



**REPORT TO: NWRWTP JOINT COMMITTEE**

**DATE: 28<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2019**

**REPORT BY: CONTRACT MANAGER**

**SUBJECT: COMMISSIONING AND OPERATIONS UPDATE**

## **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1. To update the Joint Committee on progress on the Commissioning and on the early months of operations of Parc Adfer.

## **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1. It was reported to the Joint Committee on the 11<sup>th</sup> June 2019 that Wheelabrator Technologies Inc (WTI) had been given formal notification of commencement of "Readiness Tests" (the start of the Commissioning process) by their Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) contractors, CNIM, with an expected date for first waste delivery of mid July 2019.
- 2.2. "Readiness" was formally achieved on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> August 2019 (this is when the Independent Certifier issued the "Readiness Test Certificate"), which meant that the first day waste deliveries from the partner authorities was Tuesday, 27<sup>th</sup> August 2019. It was on the Tuesday as the Monday of that week was a bank holiday and it was felt that given it was the first day of deliveries, it would be preferable to be on a normal working day rather than a bank holiday.
- 2.3. A summary of progress on the Commissioning of Parc Adfer and operations since the 1<sup>st</sup> waste deliveries is provided below.

## **3. CONSIDERATIONS**

### Commissioning

- 3.1. When facilities such as Parc Adfer achieve "Readiness", this means that they are deemed to be capable of receiving and treating waste. It does not, however, mean that the facility is complete. At the Commissioning stage, there may remain areas of the site / facility that are not fully complete, however it is deemed complete enough that the plant and process can operate safely. During the Commissioning phase, the site can receive and treat waste, however remains in the control of the EPC contractors, CNIM.
- 3.2. During Commissioning, the site operates under a rigorous safety, reliability and performance testing regime. During this period, the day to day operation of the site is carried out WTI (under their special purpose operating arm for Parc



Adfer, Parc Adfer Operations Ltd (PAOL)), however the EPC contractor goes through a process of “hand over” to PAOL including training of staff, safety and operating procedures etc.

- 3.3. Once the safety, reliability and performance testing regime is complete and the independent certifier is satisfied with the conclusion of that process, the plant’s completion can be signed off. At that point the facility will achieve “Acceptance”. From a purely operational perspective this will have no impact on the partner authorities as the waste will continue to be delivered to Parc Adfer as it currently is during the Commissioning period, however the contract will formally enter the “Services” phase and the contract will come into force in full.
- 3.4. Commissioning has been progressing well on site with the performance of all aspects of the process performing well, with the emissions monitoring showing that emissions have been well within permitted limits.
- 3.5. The Incinerator Bottom Ash (IBA) has been undergoing a rigorous testing process to verify that it is of a quality good enough to be recycled. At the time of writing the IBA material in all the tests carried out so far has passed quality standards, and the is expected begin to be processed for recycling in the near future.
- 3.6. The most recent programme provided by CNIM for achieving “Acceptance” and Parc Adfer entering into the Services phase is the 9<sup>th</sup> December 2019.

### Waste Diversion

- 3.7. Overall the Commissioning process has been progressing well, with only one issue that affected acceptance of partner authority waste, an unprogrammed shutdown was required to fix defects in the water system, requiring diversion of waste to contingency locations between Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> October and Monday 21<sup>st</sup> October.
- 3.8. Following repair works and testing, Parc Adfer was able to receive waste again on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October, meaning waste was diverted to other sites for 5 days in total (including Saturday deliveries).
- 3.9. Whilst a diversion event is never welcome for any party, such diversion events are not wholly unexpected given that the facility is undergoing commissioning and testing and complications and issues are a normal part of this period. A Contingency Plan had been created for such occurrences which was implemented.
- 3.10. It is also important to note that WTI/PAOL, the partner authorities, the hauliers and the waste transfer site operators all worked well together in order to secure contingency locations and deliveries were taken to those locations at short notice. The Contract Management Team would like to extend thanks to all partner authorities for their support and work during that period.
- 3.11. On the first day of diversion (Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October), due to the late notice, WTI were only able to secure a certain amount of waste tonnage capacity with



third party suppliers with waste treatment such as Energy from Waste as the destination. This meant that unfortunately Gwynedd and Anglesey had to send their residual waste to a landfill (Hafod landfill, near Wrexham) for one day. For the remainder of the waste diversion period (4 days), all partnership waste was diverted from landfill.

- 3.12. As noted above, Parc Adfer resumed accepting waste on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2019, and has been operating without any major issues since then.

### Operations

- 3.13. As noted above, deliveries of the partner authorities' waste (Contract Waste) began on the 27<sup>th</sup> August 2019. Only Contract Waste was accepted at Parc Adfer during that first week. Third Party (commercial) waste deliveries started on site the following week on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September. The process itself was also started and waste started to be treated on the 3<sup>rd</sup> September.

- 3.14. Operations on site and the interface between the partner authorities, hauliers and Parc Adfer has been positive overall. There were a very small number of deliveries where waste was delivered that didn't meet WTI's waste acceptance criteria during the first week (bulky items), however this has been the only issue with waste acceptance thus far, with the Partner Authorities settling in to an operational pattern.

- 3.15. WTI have reported that the waste composition / calorific value (cv) of the waste is within expectations.

- 3.16. One area where some minor, but not unexpected, issues have been experienced is in relation to the time taken to accept, weigh in, empty and weigh out vehicle deliveries, known as "turnaround times" which is a key project metric. Average vehicle turnaround times have to date been good overall. A small number of delays have occurred whilst operational procedures are refined, drivers become more familiar with site and management systems are put in place for duty of care paperwork. WTI and the Authority have been working constructively together to optimise turnaround times..

### Haulage

- 3.17. The partner authorities' waste is taken to site through a variety of hauliers. Anglesey's waste is delivered to the site by Potters Group, Gwynedd undertake their own haulage, and Conwy, Denbighshire and a proportion of Flintshire's waste is delivered by LWT Contractors. Some of Flintshire's waste is delivered directly to site (e.g. some of the refuse collection round vehicles).

- 3.18. Overall, all the haulage services have been successful and largely trouble free. There have been a small number of minor issues in relation to queuing to get into site and time taken to empty their loads on site (as noted in 3.16 above), however these have been minor on the whole and the majority of deliveries have been smooth. As noted above, WTI have been working to minimise any disruption to deliveries to site, ensuring that Contract Waste is prioritised.



## Summary

3.19. In summary, the Commissioning of Parc Adfer has been progressing well and despite some minor “teething troubles”, overall the early operations have been successful. A seamless and trouble free transition to full services is expected in December 2019.

## **4. RECOMMENDATIONS**

4.1. Note the content of the report

## **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1. Financial implications of Contract has previously been reported to the Joint Committee.

## **6. ANTI-POVERTY IMPACT**

N/A

## **7. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

N/A

## **8. EQUALITIES IMPACT**

N/A

## **9. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

9.1. As described in the body of this report

## **10. CONSULTATION REQUIRED**

None.

## **11. CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN**

11.1. As outlined in the report.

## **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT 1985**

### **Background Documents:**

None

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