

Pompton Lakes Environmental Community Advisory Group (CAG)
October 5, 2011 Meeting Summary
7:00 PM – 9:30 PM
Carnevale Center, 10 Lenox Avenue, Pompton Lakes, New Jersey

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

Ex Officio Members Present:

Pompton Lakes Borough Council: Councilmen Rick Steele, Bill Baig and Lloyd Kent
US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA): Dave Kluesner, Barry Tornick, Barbara Finazzo, Adolph Everett, Clifford Ng, Ariel Iglesias
NJ Department of Environmental Protection: Steve Maybury, Anthony Cinque
Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR): Leah Graziano, Elena Vaouli

Public Present: Jefferson H. LaSala, Donald Soutar, Regina Sisco, Jacky Grindrod, George Popov, Hagai Nassau (Skeo Solutions, Inc.), Aurelia Ionescu, Maria Kent, Anne Silversey, Michael A. Keough, Ed Fischcor and Ed Merrill

I. Welcome and Administrative Updates

Dave Kluesner called the meeting to order, and stated that next meeting would be on November 2nd. Bill Logue is available to facilitate this meeting (both Dave and Barbara Finazzo will not be able to attend). Bill will provide some ideas on how the CAG can operate on their own in the future so that the limited funds can be preserved for technical reviews. The September meeting summary was approved as written and will be posted as final on the EPA website.

II. Change in Operating Procedures

The CAG approved that alternate members appointed by stakeholder groups do not need to be voted on by the CAG. These groups will select their own alternates that represent their particular interest group. The CAG did agree to discuss at the November 2nd meeting the operating procedures for replacing an individual member when he/she resigns.

III. Agency and Congressional Updates

Vapor Mitigation System Installations Update

Barry Tornick provided an update on the status of the installation of vapor mitigation systems. DuPont has installed 231 systems and has 11 more in the process of being installed. Forty-nine applications for third party system installations have been approved; 25 designs have been received; and 14 systems have been installed.

Lake Remediation Update

Dave informed the CAG that two public availability sessions have been scheduled for Thursday, October 20th at the Borough Council Chambers from 3-5 pm and 7-9 pm. Advertisement of these sessions will be done broadly via mailings, local radio and Channel 77 TV. A request was made to use the borough's reverse 911 system to get the word out to the whole town about these sessions. Councilman Steele stated that this was probably not an approved use of the system; however, he will take it back to the council for consideration.

Barry reported that the EPA will public notice the permit modification around 10/28-29/11; a formal public hearing will be held at the end of November; and the 45 day public comment period will end early December. It is expected the permit modification will be approved late January 2012.

Barry also reported that EPA will be conducting a site visit on October 6th of the Acid Brook area to determine where best to collect samples previously requested by the CAG to determine if recontamination has occurred. Sampling is expected to occur by the end of October.

Health Study Update

Leah Graziano reported that NJDHSS is still trying to find a venue for the next Health CAG meeting. She also reported that ATSDR's response to the elected officials request for a full health assessment is on its way. It will be sent to Dave to share with the all the Environmental CAG members.

On-Site Ground Water and Soils Clean-Up Effort Update

Anthony Cinque, NJDEP, reported the following status on the various Remedial Investigation Reports received from DuPont: Western Manufacturing Area report has been approved; the Northern Manufacturing Area report has been reviewed and appears acceptable; and the Eastern Manufacturing report has been reviewed and comments sent back to DuPont. It is expected that issues identified will be resolved by the end of October. Anthony also mentioned that 90 days after the final Remedial Investigation Report is approved (Eastern Manufacturing Area report), DuPont would be submitting a draft Remedial Action Selection Report.

Discussion pursued related to when the CAG and public would have the opportunities to comment on the reports and the final remedial action selection. The timing of this was confusing and a request was made by Liz Kachur to have a timeline developed to show how the process works. She was very concerned that there be sufficient time for public input.

Anthony also reported that the agencies are reviewing the results of the groundwater pilot studies that DuPont submitted. DuPont submitted recommendations on next steps based on their interpretation of the data; however, the agencies have not endorsed these recommendations to date. Groundwater experts from both agencies are still analyzing the data and will be having

further discussions with DuPont in 4-6 weeks. CAG requested copies of the report; EPA will post on the Pompton Lakes website.

