

## **Amphenol/Franklin Site Stakeholders Meeting Summary Report**

July 25, 2023, 4:00 p.m. CDT/5:00 p.m. EDT

Facilitator Pam Avery opened the meeting with a welcome and reminder that the purpose of the meeting was for U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) to present updates on the site and for the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) to present the Franklin, IN, Health Consultation Report and answer any questions. She then conducted a roll call of participants (names of participants below) and then turned the meeting over to Ed Nam, EPA Region 5 Land, Chemicals and Redevelopment Division (LCRD) Director. Ed greeted those in attendance and then turned the meeting over to Valerie Voisin, EPA Region 5 Remedial Project Manager, to present the EPA update.

### **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Updates – Valerie Voisin:**

EPA is meeting bi-weekly with Amphenol on the Corrective Measures Implementation (CMI) work plan and order and has been negotiating a CMI order that would supplant the 1998 order. This order would ensure enforceable measures are in place to require Amphenol to implement the final remedy as detailed in the Final Decision document and Statement of Basis. The CMI order would also include the implementation of a long-term care plan for the site.

Valerie said Amphenol representatives have been working on the CMI plan and expressed a willingness to negotiate the CMI order. EPA has reviewed the draft document, received on June 2, 2023. Since EPA is working on both the CMI workplan and order simultaneously, the agency will be able to start field work once the CMI order has been issued and the workplan approved.

### **EPA Questions, Comments and Responses**

No questions or comments.

### **Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) Updates**

Tim Johnson, IDEM Senior Environmental Manager, provided the following updates: (He noted that the information was included in the meeting agenda.)

#### Former Hougland Cannery Site

Eastern Portion (Hurricane Industrial Development):

Three new ground water monitoring reports have been submitted to IDEM: the fourth quarter 2022 report on April 5, 2023, the first quarter 2023 report on June 22, 2023, and the second quarter 2023 on July 13, 2023. Cumulatively, they show that reduction of chlorinated contaminants is going well on the Kasting Property and, overall, on the southern and eastern portions of Hurricane Industrial Development Property (HID).

Wells on the northern portion of the HID property and side gradient of the reaction barriers have been slower to react. Seven quarters of groundwater monitoring data was shared with Regensis, the remedial contractor, for recommendations on re-injections, including locations and at what concentration the injections need to be. The third quarter 2023 groundwater monitoring was performed earlier in July and analytical data is not yet available.

A proposal for the permanent remediation system beneath the Recycling Center has been completed and submitted to the insurance carrier for HID.

Western Portion (Reed Manufacturing):

Reed Manufacturing has requested a No Further Action (NFA) letter on their portion of the former Houglan Property. Currently no additional effort or monitoring is required, however, IDEM is holding off on issuing a NFA letter until it receives a bit more remedial data from the HID property, or it is in a position to close as well.

### **IDEM Questions, Comments and Responses**

No questions or comments.

**Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) Franklin, IN, Health Consultation Report - Motria Caudill, Ph.D., Region 5 Environmental Health Scientist and Regional Director**

Motria thanked EPA for hosting the meeting and said she appreciated an opportunity to discuss the report findings with community members and answer any questions. She told the group that the report, <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/hac/pha/amphenol/Amphenol-Health-Consultation-508.pdf>, has been posted online for more than a month.

She began her presentation with an overview of ATSDR and its processes. ATSDR is a federal public health agency within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. ATSDR is not a regulatory or enforcement agency and works with communities and local, state and tribal governments, and other federal agencies to protect people from environmental exposure.

ATSDR conducts public health assessment activities to respond to a specific health question or a concern about a potential environmental hazard. The objective is to determine whether exposures to a hazardous substance have or could occur, whether this exposure is harmful, and if the exposure should be stopped or reduced.

ATSDR became involved in Franklin, IN, after the EPA and IDEM, which had been working for years on multiple environmental site investigations and cleanup efforts in the northeast part of Franklin, asked for assistance in evaluating community health risks from these sites.

The agency looked at contaminants in indoor or outdoor air and groundwater contaminants that people could swallow in drinking water. This included indoor, outdoor and subsurface air data

that was collected by EPA at residences around the Amphenol site beginning in 2018. ATSDR also looked at indoor, outdoor and subsurface air data that was collected at the Hoagland site beginning in 2016 by the property owner with IDEM's oversight, and at outdoor air collected in 2018-19 by IDEM at a Franklin public park. The agency also looked at historical drinking water data reported by the Indiana American Water Company from the 1980s to when the impacted wells were taken offline in 2007.

