

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**Fairmont Community Liaison Panel**  
**October 5, 2000**

Attendees: Michael Cummings, Georgeann Grewe, Bea Hunter, William Fred Jacquez, Bruce McDaniel, Barbara Metcalf, Kevin McClung, John Parks, Ron Swope, Rick Starn, John Watson, Norma Watson, Rich Wood, Marcella Yaremchuk.

ExxonMobil  
Representatives: Art Chin, John Hannig.

Agency  
Representatives: Hilary Thornton, Rich Kuhn, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); Tom Bass, West Virginia Division of Environmental Protection (WVDEP).

Guests: Chris Matta, EPA; Doug Taylor, Sheyne Gross, Environmental Strategies, Corp.; Tammy Shriver, Andrew Sutton, Fairmont Times West Virginian; Paul Rivers, Reilly Industries; Griff Fowler.

Facilitator: Roberta Fowlkes, Ann Green Communications, Inc.

Minutes: Misti Flynn, Ann Green Communications, Inc.

---

The regular meeting of the Fairmont Community Liaison Panel (FCLP) was called to order by facilitator Roberta Fowlkes at 5:35 p.m. Panel members and guests were given a bus tour of the site.

The meeting was resumed at the Circle W Building at 6:20 p.m. John Hannig answered questions from panel members related to the site tour. John noted that the Fischer property had been purchased by ExxonMobil a while back. Art Chin said that the fenceline observed in the site tour follows closely the property line.

Roberta reviewed the agenda, and there were no changes. The minutes of the September meeting were approved as distributed.

## Unfinished Business

### Project Update

John reminded those present about the presentation in September regarding work on the oxidation impoundment. He said this work was nearly completed when a point was reached at which further excavation would undercut the integrity of the steep slope adjacent to Potential Source Area (PSA) 7. He said ExxonMobil and the agencies have agreed that PSA 7 removal must take place in order for work on the oxidation impoundment to be completed. He said this work is just beginning and is expected to be completed in December.

John said the Waste Management Area (WMA) consolidation will combine the landfill materials into a modern, engineered landfill, in a four- to five-acre area, and all feasible material will be recycled. Excavation is expected to begin in February 2001 and be completed by year end 2001, possibly as early as October 2001.

John said discussions with the agencies regarding the Engineering Evaluation / Cost Analysis (EE/CA) work plan are continuing. He said the WMA portion of the EE/CA is in the detailed design phase, and he anticipates ExxonMobil will submit the 90 percent design to the EPA and the WVDEP in about one week. Art added if both agencies approve the 90 percent design without significant comments, the timeframe for completion of the Response Action Plan, which will contain the detailed design, will be mid-November.

In response to a question, Art said the Response Action Plan is a construction quality work plan, which describes in detail how the landfill will be built. In response to another questions, Art said significant portions of the WMA will not need to be touched. He said it is known that 35,000 cubic yards of soil will be needed to achieve a ten percent grade. He noted the landfill area will have a cover and a clean surface.

He said it is anticipated the engineering designs and the Health and Safety Plan will be presented to the panel at the November meeting.

Regarding redevelopment, John said ExxonMobil has an open mind. He said a copy of the Preliminary Site Assessment document, shown at the last panel meeting, is now in the repository at the Marion County Library, and Bruce McDaniel also has a copy. This document describes the selling points and drawbacks of the property. John reported that preliminary marketing work is being done by McCabe Henley Durbin. They are collecting proposals from both local and non-local, both for-profit and not-for-profit entities. He said 150 marketing fliers have been distributed, and over 100

follow up phone calls have already been made. To date, about a dozen developers have reportedly expressed interest.

Tom Bass reported he and ExxonMobil had met with representatives of the West Virginia Development Office on September 29 about marketing the site, and information has been placed on the State's web page. John added he and Art had also met with Congressman Mollohan in Washington, D.C., to seek his input. He noted the ultimate decision will be ExxonMobil's, but the company is interested in seeking input from many parties, especially including the panel. He added that ideas collected will be reviewed with the panel.

