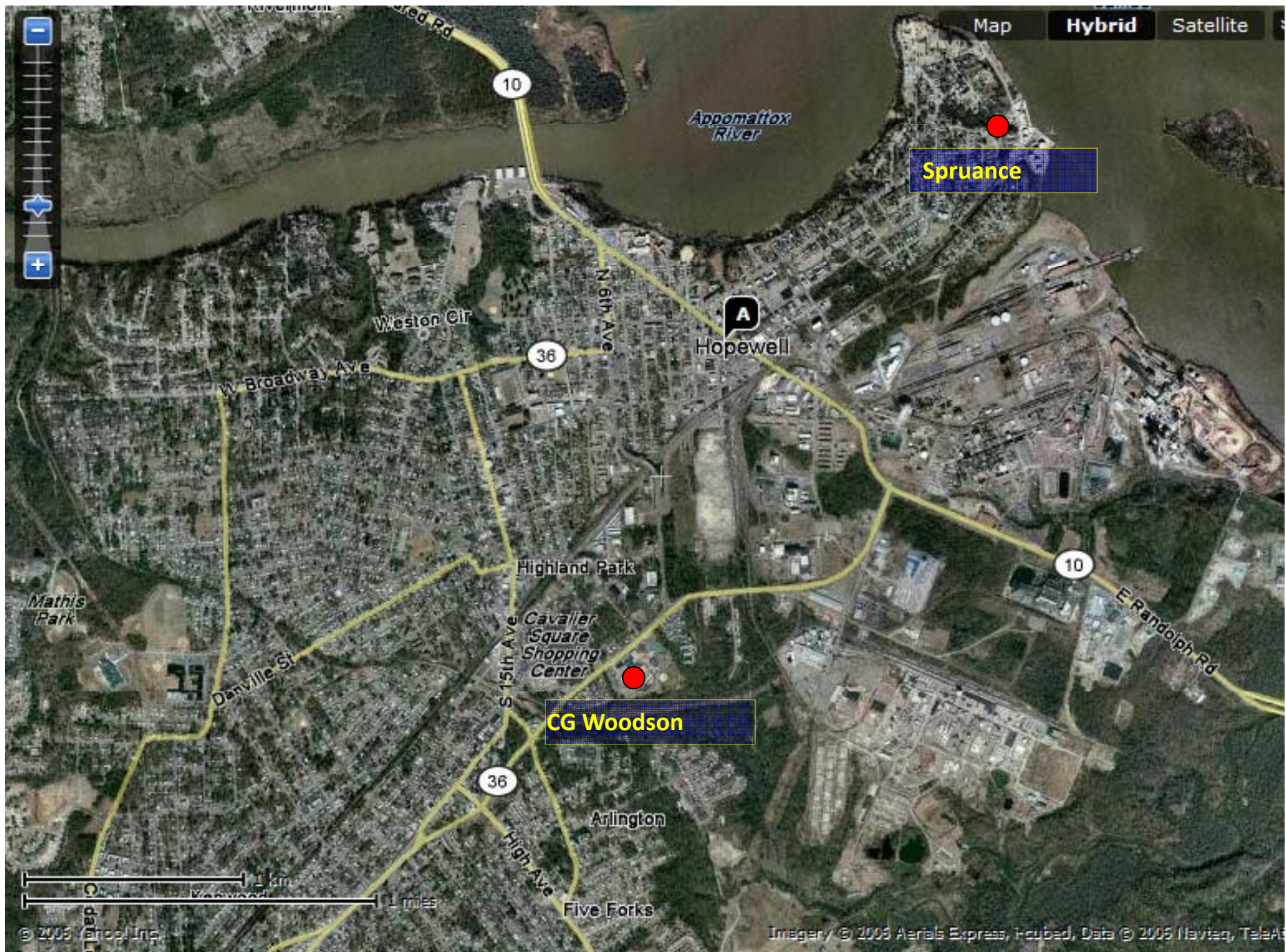


# Hopewell Air Toxics Study and Community Involvement

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Spruance

CG Woodson

## Timeline of Outreach Activities

- Formation of Stakeholder Group – August/September 2006
- Open House and Project initiation – November 2006
- Interim Stakeholder Meeting – Summer 2007
- Presentation of Data Results – March 2009  
To Stakeholders and General Public
- Preliminary Stakeholder Meeting – February 2011
- Presentation of Risk Assessment – February 2011  
To Stakeholders and General Public



## Formation of Stakeholder Group – August/September 2006

- Tried to form a diverse group of interested and informed citizens of the Hopewell area
- The final group included 2 elected officials; 2 industrial representatives; 1 citizen representative; 1 city government official; 1 health department member; 1 respiratory health representative (ALA/VAC) among others
- The Stakeholder group functioned as means to evaluate technical information and help DEQ make the information more understandable to the general public

## Open House and Project initiation – November 2006



## Presentation of Data Results – March 2009

- DEQ separated presenting the data results from presenting the Risk Assessment results to the public
- Structure of the meeting was very important – Made a 1 hour presentation to the Stakeholders with the public present
- The public meeting was held after a brief break with the stakeholders seated among the audience

“Could [DEQ] give me an email with the monitoring details of what happens with each sample “breath” into the machine and the total daily collection?”



## Community Air Toxics Strategy – VA State Advisory Board

- It was clear from the comments and discussions during the public meeting that communications with the public up to that point were not effective
- The Office of Air Quality Monitoring engaged VA's State Advisory Board on Air Pollution to study the issue of Community Air Toxics studies and communicating Risks
- The State Advisory Board on Air Pollution (SAB) shall aid the State Air Pollution Control Board (SAPCB) and the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) in meeting its mandate under the provisions of the Code of Virginia by identifying and analyzing air-related issues involving health, environmental impact, and quality of life.

# COMMUNITY AIR TOXICS STRATEGY

A REPORT BY THE  
STATE ADVISORY BOARD ON AIR POLLUTION  
AIR TOXICS STRATEGY GROUP

DECEMBER 2010



## Stakeholder Meeting and Presentation of Risk Assessment

- Due to level of complexity of the final Risk Assessment, AQM held a Stakeholders meeting prior to the public meeting
- The Stakeholders assisted AQM with ways to make the information more understandable and the slides more informative
- The public meeting was structured similarly to the previous meeting. The public notice of the report/meeting generated a lot of responses.
- The responses to the Risk Assessment report reinforced the perception that the communication with the public was still a concern.

## Sample Citizen Comments on Risk Assessment

“I am very concerned that the Hopewell Health Risk Assessment is not going far enough to define the risks to residents, and the need for the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality to reduce these risks from breathing the toxic air pollutants common in Hopewell air.”

“The conclusion that some chemicals exceed protective health levels but are no higher than elsewhere in Virginia is also very disturbing. All Virginians have a right to breathe healthy air where ever they live.”

“I do not believe that any toxic study should be done without an accompanying independent health assessment done by a third party”.

“Where is the public health data in this report?... I don't see any risk assessment I only see numbers...”

Questions?