

M-768

Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP)

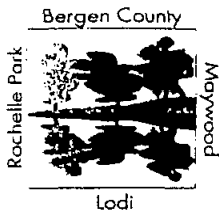
ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD

for the Maywood Site, New Jersey



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**

M-768



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

James Signorelli
Chairman

Stephen B. Ross
Facilitator

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Contact: James Signorelli, Chairman
(201) 845-7014

Maywood Citizens Advisory Group to Meet

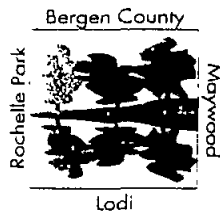
MAYWOOD, NJ, October 1, 1998 -- The Cooperative Guidance Group will meet at 7 p.m. Thursday, October 8, 1998, at the FUSRAP Public Information Center, 55 West Pleasant Avenue in Maywood. An agenda is enclosed.

The Cooperative Guidance Group is a citizens advisory board that provides input to the New York District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on issues related to the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP). The Corps assumed responsibility for managing FUSRAP in October 1997.

The Maywood Site includes residential, municipal and commercial properties in the boroughs of Maywood and Lodi and in the Township of Rochelle Park, all in Bergen County. The sites became contaminated by waste products generated by processing operations at the former Maywood Chemical Works between 1916 and 1959.

For more information about the Cooperative Guidance Group or the Maywood FUSRAP Site, please call (201) 843-7466 or visit the Public Information Center between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday, Wednesday or Friday.

###



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

James Signorelli
Chairman

Stephen B. Ross
Facilitator

MEETING AGENDA

October 8, 1998

- 7 p.m.** **Call to Order**
Reminder to sign in
- 7:05 p.m.** **Approval of Minutes**
August 13, 1998 CGG meeting
- 7:15 p.m.** **USACE Status Report**
Cleanup progress
Additional Phase I work
Status of letter to remediated property owners
Update on competitive procurement for Phase II work
Status of Proposed Plan availability schedule
- 8:00 p.m.** **USEPA Status Report**
TBA
- 8:15 p.m.** **Old Business**
- 8:30 p.m.** **New Business**
- 8:45 p.m.** **Public Comment**
- Adjourn**

SUMMARY MINUTES OF OCTOBER 8, 1998 MEETING

FINAL

The Maywood Cooperative Guidance Group (CGG) met on October 8, 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:

Mary Carton
Eugene Christian
Joel Cuccio
John Filippone
Louise Ponce
Tony Savarese
David Schlusel
Jim Signorelli

Others attending:

Sterrett Daniels, USACE
Patricia Halsey, USACE
Amos Heard, Bechtel National Inc.
Sue Hopkins, USACE
Hany Lansing, USACE
Danny Lee, USACE
Gladys Leddy
Khati Sawal, Bechtel National Inc.
Lillian Single, Alliance to Protect Maywood
Gene Urbanik, USACE

Ex-officio members attending:

Allen Roos, USACE
Jim Taradash, Bergen Co. Health Dept.

Contractors and subcontractors attending:

Skap Rao, Bechtel National Inc.
Sarah Snyder, Bechtel National Inc.
Steve Ross, Holt & Ross Inc

Approval of Minutes

The summary minutes of the August 13, 1998 meeting were approved as amended.

A tape of the meeting is available for review from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday at the FUSRAP Public Information Center, 55 West Pleasant Avenue, Maywood.

USACE Status Report

Allen Roos informed the CGG that Congress has passed the fiscal year 1999 budget, which is awaiting the President's signature. The Corps is operating under a continuing resolution and still doing work.

The Corps has completed remediation on the 15 fiscal year 1998 properties, and restoration is nearly complete for six of the 15. The remaining nine are in varying stages of restoration and the Corps plans to begin moving people back this month. The Corps also completed remediation on one fiscal year 1999 property and is completing restoration. Work is underway at another fiscal year 1999 property. The Corps also is proceeding with plans to remediate the remaining three residential properties, the Fire Station #2 and JFK Park in Lodi.

Mr. Roos said that attorneys for the Corps are working on the letter that will be sent to remediated property owners. Until that letter is available, the Corps will be issuing the Post-Remedial Action Report, which documents cleanup of the various properties. Post-Remedial Action Reports are scheduled to be released about six months after remediation is complete. The Post-Remedial Action Report should be sufficient for anyone seeking to sell his property, Mr. Roos said.

