

**EPA-GE Citizens Coordinating Council Meeting
Berkshire Athenaeum
December 10, 2008**

DRAFT Meeting Highlights

Participants: The list of participants is included in Attachment 1.

Introduction: Suzanne Orenstein, Facilitator, opened the meeting with an overview of the agenda. She noted that the meeting would cover several topics and updates, including:

- Updates on remediation projects
- Update on the GE NPDES permit status
- A presentation on the history and status of the Unkamet Brook Remedial Action Area
- Updates on MA DEP-lead remediation activities
- CCC Facilitation Changes

EPA Updates on Remediation Projects

Dean Tagliaferro provided a brief update on ongoing remediation activities.

- GE will be conducting demolition of Buildings 63, 63X and 68, located between East Street, Newell Street, Lyman Street and the Housatonic River.
- Building 63 debris will be removed and transported to Hill 78 later this month.
- Building 63X will be demolished after Building 63. The demolition material from Building 63X will be sent to Hill 78.
- Building 68 will be demolished last and material will be sent off-site.
- Demolition will occur thru March of 2009. The remainder of the area will be remediated in late 2009 to 2010.
- EPA is reviewing GE's Silver Lake sediment and bank soil Remedial Design/Remedial Action (RD/RA) Work Plans. Once these documents are approved, GE will combine the sediment and bank soil actions into a single work plan. Preliminary work may start in 2009, but most will take place in 2010.
- In response to a question about when Hill 78 will be closed, Dean noted that there is approximately 15,000 cubic yards of capacity remaining in Hill 78. GE is planning to place approximately 5,000 cubic yards of material in Hill 78 in the next 2 to 3 months. There is no set date for Hill 78 closure.

Susan Svirsky provided an update on Rest of River activities.

- EPA issued a comment letter in September to GE regarding the CMS Report
- GE has requested a 90-day extension to the initial response period of 90 days. EPA granted a 50-day extension.
- EPA also offered GE an option to propose a new additional alternative for consideration by EPA in its review of the Rest of River corrective measures. EPA, GE, and the State will have a Principals meeting next week to discuss that option. If GE proposes a new alternative and it has merit, EPA will bring the proposed new alternative to the CCC for discussion.

EPA Update on the Status of the NPDES Permit

Dean Tagliaferro provided an update regarding the GE NPDES Permit.

- As noted in the recent EPA e-mail to the CCC regarding the status of the NPDES permit, the final permit was issued at the end of September. GE appealed the permit to the Environmental Appeals Board. EPA issued a letter to GE confirming which issues were stayed pending the appeal and which were not stayed. Those provisions not stayed will become effective January 1, 2009. Discussions about the appealed elements of the NPDES are on-going. If there are substantive changes in the NPDES permit that results from the appeal process, the permit will be subject to additional public comment. (Note: EPA sent a subsequent e-mail update to the CCC on December 23.)

Presentation on the History and Status of the Unkamet Brook Remedial Action Area (RAA)

Dick Gates, GE manager for the Unkamet Brook project site, and Jim Nuss from Arcadis provided an overview presentation of the Unkamet Brook RAA. The slides from his presentation can be viewed at <http://www.epa.gov/region1/ge/publiceventsandmeetings/20081210/298813.pdf>.

The presentation covered the following topics:

- Overview of the site geography and remediation areas
- Consent Decree Requirements for soil, groundwater, and landfill remediation
- Soil investigation results to date
- Overview of the on-going monitoring program for groundwater, including NAPL collection
- Status of the Remedial Design/Remedial Action for the former interior landfill
- Expected timetable for remediation between 2009 and 2012

Dick and Jim responded to CCC member questions, adding the following information.

- Approximately 400 deep soil samples have been collected.
- In response to information about contaminated fill in utility corridors, GE has been sampling to investigate those areas.
- Borings were not done for the interior landfill to support the Pre-design Investigation Report. There is a presumptive remedy for that area in the CD.
- There will not be a barrier around the footprint of the interior landfill, consistent with EPA guidance for capping.
- From historical data, leachate from the interior landfill does not appear to be an issue.
- The purpose of groundwater monitoring is to detect exceedances in the performance standards for the remediation. GE must address and remediate exceedances in perpetuity. If detected concentrations are below the performance standard no action is necessary.
- There are no springs under the landfill, as groundwater moves away from it.
- GE will submit a long term monitoring program to EPA.
- The public can provide comments for any of the GE submittals on this and all areas.
- The City of Pittsfield is working on adjacent areas, and GE and EPA have met with them to coordinate efforts.
- GE is doing flow/watershed modeling for the area south of Dalton Ave.

A CCC member commented that GE should be doing a watershed study to look at cleaning out the Crane Avenue and Merrill Road culverts. The City of Pittsfield representative mentioned that the city engineer is considering submitting a Notice of Intent to DEP for work on Dalton Avenue to open the downstream side of the Dalton Avenue culvert.

Updates on MA DEP-lead Activities

Susan Steenstrup from MA DEP provided an update on several DEP activities. She distributed a written description of the status of activities at the King Street Dump, which is being managed by DEP's Office of Solid Waste. Additional activities and updates mentioned included the following.

- For the West Branch work, GE began installing the sheet pile and concrete dam in October. Flooding issues related to the annual drawdown of Pontoosuc Lake have required refinements to the plan. GE can provide notification to the community during the de-watering process.
- Remediation is complete on the Dalton Ave. projects, with just a few remaining property owner requests that will be addressed soon.
- There is progress on the Commercial Street remediation project. GE has awarded the clean-up contract to Maximilian, MEPA accepted the proposed wood turtle protection plans, and GE is in the process of securing property access agreements.
- On the Westwood Road property, remediation of the area around the house has been completed. GE is doing a 26-foot excavation for additional removal and intends to finish by the end of the year.

General Question from a CCC Member

In response to a question about a GE property purchase on Newell Street, Dick Gates noted that the parcel is part of the Newell Street II Site. GE purchased the property so that an Environmental Restriction and Easement could be placed on the property

CCC Facilitation Changes

Jim Murphy, EPA's Community Involvement Coordinator for the GE project, reported that EPA has consulted with members of the CCC about a replacement facilitator for Suzanne Orenstein, who is leaving the project after three-years. EPA has proposed Patrick Field of the Consensus Building Institute as a replacement facilitator, and he will facilitate the next CCC meeting. EPA will remain open to comments on the facilitator selection as the CCC gains experience with Mr. Field. Mr. Field's qualifications can be viewed at his organization's web site, <http://cbuilding.org/about/bio/patrick-field>.

Next Steps

The next CCC meeting will occur in February or March 2009. Potential agenda items include:

- Update on Dorothy Amos Park
- New Developments on the Rest of River, NPDES, and other ongoing processes

**EPA-GE Housatonic Project Citizens Coordinating Council
Attendance December 10, 2008**

Name	Organization	Email Address	Attended
Members			
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Additional Attendees

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Jack Dew	Berkshire Eagle		

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