
Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial
Action Program (FUSRAP)

Maywood Chemical Company Superfund Site

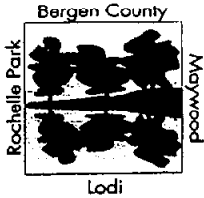
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Cooperative Guidance Group
P.O. Box 811 • Maywood, NJ 07607-0811

James Signorelli
Chairman

Stephen B. Ross
Facilitator

SUMMARY MINUTES OF JUNE 11, 1998 MEETING

FINAL

The Maywood Cooperative Guidance Group (CGG) met on June 11, 1998, at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers FUSRAP Public Information Center in Maywood, NJ. The meeting was convened at 7:09 p.m. by Chairman Jim Signorelli.

CGG members attending:

Lloyd Bartels
Mary Carton
Eugene Christian
John Filippone
John Perkins
Louise Ponce
Anthony Savarese
Jim Signorelli

Others attending:

J. DeCarlo
Dean Dresser, USACE
Sue Hopkins, USACE
Hany Lansing, USACE
Jerry McKenna, NJIT
Victor Ososkov, NJIT
Allen Roos, USACE
Charles Schneider
Lillian Single, Alliance to Protect Maywood
Natalae Tilmon, USACE
Scott Young, USACE

Ex-officio members attending:

Angela Carpenter, USEPA
Jim Taradash, Bergen Co. Health Dept.
Ben Wood, USACE

Contractors and subcontractors attending:

Richard Howard, Bechtel National Inc.
Joel Lesch, Bechtel National Inc.
Skap Rao, Bechtel National Inc.
Sarah Snyder, Bechtel National Inc.
Steve Ross, Holt & Ross Inc

Approval of Minutes

The summary minutes of the May 4, 1998 meeting were approved as amended.

Lillian Single said that the minutes should be more detailed in their account of the discussions during the meeting. For example, she said the summary of the May 4

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meeting did not include the comments from residents that the noise from the Stepan Company occurs around the clock.

CGG members said that minutes are supposed to be a summary of the discussions and actions at the meeting, rather than verbatim transcripts. But members agreed to tape future meetings and make those tapes available at the FUSRAP Public Information Center if people want to listen to them. The CGG also agreed to indicate that the written minutes were summaries of the meetings, and that tapes would be available of the entire proceedings, beginning with the July 13, 1998 meeting.

USACE Status Report

Ben Wood reported that work has progressed at the FUSRAP sites managed by the New York District. He said that work has begun at the Colonie Site in New York to identify the content of about 68 barrels of waste.

At the Middlesex Site, nearly 90 percent of the first pile has been removed for disposal at a licensed out-of-state disposal facility. Under the initial budget prepared by the U.S. Department of Energy, there was only enough funding to remove half the Middlesex Pile. Mr. Wood explained that lower disposal costs, plus additional funding, has resulted in plans to remove the entire pile this year. He said that was a significant milestone, because overall it would save FUSRAP about \$40 million because the New York District has been able to remove the Middlesex Pile this year. If the budget remains at current funding levels, those savings ultimately mean more money for the Maywood Site.

At the Wayne Site, the contractor is excavating material. The problem is that there is not enough money to keep the contractor working constantly, he said.

Mr. Wood said that at the Maywood Site, the New York District will have removed by the end of June the same amount of contaminated material that the previous agency planned to remove for the entire year. However, he said there still are some things that can be improved. He said the Assistant Secretary of the Army recently toured the properties as part of the evaluation of the New York District's request for more funding. He added that the General Accounting Office was reviewing FUSRAP and that auditors may come to the site.

Another \$1.6 million has been moved from the Colonie Site to the Maywood Site. Mr. Wood said he has asked for an additional \$6 million, which would have to come from another district.

He added that the Army Corps is finding more contaminated material than originally estimated, generally deeper than anticipated. In one case, he explained, the contamination extended onto a property where no work was planned. But Mr. Wood said the Army Corps is ahead of schedule and hoping for additional funding to do more properties.

Mr. Wood also informed the CGG that the New York District must solicit a new contractor for the site. The existing contract is valid for only five years, and 1998 is the

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final year. The Army Corps will competitively bid the work, and Bechtel will be allowed to compete, he said. It is hoped that the new contract will be in place by the end of the year so that work can begin in 1999.

