

WEST CHICAGO INTERGOVERNMENTAL FORUM
October 10, 2008
Minutes

ATTENDEES

Barbara Magel, Counsel for Local Communities
Jamie Geils, CBBWEL, Local Communities
John Coakley, City of Warrenville
Tom Williams, IEPA
Chuck Grigalauski, IEPA
Kelly Grahn, IEMA/DNS
Gerald Karr, Illinois Attorney General's Office
Mattheo Simmons, DuPage County State's Attorney's Office
Mary Fleming, DuPage County State's Attorney's Office
Don Feld, TAG
Mark Krippel, Tronox
Tim Fischer, U.S. EPA, Superfund
David Seely, U.S. EPA, Superfund
Mary Fulghum, U.S. EPA, Office of Regional Counsel

REED-KEPPLER PARK SITE

Tim said that there was not much of an update for RKP, other than the fact that he is still working on the documentation necessary to delist Reed-Keppler Park from the National Priorities List (NPL). Tim offered an opportunity for questions, but there were none.

SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT SITE, river portion

Reach 5A (STP to Mack Road) and Reach 5B (Mack Road to Kress Creek confluence):
Tim reported that the maintenance and monitoring period for Reach 5A of the river began in August 2006, and the maintenance and monitoring period for Reach 5B of the river began in June 2008. Tim reported that EPA was in possession of the Reach 5B draft Final Completion Report and planned to submit comments to Tronox soon. The Reach 5A Final Completion Report was approved previously in May 2008.

KRESS CREEK/WEST BRANCH DUPAGE RIVER SITE

Cleanup Progress

Tim provided an update on cleanup activities for the creek and river.

Reaches 5C and 5D (confluence to River Oaks): Tim stated that excavation had been completed in these Reaches in 2007, and that restoration work had been ongoing all summer in 2008. Tim said that planting in Reach 5C was scheduled to be completed today, with the exception of a single Hickory tree. The reason for the delay in planting

the Hickory is, according to the nursery, the tree must be completely dormant before it can be planted. Therefore, it will be planted in the next couple of weeks. Tim said that planting was scheduled to be completed in Reach 5D on October 17, with the exception of three Hickory trees. Finally, Tim said that the post-construction walkover inspection will be conducted on November 20 to verify that all planting has been completed in Reaches 5C and 5D.

Reach 5E (River Oaks to Williams Road): Tim stated that excavation was completed in Reach 5E on May 22, 2008. He said that restoration is scheduled for completion on October 31, 2008. Tim said that the post-construction walkover inspection will probably be conducted on December 4 to verify that all planting has been completed in Reach 5E.

Reach 6 (Williams Road to Butterfield Road): Tim began the update for Reach 6 with an explanation of activities associated with the September 12-14 flooding along the West Branch of the DuPage River. Tim stated that the two main concerns with the flooding were the possibility of open excavation being impacted and the Cenacle staging area flooding, which could result in the release of staged Targeted Material. Tim said that there were no open excavation areas during the weekend of the flooding, so this was eliminated as a concern. On the other hand, the Targeted Material staging area was completely flooded, with the water level from the West Branch reaching about half of the height of the Targeted Material soil pile. Tim said that it appeared from photographs and inspection that the tarp covers were not carried away or moved from the Targeted Material soil pile and there did not appear to be any release of Targeted Material. Tim said that, to verify this, REM, a contractor to IEMA, went out and conducted a radiation survey around the staging area and downstream from the staging area to determine if any Targeted Material had been released. This survey was conducted after the flooding had receded and the river was back within its banks. The results of the survey showed no locations above background, and, from this, the regulatory agencies concluded that there was no indication that Targeted Material had escaped from the Cenacle staging area. Tim indicated that EPA had received a few calls from concerned residents along the West Branch DuPage River, but that all of these concerns had been addressed. Tim also said that work on the last pod of contamination in Reach 6 was underway, and that excavation in Reach 6 should be completed today. Railcar loading at the REF will be conducted starting on October 20 to prepare for the Targeted Material at the Cenacle property to be trucked to the REF for staging. From October 23 to October 28, there will be a trucking campaign to move that material from the Cenacle to the REF. From October 28 to October 31, the Reach 6 Targeted Material will be loaded onto railcars, so that upon shutdown for the winter there will be no Targeted Material staged at the REF.

Reach 7 (Butterfield Rd to the Warrenville Grove Dam): Tim said that Tronox began staking out the staging area for construction next year. Tim said that EPA expects to get the work plan for Reach 7 in January for review.

Reach 8 (Warrenville Grove Dam to McDowell Grove Dam): Tim said that there is one more property that needs to be investigated in Reach 8 before the sampling database can be considered complete. Tim said that the characterization would be taking place in the next couple of weeks and that excavation in Reach 8 is still planned for 2010.

