

Agenda

Attachment 1

Croton Facility Monitoring Committee Meeting

Thursday, June 2, 2005 – 6:30PM

Community Board #12 Office

4101 White Plains Road, Bronx NY 10466 (718) 881-4455

Father Richard Gorman, Chair Carmen Rosa, District Manager

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|---|---|
| I. Call to Order | Father Gorman- CB 12
6:30 PM - 6:35 PM |
| II. Explanation of CFMC Open Meetings | John Leonforte – DEP
6:35 PM - 6:40 PM |
| III. Comments from the Public | Signup & Speak–3 min max.
6:40 PM - 7:10 PM |
| IV. Presentation about Water Treatment Plant | Alan Natter-Hazen & Sawyer
7:10 PM - 7:30 PM |
| V. Wetlands Protection & Storm Water Management Programs | Bernard Daly - DEP
7:30 PM Begin |
| VI. Quality of Life Programs | Bernard Daly- DEP &
Richard Friedman – DEP |
| VII. Local Law 77/2003 & Air Monitor Status | Gerri Kelpin - DEP |
| VIII. Construction and Three Month Look Ahead Schedule | Bernard Daly - DEP
–End at 8:40PM |
| IX. Status - Local Jobs & Purchases | Richard Friedman, DEP
8:40 PM – 8:50 PM |
| <u>X. CFMC INPUT, QUESTIONS, COMMENTS</u> | 8:50 PM – 9:30 PM |
| (a) CFMC Discussion | |
| (b) Next Meeting | |
| Discuss Date of Next CFMC Meeting | |
| Topics for Presentation(s) at Next CFMC Meeting | |
| Material/Information at or in Advance of Next CFMC Meeting | |
| XI. Adjourn | Father Gorman
9:30 PM |

NYC DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING
CROTON FACILITY MONITORING COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY, JUNE 2, 2005 – 6:30PM
SUMMARY

The June 2005 meeting of the Croton Facility Monitoring Committee pursuant to City Council Resolution 933/1999 was held on June 2nd at the office of Community Board #12, 4101 White Plains Road, Bronx NY 10466. The names of the CFMC representatives and alternates, staff from DEP and its consultants, a representative of the State Senator and Assembly Member, and visitors are attached (*Attachment 1*).

The meeting commenced at approximately 6:30PM; an agenda (*Attachment 2*), which had previously been circulated to the CFMC, was distributed.

Welcome

Father Richard Gorman, Chairman of Community Board #12, welcomed the CFMC and the public to CB #12's office. He explained that New York City has recently completed an upgrade to the Board's office, resulting in space which both preserves the historic elements of the building and is suitable and comfortable for Board activities. Fr. Gorman said that the work of the CFMC is important, and the community is pleased to host tonight's meeting.

Open Meeting Format

John Leonforte, Director of Intergovernmental Coordination and Outreach for the Bureau of Environmental Engineering, said that the CFMC members and representatives decided CFMC meetings should be open to the public so that interested persons can view presentations about the Croton Filter Project and listen to the CFMC's discussions. It was decided to provide time at the beginning of the meeting for the public to speak. Mr. Leonforte called upon the three speakers who signed up to comment:

Fay Muir of Clean Water for Bronx (CWB) said she had long been interested in the project and was following its construction. Impacts on the environment in the areas of traffic and air quality are of particular concern to her. She is concerned about the chemicals that will be brought to and stored at the site, and said that protection must be in place so that catastrophes such as the recent collapse of the retaining wall adjacent to the Henry Hudson Parkway won't happen at Croton.

Ashley Diaz of COVE said that she lives across the street from the Croton Filter Project site and has been hospitalized for asthma many times. She has missed 44 days of school, and is concerned that locating the plant in her neighborhood will result in worsening her asthma and impacting the health of others.

Lowell Green of College Gardens Co Op said that there are 120 units in her building, many young and many elderly reside there. She said her building is 10 minutes from the

Croton Filter Project site. She is particularly interested in use of ultra low sulfur diesel (ULSD) at the site to minimize air pollution.

