we heard that changes, any changes implemented will cause Grimms to close -- which could increase costs for Grimms customers. We heard that Metro needs to provide money to Grimms to facilitate their change. And that Grimms provides economic benefit to the community as an employer and as a yard debris infrastructure, and concerns about decreased home values due to negative impacts.
- 0:45:59 We've also heard the Tualatin Chamber of Commerce has submitted comments for almost every comment period and attended and spoken at meetings in support of the business. And stronger requirements -- we heard that we need to require more stringent oxygen levels -- that there should be zero tolerance for offsite odors and dust, that we need to reduce their incoming, -- reduce or eliminate their incoming feedstock. We should require the operator to monitor airflow rate and pressure on all the blowers.
- 0:46:35 Increase penalties for non-compliance. Increase performance-monitoring requirements, require third party odor monitoring or provide equipment and training for residents to perform odor monitoring. Also heard of concerns that not all of Green Mountain Technologies recommendations were being implemented. We also heard that we should be reducing the term of the license, and not allowing multiple years.
- 0:47:01 Facility capacity -- so if Grimms closes or limits the amount that they accept there is increased costs and increased emissions to take yard debris elsewhere. If yard debris is landfill or burned, it will increase environmental or health impacts, that Tualatin and the surrounding areas are currently experiencing the impacts and if the yard debris goes elsewhere, other communities will have burdens. We also heard if it doesn't go to Grimms, where is it going to go.
- 0:47:39 We also heard from folks that we should be renewing the license now -- that Grimms provides a valuable service, that their impacts are minimal, that Grimms does cause

impacts but the proposed requirements -- and in some case are stronger requirements -- are expected to help. Community involvement -- we heard that Metro should provide the tools and resources for citizen odor monitoring.

0:48:03 That citizen input should be required for all operating plans, for approval of all operating plans, and that all meetings between Metro and Grimms should include citizens and citizen input. In health impacts, folks talked about wanting the emissions to be monitored. They talked about odors and/or dust as a health concern in varying degrees of severity -- from, you know, nuisance type issues to fears and concerns about it causing cancer and other serious diseases.

0:48:42 We also heard that odor and/or dust impacts are exaggerated by a small group of people, or a group of people who are new to the area. Similar in the odors, folks talked about it negatively impacting their life -- including embarrassment, which caused social isolation. They talked a lot about health impacts or concerns because of the odors. And others talked about how odors occur, but they're not negatively impacting their lives.

0:49:10 And that odors have increased in the past three years. And, again, that odors are exaggerated by a small group and/or people new to the area -- and, Ted, just to respond to what of the things that you said a moment ago. There are people living in Pony Ridge and Angel Haven that say that they don't experience odors that are anything more than "oh sometimes I smell it."

0:49:41 So, yes, there are people from Beaverton and Sherwood and other surrounding communities that are saying things, but there's people, you know, who are also very close.

Ted: [indistinct] to have the addresses [indistinct].

Hila Ritter: We don't require addresses as part of our public comment, so.

0:49:58 Rob Nathan: Were you making also a comment about [indistinct] making a public comment?

Man: [indistinct].

Rob Nathan: Okay. Gotcha. And, Hila, just for clarification. With this public comment, is there a way to differentiate if someone [indistinct] making [indistinct] comments?

0:50:16 Hila Ritter: Yeah, so we -- there were 130 -- sorry, I thought it was on this slide. There were 113 unique commenters. So a few of them were multiple comments from the same -- different comments, but multiple from the same individual. So 113 unique commenters out of 119.

0:50:38 Man: And just to point -- Metro's prepared a response to comments. On our website you can go to that. Every comment that was sent in is there and our response to those comments there as well. So.

Hila Ritter: Yup. Thank you.

- 0:51:01 Man: Can I make a comment on that about Pony Ridge people saying they don't experience -- I mean it was a significant comment that my next-door neighbor has been there two years. Great guy, I sold the house. And I live right next door. And, you know, his very flowery comment about Grimms and I live right next door. And I've been there 22 years. So, just, you know ---
- 0:51:27 Rob Nathan: We can open up discussion about the comment period [indistinct]
[crosstalk]
- Hila Ritter: We're almost -- I'm almost done, I promise. This is the last slide. So the changes -- so from that time -- so the comment period closed on November 30th.
- 0:51:43 And with the information from the October 30th meeting and the comments that were received, Metro made these changes to the license that was then released and this is what is currently open for public comment. So we increased the minimum oxygen level in the aerated static piles to 10% at all times. It had been that it was a minimum of 10% but that corrective action didn't have to happen until it fell below 5%.
- 0:52:16 And we've changed that to 10% and if it falls below 10% corrective action needs to be taken. And we've also -- we're also requiring the complete conversion of the site to an aerated static pile method of composting by July 1 of 2020. In the previous version we weren't requiring it -- we weren't explicitly saying it needed to be the aerated static pile system. So made that change as well.
- 0:52:47 We also included increased penalties if the site doesn't comply with the timelines set forth -- including limiting or cutting off incoming feed stock all together. So, as I said, the current comment period is open until February 5th. We released the license in full and we ask three specific questions this time, in an effort to streamline the comments a little bit.
- 0:53:18 The questions were "Do you support -- ," the questions are "Do you support Metro issuing the license as written?" And for each of the questions it's yes, no, undecided, and then a comment box where you can explain your position for each. So "Do you support the license as written? Do you have a concern that's not addressed in the license? Do you have additional input or specific changes to suggest relating to the draft license?" We've received nine comments.
- 0:53:45 Rob Nathan: When was that? I'm sorry.
- Hila Ritter: Sorry?
- Rob Nathan: When was that asked? [indistinct].
- Hila Ritter: It's been available for the month, and it closes on February 5th.
- Man: Where was that?
- Hila Ritter: It's online. And we sent out an email to everyone that has submitted a complaint or a comment in the last five years. We sent out an email notification.

0:54:07 Man: I never got that. I should definitely be on that. I never got an email.

Woman: I never got an email either.

Hila Ritter: Okay, we can look into that.

[crosstalk]

Man: [indistinct] also show public record [indistinct].

Man: Neither did we.

[crosstalk]

Man: [indistinct] system and please re-extend that and re-set that from day one [indistinct].

0:54:26 Hila Ritter: Okay. Well, we have -- I will definitely look into it and I can only imagine that it was the volume that I sent it. Because I sent it to something like 300 or something people. And maybe that caused the system to freak out, I don't know. But I'll look into that.

Man: Has Metro considered sending out mailers, postal mail, more reliable? Is that an opportunity to make sure we're reaching everybody?

0:54:52 Man: Postcard with a reply that they can actually send in, that they can actually mark a box and let everybody -- .

[crosstalk]

Rob Nathan: I'm just going to make a request -- I know there's a lot of stuff going on, and you all have some great feedback for us. If you have feedback on the process that we're sharing with you, if you want to write it down and the first thing I'm going to address is public comment period when we get to discussion. I promise you. Thank you.

0:55:12 Hila Ritter: Thanks, Rob. So to date, we've received nine comments so far. And the comments we've received so far are, again, mixed. They are all across the board. And in closing, I'll say this -- that I wrote the license and I will readily admit that it's not going to make everyone happy. But Metro is moving forward with the new license that has been thoroughly researched. It's supported by science.

