

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

FINAL Meeting Summary
[June 18, 2007]
CENTREDALE DIALOG Meeting #4
23 April 2007

Radisson Hotel Providence Harbor- Providence, RI

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[prepared by Marion Cox, facilitator 4/30/07; reviewed by EPA; finalized 6/14/07]

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

The meeting began at 11:00 am at the Radisson Hotel Providence Harbor, in Providence, Rhode Island. The facilitator welcomed all participants, and thanked everyone for arriving on time.

The facilitator briefly reviewed the Dialog groundrules and the agenda with participants, re-stating the goals for this fourth dialog meeting. Participants were offered a chance to suggest changes to the agenda - no comments were received. The facilitator also briefly reminded participants of where the Dialog left off at the conclusion of the last meeting in July 2006, and then turned the meeting over to EPA.

EPA UPDATE ON DAM REMOVAL ALTERNATIVES UNDER CONSIDERATION

The facilitator introduced Anna Krasko, EPA Project Manager for the Centredale site.

Anna began by reminding participants that a new alternative had been introduced [by the PRP's technical consultant] at the July 2006 meeting. The proposal presented, and discussed, at the July meeting was referred to as the "dam removal" alternative. Anna noted that a number of general and specific questions were raised at that meeting by the parties regarding the viability and implications of removing dams at Lyman Mill and Allendale.

As a result of this discussion and questions raised regarding dam removal at the July 2006 meeting, EPA committed to undertake an initial screening analysis of several dam removal alternatives [not just the option presented by the PRP's technical consultant] to determine if dam removal alternatives were appropriate for more detailed analysis. EPA also collected and analyzed additional field data since the last Dialog meeting.

Next, Anna introduced EPA's technical consultant to present a summary of the work the Agency has been conducting since the July 2006 meeting.

Summary presentation of EPA technical activities on "dam removal" since July 2006

Deirdre Dahlen of Battelle provided a detailed summary of technical activities conducted since July 2006, including:

- the dam removal alternatives currently under consideration [please refer to detailed handouts]
- the screening analysis conducted for these dam removal alternatives prior to any alternatives undergoing more detailed analysis.

Next Deidre discussed the fact that a computer model is being built to assist the Agency in conducting the detailed analysis of dam removal alternatives. This model is being designed to answer the key

technical questions the Agency has about dam removal. Deirdre noted that the model can also be built to address some of the questions raised by Dialog participants at the July 2006 meeting.

Some of the items Dialog participants want incorporated into the computer model include:

- Can the model be developed so as to ensure that the water is not a “trickle”, rather a stream that has a robust flow?
- Can the model look at size and flow of the water with the goal of re-introducing migratory flow for fish?
- Can the model be designed to look at “functionality” [ie, uses] of the body of water – both the ponds and the river?

EPA suggested to participants that the Agency is willing to conduct a ½ day workshop [or conference call] in the coming weeks for Dialog participants who might want to contribute specific ideas to the development of the computer model being built to provide data on the possibility of dam removal. At the conclusion of this part of the discussion, EPA committed to conducting such a meeting in the coming weeks and will notify all Dialog participants of the time and date for this meeting.

UPDATE ON RI/FS SCHEDULE INCLUDING PUBLIC OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

EPA presented an updated schedule for completing the detailed analysis of alternatives including a projected timeframe for completion of the FS. This schedule included the Agency's plans to initiate public outreach and communication activities with the broader public leading up to issuance of the proposed remedial plan for this site. During this presentation, EPA emphasized that it is taking longer than expected to complete the feasibility study because the detailed analysis of alternatives is requiring more time and effort than was anticipated last July.

Participants took a lunch break at this point.

EPA's plan for public outreach and communication as part of the Superfund process

Immediately following lunch, EPA discussed its upcoming public outreach and communication activities for this site. Angela Bonarrigo [EPA's community involvement coordinator for this site] noted she will be leaving the Agency to take a new job and that Jim Murphy, another EPA CIC, will be assuming her responsibilities effective immediately.

EPA reviewed its obligations for public outreach as part of the FS and record of decision [ROD] process. The initial activities that EPA anticipates undertaking in the near future include:

- EPA will issue the Agency's annual “press release” on Do's and Don'ts along the River [including offering Dialog participants a chance to review and comment on this document before it is released to the media or distributed].
- EPA has met with the new administration in the town of Johnston, and plans to brief the new administration in North Providence as soon as possible. Both administrations changed following November 2006 elections. The Agency will coordinate its outreach efforts with both local governments to ensure consistency with local needs are in both towns.
- EPA anticipates developing and implementing an approach to public outreach that recognizes

the unique and potentially different information and interaction needs of the: 1) abutters to the river; and 2) the broader public.

EPA asked Dialog participants to share any ideas or thoughts they have about how the Agency can be most effective in this broader public outreach activity. Some of the comments, questions, and discussion on this topic include:

- The WRWC asked EPA if they [the WRWC] can review and update EPA's mailing list for this site as they do not know if all the interested parties are getting information on this project.
- WRWC wants to use this information, in part, to reach out to the Allendale Condo Association in an effort to get them to participate more directly in this project.
- One person asked if EPA had fully considered “environmental justice” issues that might be relevant in some of the communities along the river.
- One person noted that when the Agency begins to reach out to the public, it would be useful, and perhaps more effective, to engage the public with more “visuals” of the site, etc. The idea being that the Agency may want to consider using more interactive tools and techniques to fully engage area residents in discussions about alternatives under consideration.

During the discussion of public outreach, one local government representative asked Dialog participants to agree that no party [ie, Dialog parties] would conduct public outreach on its own. Rather, it is hoped that all parties will allow EPA to take the lead in presenting the factual information and analyses associated with this site and the RF/FS.

Following a brief discussion on this suggestion, in which all parties were asked to contribute their thoughts and reactions, the group agreed that if any party wants to hold any type of public meeting, or present information about this site and the RF/FS process to the public, that all Dialog members will be given prior notification and offered a chance to attend any such gathering. The facilitator asked the parties if anyone disagreed or felt constrained by this type of agreement. No party objected. It was agreed that if any party wants to conduct any form of public outreach or written communication about this site, or related site activities, they will notify Jim Murphy [the new EPA CIC for this site] and he will take the responsibility for notifying all the Dialog participants.

UPDATE ON TECHNICAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE OXBOW AREA AND GROUNDWATER

Next, the facilitator turned back to Deidre Dahlen, EPA's technical contractor, to continue her presentation of technical activities conducted since the July 2006 Dialog meeting. During the past months, EPA and its contractors have continued to gather data and conduct analysis on the extent of contamination in both the Oxbow areas and in groundwater discharge associated with the site. The presentation included summary information on each of these areas [please refer to detailed handouts].

CONCLUSION AND NEXT STEPS

The facilitator asked EPA to summarize for participants the “next steps” the Agency will be undertaking in the coming weeks and months:

- EPA will circulate the Spring Update [for the Centredale Site] to Dialog participants for a quick review and comment sometime within the coming week.
- EPA will identify dates for a potential “workshop” or conference call to solicit input from participants on questions they want to see the computer model for dam removal attempt to

answer. This will occur within the next several weeks.

- Work will continue on the detailed analysis of alternatives still under consideration.

The facilitator turned the meeting back to Anna Krasko of EPA for concluding remarks. Anna thanked Angela Bonarrigo for her work on this site. Anna indicated that the next formal Dialog meeting will likely occur at the end of this calendar year or early in 2008 once the detailed analysis of dam removal alternatives is complete and can be presented to the Dialog participants. The meeting adjourned at approximately 4:00 pm.