

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**Fairmont Community Liaison Panel**  
**November 2, 2000**

Attendees: Karen Gribben, Bea Hunter, William Fred Jacquez,  
Bruce McDaniel, Barbara Metcalf, Robert Sapp, Rick Starn,  
Ron Swope, Rich Wood, Marcella Yaremchuk.

ExxonMobil  
Representatives: Art Chin, John Hannig.

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

Contractor: Frank Markert, IT Corporation.

Guests: Andrew Sutton, Fairmont Times West Virginian; George  
Werkman, IT Corporation.

Facilitator: Roberta Fowlkes, Ann Green Communications, Inc.

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

---

---

The regular meeting of the Fairmont Community Liaison Panel (FCLP) was called to order by facilitator Roberta Fowlkes at 5:30 p.m. It was acknowledged that a political rally unrelated to this project was occurring at the same time at the other end of town.

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

**Unfinished Business**

Project Update

John Hannig said work on Potential Source Area 7 (PSA 7) is scheduled to be completed in December, and may be completed before Thanksgiving.

Art Chin and Frank Markert made a presentation regarding work on PSA 7. Art showed photos of the area before work started and pointed out changes that have been made. He reviewed the history of PSA 7, including the movement of breeze material into this area by EPA several years ago. Frank said both PSA 7 and the oxidation impoundment need to be removed, but PSA 7 contained materials that could be recycled. He said cement was added to the materials in the oxidation impoundment to stabilize these materials, but the goal for PSA 7 was not to add anything to the materials contained in the area. This goal was achieved. Frank reviewed the process of removing material from the area and showed slides depicting this work.

John said discussions with the agencies regarding the Engineering Evaluation/ Cost Analysis (EE/CA) work plan are continuing. He said the Waste Management Area 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 WVDEP in about one week. Art added if both agencies approve the 90 percent design without significant comments, the Response Action Plan, may be completed in mid-November.

Frank said the PSA 7 excavation work revealed a layer of clay. He said it is believed the clay was placed there, because it is not native to the area. He said the clay provided a solid surface from which to scrape the breeze material. Also, Art said the clay is impermeable for the most part, and it kept the material confined to the area. Frank said PSA 7 was secure on all sides except the side which borders the oxidation impoundment. He said this is why PSA 7 had to be removed shortly after the impoundment work was done. He said confirmation soil sampling will be done on PSA 7 during the week of November 6. Data collected will be compared to the requirements set forth in the EE/CA and this will determine if any more excavation needs to be done.

In response to questions, Frank said PSA 7 is not near the landfill. He said the plan is to grade the area and re-vegetate it to prevent erosion. He said there will be drainage into the area where the impoundment existed, but the drainage will be free of contamination and there will be no standing water. Frank said samples will be taken 12 inches below the clay material. He said a trench is being dug five feet into the clay to make sure there is nothing below it.

Frank reviewed what needed to be done to complete work at PSA 7. He noted residents may see a truck onsite spraying water on the ground to reduce dust and noted there is no environmental concern regarding dust from the site.

In response to a question, Frank said the clay material likely was placed in PSA 7 either by EPA or Sharon Steel to create an impermeable surface to keep the waste from moving. Hilary Thornton said the material in PSA 7 was placed there during the emergency removal action in 1993-96. Art said when the waste was originally placed

onsite by Sharon Steel, there were no laws governing disposal. He said most of the laws in existence today were enacted in the 1970s and 1980s.

Art noted the work being done in PSA 7 is part of the work for the Waste Management Area, which was not scheduled to begin until next year. He said, as a result, the work is now ahead of schedule. Frank said PSA 7 has the same type of the materials that will be handled during the rest of the project. He said the work is going well and there have been no health, safety or environmental issues. He said there is a tar-like smell observable only very close to the material, but this odor does not travel far.