0:55:43 And it's been repeatedly improved by input from the community, from Grimms, other composting experts, and the expertise of other agencies. The diversity that we've received -- and continue to receive -- has improved our process. It's informed our decision making throughout. But there is not unanimous consensus on pretty much anything regarding Grimms. Including how Metro should regulate.

0:56:07 So we've been listening. We're going to continue to listen and to make improvements where they are appropriate. But where part of our responsibility is to do our due diligence and to thoroughly research the subject matter, another part of our responsibility is to take

well-informed and decisive action. So I hope this overview has been helpful for you to understand how we've arrived where we are and the conditions therein. And now we'll move on.

0:56:35 Rob Nathan: And I just want to add one more thing. I've been pretty separate from this for coming in through this community engagement process. And I remember during one of our other public meetings just hear your comment, your closing statements about the pulling the community input, [indistinct] the license, public comment, and public meetings.

Pulling in expertise from consultant scientists and other government partners that supports their regulations and things they have purview over -- but also, if I remember correctly from one of our public meetings -- one of the reasons we weren't just taking Green Mountains' [indistinct] the options they had and just making that a license is because part of this is about - our license requirements isn't just about Grimms.

0:57:21 Right? These license requirements will potentially affect other compost facilities. So it's about us creating best practices from the science we did in this community and input we received. Right?

Hila Ritter: Mmm-hmm.

Man: Thank you. Just wanted to make sure. Are we ready to move on?

Hila Ritter: Mmm-hmm.

Man: Thank you so much, Hila. I'll pass this on to DEQ.

0:57:40 Woman: Did you want to have discussion before, or do you want me to go through our -- ?

Rob Nathan: We're going to go ahead and get all the technical information about the process out. And we're a little ahead of schedule, which is great. So I'd love to get it out. Folks, remember to take notes on what Hila said and we'll move on to Audrey from DEQ and [indistinct].

[crosstalk]

0:57:58 Audrey O'Brien: I want to acknowledge, so everyone knows, I'm Audrey O'Brien. I am our manager in our northwest region office. And I'm responsible for the permit that gets issued to Grimms. Jeremy is our lead permit writer and inspector for Grimms. And I first want to acknowledge something that Hila mentioned when she was talking. One, it is very apparent to me and to DEQ that our permitting process was not satisfactory and didn't resolve the concerns that the community has expressed.

0:58:32 And that's why the community has gone to Metro to say DEQ's permit didn't do what we needed it to do. And I just want to acknowledge that, that our process wasn't satisfactory -- and the frustration that you have endured because of that. And I want to thank Metro for taking on -- addressing some of the frustration you have with DEQ. And also I want to thank Metro for undertaking the study and collecting the data that has informed Metro's

license and is also informing the modification that DEQ is proposing to the DEQ permit that's going to be issued to Grimms.

- 0:59:14 So, I want to talk a little bit about our process moving forward. We have -- as Hila noted - - we have been participating from when Metro started their licensing renewal process. And we so appreciate the comments that we've heard, and I assure you we are paying attention. And when we went out in February, when Jeremy went out and conducted an inspection in February we had received over 70 complaints that occurred over the time that Grimms was turning and there was an incursion. And we realized that we had not paid attention and we needed to pay attention.
- 1:00:00 And that was really eye opening for us. And the community meetings that we've been able to participate in with metro have been very helpful to us to ensure we paid really close attention to our regulations and how we're carrying out our regulations with respect to compost facilities and particularly with respect to Grimms. So, our public process is going to -- the perfect modification is going to start, we're hoping to get our public notice up tonight or tomorrow morning. We will also do an email notification.
- 1:00:31 We do have a delivery service and we can tell who it's gone to. If you have not signed up for our email notification, I can tell you the link right now or I can ask you to go to our website to sign up. And then we will also be contacting those folks that we -- like we have emails for Ted and Brett and some of the other community members and we'd like to forward our notification to you and then ask you to please share it with your memberships. And I know, like, Brett, I think your homeowners' association I hope you have access to forward it on to your homeowners' association or if you won't mind asking, giving our email for us to use.
- 1:01:16 That would be really helpful -- and the same with your neighborhood, Ted. We will be doing a U.S. postal service mailing, as well. Our typical area's a quarter mile, and I heard we will go to the mile level effort. I've tried postcards in the past, and then had people show up at hearing with a postcard saying, "I didn't get the permit to comment on." So we don't use that any more. We send out the package with our permit and our permit evaluation note and the public notice and we put a little sticker on it -- because people thrown that away, thinking it's junk mail -- saying "DEQ permit inside, please read."
- 1:01:55 So we'll do that. But please if you know people who aren't getting it, if you can let me know that would be fantastic. We -- in addition to coming to today's meeting -- we have asked to have, to meet with the community as you have asked us to do regularly. And, Ted, I think you've made an arrangement with the Tualatin library for us to meet with you next week on the 29th at 10 a.m. Jeremy and I and a few others from DEQ will be there. Hila is going to come as well, to hear anything that might come up regarding Metro.
- 1:02:33 This is your meeting, where you asked us to participate, so if you know others who want to participate I would ask that Kate and Oregon Air be the ones to say who can and can't come. I don't want to be telling people that they can or can't come to your community meeting. So I hope that's okay. And then the next thing we'll be doing is, our comment period will go until May 4th. And we will hold a public hearing on February 26th at the Juanita Pohl Center.

- 1:03:06 We are not using the exact same area that Metro used for the meeting -- that place, we were told by Sarah, that that place is going to have some other event happening that night. So we'll be in the main part of the cafeteria, the lunchroom. So what we've done in the past is we've pulled the tables back and put out chairs and we'll use that space again. Hopefully it will be big enough to accommodate everybody. I think it can hold more than 80 people, with the chairs laid out.
- 1:03:39 So if you have any sense that there is going to be more than 100 people, let us know -- so we can reassess or plan better.
- Woman: Can you just give us those two dates?
- Audrey O'Brien: Yes. February 26th starting at 6 p.m. at the Juanita Pohl Center. And then March 4th at 5 p.m. to our offices. And we have our email on our public notice [indistinct].
- 1:04:02 Man: The comment period.
- Audrey O'Brien: Actually, the comment period ends March 4th at 5 p.m.
- [crosstalk]
- Audrey O'Brien: Did I say May? I'm sorry. March. March. So that's a very bad mistake I made, so March 4th.
- Man: March 4th.
- 1:04:19 Audrey O'Brien: Yes. March 4th. And that will hopefully line up very closely with where Metro and DEQ are with the license and with the permit issuance. Because as we know they want -- and, Jeff, I know you want the certainty to be able to get moving on all of these things. So -- and then we will have the whole permit, with the modifications identified within it. So that will be part of our package.
- 1:04:51 So I wanted to then -- I don't have a fancy -- as you know, I don't -- because this is Metro's meeting I didn't want to do a fancy chart. But we have incorporated a lot of the same requirements into the DEQ permit that Metro is including in the license. And so we are removing the authorization for accepting food waste for -- we will have the required temperature conditions and some of the other -- the oxygen, temperature, and moisture conditions. Previously, those were in the operations plan.
- 1:04:51 Those will be going into the permit. We will have the timelines for reducing the pile heights, similar to what the fire department is requiring as well as what the consultant's report recommended in terms of going down to the 14-foot height. Our deadline for doing that, I think, is the same as the Metro deadline -- which is July 2020.
- 1:05:55 We are requiring the cover for the compost -- the bio-cover for the compost piles, to help reduce odors that the bio-filter system continues to operate and is operating well, and that Grimms will go to the aerated system for their active compost pile composting. So, that's a quick summary and I think I'll stop there. Jeremy, is there anything else that you can think of that we should make sure everyone's aware of?