Lake Restoration Work Group Update

Steve Grayberg reported that the Lake Restoration Work Group had a teleconference on Wednesday, September 28th discussed the need to have technical assistance with one or more aspects of the lake remediation plan. A summary of the meeting will be posted on the EPA website. Evaluating the delineation process to determine if the appropriate perimeter was established; and evaluating the project operations plan once it was received were the two primary candidates identified by the workgroup that needed review by a technical expert. Barry informed the CAG that EPA had just received the project operations plan. Steve requested that the plan be provided to the CAG.

Steve stated that after further discussion, the work group agreed to recommend to the CAG that because of the time needed to process securing a technical expert, it made more sense to request assistance to review the project operations plan only. They recommended that the CAG Technical Work Group and/or a qualified EPA expert review the delineation process instead.

The work group also discussed that the CAG should consider requesting sampling (through the agencies) of the lake sediment outside of the delineation area to see if the recent floods altered the contamination zone. There was also concern that heavy metals could be migrating from the DuPont site through ground water into the lake outside the delineated area; and that post-remediation validation be performed to show that mercury was removed after dredging at the prescribed level.

A great deal of discussion pursued after this report out resulting in agreement by the CAG to have an independent review of how the delineation was determined. Liz and Ella Filippone were very concerned with the effects of the recent storms and wanted to make sure that the project was done right. Future dredging of the lake for flood control purposes was mentioned again as a concern. EPA was also asked to have DuPont take samples outside of the delineation area to see if the storm had any impact. The Technical Work Group will meet to develop a resolution on these issues. A list of the permits needed was requested by Ella who was concerned with the water supply use of the lake for other NJ communities.

IV. Ten Constituents of Concern (COCs) Presentation by Independent Technical Expert

Hagai Nassau from Skeo Solutions, Inc. made a presentation on the ten COCs. His PowerPoint presentation, report and factsheet will be posted on EPA's website. He made the following recommendations:

- Review currently available data to determine whether ground water monitoring should resume for any of the contaminants that were removed from the current list that now have more stringent Class II-A standards (a potential drinking water source) or new information about potential health effects. This would possibly include lead, arsenic, selenium, antimony, benzene, dibromochloromethane and bis(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate.

- Consider using current health-based screening levels for contaminants that do not have Class II-A standards.
- Consider testing ground water for perchlorate.
- Consider testing ground water for organic explosives (PETN, RDX, TNT, TETRUL and HMX).
- Consider testing for 5 more polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (including indeno(1,2,3-c,d)pyrene) which now have Class II-A standards.

Discussion pursued between CAG members, the public, the agencies representatives and the technical expert. Questions were raised in particular to recommendations for additional monitoring for heavy metals (lead, mercury) and benzene. A member of the public mentioned that benzene long ago was used as a degreaser and asked if DuPont did this. Ella finally recommended (and the CAG members agreed) that EPA and NJDEP should look at the recommendations in the report to determine, based on additional existing data, what COCs should be eliminated and what should be added back in. In other words, what has gotten better and what may have gotten worse due to tightening of standards and/or better scientific information. This should be shared with the CAG at future meetings starting in November. The CAG was also asked to review the report further and provide any additional questions to the agencies. It was requested that a profile be provided for benzene and that a basis of comparison be provided so the public can better understand the potential health impacts. It was also requested that how this information is explained to the public be considered so that there is a consistent, understandable message.

V. Action Items

- The CAG will discuss at the November 2nd meeting the operating procedure for replacing an individual CAG member (not a named stakeholder group) who has resigned.
- Councilman Steele will look into using the reverse 911 system for announcing meetings, public availability sessions, and so forth.
- NJDEP will develop a timeline for the on-site soils remediation efforts and associated document reviews.
- EPA will post the ground water hydraulic pilot studies report on the EPA website.
- EPA will send out and/or post the lake remediation project operations plan on the EPA website. (UPDATE: Barry sent the plan to Steve Grayberg on October 7th and it was posted on EPA's website on October 17th).
- A list of the required permits for the lake remediation activities will be provided by EPA.
- Agencies will follow-up on the 10 COCs recommendations and report back to the CAG at future meetings.
- EPA will work with ATSDR to provide a profile for benzene and some comparison information. In addition, appropriate messaging will be considered.