In response to a question, Art said from the beginning, ExxonMobil believed PSA 7 represents the best chance of recovering recyclable material. He said the landfills contain the same type of breeze material found in PSA 7, but they also contain other materials. He said he should know within the next few weeks whether the material is recyclable. He said if the material is recyclable and if the north and south landfills contain much of the same type of material, optimistically, up to 60 percent of the waste may be transported offsite for recycling. He said he believes at least 10 percent of the waste can be removed. Frank said recycling the material involves several variables, including the cost of transportation and the standards set by facilities that may be able to recycle the material. Art asked the panel to consider the positives and negatives of the truck traffic associated with removing waste.

John continued with the project update. He said the EE/CA work plan ecological risk assessment is still under discussion with the agencies, and the preparation of the Response Action Plan is underway.

Regarding redevelopment, John said ExxonMobil has decided to begin another phase of preliminary marketing of the site. He said the first postcard sent was a "soft marketing" piece designed to gauge interest in the site. That effort concluded there was potential interest by a number of entities, but it did not produce anything concrete. He said the next step is to create a marketing piece that shows what the site might look like after redevelopment. He said this approach would offer more details about the site and should yield a more solid response.

Rich Wood presented information regarding the Masters Appraisal Institute (MAI). (A copy is enclosed for those not present.) He said the institute issues certification tests for commercial/industrial and residential appraising. John said the original appraiser was unable to do the work and, as a result, ExxonMobil has changed appraisers and is now working with Bob Withers of Huntington.

Art reported representatives of ExxonMobil, IT, EPA and WVDEP traveled to the Grant Town Power Plant to investigate the possibility of recycling the material from the site. He said ExxonMobil has also talked with Kippin Industries, a company that

works with the type of material in found onsite, refining the material to enhance the energy value and render it non-hazardous. He said this work would increase the chance that a facility like Grant Town could accept the material from the site. He said representatives of Kippin have come to the site to look at the material. Tom said the state is researching the entire process to make sure recycling the material will meet the air requirements at Grant Town. Art said even if the material can't be recycled, the site still will be safe. He said ExxonMobil is following the spirit of Project XL and is attempting to be as innovative as possible.

Tom said EPA is seeking to recover costs from ExxonMobil for the emergency removal action conducted in 1993-96. Art said there is ongoing discussion regarding this issue and it should be settled by January.

#### Communications Update

John presented an updated fact sheet to the panel, and asked for the panel's review and comment within the next week. (A copy is attached for those not present.) It was suggested that the fact sheet should be sent to residents near the site. It was agreed a brief history of the site should be included in the fact sheet. John said he would work with Rich Kuhn to write a cover letter including the history of the site. Robert Sapp suggested graphics could be used on the fact sheet.

Roberta asked panel members if they have heard anything from the community regarding the site. Nothing was reported. Marcella Yaremchuk asked if there is any new information regarding the use of the brick building. She asked if there have been any suggestions to use the building as a historical site. John said he has not heard any new ideas. Marcella said there had been talk previously of using the building as an industrial museum. Rich Kuhn asked if there is a lot of interest in the community to preserve the industrial history. Marcella said the community is interested in preserving the history of industry in the Fairmont area. Art asked if the Vandalia Association would be interested in working to create a museum at the building onsite. Marcella said the association usually works with historical homes, but she believes the group would be interested in working to create a museum. Art said he and John will take this suggestion into consideration. He noted the building could hamper redevelopment if the entrance to the site needed to be widened. The panel agreed the building should be taken down if this does happen. Art said the panel will know in advance if the building is to be demolished, and the reason for demolition would be presented.

John said he and Art had talked with Rich Kuhn of EPA regarding the last meeting's discussion about the Big John's Salvage site. John said they came to the conclusion that the FCLP members have volunteered their time and energy to the Fairmont Coke Works Site, and that represents a significant commitment. That commitment should not be assumed to include the Big John's Salvage site. So, regular

panel meetings will not include matters relating to the Big John's site. He said, however, that on a case-by-case basis, an update about that site can be offered after the panel meeting, if there is a need.