[crosstalk]

1:06:38 Rob Nathan: Yeah, so why don't we -- since we are ahead of schedule -- just give an opportunity for everyone to go around the room and say who they are and maybe why you're here in this room today. Ted, do you want to start?

Ted Saedi: [indistinct]. I'm Ted Saedi, and I'm the President of the CASE organization. Can I have a couple minutes?

[cross talk]

1:07:11 Rob Nathan: [indistinct] maybe you can close with [indistinct]. I'll give an opportunity for both community groups to have a closing statement.

Man: Can I interrupt? I kind of feel like what we're doing right now is kind of a waste of time now [indistinct], because he's the only one that didn't know anybody in the room. We all know each other [crosstalk]. Is there anybody that doesn't know who we are? [crosstalk] Perfect. Let's move forward.

1:07:34 Rob Nathan: Okay, great.

Man: Sorry, Rob, thank [indistinct].

Hila Ritter: I'm just going to make sure and clarify. I'm not sure if everybody knows Jeff Gage, who is our -- who was the project manager for the Green Mountain Technology report, and has now been hired by Grimms.

Man: And I think we should introduce the City of Tualatin staff and I think for the public meeting they [indistinct]. But we all know [indistinct].

[crosstalk]

1:07:56 Hila Ritter: Jan, can we -- sorry, Jeff -- Jan can you just -- can we go around everybody say our names again just so we have familiarity.

Jan: I'm Jan [indistinct] with CASE. I align with Board member and position as consultant.

Man: I am board member of CASE.

1:08:12 Frank Bubenik: Frank Bubenik, Mayor of Tualatin.

[crosstalk]

Sherilyn Lombos: Sherilyn Lombos, City Manager in Tualatin for 12 years.

Roy Brower: Roy Brower, I'm the Metro -- I'm the Director of Solid Waste Information, Compliance and Cleanup here so.

Steve Koper: I'm Steve Koper, I'm the Planning Manager of Tualatin.

1:08:33 Aquila Hurd-Ravich: Aquila Hurd-Ravich, Community Development Director, Tualatin.

Hila Ritter: Eric Crandall in back. Taking notes, working hard.

Warren Johnson: Warren Johnson, Compliance Manager here at Metro.

Duane Altig: Duane Altig, Solid Waste Inspector.

1:08:49 Jeremy Fleming: Jeremy Fleming, with DEQ, Permit Manager and Inspector of Programs.

Audrey O'Brien: Audrey O'Brien.

Jeff Garcia: Jeff Garcia, [indistinct].

Brett Hamilton: Brett Hamilton, Oregon Air.

Joyce Atkins: Joyce Atkins, Oregon Air [indistinct] Angel Haven [indistinct] Angel Haven.

Steve Titus: Steve Titus, [indistinct].

[laughter]

1:09:16 Jeff Gage: Jeff Gage, I'm Senior System Process Designer for Green Mountain Technologies, a member of the design and consultant for Metro [indistinct].

1:09:29 Rob Nathan: So, we're going to move into discussion phase. I want to remind folks who got snacks up here. So during discussion if you -- if that's time in the afternoon where you need a little sugar please feel free, don't be shy. This is here for you. So, I know we have some feedback about public comment. I want to open up some time for that. If we seem like we're talking about public comments too long, I might pause us.

1:09:55 And check if they're some other topics that we want to move forward. I want to make sure no other topic takes up most of our time. But I do -- I saw some [indistinct] want to give some space for that. Ted, you had started that. Is there anything else you want to share about your feedback on public comment? I'm sorry, go ahead and put your nametag on if you have [indistinct]. Great.

1:10:21 Man: My public comment was obviously for myself is I support Grimms. I take my yard debris there and a bunch of plants. And I support clean air, and all of the upgrades that Oregon Air is requesting. So I think that the public comments to just be simply pro or con -- I think it is missing, they're two things that are separate that are either being conflated or they are being separated when they're, is it creating division that isn't. Like you can both be pro-Grimms, pro-composting, and clean air act. So that's my comment.

1:10:55 Rob Nathan: Okay, so there's an opportunity there for us to bring different categories. I know there's a neutral category, but maybe there's an opportunity for us to add it, section is [crosstalk] suggestion for improvement.

- 1:11:06 Man: There's some people who are pro-conflict and some people are pro-Grimms, it's like, and pro-clean air, it's like there's a huge overlap. We're talking 90% of all people. So you're saying 90% of the people are pro-Grimms means they're opposed to the license somehow that's not mapping with the groups, as far as -- .
- 1:11:25 Rob Nathan: Thank you. Again, we're not 100% of this process is perfect. A lot of this work has been done, not just at Metro but across agencies the way they do licenses. And I'm really valuing the feedback we get on this process. I think we did a big investment in trying to do a much more thorough public engagement and process -- which now, you know, it's a huge commitment for us -- because we're going to be not just doing that for your community but doing it for all communities.
- 1:11:54 Communities that are facing, you know, toxic impacts from neighboring waste facilities and other things. Like really stepping it up and I think it's a really great learning opportunity for us here, and so I really do invite your feedback certainly at this time. Joyce, do you have a --- ?
- 1:12:09 Joyce Atkins: In regards to what Adam mentioned about mailings and such like that -- Angel Haven has a lot of older people -- they do not have [indistinct], they don't use computers. Well, mailings would be really nice to have. I mean, I think we can also go around and talk to people but they're -- they just don't use computers. And so they are not [indistinct] as much. They talk about it, they tell me about it [indistinct] -- so they are complaining but they're complaining to us that they [indistinct] and not to [indistinct] because it's just not the [indistinct].
- 1:12:42 Rob Nathan: Thank you. Do you feel like the folks in your community were able -- do you feel like coming to a public meeting? So that when once we do feel like that was accessible, or [indistinct]?
- 1:12:52 Joyce Atkins: They could, they just, [indistinct]. They don't get out. And they don't go outside a lot because of the smell. But it's just that we just need to get them more involved and that's got to be a process [indistinct] we've been around and talked to them but maybe if we had a mail in card of some kind and I can go around and as they have the questions [indistinct] do you smell this odor, or do you like it like this like that you know [indistinct] those kind of things that might help get them involved a little more because they just [indistinct]. I mean, you can take them but it's sometimes hard because [indistinct] can't sit for a long time.
- 1:13:31 Rob Nathan: That's fair.
- Joyce Atkins: There's -- I'm younger than a lot [indistinct] but still there are a lot of people that are 80 or 90 years old. But they're still have their faculties.
- Man: [indistinct].
- Rob Nathan: Right now we're just jumping back on comments and then I'll move on to another topic [indistinct].

1:13:53 Woman: I would like to take this time and express as feedback is to express thank you to everybody in this room for all of your dedication and your work -- but in particular to Hila and her team. When we first met her at Angel Haven -- remember, the power had gone off. I was sitting there in my mittens. We were in the dark and I can still remember the look on Hila's face when we asked for a public meeting.

