

Community Advisory Group (CAG)
Hudson River PCBs Superfund Site
Meeting Notes
Tuesday December 9, 2008
1:00 PM – 2:00 PM
Saratoga Springs, NY

Members and Alternates Attending: Dan Casey, Chris DeBolt, Manna Jo Greene, George Hodgson, Anthony Maresco, David Mathis, Merrillyn Pulver-Moulthrop, Warren Reiss, Lois Squire.

CAG Liaisons Attending: Joan Gerhardt (General Electric), Richard Harris (NYSCC), David King (USEPA), Deanna Ripstein (NYSDOH), Kristen Skopeck (USEPA).

Others Attending: David Adams (SCEMC), Chris Ballantyne (NYSDEC), Mike Cheplowitz (E&E), Justin Deming (NYSDOH), Mike Deso (Bakercorp), Peggy Farrell (E&E), Joanne Fowler (E&E), Jill Gulczewski (E&E), Gary Klawinski (E&E), Doug Reed (Hudson Basin Riverwatch), David Rosoff (USEPA), William Shaw (NYSDEC), Leonid Shmookler (E&E), Paul Tibbets (Bakercorp), John Vetter (USEPA), Lloyd Wilson (NYSDOH), Kyle York (Saratoga Springs Citizen).

Facilitators: Ona Ferguson, Patrick Field.

Members Absent: Shawn Connelly, Cecil Corbin-Mark, Mark Fitzsimmons, Richard Fuller, Robert Goldman, Robert Goldstein, Gil Hawkins, Preston Jenkins, Bill Koebbeman, Betty Koval, John Lawler, Aaron Mair, Roland Mann, Dan McGraw, John Reiger, Judy Schmidt-Dean, Julie Stokes, Mindy Wormuth.

Next meetings: The next CAG meeting is scheduled for February 5, 2009 at 1:30pm at the William Sanford Library in Loudonville, NY.

Action Items

- EPA – meet with agricultural representatives to gather input on the idea of baseline sampling of agricultural land in the floodplains.
- Admin Committee – develop schedule for 2009 CAG meetings.
- CBI and Admin Committee – include in upcoming agendas the topics of navigational dredging (with appropriate NRD or state participation) and water supply to towns.

Welcome, Introductions, Review of September Meeting Summary and Action Items

Facilitators welcomed everyone to the meeting, and the draft of the September meeting summary distributed in CAG folders was approved with no changes.

Floodplain Sampling Work Update

David Rosoff presented on floodplain sampling done following a September 8, 2008 Order on Consent. The presentation can be seen at: <http://www.hudsoncag.ene.com/documents.htm>. The data from this sampling will be used to start developing a remedial investigation plan for the floodplains. The goal of this sampling was to create a database.

80% of landowners accepted the requests for sampling, there was high community interest and good GE and EPA interactions with property owners on the river. 280 properties from Fort Edward to the Mohawk River at Troy were sampled. GE collected over 2200 samples with EPA oversight from approximately one thousand locations. Most samples were taken at depths of 0-6" or 6-12", and some were taken at 12-24". EPA took 144 random samples at 57 locations on 48 different properties.

The final samples were recently collected, and the data is being validated. Results should be in by the end of January 2009. Once the RI/FS is negotiated, there will be more extensive sampling of the floodplains.

CAG member discussion and questions focused on the following key topics and themes, with responses from EPA in italics:

- What was the rationale for selecting among possible sampling locations? *This sampling event was focused on human use areas, with some additional sampling of other environments to provide initial information on contamination levels of farms, forested wetlands, forests, etc.*
- It would be good for every farmer along the river to have baseline sampling done of current contamination levels prior to dredging. *EPA has sampled some agricultural land this fall and is developing a list of potential agricultural properties for future sampling. EPA is also evaluating the need for potential annual sampling of select floodplain locations..*
- How does this investigation fit with work being done to assess impacts on animals and natural resources? *This sampling was intended to find out what people might be exposed to in case interim remedial measures like capping would be appropriate. The remedial investigation will evaluate the impact on ecosystems, plants and animals. NRD trustees will have access to this information.*
- Did the remedial work done previously in the floodplains include removal? *No, the actions included capping and signage. The Record of Decision through the superfund process would recommend an overall remedy for the entire floodplain.*
- Would dredging be suspended in anticipation of a flood? *Dredging will cease when the river flows at 10,000 cubic feet per seconds (cfs) or above, which raises the river an average of about two feet.*

Waterline Update

David Rosoff presented on the construction of 4.5 miles of waterline from Troy to Halfmoon. The presentation can be seen at: <http://www.hudsoncag.ene.com/documents.htm>. The waterline construction is 38% complete, and is on schedule to be complete by April 1, 2009. The in-river section should be completed by February, as will the segment between Waterford and Troy. A

CAG member asked about the idea of using the waterline right of way access road on the Waterford Landfill as part of the canal towpath trail, and EPA said that private landowners have the right to decide whether to allow people on their property. EPA will send letters to Waterford and Mechanicville encouraging the towns to allow the access road to be used as a trail.

Dewatering Facility Construction Update and Overview of Site Tour

David King said that GE will be testing all systems at the dewatering facility within the month on 5,000 tons of clean sediment soils. They will run all monitoring systems including noise monitoring during the test. GE will also finish excavation of the 65' wharf cut out to achieve a full 14' of depth. That dredge material was tested and found to be free of PCBs.

Mr. King gave an overview of the dewatering plant and the places that CAG members and other participants would see on the tour after the CAG meeting. He presented a video that showed the inside of the dewatering facility, which can be seen at: <http://www.hudsondredging.com/>. There is redundancy in the dewatering, so that if there is a breakthrough of the carbon filters a secondary system is immediately activated.

Committee Business

Admin Committee: Warren Reiss and Chris DeBolt were added to the CAG Admin Committee, which also includes Robert Goldstein, John Lawler and Merylyn Pulver-Moulthrop.

Meeting Topics: CAG members discussed concern that the CAG had not discussed navigational dredging recently and that some of them had not heard from the towns about whether their concerns about water supply issues had been addressed. They asked the admin committee and CBI to develop these as topics for upcoming CAG meetings.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00pm, after which participants went on a tour of the dewatering facility.