Rich said he was asked to work in community involvement for the Big John's Salvage site, since he already was working in the same capacity on the Fairmont Coke Works project. He said there are two separate EPA project managers for the two sites because the responsibilities of a project manager do not lend themselves to having Hilary on both projects. He said he believes it is important to continue communication with the local community about the Big John's Salvage site so they can be informed about what is happening on that site. He said it is important to remember these are two separate sites, and the Fairmont Coke Works site has raised the bar because of its distinction as a Project XL site. He said the Big John's Salvage site is a traditional Superfund project and will likely be handled differently. Tom said he is the project manager for the State of West Virginia for both sites, and he will be available to talk to anyone who wants updated information on the Big John's Salvage site.

In response to a question, Tom said the Big John's Salvage site should not have an impact on the redevelopment of the Fairmont Coke Works site. He said it is possible one entity could purchase both sites for redevelopment, but the Big John's Salvage site has a separate owner. Rich said the developable land on the Big John's Salvage site includes approximately 10 acres of the 20 acres onsite.

Art said he believes the process for the Fairmont Coke Works site has raised the bar for Superfund projects. He said it is important to keep in mind the Big John's Salvage site project is not part of Project XL, and it must be viewed differently than the Fairmont Coke Works site.

## **New Business**

### Health and Safety Plan for Waste Management Area

Frank gave an overview of the health and safety plan. He said the senior vice president of health and safety for IT has been involved in this plan, as well as several other health and safety staff members from IT. He said it is important to ExxonMobil, IT, EPA, WVDEP and the Fairmont community that the work on the site be conducted without any injuries, accidents or environmental issues. Frank said a more detailed version of the health and safety plan will be presented at a future meeting. He said his goal for this presentation was to review the aspects of the plan that will be visible to and may affect the personal interests of community members.



Frank said one aspect of the plan deals with issues concerning work with heavy equipment, and the dangers of this aspect of the work are the same as any heavy construction work. He said this is the aspect of work that causes most injuries in IT's experience. He said the last two accidents that resulted in fatalities in their experience were truck accidents on highways. He said IT is setting up a traffic system to prevent accidents involving trucks and heavy equipment. Frank said access to the site will become more restricted. He said in the past people have attempted to drive onto the site without an escort, and in the future this will result in using a police escort to remove someone from the site.

Frank also said IT is instituting a new traffic pattern for trucks. He said both gates of the site will be used, and empty trucks will enter the site through one gate, while full trucks will exit from the other gate.

Regarding environmental hazards, Frank said it already is known what contaminants need to be monitored. He said there have been some unexpected wastes onsite, and controls are being put in place in case these wastes appear in areas of excavation. Frank said each landfill will be sectioned off and only one section will be undergoing work at a time. He said this allows workers to focus on smaller sections and reduces risks associated with the work. Frank said odor issues are more likely to be a problem than health issues. He said sulfur emits a "rotten egg" odor, and there is a potential for neighbors to smell sulfur and organic odors during work activity next spring. He said there are compounds that can be sprayed to mask odors. Roberta suggested the issue of odors be addressed as a separate meeting topic at a future meeting. Art agreed this should be addressed more in-depth at a future meeting.

Frank said IT is working closely with the local emergency services to ensure the best and quickest response in the event of an accident or injury.

#### Overview of Response Action Plan

Art gave a brief overview of the Waste Management Area Response Action Plan. He said there are three components:

1. Engineering design drawings
2. Construction quality assurance plan
3. Health and safety plan

Art said the three components should be complete before Thanksgiving. He said ExxonMobil must go through a bid process, and he hopes to send the bid package to potential contractors early in 2001. He said the contractors then will have approximately one month to prepare bids. He said he hopes to have proposals from

contractors in February and start work in March. He said the Response Action Plan will be reviewed with the panel in more detail.

### **Next Meeting**

The panel agreed to meet in December and not meet in January. The next meeting will include a project update (including updated information about the possible recycling of material), a communication update and more information on the health and safety plan.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

**Next Meeting:**            **Thursday, December 7, 2000**  
                                 **Circle W Building**  
                                 **5:00 p.m. – Refreshments**  
                                 **5:30 p.m. – Meeting**