1:14:23 And she said, "but we don't do public meetings." Anyway, we convinced her and she acquiesced and now she's a star of public meetings. So we really appreciate everyone's effort. Jeff -- who doesn't like you? Everyone likes you. And we only [crosstalk] [laughter] we only hope the best [crosstalk]. So, thank you.

Woman: Thanks, Jeff.

1:14:52 Jeff: I really appreciate those words. And I appreciate you, [indistinct] work. I also acknowledge, you know, this -- we should have been, a lot of agencies should be doing better at this work. And we're committed to doing that. That's another reason why we're here today and so thank you for the appreciation, but don't stop having expectations of us to show up. Brett -- and if -- is there anyone else who has something about public comment, before I move on to talk about -- .

Man: I guess I would.

[crosstalk]

1:15:24 Man: So as a -- also as a homeowner in Pony Ridge for 22 years, I would just say that there are a lot of [indistinct] for myself included. I mean there are many, many, many days -- as a busy business owner -- I'm leaving my house, you know, and there's major, major odor. You know, I'm a busy business owner. I don't even take the time to go online or to make a phone call. You know. I did, I did -- I think like 2011 -- I kind of started that and it was kind of a negative experience, because DEQ would say call Metro. Metro would say call DEQ.

1:16:04 And so it was all that kind of stuff, you know pointing finger thing. We're way, obviously, beyond that at this point. But I can tell you that I haven't made comments for probably three years, four years. But I'm actively involved in the issue. So I --

Man: So I think what I'm hearing is there's still an opportunity for us to think about how we make that public comment period accessible.

Woman: [indistinct] ongoing public comments [indistinct].

[crosstalk]

1:16:38 Man: I'm sorry, what?

Woman: The site is not real good. The comment that you have to create, like it can happen in the morning and then it happens in the evening and you need to make two comments. And then it happens the next day. I just -- every day you have to make a comment on it. [indistinct] complaints.

1:16:53 Man: You've worn us out to the point where instead of commenting --

Woman: You don't do it any more.

Man: -- instead of commenting once for the week, saying hey it stunk every single day this week and then saying hey no, you have to comment every single day that you smell it; where you were; what it smelled like; the moment you smelled it; what time it was.

1:17:11 You wanted so much information that you've made it uncomfortable for people to comment. They're like, dude -- my neighbor would say, "Dude, it stinks but you know how much [indistinct], it's such a pain in the ass to comment." I'm like "Dude, seriously, we need you." You're complaining to me but you're complaining to the wrong person.

Man: Wayne knows. He knows people by like first name basis from getting phone calls or emails or whatever, and it's just, it's like it's a constant email kind of thing, so.

1:17:39 Woman: You guys, the complaint process is something that I think we as citizens work on [indistinct] the good neighbor agreement process because we can -- I think provide some valuable input to both DEQ and to Metro as well as to the city. But perhaps the venue for that will be during the good neighbor agreement process -- just a suggestion.

1:18:00 Man: Yeah, and I hear what you all are saying. I think for a novice permitting person like myself, you know, I think the intention is for us to be able to collect as much data as we can about when odors are high and low. But what I'm hearing is that burden shouldn't be put on you. That's something, you know, that we might figure out a different way to capture that information. What's important is that we hear the over-arching story from the residents and the community about how they're being impacted by it.

1:18:28 Man: Which I think that's a lot of the question.

Man: Okay. Absolutely.

Woman: It's almost every day.

Man: Brett, I want you to be the last comment about public comments, then we're going to move on and see what other conversations come up.

1:18:39 Brett Hamilton: My comment specifically about the point some people make a public comment and say they don't smell the smell. And my comment would be there are people whose noses are different than other people's noses. And it's almost like saying there's a - they are blind people who comment and they say they don't see the pile -- that that does not diminish the comments of people who do see the pile. And it doesn't negate the fact that the pile is enormous and it's actually there.

1:19:02 And it feels like sometimes when that comment keeps being brought up -- is when there are people who don't smell it -- that it somehow, that that comment has merit in the debate about the impact of the odor on people who can smell it.

Man: I would argue -- just from my perspective as a community engagement person -- every comment has merit. And we, unfortunately, don't have the ability to differentiate or place value on one comment over the other.

1:19:29 Man: I'm not saying the comment has a merit, I'm saying the argument -- that comment being used as an argument in favor of or opposed to some modification -- I don't think that argument has any merit. That some people can't see the pile so therefore we don't need to, it's not ugly. Does that -- ?

1:19:45 Man: I think that's fair. What I respond -- and it's not a disagreement statement -- I will say our responsibility is to share all the information we have. I don't think we should be making any comment an excuse for why we do what we do. What we should be doing is taking all the information from the comments and incorporating that to making of a good judgment about reducing, you know, impact on community. But I -- and I hear what you're saying and my perspective is a little different, but I don't feel like it's a disagreement.

[crosstalk]

1:20:21 Man: Something that I think would be really helpful is if the -- you know, we can only say, we can only do so much and complain so much -- but when those complaints happen and you guys actually come out on site, it's you guys are "Oh wow, it's kind of noticeable." And when we complain every single day, maybe you guys can make the trip out there every single day to realize that this isn't that we have to live with and that we can't eat our breakfast. My son can't eat a bowl of cereal without throwing up, because of the smell.

1:20:48 You know, Wayne's been to my house. He smelled it. With closed doors and closed windows, air conditioner running. That is not okay, and when we complain, nothing happens. Nobody comes up to do anything. There were times if they were in the area they would come out and like okay maybe we can confirm this. Cool, I'm here. "It kind of smells in the house." That's not okay. So more often, more engagement, would be awesome. But I understand the cost and the logistics of "hey, I've got to come up here, we got to rush out there and see where it's at." Not easy.

1:21:26 Man: I completely understand how frustrating this is and it's impacting your life on a daily basis. It's really intense. And there's not an excuse -- I can't make an excuse for how you're feeling. But the reality is we have, you know, this is not the only solid waste facility. And we have two inspectors that do come out and respond and I think what we try to do is represent how much of an investment that we have made in response to the complaints. But that doesn't mean that it's going to make each day easier for you. So I apologize for that. I'm sorry this is happening. Hila, did you have something -- ?

1:22:04 Hila Ritter: Yeah, I just wanted to touch base on what you were talking about when you were saying, you know, that we go out there but we're not out there enough; and that we're doing things but we're not doing enough; and, you know, to responding quickly when we're hearing that. When we had Green Mountain Technologies on contract with us and they were out there doing the nasal ranger readings -- Julie and I spent half the day with them, they were out there the whole day.

1:22:29 Julie and I were out there part of the day, and we were getting -- you know, we were getting complaints when we were out there. And we all got in the car and we drove to that house and we talked to that person who made that complaint and they came outside. Within inside of five minutes of them submitting the complaint, we were at the front door with the nasal ranger, taking readings, talking to them. So we have -- we have attempted, we have hired somebody to come with us, with a nasal ranger to attempt to do exactly what you're saying.

1:22:52 Man: Correct.

Hila Ritter: So we've spent -- we're really trying.

Man: I want to apologize. You definitely did. But that needs to happen more because it's still happening so bad and it's so awful.

Hila Ritter: And so that's why we have put together a license that has a whole suite of changes. The facility is completing --

1:23:10 Man: Except the nasal ranger [laughter].

Hila Ritter: They're converting their entire system, that is going to control the odors at the source and change the facility at the source.