ATSDR also looked at 75 outdoor air samples collected by IDEM at Payne Park in Franklin and 98 outdoor air samples that were collected by EPA in conjunction with the indoor sampling conducted around the Amphenol site. The average VOC concentrations for both data sets were below ATSDR's health screening levels for trichloroethylene (TCE) and tetrachloroethylene (PCE), the contaminants of concern. Motria added that the levels were within the range typically found in urban areas across the United States

Having evaluated the indoor air and drinking water data and after taking a more detailed look at chemicals that were above the health screening levels, ATSDR came to three conclusions. First, is that people's health could potentially have been harmed in the past by breathing contaminants from the Hoagland plume that migrated into indoor air at one of three commercial properties evaluated. The building, which contains the Recycling Center, had TCE levels that could pose a risk for fetal heart defects if an employee in that building was pregnant. The building property owner has implemented IDEM recommendations to reduce indoor contaminants, so ATSDR does not consider VOCs to be an ongoing health hazard. Other buildings, including the former gymnastic center that moved years ago, did not have VOC levels of potential concern.

The second conclusion is that people's health potentially could have been harmed in the past by breathing contaminants from the Amphenol groundwater plume that migrated into indoor air at two residences through a process called vapor intrusion or through the sewer system.

Two homes had indoor air TCE levels that could be attributed to the plume and those levels were high enough to potentially cause an elevated risk of fetal heart defects, the same issue identified at the Hoagland-related site.

To control the migration of VOCs from the Amphenol plume to indoor air, EPA installed sub-slab depressurization systems at seven homes. ATSDR does not consider VOCs in indoor air an ongoing health hazard to the occupants of these properties.

The third conclusion is that people's health was not likely to be harmed by the drinking water in Franklin currently or in the past. VOCs had been discovered in the community drinking water system at a well site and in 1988 the water utility blended water from that well together with unaffected wells to ensure that the finished drinking water did not exceed EPA standards.

ATSDR looked at the historic data and at the highest concentrations of the VOCs in the finished drinking water, which is what people were receiving in their homes, and found that they were below levels that could increase the risk of human health effects. The utility discontinued use of the affected well by 2013 and community water has since been extracted from other systems that are not impacted by the plume.

Motria said she knows there are concerns about cancer incidents in the community and wanted to clarify what the ATSDR report findings indicate about cancer rates. These are the domain of the Indiana Department of Health, which is responsible for collecting and summarizing information on cancer cases in Indiana. She added that the ATSDR evaluation did not suggest environmental exposures to cancer-causing contaminants at levels that are likely to result in increased cancer rates in the community.

Motria encouraged stakeholders to review the Health Consultation report, <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/hac/pha/amphenol/Amphenol-Health-Consultation-508.pdf>, and said she is available at 312-886-0267 or [LDU1@cdc.gov](mailto:LDU1@cdc.gov) if community members or other stakeholders have questions.

### **ATSDR Questions, Comments & Responses**

**Franklin Mayor Steve Barnett** said he was disappointed that it took five years to get the report, citing the reputational damage to the City of Franklin concerning contaminated water and cancer clusters. He said he wonders how many years it will take to clear up the city's name, adding that he and Tara Payne get calls almost every day from people who want to move to Franklin, but are concerned about contamination. He added that it's good to hear that they can now give an honest answer from state and federal health agencies.

**Motria Caudill** responded that she appreciated Mayor Barnett's comments. She said ATSDR typically focuses on one contaminated site but in Franklin there were two main sites as well as multiple smaller sites which caused the report to be larger and more complicated than usual. The COVID-19 pandemic and the need for health agency staff to be diverted to address that situation also added to the time needed to complete the report. She added that she was glad that Mayor Barnett had found some comfort in the health consultation report findings.

With no further comments or questions the meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m. CDT/5:45 p.m. EDT. Pam Avery told participants they would receive a copy of the meeting's summary report.

### **July 25, 2023, Meeting Participants:**

**EPA:** Ed Nam, Joe Cisneros, Valerie Voisin, Kirstin Safakas, Phillippa Cannon, Gillian Asque, and Scott Ireland.

**ATSDR:** Dr. Motria Caudill

**IDEM:** Tim Johnson, Katelyn Kelso, and Dawn Groves

**Local/State Stakeholders:** Mayor Steve Barnett and Tara Payne (City of Franklin); Betsy Swearingen (Johnson County Health Department); Terry Seitz (Senator Braun's Office); Leeann Doerflein (reporter, Daily Journal); Casey McFall and Samantha Henderson, EnviroForensics

**AveryMassey:** Pam Avery, facilitator, and Rachel Massey, note taker.