

NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
BROOKLYN-QUEENS AQUIFER FEASIBILITY STUDY
SPECIAL CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING: March 17, 2005

MINUTES

A special meeting of the Brooklyn-Queens Aquifer (BQA) Feasibility Study Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) was held on Thursday, March 17, 2005 at the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Training Room, 106-22A 180th Street, Jamaica. This meeting was called specifically to finalize the West Side Corporation (WSC) site Community Protection Plan (CPP) that was prepared for the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). (See Attachment A for Attendance List.)

Helen Neuhaus, Helen Neuhaus & Associates (HNA), opened the meeting by asking everyone to observe a moment of silence for CAC member Dr. Canute Bernard, who passed away earlier this week. After thanking the group for its reverence, Ms. Neuhaus reiterated that the common objective of the project team, CAC, and Scientific Review Panel (SRP) is to remediate the WSC site as quickly as possible in a manner that is thoroughly protective of the community. She then noted that the draft CPP provided tonight is a revised version of the draft provided at the March 3rd CAC meeting. Ms. Neuhaus explained that tonight's draft incorporates changes suggested by the project team and SRP during a conference call last week and in numerous emails from the SRP. She added that no comments have been received from CAC members since the last meeting, surmising that the CAC is either satisfied with the prior draft or is deferring to the SRP for guidance. She expressed hope that the CPP will receive CAC concurrence tonight, pending any final edits requested during the meeting.

Ms. Neuhaus began the discussion by citing the following revisions that have been incorporated in the most recent draft of the CPP:

Section 1.0 (Introduction)

- Explanation/description of Electrical Resistance Heating (ERH) system.

Section 2.0 (Community Involvement with West Side Corporation Site Activities)

- Description of CAC's role in helping to distribute information to community and receiving regular updates at bi-weekly progress meetings and monthly CAC meetings.
- Inclusion of information on training of security personnel, including emergency protocol to be followed in the event of an incident at the site.

Section 3.2.1 (Vapor Monitoring)

- Inclusion of new information on sensors to be used in connection with the ERH system to automatically notify Clayton of any system malfunctions.
- Revision of protocol in the event of a system shutdown to specify that Clayton will arrive at the site within 60 minutes and that indoor air monitoring will be conducted at the Atlantic Express Bus Company facility.

Section 4.1 (Vapor Emission Response Plan During Active Construction)

- Justification of 5 parts per million action level for perchloroethylene (PCE).

- Confirmation that background air readings will not be taken during intervals of high volatile organic compound generation, i.e. “the bus rush hours.”

Sections 5.1, 5.2 and 5.3 (Major Vapor Emission Response Plans During Active Construction and Active Remediation and Steps for Emergency Notification)

- Expansion of detail regarding use and application of vapor suppression foam.
- Reference to the response plan outlined in Section 4.2 (Vapor Emission Response Plan During Active Remediation) for protocol to be followed in the unlikely event of a major vapor emission during active remediation.
- Expansion of detail regarding Clayton’s communication with the New York City Police and Fire Departments, including the names and telephone numbers of their contact personnel.
- Elaboration of Clayton’s responsibilities during an incident, including a contingency plan in the event of a delayed 911 response.
- Addition of emergency contact numbers to the section on emergency notification.

Section 7.0 (Off-Site Spill Response)

- Transfer of contact information for the National Response Center to the section on soil transport routes.

Section 8.0 (Routes)

- Confirmation that York College is the only high profile facility along soil transport routes.

Section 9.0 (Other Contact Numbers)

- Addition of new section listing non-emergency contact numbers.

Attachments

- Inclusion of a Resident Comment/Complaint form for project staff to document non-emergency concerns and issues. It was noted that individuals contacting the project trailer would have their calls returned by a project team member within one business day.
- Inclusion of Citywide Incident Management System flowchart, as prepared by the New York City Office of Emergency Management.

The following suggested revisions were accepted for incorporation in the final draft of the CPP:

Section 1.0 (Introduction)

- Revision of introductory paragraph to define roles of URS and Thermal Remediation Services.

Section 3.2.1 (Vapor Monitoring)

- Revision of description of manual air monitoring and the telemetry system to convey key information in layman’s terms. (The more technical, detailed information is being provided as an attachment.)