Man: Right. And I, you know, I just want to -- at this phase -- like, this is something you're dealing with every day. And, you know, we wish we did have the ability, the public funds, to address every single complaint when we get it. Right now we don't.

1:23:38 And I can imagine it's frustrating. I know when I call a business and I have a complaint, I expect a response. So I acknowledge that and we're going to try to take the comments we get today, and accrue in our public comment period, and I want to move us on from public comments. And Jeff --

1:23:53 Man: I just want to say quickly that I think we've heard the complaints loud and clear. Metro's jumped through a lot of hoops to respond to the complaints, and taken a lot of public input. We at Grimms, we heard the -- you know, complaints -- we're not happy about the situation either. You know, I prefer that, you know -- we acknowledge that we have an issue and we're making steps to move forward. We're making steps today.

1:24:17 Our first phase of our facility is operate -- will be operational any day now. Right now, one bin is ready to go, and we have other bins coming on line. So we've heard the comments. We understand there's a problem. We're moving forward, I'd like to think, on the positive side of that. And with that I'll hand it over to Jeff Gage and let him talk about what we're doing, moving forward.

Man: Do you mind?

[indistinct]

1:24:42 Man: No that's fine. I think it's an opportunity to bring up how we're moving forward and then I want us to bring it back to folks, if there's other issues that they want to bring to the table. [indistinct], do you want to [indistinct]?

Man: Just to Jeff's comment -- just so you know, we have switched out our inspection time. It's not just based on complaints. I have Dwayne -- Dwayne has probably some of the weirdest hours at Metro. He'll go out there at night on weekends, early in the morning, on his own to, you know, see what the odor issues are.

1:25:19 So we're not just responding to complaints and trying to show up and match that up. But we're trying to be there and I think I would say that for Hila, Warren, and I -- any time that we're in the vicinity, we go by Grimms to see if we detect anything. So it, you know, it's something that we constantly monitor, pay attention to, and it's not just a reactive situation. Thank you.

1:25:44 Man: Before Jeff goes into next steps -- is that going to be separate from your next steps?

Woman: Yes.

Man: Okay.

Man: So I wanted to reflect on two things. One is the complaints and the effects and kind of what's going on now and what's being done. I was here a year ago. I was here a year ago during this same time frame.

1:26:08 And there was a lot that's not being done, a lot of complaints, a lot of recording, and just not a lot happening. It started accumulating information as soon as we got approval for moving on the contract. There were a lot of complaints there. There's still complaints now. The reason there are complaints, in fact in all honesty I would expect three times as many complaints right now because since August they've been doing double shifts, just getting the pile levels down to you to have a hope to meet new deadlines.

1:26:45 And that is happening. And I would expect -- just from the outside [indistinct] -- increased problems. However, what that also does, it gets that problem solved. And it looks to me like they're moving farther quicker than I had thought when we first did the report.

Woman: Jeff, can you remind us when the date is to get down to the TVF&R pile height?

Man: I actually can't.

1:27:15 People: April 1st.

Woman: So, December 31st to the 40-foot, and then April 1st to the 25-foot?

Man: To the 25.

Man: So real quick, if I could talk about kind of what's going on. So, we finished the Metro contract then we didn't hear anything from Grimms. They talked to our competition and asked them for proposals or something. It's my fear [indistinct]. Jeff called us and

said "Actually, we'd like to work with you. You understand what's going on with the community and we think you're practical in getting the things [indistinct]."

1:27:53 He also said we also have something that wasn't offered or discussed when we interviewed them as a Metro contractor said, "We would like to convert our existing wood bins into composters temporarily." Guess what, we already have [indistinct]. I said "Well, why didn't you tell me that?" [laughter] [indistinct] We did look at an old system that was not functional [indistinct]. And we had considered that but it just didn't make any sense.

1:28:24 Man: I'm sorry, so what did you find out that he had.

Man: He has, in the receiving area, three 50-foot high [indistinct] where they dry firewood under cover. And they have an air system, they have blowers only one of the blowers work back there. And they said "We'd like to get underway sooner, what it takes for us to clear out the land we can't get it out. We want still to use those later but we couldn't do this."

1:28:53 I went out. Asked their mechanic to give me drawings of what the size was that was [indistinct]. He said, "Okay. We have the blowers, we have this [indistinct] control system." Yesterday we installed that control system. The beginning of it, it doesn't [indistinct] the bells and whistles that are needed for the full system. But it provides operational control for temperature management and it also will assure that they have some sustained oxygen.

1:29:20 [indistinct] system, with their new trained folks. So I look at it a year after having an initial process about [indistinct] 2,200. It doesn't give them much. They can't put everything through there, but they can put a large percentage of what's currently [indistinct]. I also found out, when we got started, that there was a significant increase of the total volume coming in [indistinct].

1:29:48 So that means they're not regenerating odors by having more stuff going into the whole system. So that's a huge step. There is going to be a large percentage able to be going into an aerated system for 15 days. Flipped one more time, for a total of 30 days-- which is not where they want to be on 45 days. So this is kind of the start of change and I think I would -- I'm not going to speak for you, but for the community to come down and look at it as they're gaining experience with that system and learning what the [indistinct].

1:30:23 It's there. There's a couple more holes to put in [indistinct]. Since we turned the buttons and made sure everything is working. So to me it looks like things have really gone under way on the pile reduction, more than I thought. They're being creative in thinking "How can we get there faster?" And, right now, [indistinct] final details on a new aeration system that they have [indistinct] access soon. So they can get a huge -- almost all the incoming tonnage -- on there for a minimum of [indistinct] days.

1:31:03 So that is really big steps forward, and they're trying to get that done. My deadline for them was last week under the [indistinct]. But I got further details about where they want -- precisely how it's going to drain.

Man: I'm wondering of the piles -- the large piles that have been strained and [indistinct] what is happening to that [indistinct] where is it flowing to -- how is it disappearing [indistinct] what teleported [indistinct].

1:31:41 Man: [indistinct] We produce compost 12 months of the year. We sell compost April, May, and June. So in the -- to have enough compost on site [indistinct] sell it in April, May, and June -- we have to have a lot of compost on site. But you're right, your point is taken -- we're moving it from one pile to a whole series of smaller piles on our adjoining property.

Man: Any other questions about the process or what Jeff has shared? Jeff, if anyone has questions please make sure --

1:32:17 Man: How does this process mitigate dust? Because biggest issue that I have with dust is I wash my car one day. The next morning you can rub your finger on it and there's a layer of compost over my car. And I'm at the end of [indistinct]. How does this mitigate dust?

Man: How does what mitigate dust? Aeration system?

Man: Aeration system. Or will it increase the dust?

1:32:42 Man: The aeration system is going to tend to dry things. But, also management of moisture is within permit conditions and those are things that will mitigate dust. The other thing that mitigates dust is enclosure of the screening operations -- which I believe they've done to a substantial amount. I don't know, it's not 100%. But they've put in a collection system for capturing a large percent of it. Road work -- I've seen evidence of watering during the dry periods.

1:33:16 I can see it on satellite [indistinct] section as they go through on different pictures. But the reality is on dust you have to manage moisture content [indistinct]. And to be actively composting you keep it above 40% moisture. And dust really is [indistinct] as you get below that. So dust management is going to be improved by water management and getting at the piles more quickly. Right now, this pile has set for over six months and there's no addition except Mother Nature.