Mr. Roos said he is unable to provide a date for when the Proposed Plan will be released because the Corps still is finalizing the document and developing an Inter-Agency agreement about it with USEPA.

Gene Christian asked for a copy of the draft Proposed Plan developed by the U.S. Department of Energy in 1993. Mr. Roos said it is not available because it was never completed.

Mr. Roos said that the Request for Proposals for the Phase II work in Maywood has been issued. He said the Corps hopes to award the contract by the end of the year.

Sue Hopkins of the Corps Public Affairs Office said the Corps wants to convene a group of citizens to provide input on the best techniques for communicating with the public about FUSRAP. She said the Corps has learned that communication is essential. In addition, the Corps is required to review and update the Community Relations Plan for the Maywood Site every two to three years, and the last update was completed in 1995.

Therefore the Corps decided to convene a community working group to provide input on how to communicate better with interested and affected parties about FUSRAP. Ms. Hopkins said the Corps would like the CGG to be a part of that effort because of its experience with community issues. She said the Corps is proposing that the new group would meet once a month for about five months. The Corps will be soliciting members for this group. The Corps also will secure facilitation services for this new group in a competitive procurement. She also said that it was unclear whether the fiscal year 1999 budget would have funding to continue providing support to the CGG.

Ms. Hopkins said that while the Corps cannot delegate its responsibility for preparing the Community Relations Plan, it does want to have input from citizens on the methods and frequency of communication.

Steve Ross said the original mission of the CGG was to provide input on Phase II properties so that the input could be factored into development of the Proposed Plan. He said the new working group would focus on how to communicate with stakeholders, as opposed to remediation alternatives. The CGG has been addressing the substantive issues related to remediation alternatives as its primary focus, and not on communication methods.

Mary Carton said the CGG has been bringing issues to the Corps and that a working group would be redundant.

Mr. Schlüssel asked if the purpose of this working group is to help the Corps develop a plan for communicating. Ms. Hopkins concurred. She added that once the input on communication methods was transmitted to the Corps, the working group would be disbanded. She said the CGG is a separate group, with a separate mission.

Mr. Roos said it was his understanding that the CGG's mission was to provide input on the Proposed Plan. The Corps expanded the CGG's mission by asking it to provide input on Phase I remediation. The Corps still expects the CGG to comment on the Proposed Plan when it is released to public review.

Mr. Ross pointed out that the mission of the CGG is not clear-cut because the original mission statement for the CGG was developed under the aegis of another agency. Then the Corps assumed responsibility for the Maywood Site, after which the CGG's mission statement was updated and revised. He said there is language in the bylaws that addresses the CGG mission and termination of the group. However, the group's primary mission is to serve the needs of the agency that is responsible for the cleanup.

Several CGG members said they still were interested in participating as a group, but expressed concern about the Group's ability to function productively without a facilitator. They asked for more information about the new communications working group and the fiscal year 1999 budget.

Mr. Ross summarized the discussion. He said that the Corps has said that the CGG can continue to meet for as long as it wants and if invited, Corps personnel, also will attend. The Corps is not instructing the group to disband. Whether the Corps can invest finite resources into continued support of the CGG is undetermined. He suggested the Corps and the CGG revisit this subject at the Group's next meeting, on November 12.

Mr. Signorelli asked if work under the Phase II contract could begin without a Record of Decision. Mr. Roos said that there would be other work in preparation for remediation of the Phase II properties, including groundwater investigations.

USEPA Status Report

Nothing to report.

Old Business

Mr. Ross noted that any old business had been addressed in the USACE status report.

New Business

The next meeting of the CGG was scheduled for 7 p.m. on November 12.

Louise Ponce asked about the future of the Maywood Interim Storage Site. She said that on the Maywood master plan, the MISS may be used for residential and two-story high-rises.

Mr. Roos said the property is federally owned and that future use will be addressed in the Proposed Plan. Even if that property was cleaned up for unrestricted use, it would still have to go through a screening process to transfer that land. There is a lot more involved in the disposition of that property than cleaning it up.

Gene Christian said that the Maywood Borough Council had memorandum of understanding regarding the transfer of a parcel of the Stepan Company property to the federal government. Mr. Christian said that the borough has not received tax revenues on that property since then and because Maywood has suffered a loss of tax revenue, it is only fair for the government to offer the Maywood Interim Storage Site to the borough at a just price once remediation there is complete.

Public Comment

Lillian Single said that she and U.S. Rep. Rothman's Office were instrumental in returning Mrs. Leddy's phone to service.

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.