

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

MEETING MINUTES
Fairmont Community Liaison Panel
June 3, 1999

Attendees: Michael Cummings, Nick Fantasia, Georgeann Grewe, Karen Gribben, Bruce McDaniel, John Parks, Mark Thompson, Kimberly Watkins, John Watson, Norma Watson, Marcella Yaremchuk.

Exxon Representatives: Art Chin, John Hannig.

Agency Representatives: Richard Kuhn, Melissa Whittington, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); Thomas Bass, West Virginia Division of Environmental Protection (WVDEP).

Contractors: Frank Markert, George Werkman, IT Corporation.

Guests: Griff Fowler; Louis McDonald; Alex Springer; Wayne Stutler; Jenni Vincent, Morgantown Dominion-Post.

Facilitator: Roberta P. Fowlkes, Ann Green Communications, Inc.

Minutes: Dan T. Londeree, Ann Green Communications, Inc.

The June meeting of the Fairmont Community Liaison Panel was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Roberta Fowlkes, facilitator.

Roberta reviewed the agenda and there were no additions. Minutes for the April 1 meeting were approved with one correction. Michael Cummings will be added to the attendance list for the April meeting. The panel agreed the reviewing of the May meeting minutes will be postponed until July.

Unfinished Business

Project Update

John Hannig reviewed the project update handout [copy attached for those not present]. He said the boiler house asbestos removal is complete except for galbestos in the roof, which will be removed when the building is demolished. He said work on the boiler house should be complete by the end of June, and the brick and concrete crushing will begin in June and last until August. He said brick will be ground to a 3-inch size, and crushing will happen near where the piles are now located at the center of the property. He said this material will be used for redevelopment onsite.

John said the ESI field work is complete and the data will be presented in parts, with the first part being presented at this meeting. He said the EE/CA (Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis) work plan will be redrafted and then submitted to EPA for approval. He said the EE/CA report will include site sampling data, risk assessment and removal action objectives, alternatives and recommendations.

In response to a question, Tom Bass said there is no indication the brick contains contaminants. Also, Frank Markert said the bricks from the coke ovens have been tested and are not hazardous.

ESI Data Presentation on Waste Management Area

Art Chin presented the initial soil sampling data for the waste management area on the site. He said his presentation is limited to soil data from this area which includes the two landfills. He said at the July meeting he will talk about soil data from the process area, and in August he will present the groundwater, surface water and sediment sampling results. He said he is presenting the waste management area data first because this is where the first removal and remediation action will likely occur.

Art said the sampling for the waste management area consisted of 15 soil borings (using a drill rig) and 11 trenches (using a backhoe). He said there were two basic depths for testing: 1) surface soil samples of zero to two feet below ground surface, and 2) subsurface soil samples of anything below two feet. He noted there were samples that were recorded as zero to 13 feet that actually may have been zero to two feet, and he is still reviewing these to determine in which category they belong. Art said samples were taken where there is believed to be contamination.

Art said for the waste management area soil samples, 4500 chemical analyses were conducted for 121 different chemicals. He said there are three different classes of chemicals:

- 1) Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) – carbon-containing chemicals that vaporize easily
- 2) Semi-Volatile Organic Compounds (SVOCs) – carbon-containing chemicals that are less volatile
- 3) Inorganic metals

Art said of the 121 chemicals for which testing was conducted, only 58 chemicals have been detected. He said the list of 121 chemicals is standard in the industry. He said of the 58 chemicals detected, 14 chemicals exceeded preliminary screening values (EPA Region 3 standards divided by 10 to be conservative). He said if a level falls above these screening values there is a good chance there is a concern, and if it falls below the screening values there is likely no concern.

Art reviewed charts for all 58 chemicals. Below is a summary of the chemicals of concern.

Volatile Organic Compounds

Benzene

Semi-Volatile Organic Compounds

Polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) are mostly the chemicals that exceed EPA screening values. Standards are low because EPA has determined these are potent carcinogens based on testing in animals.

(Need to get a list of other chemicals of concern from Art)

Metals

Arsenic

Iron

Lead

Art explained the chemicals that do not have screening values will be looked at more closely when the formal risk assessment is done. He said these chemicals will be assigned a screening value based upon the type of chemical.

