

Pompton Lakes Environmental Community Advisory Group (CAG)

April 4, 2012 Meeting Summary

7:00 PM – 9:30 PM

Pompton Lakes High School Media Center, 44 Lakeside Avenue, Pompton Lakes, NJ

Meeting Facilitator: Bill Pendexter

Members and Alternates Present: Liz Kachur (In-Plume Resident), Steve Grayberg (Pompton Lakes Restoration Committee), Abby Novak (Pompton Lakes Environmental Committee), John Soojian (Acid Brook Vicinity), Bill Pendexter (Hydrologist, Non-Plume Resident), Art Kaffka (Chamber of Commerce), Michele Belfiore (Pompton Lakes Residents for Environmental Integrity), Ella Filippone (Passaic River Coalition)

Members Not Present: Jimmy Rose (In-Plume Resident)

Ex Officio Members Present:

Pompton Lakes Borough Council: Councilman Mike Serra

US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA): Phil Flax, Adolph Everett, Clifford Ng, Pat Seppi, David Kluesner

NJ Department of Environmental Protection: Anthony Cinque, Mindy Mumford, John Boyer

NJDHSS: Joe Eldridge, Christa.Fontecchio

Public Present: Jefferson LaSala, Helen Maartens, Regina Sisco, Jeff Winkler, Ed Merrill, Dave Epps (DuPont), Norma Eichlen (O'Brien & Gere) Councilman Bill Baig, Joyce Fern, Ed Fischer, Aurelia Ionescu

I. Welcome and Administrative Updates

Bill Pendexter called the meeting to order. The draft meeting summary of the March 7th CAG meeting was distributed to CAG members and tabled for approval due to the delay by EPA in providing the draft summary to CAG members. Mr. Pendexter requested that the CAG members review the draft summary and get any comments to Pat Seppi by the end of the week.

II. Ex Officio Updates

NJDHSS: The health survey is about half way through and then there will be a health CAG meeting and then when the survey is completed there will be a meeting at that point. Michele Belfiore questioned how the survey was developed and the rationale for questions pertaining to previous owners. Joe Eldridge indicated that the health survey is another piece of information. Not an end-all be-all. NJDHSS stated that the survey mirrors the national health interview survey. Once the survey is completed, they are not necessarily done. Unknown as to what the next step is.

CAG members questioned the health survey time period (covers the previous 12 months.) CAG members suggested to NJDHSS that perhaps they should pose the question to the community whether the community wants a health CAG meeting before all the work is completed. John Soojian urged NJDHSS to pose the question on Google Group site. CAG members expressed

their belief that the Env. CAG discussion on this topic is quite long due to the lack of a health CAG meeting in quite some time.

Ground Water Remediation Pilot Update:

Anthony Cinque reported that the Dupont pilot implementation start is scheduled for April. The CAG requested that EPA post the DuPont flyer/resident notice on EPA's Web site. The pilot will be handled as a permit-by-rule.

Acid Brook Re-Sampling Update

Phil Flax reported that EPA just received the validated data from the February 22, 2012 sampling event. Although EPA has the data it has not completed a review of the results. Nonetheless EPA reported that PCE was detected in Acid Brook surface water north of Cannonball Road. It is elevated there but not detected in a location in the Brook near Lakeside Avenue. EPA indicated that it will be speaking with DuPont and NJDEP further on this issue. Both EPA and NJDEP believe that the PCE in the brook results from contaminated on-site ground water being discharged to Acid Brook on the plant property. The results appear to be consistent with the last round of sampling on November 2, 2011. CAG members questioned possible health risks to residents (kids especially) from PCE in Acid Brook water. EPA advised that residents who access the Acid Brook not bathe or play in Acid Brook or drink the water until more is known on potential risks to human health. CAG members questioned/urged EPA to notify residents on the elevated levels, especially those who reside along the brook or have children that potentially play in the brook. EPA said that its human health risk assessors will run the risk calculations and inform residents regarding potential risks under various exposure scenarios, such as for children, adolescents and adults. The public questioned why the Acid Brook is not marked with signs or taping to block entry. CAG members are very concerned about public access to Acid Brook and what contaminants may or may not be present. CAG members asked what EPA is doing to prevent ground water discharge to Acid Brook to stop the PCE exceedance. EPA stated that it will work with NJDEP and DuPont to find the source and implement measures to cut off discharge. Additional supplemental work is being done to identify and stop the source.