Mr. Leonforte thanked the speakers and said that some of their comments would be addressed during presentations made by DEP and its consultants. He introduced Alan Natter of Hazen and Sawyer to describe water treatment facilities, why one is necessary at Croton, and how it will operate.

Design, Construction and Operations of Water Treatment Plants

Mr. Natter made a 20 minute presentation about water treatment plants in general and the Croton Filter Plant specifically. He explained that these facilities are in use throughout the US and abroad, and that New York City is one of the few water suppliers not previously required to treat its potable surface water. A federal mandate to treat the water from the Croton reservoir system now requires that the Croton Filter project be built. Mr. Natter described how the Croton Filter Plant will process water from the Croton system, and direct the treated water into the city's distribution system. He reviewed the chemicals that are part of the treatment process, and explained their typical household uses.

Fr. Gorman and Saul Scheinbach questioned the proximity of the golf course to the facility, and raised concerns about plant security. Joe Gordon, Council Member Koppell's representative, commented on measures that are taken throughout the world to assure site safety. Mr. Natter also described some of the safety elements as part of the project's design.

Fr. Gorman requested that DEP present security-related information at the next CFMC meeting, and DEP agreed. Fr. Gorman asked whether coordination occurs with NY Police Dept. DEP Deputy Commissioner Warren Kurtz said that DEP police coordinate with NYPD police and that, while DEP will talk about security in general, security procedures will not be disclosed, in keeping with the city's homeland protection policies.

Follow up: DEP will arrange for presentation about security at the Croton Filter Plant for next CFMC meeting. (Kurtz) Note: Chief Edward Welch will attend the next CFMC meeting.

Ken Parr asked about the number of trucks that will bring chemicals to the plant each week. Mr. Natter said he would provide the information.

Follow up: Provide the number of truck trips that will bring chemicals into the Croton Filter Project site when the plant is operational. (Natter) Note: At average plant flow and average chemical usage, it is estimated that 16 delivery trucks a week will service the plant.

Mr. Parr said that recent taste tests of NYC's drinking water indicate that the city has the best tasting water in the country. He encouraged the public to call 311 to obtain the city's drinking water survey results, and to ask for a free test kit so that persons can get information about their water at the tap.

Mr. Scheinbach questioned Mr. Natter about future construction activities at Goulden Avenue when the treated Croton water is being connected to the city's distribution system. Mr. Natter stated that the work would be minor in nature. Nonetheless, the work would be planned to minimize the impact on the neighboring schools.

Lyn Pyle asked Mr. Natter for clarification about raw water and treated water when they are side-by-side at Jerome Park Reservoir. He said that much of the work within the existing JPR gatehouses would be done to prevent the possibility of the untreated water getting into the treated water system, by permanently closing off current connections, once the plant is in operation.

Ms. Green requested that Fr. Gorman ask Mr. Natter to show where the project's vents will be located. Mr. Natter said that the design of these features has not yet been finalized. Details will be shared with the CFMC when they become available.

Wetlands, Storm Water Management, Quality of Life

Bernard Daly made a presentation about his role, the role of the Construction Manager on the project, the community office that is open near the site, and he introduced Robert Barnes and Elena Gracia who are staffing the office.

Wetlands: Mr. Daly spoke about the wetlands near the site and measures to ensure that the wetlands are preserved and undamaged by the construction work. Wetlands are protected by concrete barriers, chain link fence and silt fence, also the ground water table is being monitored to check that it is not lowered or lowering.

Storm Water Management: Mr. Daly spoke about how DEP and the contractor manage storm water at the site. He explained the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation's Storm Water Management regulations and the Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan developed for the project. Mr. Daly presented highlights of the state regulations and the site specific plan that will control storm water discharges and prevent soil erosion at the site.

The project's state permit became effective on December 13, 2004. A copy of the Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan is available for public review at DEP's community office. Mr. Daly said that the Croton Filter Project's Storm Water Management Plan is a living document that will be updated as the project enters new phases of construction.