1:33:52 And when they first put material [indistinct] water loss, you still can end up with dusty parts. So the mitigation of dust was not what we put in, but in any of these things that we're doing -- or recommending for them to do -- are going to cut the net reduction of dust and [indistinct]. There's -- at least having one or two more steps -- each step can generate dust if the material's dry. But by managing and handling it you have more opportunities to re-wet it before it gets to that point.

1:34:34 Man: So out of curiosity, then, is there a -- in the license -- is there something about the moisture content and where it needs to be to help improve that aspect?

Man: Yeah. There's a moisture requirement and I in the presentation there's a moisture requirement in our license and in DEQ's license [indistinct].

Man: Is there a moisture prescriptive number in this? Or just something that is one more thing that gets delegated to the operations [indistinct]?

[indistinct]

1:35:06 Hila Ritter: And the other thing -- the other things that's going to help with the dust mitigation is reducing the pile sizes. So if you're going from a 70-foot pile -- with air blowing over the top of it and blowing it straight into, you know, adjacent properties -- down to 14-foot piles and air blowing it, it's not going to -- and also the topography of the site. If you've been at Grimms, you know that it slants downhill. It's all downhill. So the likelihood, when those pile sizes are down to 14-feet the likelihood of them continuing to blow up into the neighborhoods -- Pony Ridge and Angel Haven and beyond -- is very slim.

1:35:45 So that's why, again, our focus is on operations at the site and making sure operations are running tight and smooth on the site.

Man: I know you said odor will increase while we're reducing pile height. Is that right?

Man: Just think of what you were experiencing last year were really big piles, really odorous. You had the steady amount that needed to be prepared for the spring being harvested from the pile, going through the [indistinct] odors coming out of the [indistinct] odors -- that was very intense.

1:36:19 They are breaking down those same piles now, but they are doing it twice as faster -- or even three times as fast -- as they normally [indistinct]. So this is kind of like the construction process to get back into compliance, both for height -- but quite honestly for odor management, too.

Man: And so my question is will that also affect us right now while they're moving it. That may also [indistinct].

Man: I'm sure since its accumulation of well over six months there has to be some [indistinct].

1:36:51 Man: I know we have to [indistinct] but I have question from [indistinct] here. [laughter] And that [indistinct] these two Jeffs can help us from now to July 2020, which this supposed to finish [indistinct] project. Any ways that you can put your mind and expertise together and see if we can mitigate the odors during this time, and not being business as usual.

Man: So I'm going to speak for Jeff just because I'm -- I try to map out

Man: But you're not paid to do that!

[laughter]

1:37:32 Man: My issue with mitigation is it's not 2020 July. 2020 July, everything will be paved and everything will have new capacity and every last scrap will be aerated and composted. What I'm saying is, if you pull off the odors from the street, which I have to

say is celebrated, and I'm expecting that those should be done sometime this summer. But then they finally have a footprint that they can start building the new systems, and that's what's this July 2020.

- 1:38:04 So if I was to project forward and I am not making promises to anyone, because things happen, the material I project to be mostly screened -- that is in the problem file -- by [indistinct] of the summer. If that happens, then that odor source is gone -- because everything else that's coming in, you know, meantime, will go into the [indistinct] system or into the northern aerated system [indistinct]. That won't be done until late spring. So that immediately will change. And so there won't be --
- Man: [indistinct].
- 1:38:42 Man: And so I'm trying to tell you, yes, they're not going to be done until July of 2020 but yes will things improve this year? The answer is absolutely yes.
- Man: [indistinct], I just want to take a moment. We've heard a lot from Oregon Air and CASE. I just want to make sure -- are there other folks in the room that have something they want to share or questions before we go back to the discussion. [pause] Brett.
- 1:39:08 Brett: Before we get to [indistinct] dust segue, you know, I might go over to [indistinct] and measure dust. And we measure dust all the time. We have monitors so that, you know, willing to share with you guys. So you can do your own dust monitoring stuff, if you like. I live in Wilsonville and my car gets dusty too.
- 1:39:08 Man: No, but this is literally, it's your -- it's compost. If it was dust, it would be one thing. And the reason I know the difference is when I'm in [indistinct]. So cars I drive I park it in West Linn, it's one thing. If I park it over here one night, I literally come out and you can see the layer of dust [indistinct]. It's completely different. It's like --
- 1:39:44 Man: Feel free to come over and borrow my monitor. You can drive around.
- Man: Yeah, I'd love to.
- Man: Because you can measure, that's something we can measure [indistinct].
- [indistinct].
- 1:39:56 Man: So, April, May, June is when you sell the majority of the composting material and I'm wondering at the end of that season, how much of the material that's there -- if it takes [indistinct]. People have a hard time understanding how much of the piles are a work in progress versus finished goods. Like how many [indistinct] pretty clear when it's done, it goes in a thing [indistinct]. Some people are asking, like well they're asking what compost there because it's taking along time to make it or versus storage. How can we tell, what's the difference?
- 1:40:30 Man: Well [indistinct] the 31% of the volume that we've lost in the last four months because we're discouraging people from coming to the facility so we can get ready but regardless of that we're pretty much about the same amount of material on site right now as there was last year basically. It's just being arranged differently. You know, instead of

the big compost piles, we have a smaller compost piles. We'll have bigger finished compost piles. We have been in balance. Right now, we've got a big -- you know, balls moving through the snake. Up till now we went, you know, had a large compost pile, we had a series -- or a few smaller compost piles. By the end of the season, all our finished compost was gone.

1:41:14 Man: So but my question is the amount of stuff that's there right now, if you measure it total in June of the finished goods are sold -- how much of that stuff that's sold -- I'm just trying to figure out how much less compost there will be between now and June, like a total percentage?

Man: You know, I'm not sure I can answer that.

1:41:34 Man: Another variable is the rain. You know, we could have a rainy April and [indistinct]. And so that's a variable that we can't predict.

Woman: What's your turn time, Jeff? Is it 12 months, nine months, six months?

1:41:51 Jeff: Right now, it varies. So -- some of the compost that came in just recently is going to be there for a year but it's because what came in relative to the sales. So this stuff that comes in, like last August, for example, is still on site. And will be, probably, until the end of June. So, but, stuff sits out in the compost pile, big pile that everybody's familiar with - it sits out there always in four to six months in the past.

1:42:19 That time is going from six months down to four months [indistinct] lower and lower. So that when we do that big turn that affects everybody, and I sent out the notices? Now if you notice it's going from six months, the last time I sent out the notice it was four months. And pretty soon as the pile comes down it's going to be three months.

1:42:37 Man: And by the time the aerated system is in, they'll be able to shorten number one the total onsite material required -- because it doesn't need as many days to get to the finished product. And so what they do for finished product in the industry is we have stability that we measure for different uses. If it goes in a bag it has to be extremely stable. And many composters -- even after going through an aerated system might have them for 12 months. But those are usually 5% of our sales [indistinct].

1:43:07 I don't think Jeff does any bag. But for bulk sales, compost going in where it smells good, it usually is about a three-month total period. But that three-month total period has been nine months to a year. So that's a volume [indistinct], that's by getting better efficiency the processes are going to lower the piles and still handle the same thing down the street.

[indistinct]

1:43:34 Man: But that was the community's focus.

[indistinct]

Man: Thank you, Jeff, [indistinct].

Man: Any other questions about our engagement process -- oh, I'm sorry.

Man: [indistinct].