EPA reported that due to historical questions and allegations by some in the community, it has engaged its radiation experts to search for any records on the possible presence of depleted uranium at the DuPont Pompton Lakes Works site. EPA is working with the U.S. Department of **Energy** to do a file search for the shipment or presence of depleted uranium at or through the site. Following the file search the EPA will go into both cladding tunnels to survey for depleted uranium. The file search will be intensive and take a few months. CAG members questioned why EPA doesn't scan the tunnels for radioactivity during the file search and not after. EPA stated that it **would discuss** expediting the review process **with our radiation experts**. EPA emphasized that it has no indication that radioactivity from man-made sources is a problem, but it is being prudent with this effort. A member of the public said that a DuPont report includes mention of depleted uranium (July 1, 2010 Parsons report).

On-Site Soils Remediation Update

Anthony Cinque reported that NJDEP received DuPont's response to NJDEP's comments on the Eastern Manufacturing Area Remedial Investigation Report and is evaluating their response.

Acid Brook Delta (Lake) Remediation Update

Adolph Everett (EPA) reported out that EPA is still in the process of reviewing public and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service comments. EPA cannot at this time characterize potential impacts of those comments on the project or schedule. EPA anticipates a decision and outreach to the community this summer on the lake remediation permit modification decision. CAG members questioned the overall schedule for lake remediation and would like more specifics. A member of the public questioned what kind of perfuming agent would be used to mask odor from lake sediment removal. Concern was expressed over possible health effects from perfuming agents to people with allergies, asthma, etc. The community member urged the CAG to put this question before the planning board to ensure it is looked into. The community member also wants a copy of the perfuming agent Material Data Safety Sheet. Adolph Everett indicated that this type of detail comes after decisions on the permit modification proposal. It will be addressed through the review and approval of the Project Operations Plan.

III. Site Milestones

Adolph Everett (EPA) handed out updated project milestones for the major site components (lake, off site ground water and on-site soils investigation and cleanup). EPA used a PowerPoint during the discussion and stated that it would be posted on EPA's CAG Web page. During discussion of the on-site soils cleanup schedule NJDEP mentioned that its goal is to have one Remedial Action Selection Report (RASR) for addressing soil contamination at all three manufacturing areas. October is estimate for receipt of the draft RASR for soils. Later, there would be a similar, combined RASR for site ground water contamination.

A member of the public questioned why the "iron curtain" technology was not being explored/used. EPA and NJDEP will report back on this. Possibly referring to use of sheet piling, such as what is used in lake/river sediment removal projects.

IV. DuPont Presentation on Site Investigation Status for the Areas of Concern

Dave Epps with DuPont gave a presentation on the status of investigation work within the on-site plant property. Dave used a PowerPoint projection of a map of the site depicting the areas of contamination and their current status. EPA will post the map on its Web site. The status of the AOCs was shown as No Further Action, Interim Remedial Measure, Remedial Investigation On-Going. CAG member Ella Filippone requested information from DuPont on what if any correlation there is between on-site monitoring well data and surface water data (Acid Brook). DuPont stated that it reports all on site monitoring well data on a regular basis (monthly?) to NJDEP and summarizes the data in annual reports. DuPont corrected the record that there are 202 areas of concern, not 205 as is often heard.

CAG members and the public discussed possible future use(s) of the site, tax issues, amount of buildable area at the site, etc. Some expressed a desire for the Borough and DuPont to address their belief of tax disparity between the site and residential taxes. Others requested that the Borough not re-zone the site back to industrial. Currently the Eastern area is zoned planned recreational.

V. Real Estate Value Protection

CAG members and the public discussed at length a revised draft resolution by the CAG that urges DuPont to develop a real estate value protection program for plume residents. Questions rose over whether the resolution does, or should, include compensation for plume homeowners who sell their homes, in addition to ensuring plume residents can obtain mortgages, re-financing, access to home equity lines of credit and more. CAG members postponed a vote on the resolution pending gathering of additional data by Michele Belfiore and further consideration and review of the resolution and possible revisions.

VI. CAG Work Group Updates

Due to lack of time on the agenda, there were no work group updates given.

VII. Administrative Matters

Due to lack of agenda time, discussion was postponed on two nominations to serve on the CAG.

VIII. Action Items

- Post the DuPont Ground Water pilot letter/flyer on EPA's Web site.
- Post the project schedule and map of areas of concern on EPA's Web site