

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**Fairmont Community Liaison Panel**  
**September 7, 2000**

Attendees: Nick Fantasia, Karen Gribben, Bea Hunter, Fred Jacquez, Bruce McDaniel, John Parks, Charles Reese, Robert Sapp, Ron Swope, Mark Thompson, Tom Vincent, Norma Watson, Rick Starn, Rich Wood, Marcella Yaremchuk.

ExxonMobil  
Representatives: Art Chin, John Hannig.

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

Contractor: Frank Markert, IT Corporation.

Guests: Griff Fowler; Andrew Sutton, Fairmont Times West-Virginian.

Facilitator: Roberta Fowlkes, Ann Green Communications, Inc.

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

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The regular meeting of the Fairmont Community Liaison Panel (FCLP) was called to order by facilitator Roberta Fowlkes at 6:20 p.m.

Roberta introduced new panel members Fred Jacquez and Rich Wood. Roberta explained Rich works for McCabe Henley Durbin, the company currently working with ExxonMobil on the redevelopment phase of the Fairmont Coke Works project. She said Rich has agreed to participate as a panel member, but has determined he will not participate in discussions involving his company. She said the reason for this is to avoid a conflict of interest. Roberta said Charles Reese is also a new member but would be arriving late. At the June meeting, other panel members had offered the names of these three individuals as candidates for new members.

Roberta introduced guests. She reviewed the handouts given to members. John Hannig noted a story about the Fairmont project which was published in the annual ExxonMobil Safety, Health and Environment Progress Report. He said that, while the

story does a good job describing the project and the panel's involvement, he regrets there are no photographs of panel members.

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

## **Unfinished Business**

### Update on the EPA Action Memorandum

Art Chin presented an update on the Action Memorandum recently issued by EPA. He said EPA has selected the option that includes the consolidation of waste onsite and the recycling of material where possible. He said many steps are involved in this work and each step must be properly thought out and implemented. Art said the Response Action Plan is the next step in the process and is being prepared. Once this plan is approved, ExxonMobil will be allowed to move forward with cleanup work at the Waste Management Area.

Art said ExxonMobil had a meeting in July with EPA and WVDEP and presented the early designs for this cleanup work. He said there were no significant changes as a result of the meeting, and now the designs are nearly 90 percent complete. Art said ExxonMobil is several weeks away from presenting the 90 percent design to EPA and WVDEP. He said when the design is brought to 100 percent complete, the Response Action Plan will be presented for review by EPA, WVDEP and the panel. Art said upon approval of the plan, the work will be implemented.

Art said the goal is to submit the plan for approval sometime in early November, and currently, the process is ahead of schedule. Art said due to weather conditions during the winter, cleanup action at the Waste Management Area will not begin until February 2001, but a mild winter may allow work to begin sooner. In response to a question, Art said the timing for the work depends on whether ExxonMobil will require the work to go to bid. Art said this would add a month to the timeframe. He said this will depend on the total cost of the work. Art said the work is expected to take eight months to complete from the starting date of the work.

### Project Update

John Hannig reviewed the Project Update format. He introduced Frank Markert, who presented a slide presentation regarding the work done to remove the oxidation impoundment. Frank said after the standing water in the impoundment was

neutralized with caustic, it was pumped through several carbon filters to ensure it was clean when discharged. He said once the water was discharged into the unnamed tributary, sediment and residual sludge were left in the bottom of the impoundment. He said the sludge was stabilized by adding cement, and machinery was used to mix the sludge with the cement. He said the cement solidified the sludge into a soil-like material and also neutralized it.

Frank said after the sludge material (about 4,000 cubic yards) was solidified and neutralized, it was then moved to the edge of the south landfill. Frank said the slide presentation does not include finished photos because workers unexpectedly found coal tar material underlying some of the sludge. He said the coal tar material is left over from the operational days of the coke plant.

Frank said the original plan was to cut a channel through the middle of the area where the impoundment existed and line it with limestone so any additional water flowing off-site would be neutralized. He said there would be no standing water after this is complete. Frank said the coal tar material underlying the impoundment was removed until only clean soil was left behind. He said the coal tar material was found underlying the hill leading to PSA7 and this material could not be removed. He said removing it would cause the hill to be undercut and collapse. Frank showed a slide of the coal tar material and where it still exists. Frank said some of the coal tar material underlying the impoundment was mixed with cement and moved with the sludge, but some coal tar material was too dense to be mixed. He said this material was stockpiled onsite for later disposal.

Frank said all parties agreed this area could not be left in an unstable state. He said a new channel was cut where the impoundment formerly existed and silt fencing was erected. He said erosion control measures were taken regarding the hill and PSA7. He said the next step is to completely remove PSA7 and to find out how far back into the hill the coal tar material exists.

Art said the finding of coal tar material was unexpected because EPA did work onsite in 1993-94 and drained both existing oxidation impoundments onsite. He said EPA also removed sludge material during this time and moved it to PSA7. He said ExxonMobil was simply repeating what EPA had already done, except ExxonMobil removed the second oxidation impoundment completely because it is not needed. He said the finding was unexpected because no problems with coal tar material were documented during EPA's removal action. Art said water will run through the area in the future, and the coal tar must be removed. Art said ExxonMobil has just completed a proposal regarding what direction to take from this point. Art said the Waste Management Area EE/CA (Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis) includes the removal of PSA7, so work is moving forward on that portion of the EE/CA sooner than

expected. He said ExxonMobil is working under a directive of the state of West Virginia, which called for the removal of the oxidation impoundment and any problems associated with it.