Barb Magel asked if there were any remaining access issues associated with the West Branch DuPage River cleanup. Tim said that there were not, as access to the one remaining investigation property in Reach 8 had been obtained.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS SITE

Recap of “old cleanup residual” issue: Kerr-McGee conducted a cleanup of 100+ residential properties in West Chicago in the mid-1980s. The issue is whether there is potentially any low-level residual contamination that was left behind at the bottom of the old excavation in the mid-1980s that was then covered with clean backfill soil. If such residual low-level contamination exists, it would probably be just slightly above EPA’s current cleanup standard, and the clean soil that was placed over it may have prevented EPA from detecting it during the Superfund investigation and cleanup that started in the mid-1990s. This issue was raised and EPA is now working to resolve it. This issue affects only those particular properties that were part of the mid-1980s cleanup. Properties that were not part of the 1980s cleanup are not affected by this issue.

David explained that there is not a lot to report since the last Forum meeting. Although there is minimal visible progress, there has been significant activity involving David’s efforts transitioning site management responsibilities from Becky Frey. David has met many times with Becky to go over the current issues and the status of all the properties under review. David and Becky focused mostly on the process Becky was following to evaluate the properties. Becky was in the process of developing a standard data package that would be used to communicate EPA’s efforts and sample results to the property owners. Becky provided David the third week of September all the information that she had developed with the expectation that David would pick up the responsibilities from there. David explained that he had three very active high priority sites that he was working on that required most of his attention through the end of September. Since that time, David’s workload had shifted and allows him to focus mainly on the Residential Areas Site.

So far EPA has developed one property data package with the intention that it will be used as the model for the rest of the properties. This data package was sent out electronically to the property owner. A significant amount of sampling was conducted on the property and only one soil sample came back just above the action criteria. As a result, the information was forwarded to both the property owner as well as Tronox for further cleanup. David confirmed with Mark Krippel that he had received the e-mail transmitting the data package, however Mark had yet to receive the hardcopy. David stated that he will look into the status of the hardcopy and ensure it was sent out.

David stated that all the data from the property testing is now in EPA's hands and there are no additional results to report beyond what Becky reported during the last Forum meeting. David's next steps include going through the information for all of the other properties that were tested, developing their property specific data packages, and then sending the information out to the respective property owners. David has been spending most of his time on individual properties to understand the data to ensure any discussions are based upon the relevant data from the individual property and not some other property not being discussed.

David has also been responding to a significant number of community inquiries. One of which was a realtor attempting to sell a property after the owner had passed away and allegedly the owner had placed radioactive pellets in the ground to see if they would be detected by his gamma scans. This alleged activity would have been conducted after the property was cleaned up in the 1990s pursuant to the Unilateral Order issued by EPA. David directed the realtor to discuss this situation with IEMA since this would not be an issue addressed by the Superfund efforts. Kelly Grahn indicated that he may know of the previous owner and his past practices, and IEMA will work with the realtor to address the allegations.

Another community inquiry involved a property that was cleaned up in the 1990s and was subsequently subdivided into two distinct parcels. An owner of one of the parcels has requested the cleanup information. However, EPA's data is based upon the original parcel and is not separated out according to the current parcels. EPA is figuring out how to respond to the individual's request without jeopardizing the privacy rights of another property owner.

Finally, David has been working on the access issues relating to the properties that are known to need additional testing. David has been working with Mary Fulghum to verify the current owners and to identify an appropriate Spanish speaking translator which will be needed for approximately half of these properties.

Barb Magel asked about the status of the issue regarding testing of basements. David stated that he hasn't worked any further on that specific issue and would need to look into that issue further. Mary Fulghum stated that the City of West Chicago's website may indicate that if property owners want testing they should contact EPA. David stated that he hasn't been contacted by anyone requesting basement testing as of yet and suggested that the contacts of the City's website may need to be updated with his contact information.

Barb Magel also asked Mark Krippel if Tronox would be in a position to address the few locations where thorium had been reported above the cleanup standard (based upon the new 1980s property re-evaluations) during the next construction season. Mark Krippel stated that if they received the data from EPA, they should be able to address these properties next year.

David also asked if there would be any impact to the Tronox projects in West Chicago and Warrenville due to recent developments with Tronox stock. Mark Krippel said he had nothing to add to what was posted on the Tronox website.

OTHER ISSUES

Update on NOAA Grant Projects

There was no update on the NOAA projects this month.

NEXT FORUM MEETING

The next meeting of the West Chicago Intergovernmental Forum is scheduled for **Friday, December 19, 2008, at 10 a.m.** in West Chicago City Council Chambers, West Chicago.

West Chicago Intergovernmental Forum Agenda

**West Chicago City Council Chambers
October 10, 2008
10:00 am**

INTRODUCTIONS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

SITE STATUS UPDATES

- **RKP Site**
- **STP Site (river portion)**
- **Kress Creek Site**
- **Residential Areas Site** –

OTHER AGENDA ITEMS / ISSUES

- **Update on NOAA Grant Projects**

SET NEXT MEETING DATE

ADJOURN