

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

MEETING MINUTES
Fairmont Community Liaison Panel
December 7, 2000

Attendees: Michael Cummings, Georgeann Grewe, Kevin McClung, Bruce McDaniel, John Parks, Charles Reese, Robert Sapp, Rick Starn, Ron Swope, Mark Thompson, 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; Chris Matta, EPA; Ralph Boedecker, Kevin Hanson, Tetra Tech; Ryan McNeil, Environmental Strategies; Jim Martin.

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 5:45 p.m. Roberta reviewed the handouts for the meeting.

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

Unfinished Business

Project Update

John Hannig said the work involving Potential Source Area 7 (PSA 7) and the oxidation impoundment closure is complete. John said soil samples were taken from PSA 7 after work was complete to ensure all material was removed. He said all the samples except two were within EPA standards, and the two that were not were very close to being within the standards. He said ExxonMobil will be working with the agencies regarding these two samples. He said when this matter is resolved the area will be graded to reduce the potential for erosion. He said erosion control matting will be placed in this area, and winter wheat will be planted to prevent erosion. More seed will be sewn in the spring. John said a trench was dug across PSA 7 after the removal work was complete. He said this trenching was done to ensure there was no contamination beneath the clay at the base of the area. He said there was no contamination found in the trench.

Frank Markert presented photos of PSA 7 and reviewed each step of the work. He also presented photos of and reported on work involving the oxidation impoundment closure. He said a channel was built into bedrock in the area of the impoundment, because the bedrock was causing water to pond behind it. The channel is being filled with limestone to ensure any water leaving the site is neutralized. He said the erosion control matting is biodegradable and will release nutrients into the soil as it degrades. He said this work will be complete by December 22. In response to a question, Frank said there was no evidence the contamination in PSA 7 migrated into the clay layer at the base of the area.

John continued to review the Project Update. He said there is a new item under Field Activities entitled "Characterization Study of Sub-Tributary." He said Art Chin will review this item. He said in the last meeting, it was noted that items involving the Big John's Salvage Site would not be discussed in the FCLP meetings, but John said because this item directly involves the Fairmont Coke Works site, it will be discussed.

John presented an update on redevelopment. He said the preliminary marketing and appraisal for the property are in progress, and outreach and networking are ongoing efforts. He said, among the positive aspects of the site, it is a large area of flat land in proximity to I-79 and the Monongahela River, and there is a capable workforce available. He said drawbacks include it is a Superfund site, which may carry some stigma, and it may be difficult to find one large entity to purchase the entire site. He said these issues will have to be dealt with as the redevelopment process continues. He said this process will continue as onsite work is being done.

In response to a question, Art said ExxonMobil has been working with EPA regarding cost recovery from ExxonMobil for the emergency removal action conducted by EPA in 1993-96. Art said the Department of Justice has decided to cease negotiations regarding this issue. He said ExxonMobil has expressed a desire to redirect cost recovery to helping Fairmont return the Fairmont Coke Works site to a profitable

site. Art said he is not able to offer any new information regarding this issue. Hilary Thornton of EPA said these discussions are not interfering with work being done onsite. In response to a question, Art said negotiations of this nature are normally confidential, and he cannot offer details regarding them. He said the reason this was brought up is because he believes the panel has a right to know that the negotiations had been taking place.

Health and Safety Plan for Waste Management Area

Art presented an overview of the health and safety plan for work being done in the Waste Management Area. He said ExxonMobil has been working to determine exactly what conditions may require notification of neighbors and how possible situations will be handled. Frank said he has spoken with representatives of the police departments, fire departments, emergency services and spill control units in Morgantown and Fairmont regarding the health and safety plan.

Art said the plan includes response actions to all possible onsite situations, but ExxonMobil is still working to determine the details of what should be done in the event contamination does reach the fence line of the site. He said this issue will be discussed in more detail at a panel meeting in the spring.

Communications Update

John presented an updated cover letter and fact sheet to the panel. A discussion followed regarding possible changes to the documents. It was agreed these documents should be sent from the FCLP instead of ExxonMobil. The panel also agreed the format of the publications should be changed to a more graphically oriented format. It was determined that updated copies of the publications would be sent with the meeting minutes, and panel members may call with changes and comments. Roberta asked panel members to call the Fairmont Community Information Line, which rings directly into her office. She said if she is not there to take the call, panel members can leave a message containing changes and comments. [At time of printing, work is in progress on both the cover letter and the fact sheet. Drafts of each will be sent to panel members in January for their review and comment.]

Rich Kuhn presented drafts of an FCLP survey and a community survey. He said the EPA has expressed a desire to survey the panel and the community regarding community involvement in the Fairmont Project XL site. He said the EPA has hired a contractor who designed the draft surveys. A discussion followed regarding the surveys. The panel agreed the surveys need to be shortened and simplified, otherwise the response is likely to be small. The panel also agreed conducting a survey while the project is ongoing is likely to get responses different from a survey conducted at the conclusion of the project. Rich asked panel members to call him at (800) 553-2509 or

call the information line with any changes to the original draft of the surveys. He said an updated copy of the surveys will be sent with the meeting minutes, and changes regarding this draft can be directed to him.

New Business

Characterization Study of Sub-Tributary

Art presented the plans for a characterization study of the sub-tributary. He said there is a runoff ditch from the Fairmont Coke Works site's north landfill that runs into a sub-tributary, which then runs into the unnamed tributary. He said contamination has been found in the sub-tributary, and he presented a photo of some of this material. He said the first step is to take samples of the material to determine its nature and content. He said the extent of the material also will be determined. He said once this is determined, the source of the material and its impact will be investigated. He said the work cannot be done until the weather gets warmer. Art said this material may have originated from either the Fairmont Coke Works site or the Big John's Salvage site. He said the material is currently located on the Fairmont Coke Works site.

Big John's Salvage Removal Action on Fairmont Coke Works Site

Art said there is a series of three sub-tributaries that feed into the unnamed tributary. He said a removal action relative to the Big John's Salvage site is being conducted in the east sub-tributary, and this removal action is taking place on Fairmont Coke Works site property. He presented photos of the work. Chris Matta of EPA said this action is being done to prevent material from entering into the unnamed tributary.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be February 1, 2001, and will include a project update, a communication update, survey update and more information on the health and safety plan.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Next Meeting: **Thursday, February 1, 2001**
 Circle W Building
 5:00 p.m. – Refreshments
 5:30 p.m. – Meeting