

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 1
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Boston, MA 02109-3912

Memorandum

Date: **July 6, 2011**

Subject: **Peterson/Puritan, Inc. Superfund Site**
First TAG Meeting –June 30, 2011, 4:00-7:30 pm
Meeting Minutes

To: **File**

From: **Sarah White, CIC**

Participants:

Agency:

David J. Newton, RPM USEPA, Boston
Sarah White, CIC USEPA, Boston

State:

Paul Kulpa, RIDEM-OWM

PRP Group:

David Lang, GWC, Inc., Project Manager/Representative for OU2

TAG Representatives:

Alice Clemente, BRWC/FOB (TAG Committee Lead)
Joe Pailthorpe, " "
Frank Matta, " "
Sandra Belliveau, " "
John Marsland, " "
William J. Gibbons, GeoInsight
Christene A. Binger, "

Other(s)

[not present]

Meeting Minutes:

At the request of the TAG committee, Sarah White, EPA CIC, scheduled a site walk/meeting targeting J.M Mills Landfill also known as Operable Unit 2 (OU2) of the superfund site. Parties convened at 4:00 PM on Thursday, June 30, 2011, north of the Stop and Shop/McDonalds complex, 100 Mendon Road, Cumberland, RI to conduct a site tour of the Peterson/Puritan, Inc. Superfund Site, Operable Unit 2 (PP OU2) for the Blackstone River Watershed Council/Friends of the Blackstone (BRWC/FOB) Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) committee.

Initial introductions and general site information, including health and safety considerations for the walk, were conveyed by David Newton, RPM. Parties entered the south gate of Nunes Parcel and walked to Pratt dam via back gate (both gates secured with lock; EPA signage tagged with spray paint; signs of trespass noted). BRWC/FOB TAG pointed out their efforts concerning recreational river safety (buoy line and signage maintained by Council north of Pratt dam; access to anchor line from Nunes and portage trail at Pratt). The landfill is not open to the general public but periodic seasonal access, for the purpose of maintaining this river safety system, is gained by the BRWC/FOB with stakeholder permission, and in partnership with, the town of Cumberland (Police/Fire and River Rescue). Key points of interest on the tour: Nunes Parcel (walk over), Unnamed Island (pointed out), Pratt dam and bike path (proximity to the site noted), access road into the J. M. Mills Landfill (through landfill south gate), river access, P&W railroad corridor. The site walk lasted approximately 1.5 hours. While on site, Newton answered questions concerning areas waste disposal, general concepts of capping waste in place ("presumptive remedy" approach for Nunes and J.M. Mills Landfill). [for further information on presumptive remedy, see: <http://www.epa.gov/superfund/policy/remedy/presump/clms.htm>]

BRWC/FOB TAG noted vegetated riparian buffer and recovering habitat. It was noted that the south gate of the J. M. Mills Landfill was recently vandalized (gate hinges dismantled). During the walk unidentified voices were noted on the nearby Unnamed Island indicating further trespass occurring on the site.

After the site visit, representatives from EPA, RIDEM, Groundwater Consultants, Inc. and the BRWC/FOB TAG committee, reconvened at the Cumberland Public Library to discuss issues related to the site, outreach ideas and concerns the TAG had moving forward. Newton and White led a discussion on the overview of the Superfund process, the site map and status of CCL/PAC remediation area also known as Operational Unit 1 (OU 1).

Meeting highlights:

- Scope of TAG: White/Newton invited questions from the TAG, including leading a discussion on the site boundary and the initial interests of the TAG. It was noted that generally the grant allows for citizen interest/involvement on issues site-wide.
- Allowable TAG expenditures: Question was raised concerning the use of TAG funds to enable committee to review the proposed Hope Global flood protection wall

construction project (public is aware of USACE's initiation of feasibility study through local news). Discussion included the premise that this proposed action is located within the site boundary (OU1) and may affect river flow under flood conditions below to OU2; potentially impacting the superfund site. White said she would check in with the EPA TAG coordinator (Robert Shewack) on whether it was an allowable task under the EPA TAG program.

- Newton updated the TAG on the status of OU1 and OU2 using general site boundary maps. OU 1 is currently in operation and maintenance and has gone through two five year reviews in which the remedy is evaluated for protectiveness. Newton noted that a separate PRP group was involved in the remediation of this area. Questions were answered concerning the groundwater remediation and status.
- Public Involvement during Superfund Process: There is a key point during the cleanup where the EPA must provide opportunity for public comment. This is when the proposed cleanup plan is presented to the community before a remedy is formally selected. At that time EPA will hold a public meeting and formal hearing and provide 30 (or more) days for the public to comment on the proposed cleanup remedy. White pointed out that other opportunities for public involvement may occur beyond what is required (for example public informational meetings or open houses).
- Broad Public Outreach: TAG and EPA discussed adding a web page to the BRWC/FOB web site that focuses on TAG involvement with the Peterson/Puritan Superfund site and provides updates. The BRWC/FOB TAG can be a conduit for information on the cleanup. White will provide information (maps, text and photos) to the TAG for use on the web site. The Woonasquatucket Watershed Council web page on the Centerdale Manor Superfund site can serve as a good model for the web site (see link below).

WRWC: Centredale Superfund Site - Project Overview
<http://www.woonasquatucket.org/spfdOverview.php>

- Public meetings/Information session: EPA and the TAG discussed having public informational meetings at the completion of important milestones in the site cleanup to reach a broad segment of the population. TAG members pointed out that new residents have moved into the area and the need for outreach is timely. Information regarding the cleanup should be sent to the Valley Breeze.
- Ongoing Dialogue: EPA, RIDEM, PRP, GeoInsight and TAG committee will continue to meet periodically (as key milestones approach) to discuss the status of the cleanup, get clarification on technical reports and discuss outreach opportunities as the work at the site moves forward.
- Technical reports/ Schedule: As of yet, EPA said, there is not a firm schedule/timetable on deliverables (technical reports). EPA will however notify TAG committee as reports are completed. The reports will be made available electronically on the web.

- TAG consultant, GeoInsight will accept reports on DVD but would like a hard copy of the maps. As soon as reports are final White will get electronic copies to the TAG.
- TAG asked about the status of the well fields in Lincoln. The wells are currently not in use and not expected to be in use.

Followup/Assumptions:

- TAG to consider adding a page to the BRWC/FOB webpage to lend local citizens a means to connect, participate with TAG concerning superfund efforts/progress.
- TAG will communicate directly with Sarah White, CIC on most site-related technical issues; with Robert Shewack concerning any grant-related issues.
- TAG will help disseminate site information locally and will keep the pulse of the local citizenry. TAG's consultant (GeoInsight) will take direction from TAG committee. TAG will notify EPA of their concerns, issues, comments as any develop.
- EPA will keep TAG informed of site progress (through White) and will notify TAG of release of significant site information and how to obtain it.
- White to inquire further about Hope Global Floodwall issue and consideration under TAG.
- Newton to provide notice and schedule updates on release of key technical reports and site progress to White for dissemination to TAG.

Next Meeting:

To be determined