Man: No, go ahead.

Man: It's more about a program question. [indistinct].

Man: No, that's okay, go ahead.

- 1:43:54 Man: So, Hila mentioned that -- [indistinct]. That's going to come, will continue maybe for another year or two -- hopefully not after that. But Hila mentioned in your review how it was left out [indistinct] the license about monitoring tools and that basically there is a need to figure out what the best tool is, evaluate it. You know, other [indistinct] using nasal rangers.
- 1:44:22 I'm just wondering who is going to take on that challenge when you anticipate that? Is that Metro? Is it DEQ? Is it the city? Or are all three going to do that? Because I'm looking at a paragraph or item 5.7 of page eight. Page 8,9. [crosstalk] And it asks [indistinct] Jeff to minimize odors, offsite odors [indistinct] what is the odor, out of limits out of bounds, what's acceptable. I see that coming because that's how society is. So what's your plan to deal with this? Because if [indistinct] going to get the calls and [indistinct] I'm going to have my community enforcement officer run out there with a nasal ranger in the next couple years. What's your thoughts?
- 1:45:16 Hila Ritter: So we are kicking off a study for -- to inform compost facility standards for the region. And one of the things that we're going to be looking at in that study is the nasal ranger and olfactometer. You know, which tool is the right device. Is it the nasal ranger? Is it something else -- and then looking at standards. Because, you know, what's the point of measuring something if you don't know what you're measuring it against.
- 1:45:43 And so figuring out what those standards should be. Part of the reason why it's premature to implement that now is because the site is actively in the process of converting and so if we had a nasal ranger and we had an established number of this, that's based on their current operation, it's going to be invalid in two months -- because they're actively changing. So all of that is premature to initiate at this time. And so we are kicking off a study to look into that.
- 1:46:10 Another one of the things that the study is going to look at -- and this speaks to the conversation that we were just having about, you know, end product is, you know, marketability of end product. And what, you know, what the role of government, if any, is in finding markets and encouraging markets for finished product. So, there's -- it's multifaceted. There's a lot of things they're going to be looking at. They're also going to be looking at, you know, other jurisdictions.
- 1:46:41 You know, neighboring jurisdictions and what their, what their over-thresholds are, what tools they're using, how they're enforcing. So, it's definitely something that we are just beginning to kick off the research process for.

Man: [indistinct] stick to what anticipated starting ballpark?

Man: Yeah, it's a good question. We just came up with the project scope and we're finalizing the paperwork on it now so I think I want to say it's like six months kind of hoping to have the full -- final recommendations maybe within the next six months I think is --

Man: [indistinct] this year.

Woman: Mmm-hm.

1:47:22 Man: That's the plan. Right? I mean when that report's done it won't say this is what Metro's going to do but that will help inform kind of what we're going to be looking into. So I think within the next six months -- I can get you a more definite timeline --

Man: [indistinct] there's going to be a stakeholder process as part of that as well.

Man: Sure.

Man: Yup.

1:47:42 Man: What we're trying to do is impose a standard region wide so it's not just Tualatin, it's going to be Cornelius and Milwaukie and other places where there are these compost -- even though they're yard debris only -- these compost facilities. We want to be sure we're imposing this at the same time in the same way all across the region.

Man: [indistinct]. July 2020 gives us something to look at as far as the standard or --

Man: That's the point.

1:48:14 Man: Well his license is going to be informing a lot of the standards that we set for all the rest of the facilities.

[crosstalk]

Man: And just -- I know some people really like the nasal ranger -- we have a real mixed experience with that. We have been involved with DEQ out at Nature's Needs in North Plains and I think we've had issues with how it gets calibrated. Because it depends on the individual whose, you know, nose we're using. And it's not necessarily as accurate as we perhaps would like to see it. So.

1:48:53 Man: I object [indistinct]. Two things. One is whatever that process is, Oregon Air I'm sure would love to get involved. So if we can volunteer to be on the committee to review the standards or be involved in the odor thing if that is our gig and if it's a bigger area we can [indistinct]. Second question is what are these other tools for odor -- because I would love to let our people know that the nasal ranger is not the only game in town.

1:49:24 Hila Ritter: Well, in the Green Mountain Technologies report they list two or three -- several --

Man: [indistinct].

Hila Ritter: Yeah, so there are several that you can look at and have access to, from the report. And then I would just say our good old friend google olfactometer. [laughter]

Man: Okay, so my question is then why do we not -- [indistinct] odor minimalization plan instead of odor mitigation plan. And why are we not including verbiage to then at a future date implement whatever this plan is to be able to implement it [indistinct]? It needs to be on here because it's not on here when you guys come in. I'm grandfathered in.

1:50:05 Man: Five years.

Man: Five years. I'm not changing. That's not okay.

Woman: I hear. I hear what you're saying. That's not how we operate. Metro can amend a license, any license at any time. So we don't have to have place hold or language in a license in order to do something. And, you know, if we were to start down that path I'm sure you could see all the places that we would not think to put something in, in advance.

1:50:27 But we put it in advance for this, so why didn't we put it in in advance for that? So that's just not -- that's not how environmental regulation works for us here at Metro. We have the broad legal authority and we can amend any of our licenses at any time. So even if it's a five-year term it doesn't mean it's necessarily going to be that exact license unchanged for the entire five years.

1:50:46 Man: So has there been a commitment to implement some sort of odor standard in this license? We would like to request that the term of this license be the same of the transitional period of this operation because it seems like this license is being created with the current conditions in mind. And that makes perfect sense, right? You can't have a stringent license for an aerated system that wouldn't be violated every single day with the large piles being broken down.

1:51:17 So would Metro commit to shortening this license to a period that matches the period of the actual dirt on the ground that it's currently corresponding with, so that the next license -- after your guys' review of the odor standards would be informed by, like, the fixed system rather than the transitional one.

1:51:39 Man: And I want to -- I'll just -- I should have brought this up earlier, and feel free to respond, but requests that sound like public comment at this moment -- I want to give an opportunity to remind folks we can put that on the record. And we do respond to all our public comments. So I just want to remind you that there's an opportunity to do that and pose that question. And it also gives us time to think about our answer -- but if you want to respond now or if you want to wait for public comment, for Brett to submit it and [indistinct].

1:52:11 Hila Ritter: Well, I was going to say exactly what you said, so thank you for that. So, you know, the public comment period is the space to submit those ideas and that was one of the comments that we received in our most recent public comment period that closed in November. And we had our response to that that was based in the report that we paid for from Green Mountain Technologies, that recommended, actually, a 10-year term. Which is not something that we can do, per Metro codes. So.