Independent MAI Appraiser Doug Butcher of Beckley is conducting a real estate appraisal. Rich Wood noted this type of industrial real estate assessment is very specialized. He said he will find out what the MAI certification stands for and will report back to the panel at the next meeting. He said there are only five or six MAI appraisers in West Virginia who handle industrial properties. Rich said it is a nationally recognized certification. Rich said McCabe Henley Durbin is getting an idea of the market for the property. He said typically proposals are submitted by developers who would acquire the site, and take over the marketing of the property.

#### Communications Update

Bruce McDaniel related a conversation he had with a friend who said he heard EPA has had "a lot of trouble" with the Fairmont Coke Works site. Bruce said he assured this person the process is moving very well. Bruce felt that because the action is quiet right now people may think something is wrong. He suggested some communication about the process may be needed.

Griff Fowler suggested publicity about the ExxonMobil magazine article would be helpful. Rich said he believes the general public does not understand the timeframes for conducting such work and may expect completion sooner. Andrew Sutton noted there have been two articles recently in the Fairmont Times-West Virginian, and Roberta added the additional article and photograph about the tour should be helpful.

Hilary asked if the panel felt the EPA should put more fact sheets out to the public. He said the last fact sheet was done in January. John said he will update the FCLP Fact Sheet and will plan to prepare another letter to site neighbors (a list of about 600 residents). He noted the last update letter to neighbors was sent in January. Hilary committed to discuss with Rich Kuhn things the EPA can do to help.

Roberta reminded panel members their presentations to civic organizations provided updates last year. She pointed out that several members arranged for or made presentations.

### **New Business**

Roberta introduced Chris Matta, EPA's project manager for the Big John's Salvage Superfund Site, which is located next to the Fairmont Coke Works site. Chris asked the panel for their input on communications about the Big John's site. The concept of combining the FCLP meetings with meetings about Big John's was discussed at length. Roberta reminded those present that Big John's site is a separate site and it is important not to confuse the two with the public. John added that he is reluctant to add Big John's to the panel's workload because the site is separate and because there is still much more work ahead for the panel on the Fairmont Coke Works site.

In response to several questions, Chris made gave the following information:

- He believes the same community representatives who are interested in the Fairmont Coke Works site also would be interested in receiving information about Big John's, in addition to the general public.
- While some work may begin over the next several months, work on Big John's probably will not move as quickly as the Fairmont Coke Works site.
- The Big John's site is not part of the Project XL program.
- The Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs) for Big John's Salvage are Reilly Industries, Viacom, and Steel Fabricators.
- Negotiations between EPA, WVDEP and the PRPs are still in progress.

A question was asked whether the companies are required to have a community panel. It was explained that some type of public participation is required for Superfund projects, but that does not necessarily mean a panel must be formed. Art explained ExxonMobil interpreted Project XL's superior environmental requirements and chose to involve the public through the panel process.

John Parks asked if the PRPs for Big John's Salvage intend to meet with the FCLP. Chris said he will convey this request to the PRPs. Paul Rivers of Reilly Industries said he would be willing to meet. Art suggested information about the Big John's project may be shared with the FCLP on an as-needed basis, perhaps around milestones.

Bruce expressed concern about the differences in the timetables for cleanup of the two sites, specifically that the Fairmont Coke Works site will be ready for development while the Big John's site will still be in cleanup phases.

Michael Cummings noted the community has benefited by the high level of community involvement and the shortened time periods involved in the Fairmont Coke Works site activities, and this has raised expectations.

Ron Swope suggested collecting names locally, similar to the manner in which ExxonMobil sought suggestions for the panel. Roberta said suggestions for the panel were collected in conversations with local individuals. Tom Bass added an ad was placed in the newspapers to seek additional individuals who were interested.

Roberta confirmed that the panel would like to receive mailings and be notified of meetings concerning Big John's Salvage.

#### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will include a project update, a review of the Health and Safety Plan for the WMA, a review of the detailed design contained in the Response Action Plan, and a review of updated communication materials.

Ron suggested a Big John's Salvage site update be considered for future agendas. Keeping in mind the two sites are separate, Art suggested the need for this could be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

**Next Meeting:            Thursday, November 2, 2000**  
**Circle W Building**  
**5:00 p.m. – Refreshments**  
**5:30 p.m. – Meeting**