In response to a question, Art said PSA7 is a waste unit created by EPA during the agency's removal action in 1993-96. He said the unit has a polypropylene liner on top of it and contains coke breeze and sludge collected from the oxidation impoundments which existed at the time. Art said ExxonMobil did waste-boring studies on PSA7 and did not encounter any coal tar. Art said this work, which originally was scheduled to be completed within six weeks, will now be extended. He also said the cost of this portion of the project will increase. Art said evidence indicates the coal tar material has been immobile.

Art commented on the Big John's Salvage site and said it is now on the National Priorities list, designating it as a Superfund site. He said there are channels running from the Big John's site that contain contaminants. He said this issue affects the Fairmont Coke Works site because the sites share a common boundary. He said ExxonMobil is in the process of working with the EPA, WVDEP and the potentially responsible parties (PRPs) of the Big John's site to work out the details of who is responsible for this contamination. He said ExxonMobil is not a PRP of the Big John's site. Art said the PRPs for the Big John's site may have meetings similar to the FCLP meeting, and it will be very important to keep the issues of the two sites as separate as possible. He said this will be difficult because of the common boundary.

In response to a question, Art said the work on PSA7 should begin at the end of September. He said the work should be complete in six to eight weeks.

Art presented an update on the fencing of the site. He said the integrity of the fencing around the site will be maintained, but some work calls for parts of the fence to be taken down temporarily.

Art reported on the EE/CA Work Plan. He said currently EPA and ExxonMobil are working out the details of how to go about conducting an ecological risk assessment. In response to a question, Art said an ecological risk assessment must take into account what effects site contamination may have on wildlife. He said it also deals with what contaminants exist on the site, how often an animal would come into contact with a contaminant and what type of an effect a contaminant would have on a certain animal.

Art said the EE/CA Report for the Process Area will be started later than expected because of the many issues that must be dealt with first.

John reviewed the timelines for individual parts of the project. He said if all goes well and work on the EE/CA for the Process Area can continue to move forward while other issues are being dealt with, the Process Area work could be completed by Spring 2002. John said work started on the project in 1998, and completing it in 2002 would meet the time of completion goal for the project. He said the goal is to cut in half the time it takes to complete the typical Superfund site, which is 10-12 years. He said there are still a lot of critical issues to be worked out, but the project is still on schedule to meet this goal.

John presented an update on the redevelopment portion of the project. He said the Preliminary Site Assessment has been completed by McCabe Henley Durbin, and he showed this report to the panel. He said a copy will be placed in the Marion County Library repository. John said the purpose of the assessment is to give an overview of the site for potential buyers.

John said there has been interest in small portions of the site from several different parties. He said the property also is available in its entirety. John said an appraisal of the property will be completed in the near future. He said this work will be done by an independent certified real estate appraiser from Beckley, West Virginia. John said ExxonMobil is interested in obtaining proposals from both local and non-local for-profit and not-for-profit parties. He said approximately 100 postcards have been mailed to potentially interested parties. He showed the postcard to the panel and said the card contains an aerial photo of the site with the boundaries outlined and basic information about the site. He said this process will narrow the list of possibilities for site redevelopment and hopes this will be done by the end of the year.

In response to a question, John said he is unsure what the timeframe will be for the list being narrowed and a decision made on the sale of the site. He added that the decision will be made by ExxonMobil, but that the company wants to hear and will listen to and consider all input brought by the panel.

In response to a question, Art said ExxonMobil is looking for entities (for-profit or not-for-profit) that develop sites like the Fairmont site. He said the buyer may not be the business that occupies the site. Art said McCabe Henley Durbin is expected to submit a proposal for buying the site, along with other potentially interested parties.

#### Communication Update

Roberta said she has not received any calls on the information line. She said a 30-minute television show about the Fairmont site and Project XL aired recently on public television. She said she has the videotape and will show it after the next panel

meeting for anyone wishing to see it. Panel members said they have heard nothing new in the community.

Panel Membership

Roberta said in addition to the new members present, she did invite two other people, also suggested by the panel, who declined to join the panel.

**Next Meeting**

After discussion, the panel decided it would like to take another tour of the site. It was agreed ExxonMobil would submit two possible dates to choose from in late September or early October. Ann Green Communications would contact panel members to set the date for the new member orientation, the site tour and the next regular panel meeting. [Since this discussion, it has been determined the tour will be on the Panel's regular meeting date, October 5. New member orientation will also be conducted that day.]

There was no further business, and the meeting was adjourned at 8 p.m.

**Next Meeting:**            **Thursday, October 5, 2000**  
                                 **Circle W Building**  
                                 **5:00 p.m. – Refreshments**  
                                 **5:30 p.m. – Tour and Meeting**  
                                 **7:15 p.m. – New Member Orientation**