John Filippone asked which new property has been identified for remediation. It is 46 Long Valley, which shares a common boundary behind Hancock Street.

Mr. Filippone said he didn't understand why the Army Corps would need to come back in and do work when an independent survey had verified that there wasn't any contamination requiring remediation. He said he was concerned about the accuracy of the surveys.

Richard Howard said that sometimes the contamination unexpectedly crosses a property boundary because the properties are in the flood plain of the Lodi Brook. There might be little fingers from the brook that once deposited material.

Mr. Filippone said he was assured after the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) performed the remediation that the independent verification contractor confirmed that the properties were successfully remediated. He said that his neighbors also are concerned about the need to go back onto their properties and do more work.

Hany Lansing of the Army Corps said that access to previously-remediated properties is necessary in order to complete remediation of 10 Hancock Street.

Mr. Filippone said he wanted reassurance about the property. Mr. Wood said the Army Corps would review the issue.

Mary Carton asked why the contamination did not show up previously? She wondered if there was additional contamination that hasn't been found.

Mr. Wood explained that one of the problems with a survey is that it is not 100 percent absolute. The surveys use the best instrumentation available and remain the best tool. But when the Army Corps is actually removing the material, the work is monitored until all the contamination has been removed.

Mr. Christian asked how there could be discrepancies between the surveys and the actual field conditions. Mr. Wood said the cleanup standard for the residential properties is 5 picocuries per gram, and that is a summation of averages over a certain area. The Army Corps has a nationally recognized lab that comes in to do the work. Someone new might get a different number, but for the sum of the averages, there should not be much difference.

Mr. Savarese noted that some landlords still have not received rent payments. Dean Dresser told the group that the New England office is cutting checks that are to be express-mailed on June 11 and 12. She said she had called all the landlords to let them know the status of the payments.

Mr. Wood also introduced Allen Roos, one of the project engineers.

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Status of the Proposed Plan

Steve Ross noted that representatives of the New Jersey Institute of Technology were in attendance at the meeting. He asked them to report on their status in supporting the CGG in preparing for the evaluation of the proposed plan for the Maywood Site.

Jerry McKenna introduced Dr. Victor Ososkov, who will be helping the CGG understand the technological approaches and other information members will need to know in order to review the plan.

Jim Signorelli asked if there was additional information that needed to be provided to the NJIT staff. He also asked if the CGG had missed anything, based on its first report to the Army Corps.

Mr. McKenna said they still were learning about the site, but that there were some documents they would need. He said they cannot make any judgments now about the alternatives until the proposed plan is issued. But he said they could have some discussions with the CGG about generic technologies and how they work in anticipation of the proposed plan's release.

Mr. Signorelli said that they could coordinate their requests through him. Mr. Filippone said he would like to see the list of requested documents and have the materials forwarded by the CGG.

Mr. Wood asked the CGG if having NJIT support through the Technical Outreach Services for Communities (TOSC) program meant that the Army Corps did not have to pursue hiring an independent contractor. Mr. Signorelli said that was correct.

Mr. Ross said it would be helpful if the NJIT staff would attend the July meeting of the CGG. He then asked Mr. Wood when the proposed plan was expected to be released for public comment.

Mr. Wood said that the Army Corps is resolving comments from EPA's National Remedy Review Board.

Angela Carpenter distributed a copy of the Remedy Review Board's comments. She said the Remedy Review Board asked the Army Corps to reassess its assumptions about future land use if the properties weren't remediated for unrestricted use. She said the Remedy Review Board also asked the Army Corps to determine what it would take to get these properties off the books and limit the tracking that is necessary with use of institutional controls to prevent unsuitable land use.

She also noted the Remedy Review Board referred to guidance that determined that 15 picocuries per gram is an unsuitable level for backfill. The Army Corps is responding to these comments and how to incorporate some of the suggestions.

Louise Ponce asked what the preferred alternative is. Ms. Carpenter indicated that the excavation scenario was the preferred alternative to the Remedy Review Board. However, the board members were briefed about all the alternatives for the site.

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Mr. Savarese wanted to know if the Army Corps had to follow these suggestions. Ms. Carpenter said EPA takes the Remedy Review Board very seriously and that if EPA disagrees with the Army Corps remedy, EPA will select one it prefers.

