

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

Centredale Manor Proposed Plan Amendment:
Summary of Meetings with North Providence and Johnston Mayors

July 3, 2012 North Providence, RI

Attendees:

Mayor Lombardi
Frank Bursie, Special Events
Dick Fossa, Chief of Staff
Lou Maccarone, RIDEM
Anna Krasko, US EPA
Stacy Greendlinger, US EPA
Doug Gutro, US EPA

EPA provided an overview of the new non-cancer dioxin toxicity value and explained that EPA is issuing a Proposed Plan Amendment in order to use the most current and best science that is available in its decision making. Explained because EPA is still in the remedy selection process, we cannot discuss the original proposed plan. EPA staff specified that the new science came out in February 2012 and that when applied to the Centredale Manor site it affects the scope of the proposed cleanup. Using the new toxicity value would require re-evaluating residential properties in the floodplain. EPA outlined its planned outreach to potentially impacted floodplain residential property owners. Plan includes contacting individual property owners by phone with the purpose of setting up appointments to meet one-on-one with floodplain residents. For those EPA is unable to reach by phone, plan on going door-to-door to deliver a letter requesting the opportunity to meet with residents or talking directly to residents should they be home. Conversations with residents would provide opportunity to go over maps of the neighborhoods depicting property boundaries, approximate floodplain boundaries, and where the existing fence line is. EPA noted that the floodplain boundaries are not exact and that we understand that FEMA plans to issue revised floodplain maps. Conversations with residents would also include going over possible interim measures with property owners.

Chief of Staff inquired if after the cleanup is complete whether the river would be swimmable. EPA clarified that there are other challenges that the river faces that would prevent swimming like high bacteria counts. Chief of Staff also inquired as to impacts to area property values. EPA stated that ultimately don't know but advantage is that area is well studied and will be addressed. Research in verifying addresses anecdotally shows



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according to tax assessor website that area values have increased, even since site was listed on National Priorities List.

Mayor inquired whether there is a problem with exposure to water in the river. EPA stressed that health risks posed by the site are from consuming contaminated fish or accidental consumption of contaminated sediment/soil. Touching the water in and of itself does not present a risk.

Mayor expressed an interest in hosting a duck race fundraiser similar to Blackstone community and asked whether it would be possible to do so on the Woonasquatucket River. RIDEM suggested avoiding the Woonasquatucket for such an event at this point and instead suggested having duck races at Greystone. RIDEM agreed to follow-up with the mayor.

Mayor commented that talking with people individually before the general public meeting and hearing was a good approach. The mayor observed that his office will get calls from area residents and will advise people to talk with EPA & RIDEM.

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July 9, 2012 Johnston, RI

Attendees:

Mayor Polesina
Lori Carruso, Town Engineer
DPW Director
Anna Krasko, US EPA
Stacy Greendlinger, US EPA
Doug Gutro, US EPA

EPA introductory remarks:

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The mayor observed and asked, "So the dioxin is now on people's properties, not just in the river? How do you deal with people who just want to be bought out?"

EPA noted that it plans on involving the health agencies such as RIDOH and ATSDR in explaining the situation and the long-term nature of the risks.

Mayor noted that the expanded scope did not impact his town and was an issue for Charlie Lombardi [North Providence Mayor]. EPA pointed out that there were some slivers of potential impact on the Johnston side but confirmed that neither area was comprised of residential properties.

Mayor empathically stated that contaminated material is not going on Johnston's side and asked what EPA is going to do with contaminated sediment now that it is even worse.

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EPA staff reiterated that we cannot discuss these aspects of the remedy as we are still in the selection process. EPA went over the days and times public meetings are scheduled, the new public comment period—emphasizing that the comment period is just on the new dioxin science and changes to the proposed plan. EPA closed by promising to get the Proposed Plan Amendment when issued to the Town Engineer.