In response to a question, Art said of the materials found benzene and most of the PAHs are carcinogenic, and regarding metals, only arsenic is carcinogenic. He said because benzene is volatile, there is a concern about transmission through inhalation, ingestion and direct contact. He said the semi-volatiles generally are not a concern regarding inhalation, and these compounds mostly are not soluble in water so ingestion is not a concern. He said a risk assessment will be completed for each chemical and the exposure pathways will be examined based upon the properties of each compound.

Art said he does not want to communicate the idea there are many carcinogens located onsite, because there are several factors to take into account, including:

- 1) Whether a compound is located on the site.
- 2) Whether someone can be exposed to the compound.
- 3) Whether exposure is at a dangerous level or over an extended period of time.

Art said now that preliminary data from samples have been analyzed and the focus has been narrowed to 14 chemicals, a method can be developed to better manage the contaminants onsite. He said a solution can be devised which is permanent, instead of using temporary methods to manage the contaminants. He said the next step is to integrate all data from the waste management area, the process area and the groundwater sampling to find a way to meet the management needs of all of these components. He said any contaminants in the groundwater are coming from the soil, and he has to keep in mind whatever is done to the soil will impact groundwater.

John Parks asked if it can be determined if the contaminants found in the lower levels of soil migrated down from the upper levels of soil, or if these contaminants were buried in the lower levels of soil. Art said he believes the contaminants in the lower levels were placed there and covered over. Frank said most of the compounds in the sub-surface levels of soil are semi-volatile compounds which do not migrate. Art said the findings indicate there are no free liquid contaminants onsite. He said the PAHs generally appear together, which means they likely are from coal tars or breeze left onsite. He said the real issue to talk about later is whether or not material is impacting groundwater.

In response to a question, Frank said the deepest soil boring was at least 20 feet. Norma Watson asked if a soil boring was done where Sharon Steel

bulldozed in front of her house. Art said soil samples were taken from that area, but he is not sure if it is in the exact area where the bulldozers dug. He said this area will be included in the process area sampling data discussion at the next meeting.

Art said no sampling was done in the portion of the landfill on the property Exxon does not own, because legally Exxon does not have access to this area. He said work is in progress to purchase this area of the site. Frank said surface water samples were taken downstream of this area but no testing was done at the area.

In response to a question, Art said this is the first site he has worked on where he has not been surprised by the data. Melissa said what was found was expected to be found.

John Parks said it is important to point out these data are concentrations and not amounts. He said parts per million is different than measuring for volume. Art said John is correct and contours will be drawn later to delineate areas of contamination. Art said the distances between sampling locations are not large. Melissa said IT Corporation is now working on the volumes of the areas of contamination, and this work will be compared with the concentrations to show the mass of these areas.

Roberta mentioned there has been some discussion about groundwater contamination and she pointed out city water does not come from this area. Bruce McDaniel said city water is surface water and not groundwater, and it comes from the Tygart Valley River. Roberta also pointed out there are no private wells in the area of the site.

In response to a question, Art said soils are being characterized as data are analyzed, and risk assessments will be done for each compound individually, as well as for the combined effects of the compounds.

Project XL Update

Melissa Whittington said now that the signing ceremony is complete, the main goal is to implement the agreement. John Hannig thanked all involved in the ceremony for their time and dedication.

Communication Update

Roberta mentioned the editorial in the June 3 newspaper and asked if anyone has heard anything new from the community regarding the site. Norma said she heard a rumor that Exxon will build a plant on the site after cleanup is complete. John said there is no truth to the rumor and encouraged panel members to tell him about any other rumors being circulated throughout the community so these can be corrected as early as possible. He said panel members can either call him directly or call the toll free number and Roberta will pass the information to John.

Offsite Subcommittee

Melissa said Robert Sapp had a graduation to attend and could not come to the panel meeting. She said she attempted to contact him regarding the Offsite Subcommittee but they were not able to communicate directly. She said Art is in the process of assembling a response to the issues brought up by the subcommittee. She said she is looking to other agencies to help address the idea of a health survey in the neighborhood.

Other Business

A question was asked about how panel members who were not at the meeting will receive information regarding Art's presentation. Roberta said the meeting minutes will include some information, and Art said he will compile a summary of the data and distribute it with the minutes.

Next Meeting

The next regular meeting will be July 1. The agenda will include a communication update, a project update, a presentation of preliminary soil sampling results from the process area, and an Off-Site Subcommittee report.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Next regular meeting: Thursday, July 1, 1999

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5 p.m. refreshments
5:30 p.m. meeting