Ms. Ponce asked if the Remedy Review Board thought that the Army Corps should remediate beneath the roadways. Ms. Carpenter said that it may be possible to get easements from the various authorities to obtain access to the contaminated soils. But if the cost is too prohibitive, we need to make other arrangements to ensure that people are not digging up the street willy nilly.

She added that a lot of these issues get addressed in the remedial design phase of the process.

Mr. Signorelli asked if the Remedy Review Board had evaluated the soil washing data. Ms. Carpenter said that it did, adding that the board believed that the Army Corps may be overestimating the efficacy of this treatment method.

She also told the CGG that she had received permission to distribute the Remedy Review Board comments to the group.

Mr. Ross asked if the proposed plan might be ready for public comment at the end of the summer. Mr. Wood said he wasn't sure if it would be available before or after Labor Day. He reminded the group that not having a proposed plan in place did not delay ongoing work.

Mr. Ross asked what, if anything, should the CGG be doing between now and the release of the proposed plan to provide well-considered comments in time for the Army Corps to receive them and have those comments be as relevant as possible so they have an impact on the final plan.

He said the CGG might use future meetings to review information about the site or focus on refining the community concerns about the site. He said some of the issues have been addressed by the Remedy Review Board. But he added that the CGG really hasn't had a prolonged substantive discussion focusing on the community issues that the Army Corps is going to have to address. He said he believed there would be benefit to providing that information to the Army Corps and EPA.

Mr. Wood said that the Army Corps needed to complete its analysis before it could know what additional input from the CGG might be useful.

Mr. Filippone suggested that the CGG prioritize the list of community concerns, such as noise levels associated with remediation.

Mr. Savarese asked if the Army Corps had approached commercial property owners. Mr. Wood said not yet. Mr. Savarese suggested that commercial property owners be informed about the CGG's existence and role in providing community input on remediation of commercial properties.

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Lloyd Bartels asked if there were something that could be done about the negative perception of Maywood as a contaminated community. The CGG members discussed whether it was appropriate to try and communicate about the Superfund sites. Mr. Wood noted that the Army Corps had agreed to speak to the local Board of Realtors, but that the meeting hasn't been scheduled. The members asked what people are told about the site.

Sarah Snyder said that people requesting information are referred to the FUSRAP Public Information Center, where they can review documents. They also are given a copy of the Maywood Site fact sheet and can review the maps indicating where radioactive contamination has been identified. She said the Army Corps has requested a new fact sheet and an updated map for the public.

Mr. Bartels said that misinformation is hurting the entire community. Mr. Ross said that while it is possible to say that specific properties have never been designated for cleanup, the problem is that no one can say that any property in Maywood is not contaminated with something, given the nature of the urban area.

Mr. Wood said he would discuss this with the state as well.

Mr. Christian asked Mr. Wood that he be invited to any Army Corps meeting with the borough council. Mr. Wood agreed to inform the CGG when the Army Corps is invited to such meetings.

Cleanup Certification Letter

Mr. Wood said the Army Corps did not have any new information about what kind of letters would be developed for property owners.

Mr. Savarese stressed the importance of providing homeowners with written documentation that remediation was complete. Ms. Carpenter said the letters must come from the Army Corps. She said the CGG should not focus too much on delisting the Site on the National Priorities List, as it will be a long process.

Mr. Wood said that the map showing what properties have been remediated will be updated. Mr. Ross asked if the map would be available for the July meeting. He also asked Mr. Wood to report on the status of developing the cleanup certification letter at the next meeting. Mr. Wood agreed.

Old Business

Membership

Mr. Ross noted that the CGG is now a 10-member board, because Mr. McKay and Mr. Recalde have resigned.

Municipal Meetings

Mr. Ross said John Perkins had volunteered at the last meeting to go to the various municipal committee meetings to tell the various governing bodies about the CGG in order to recruit participants. He suggested that this item be held until the July meeting

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because Mr. Perkins had to leave the meeting early.

New Business

Agenda for July meeting

Mr. Ross said the next meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. on July 13. Stepan Company has invited the CGG to tour its facility, prior to the meeting. CGG members agreed to meet in the Stepan parking lot at 6 p.m. for the tour.

The CGG decided to meet August 13 as well.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

The meeting adjourned at 9:41 p.m.

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