- 1:52:37 Man: Just part of my frustration, though, is we submit public comments and they, like we get three things changed in the license. We had a whole bunch of additional things that weren't even addressed. And then we're here. We're all here. We're asking if this possible and so I will put it in writing.
- [crosstalk]
- 1:52:56 Man: This isn't to diffuse something that may be controversial. I want to assure you I'd like to [indistinct]. I think it's an opportunity for growth. I think with an issue like this -- from my understanding -- lots of stakeholders at the table, we have code and law that we have to follow. We have, and we have other license agreements we have to think about. We also have elected officials that we have to have conversations with. So I think it's really for us to do our job correctly, that to have it on the record -- the request -- we make promises to respond to every single request. And I think if the answer is "no," we should give an explanation in writing.
- 1:53:31 Man: If the answer is "we can't answer the question," that's great.
- Man: So I guess in regards to the code and law I guess my direct -- I have a question for the City of Tualatin because under my, under my deed of trust I can't have any mal-offensive odors emanating from my property at all. So is business treated differently than normal household residents? Out of curiosity. Or is that something that is likely across all of Tualatin? Or what is that even there for at this point?
- 1:54:06 Man: I'm going to request, just after this, I want to give us an opportunity for other community groups and stake holders after you get this question answered.
- Man: I can address that, Jeff, actually. That really is not as of the -- you know [indistinct] City of Tualatin [indistinct]. It's all about the lien holder. That's all about the bank. They're saying, they're putting those stipulations in there, to be able to loan money on that piece of property.
- 1:54:31 Man: [indistinct] grandfather. That's something that's a Pony Ridge document that is on [indistinct] all of us are required. That's City of Tualatin, that's not us.
- [cross talk]
- Man: You said trust me, so.
- Man: I have to look at it.
- Man: Audrey? You've had your nametag up for a while.
- 1:54:53 Audrey O'Brien: I know people -- DEQ has never been able to identify an odor standard. That's the reason it's an odor minimization plan that's required, and that's the reason our performance standard says, "minimize off site -- take reasonable precautions to minimize off site odors." What we observed in was Nature's Needs and Washington County trying to use the nasal ranger is they eventually determined it wasn't helpful in terms of

identifying strength of odor and they used a kind of a human person to go out and do a survey regularly.

1:55:32 And that was way more effective for Nature's Needs in terms of managing off site odors. And so DEQ's -- if Metro is able to identify an odor standard, that's certainly something that DEQ would look at, trying to incorporate into our approach to regulating compost facilities. But that today has not been something that's been identified. As you all know, I think you mentioned it, Brett. Some people are less sensitive, some people are way more sensitive. And the nasal ranger doesn't calibrate very well for that.

1:56:10 And so, what our goal is, is to get these conditions in place and look to see how the operations have improved and whether there is a reduction in odor off site. What we observed this last year is that the odor does not smell good. It smells very bad. And there's always going to be some odor associated with compost facilities. We'd like to see it be like -- I think, Ted, you mentioned to me it used to be a very sweet smell that was very fleeting in nature. And that's our goal. Our goal is to make sure Grimms is composting in a way that you are not observing nasty odors on a regular basis.

1:56:57 Man: Thanks a lot, Audrey. I'm going to -- Aquila, I'm going to pass it to you and then we're going to move on to final steps. I want to share with you what I've observed on action items for us to take based on the feedback in this meeting. And then Hila's going to talk about [indistinct] next step with the process.

1:57:14 Aquila Hurd-Ravich: Yeah, just super quick to [indistinct] on to Jeff a little bit. So, one, no -- residences are not any different than business. Two, if it's in your CCNR's then that's totally separate from this city ordinance. And a third piece is that we've been grappling with this ourselves. So the same debate -- I call it a debate -- that Audrey and Hila are referring to is what we've been trying to ruminate it on. So they have some better resources so we're going to kind of probably just keep talking with them. And see how they do it.

1:57:55 Woman: Right, because the City of Tualatin -- just to riff on that just a second. The City of Tualatin, while we do have an odor code it doesn't have any standards. And so the work that's happening here will be very useful in our city -- because we can't enforce our odor code right now.

Man: [indistinct] as far as I understand the odor code was written to prevent marijuana growers growing in their yard.

1:58:19 Woman: No, it's way older than that. But we don't put, be that as it may we don't have any standards so what Audrey and Hila were talking about will really be instrumental in developing our own.

1:58:33 Man: I want to acknowledge Ted had some statements he wanted to read. I'm seeing those as recommendations for this process. And I know that you had recommendations. We don't have time for them. And I apologize. But I acknowledge that. And so if folks have time after this meeting [indistinct] you can ask these groups their recommendation. I would request that you put them on public comment and we will respond to them.

- 1:59:01 We look at recommendations the same as public comment. And that's the process we have available to everyone. So. That wasn't part of our objectives today. I apologize. And so I just want to make sure that I heard from folks things that we can do to improve this process and reduce the burden on the community. One is about understanding the information on public comment that we're sharing so -- we have pros versus cons and neutral.
- 1:59:30 On public comment I think there's an opportunity there for us to think about ways to break that information up better. It's not just a dichotomy. Also, we have some access issues in the public comment period. You know, there was a comment about elderly being unable to -- access to computers. I think there's also access to public spaces. So is there a way for us to meet people where they are, who have barriers to this process? We're committed to that and we'll take that in consideration.
- 2:00:02 Man: Rob, don't forget about the -- [indistinct] the emails or the surveys [indistinct].
- Rob Nathan: So, figuring out some way that we can [indistinct] that are public comment?
- Man: Yup.
- 2:00:15 Rob Nathan: And -- also the burden on community when we're trying to collect data on when it's impacting community; business owners and residents aren't always able to jump on that and maybe there's an opportunity [indistinct] to collect that differently than putting that on you all. And I also heard from Oregon Air you'd like to step up if there's opportunities to be more involved, be part of the solution.
- 2:00:42 If you're looking to do that, I'm sure working with y'all and you feel the same way. And we do always take, you know, [indistinct] always plan invited CASE. Oregon Air wasn't around at the time. We'll continue to [indistinct] community groups as we do planning for solid waste facility. Hila, do you want to talk about next steps?
- 2:01:01 Hila Ritter: Yeah, absolutely. And I'll just add, Ted, that if you have something that you want me to disseminate with, to share with the whole group -- I'd be happy to do that. So you can send it to me and I can share it with folks.
- [indistinct]
- Man: You'll take it.
- 2:01:16 Hila Ritter: Yeah, you can email it to me and I can email it out to everybody for you, sorry. [crosstalk] We've got people waiting for this room, so we've got a hard stop at three. So I just want to make sure that we're clear. I will check up with the public comment period. And the email that I sent out and see what the flaw was in that process. The public comment period closes on February 5th and our intention is to issue a license to Grimms in February with an effective date of March 1.
- 2:01:43 Similar, you know, the same or very similar to the one that is out for comments right now, based on community feedback and improvements. DEQ's process is coming up. They're going to be opening up their public comment period. Audrey spoke about that. And they'll

also be hosting a public hearing in February. We will attend that in the same way that DEQ has partnered with us and attended all of ours.

2:02:11 So, we'll be there. And then we're also going to be having our communications group -- Metro's communications group is going to be writing up another news story. There's one that they did in the summer. They're going to be writing another news story that will have, you know, comprehensive view of what's been going on. So keep your eye out for that as well. We'll have that information, information out and available.

2:02:38 Rob Nathan: Great. I want to thank everyone for showing up today. Leaning into this space, and really respecting our group agreements. I work with kids and adults and usually adults are the hardest [laughter] [indistinct]. So I really appreciate it. You made my job a whole lot easier [crosstalk] [laughter]. I'm going to be around in the lobby if anyone wants to check in with me about this process today. I always like feedback so if you want to engage with me and talk to me about how this worked, I'm happy to hear that and again, folks, who weren't able to bring some stuff to light -- make sure that we do get that and we will make a public [indistinct].

2:03:19 Woman: We'll take the food out there to, because we've got to clear out the room.

Man: Be sure to take a cookie for the road.

[crosstalk]

[end of file]