Sections 4.0, 4.1 and 4.2 (Vapor Emission Response Plans During Active Construction and Active Remediation)

- Revision of headings to read: “Minor Vapor Emission Response Plan,” “Minor Vapor Emission Response Plan During Active Construction,” and “Minor Vapor Emission Response Plan During Active Remediation,” respectively.

Sections 5.1 and 5.3 (Major Vapor Emission Response Plans During Active Construction and Steps for Emergency Notification)

- Transfer of emergency contact numbers to the beginning of Section 5.3.
- Confirmation that local police and fire stations will receive a copy of the CPP via certified mail.

Section 6.0 (Odor)

- Revision to include description of the odor of PCE and to clarify that the CPP requires Clayton to maintain PCE levels well below the average odor threshold at all times.

Sections 8.1 and 8.2 (Hazardous and Non-Hazardous Soils Routes)

- Confirmation that rolloff containers carrying hazardous and non-hazardous soils will be securely covered during transport from the site.

Section 9.0 (Other Contact Numbers)

- Inclusion of contact information for Atlantic Express Bus Company.

Figures

- Expansion of Community Notification Area to include the area bounded by 110th Avenue, 178th Street and Sayres Avenue.

Attachments

- Provision of detailed information on the foam suppression system [deleted from Section 5.1].
- Provision of soil transport truck route descriptions [deleted from Sections 8.1 and 8.2].

Other issues raised during the discussion included the following:

- The project team clarified that the Resident Comment/Complaint Form will be used by project staff and security to document comments and complaints that are phoned in. The form is not intended for community distribution. Anyone with a concern or complaint regarding the WSC site clean-up will be directed to call the DEC on-site project trailer.
- Dr. Paul Lioy, University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, noted that Section 3.2.1 on manual air monitoring and telemetry should convey three points:
 - 1) Daily manual air monitoring will be conducted continuously throughout the construction and ERH startup periods.
 - 2) This will continue until it is determined that the system is operating at steady state (consistently and reliably, in accordance with project specifications).
 - 3) The ERH system's performance will then be monitored 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by means of an automated telemetry system; manual air monitoring will be performed weekly.

Jon Sundquist, URS, assured the CAC that Section 3.2.1 would be revised to highlight these points.

- In response to comments from the CAC, the project team noted that technical information was added to the revised CPP to address SRP concerns. Nicole Brown, Malcolm Pirnie, added that while the CPP does have a lot of technical detail, it is not the primary source of safety information for the community. Residences and businesses near the site will receive a

flyer that will use clear, concise language to outline the project, preventative measures being taken to protect the community, and emergency procedures in the event of an incident at the site.

- In response to a question from Kenneth Gill, it was confirmed that trucks carrying hazardous soil from the site will be appropriately placarded.

A motion was proposed to accept the CPP pending the revisions discussed tonight. Six members voted in favor of the motion, with zero opposed and zero abstentions. Ms. Neuhaus and Dave Chiusano, DEC, thanked the CAC and SRP for their hard work, as well as members of the project team, including Mr. Sundquist; Anders Brunelle, URS; Anita Wright, HNA; and Andrea Wong, HNA.

Brooklyn-Queens Aquifer Feasibility Study
Citizens Advisory Committee
Special Meeting to Finalize Community Protection Plan
Thursday, March 17, 2005

Attendance List

CAC Members/Alternates

Manuel Caughman
Community Board #12/Office of
New York State Assemblyman
William Scarborough

Jeff Diggs
Office of New York City Councilman
Leroy Comrie

Kenneth Gill
Addisleigh Park Civic Association

Linda Caleb Hazel
A Better Day Inc./St. Benedict The Moor/
St. Bonaventure

Irving Hicks
Brinkerhoff Action Association

Sarah Hicks
Brinkerhoff Action Association

SRP Members

Jack Caravanos
Hunter College

Paul Lioy
University of Medicine and Dentistry
of New Jersey

Project Team

Nicole Brown
Malcolm Pirnie, Inc.

Anders Brunelle
URS Corporation

David Chiusano
New York State Department of
Environmental Conservation

Don Cohen
Malcolm Pirnie, Inc.

Helen Neuhaus
Helen Neuhaus & Associates Inc.

Sara Pecker
New York City Department of
Environmental Protection

Jon Sundquist
URS Corporation

Andrea Wong
Helen Neuhaus & Associates Inc.

Anita Wright
Helen Neuhaus & Associates Inc.

Bill Yulinsky
New York City Department of
Environmental Protection