

**Hudson River PCBs Superfund Site  
Community Advisory Group**

**Meeting Summary  
July 22, 2004  
12:30 pm to 3:45 pm  
Fort Edward Fire House**

**Members Attending:** Chris Ballantyne, Dan Casey, Jean Carlson, Kenneth DeCerco, Phil Dobie, Terri Egan, Richard Fuller, David Gordon, Manna Jo Greene, Paul F. Lilac, Roland Mann, Merrilyn Pulver, John Rieger, Rich Schiafo, Lois Squire, Julie Stokes, Jock Williamson, Jeff Williams

**CAG Liaisons Attending:** Steve Sweeney (NYSCC), Joan Gerhardt (GE), David King (EPA), Deanna Ripstein (NYSDOH).

**Others Attending:** Danielle Adams (EE), Fred Ellerbusch (TOSC/NJIT), Bryan Miner (USACE), JoAnne Raab (EE), Mark Behan (GE), David Kluesner (EPA), Doug Garbarini (EPA), Marian Olsen (EPA), Dianne Curtis, Alice Savasta, HC Covington, Linda Thorpe, John Mattison, Darleen Lundgren, Emil Lundgren, James Wilson, Steven Sweeney

**Facilitators :** Patrick Field

**Key Action Items**

1. EPA will issue a revised road map with any changes to the schedule from the Dredge Area Delineation Report deliberations as well as include key points in the development of the CHASP where the CAG and others can comment and influence the document. EPA will seek to incorporate key dates from NRTC and DEC activities and identify when labor issues (local jobs, etc) can begin to be substantively addressed.
2. CBI/EPA will work with Jean Carlson to arrange the next CAG meeting and a site tour in Schaghticoke.
3. EPA will provide data and appropriate maps to Ft. Edward and Washington County regarding 2003 sediment sampling.
4. EPA will gather NOAA flood plain data from their work and make that available to CAG members.
5. EPA will consider forming a working group of interested parties to discuss and address agricultural issues.
6. There will be a presentation in September regarding the dredge area delineation dispute resolution outcomes.

**Convening of Meeting**

The meeting began at approximately 12:30. Prior to that, about 50 -60 people attended the optional pre-meeting site tour at the Fort Edward Energy Park.

## **Reviews**

The June meeting summary was approved and action items reviewed.

## **Summary of 2003 Data Collection and Analysis**

EPA presented a summary of the 2003 data collection efforts. A fact sheet "Sediment Sampling Program 2003 Data Collection" was distributed. The information collected will be used to formulate the Dredge Area Delineation Report (DAD). The data summaries will be very complicated. EPA noted that extrapolating from the data to the areas delineated for dredging is complicated and will require some detailed explanation. EPA hopes to have public information available in Fall 2004. The exact dates depend on the dispute resolution. There will be two documents, one for Phase I and one for Phase II.

With regard to the dispute resolution process, EPA stated that both parties were working hard to come to an agreement but unfortunately it has caused a delay and the overall schedule had been affected. (Note: later in the meeting EPA issued a statement on the dispute resolution describing the final decision by the Regional Administrator. See attached listserv notice.) The delay should not affect the facility siting schedule, however, as it is on a different track.

## **Community Health & Safety Plan (CHASP)**

EPA presented an outline of the CHASP. The plan is in the very early stages and will be brought to communities and responders throughout the process. A CAG member suggested adding responders and equipment availability by location. The TOSC advisor will review the plan and provide comments.

## **Public Comment**

At the request of the group, public comments were taken before the break. A Fort Edward resident who worked for Scott Paper for 25 years and was exposed to PCBs expressed his opinion that the dredging should not be done. There were no other comments from the public.

## **Agricultural Issues and Floodplains Sampling Update**

EPA made a brief presentation on the floodplain sampling plan and the related agricultural issues. He stated that the levels of PCBs found in the floodplains have historically been generally low and are located at depth. There is therefore little concern about material coming

back into the river as a result of flooding. The target of the current investigations is residential areas within the floodplain. The preliminary work done before the 2002 Record of Decision (ROD) indicated that there is no cause for concern over agricultural lands/uses. There could be, however, residential risk exposures that are of concern. The 2002 ROD indicated that in the future (now) another look at residential properties in the floodplains might be needed to determine residential and ecological uses. A CAG member asked what risks are associated with children being exposed to PCB-contaminated soils and EPA responded that in addition to a higher rate of cancer, the non-cancer health effects have been seen on the immune system, low birth weights, and learning disabilities.

Regarding agriculture, the information used in the preliminary studies on the floodplains came from New York Ag & Markets and is confidential. That, combined with the way the data was stored makes it impossible for EPA to make more than general statements. The data is not coded in such a way that it can be compiled specifically for Washington County, for example, or other local areas. However, based on statistical analysis of the data, it is safe to assume that numerous dairy farms in the Washington/Saratoga county area were included as a representative sample in the database. And, in that database, none of the milk studies showed any indications of PCB contamination. This conclusion is backed up by what is known about PCBs and uptake in plants. A CAG member asked if there had been any studies on plants grown in PCB-contaminated soils and the answer was yes, and the outcome was that plants do not assimilate PCBs. A CAG member suggested setting up a group of affected parties to consider agricultural issues. Another member asked that the group be inclusive of diverse interests.

## **Updates**

*CAG Web Site.* The web site will be up and running by the next meeting.

*New Bedford Project Tour.* EPA is working on a tour to the New Bedford, MA dewatering facility for mid-October.

*Federal Grantors EPA-CAG Update.* The subcommittee on Federal Grantors met and talked about comprehensive plans and which agencies can attend the workshop (e.g. Brownfields interagency workgroup). It was determined that the NJIT is also involved in some ways. The Town of Bethlehem has a good outline for a community plan that may be useful to other communities as a guide. The Brownfield interagency work group may be able to meet with the CAG in October.

## **Agenda Items and Next Meeting**

The next CAG meeting will be September 23, 2004. Potential agenda items include:

- Cultural Resources workgroup briefing.
- Update from TOSC on CHASP outline.
- Floodplains update.

- Facility siting update.
- DAD dispute resolution issue.

### **Adjourn**

The supervisor from the Town of Schaghticoke read a statement prepared by the town's attorney regarding the potential siting of a dewatering facility within the town.

The meeting ended at 3:15 PM.