Noise: Mr. Daly said that the project work is not causing excess noise levels in the nearby community. In answer to Mr. Scheinbach's question, Mr. Daly said that there have been occasional noise readings that exceeded the allowable limits, but that they

were caused by the Transit Authority's (NYCTA) construction work on Jerome Avenue. He said noise exceedances were not due to DEP's project. Mr. Scheinbach requested noise monitoring information, and DEP said it would be provided.

Follow up: Provide noise monitoring information (Daly) Note: Noise readings were provided to the CFMC on June 9th via email.

Clean Site: Mr. Daly said that cleanliness is required of the contractor who must keep roadways clear of debris, and must wash and cover trucks departing the site. He said that Jerome Avenue is a problem area because pedestrians and motorists sometimes discard debris and food wrappings improperly.

Trucks: Mr. Daly said that truck traffic is being kept out of the nearby community, and that parking by the contractor's employees is in the old Clubhouse Parking Lot and Shandler recreation parking area, not on community streets. In response to Mr. Scheinbach's question, Mr. Daly said that there are approximately 100 total truck trips in/out of the site at this time. They begin transport at 7:00 AM and finish by 3:30 PM. Mr. Daly said that Gerry Kelpin of DEP would provide more information about vehicular air pollution controls later in the meeting.

Rodent control: There is an active pest control program included in the project, and Mr. Daly spoke about the rat prevention activity under DEP's Rodent Control Program. The program has been reviewed by Dr. Bruce Colvin, a well known pest control expert. Bait stations have been installed around the site and in some manholes along Jerome Ave. Rodent activity around the site is minimal and weekly monitoring will continue. DEP is also removing debris from both sides of Jerome Ave. in the vicinity of the site. During a preconstruction survey only one rat burrow was found at the perimeter of the construction site. This program will continue throughout construction

Exterminators have looked at properties and manholes in the area. In coordination with the NYC Dept. of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOH), DEP will be providing garbage cans to certain residential properties in the community. Based on the need, about 500 garbage cans will be distributed to owners/managers of residential properties that are in need of cans with lids and better garbage disposal procedures. Approximately 100 garbage cans will be retained by DEP for replacement or future use. DOH has installed monitoring stations, primarily along Jerome Avenue, and responds to problem areas as needed.

Minimize and Monitor Air Pollution

Ms. Kelpin, Director of DEP's Environmental Programs and Enforcement, said that her office is responsible for two components of air pollution control for the Croton Filter Project. She explained the history and purpose of Local Law 77/2003 which was enacted as a result of the city's effort to minimize air pollution during intensive reconstruction in Lower Manhattan. The equipment used for Croton construction is required to comply with strict air pollution controls to minimize impacts to the surrounding community.

In June 2004 DEP issued a draft rule to effect the provisions of Local Law 77. DEP received extensive comments from environmental organizations, the City Council, and the construction industry, none of which endorsed the initial proposed wording of the rule. DEP took comments under consideration and has been meeting with legislative staff, the industry and environmental groups during the past year to revise the rule. DEP is preparing a new draft rule and notice. Ms. Kelpin said that publication of the rule for public review is expected in the near future.

Construction projects initiated prior to the end of 2004 are not required to follow LL 77. Construction projects initiated after December 2004 by city agencies are required to follow LL 77. Although the Croton Filter Project commenced prior to December 2004, DEP committed to follow LL 77 as construction proceeds, but to do so necessitates detailed study.

Ms. Kelpin spoke about pollution reductions achievable at the site by Diesel Particulate Filters (DPFs) and Diesel Oxidation Catalysts (DOCs). DPFs may be affixed to some of the contractor's on site equipment, but most equipment cannot accommodate DPFs because of space needed to install them. DOCs may be installed on more equipment, but they result in less pollution reduction. She said that each piece of equipment must be analyzed for the retrofit that can be achieved. Meetings with and outreach to manufacturers are underway to learn about specifications for retrofit on each piece of equipment. This is a time consuming process.

Mr. Kurtz encouraged the CFMC to consider supporting installation of DOCs now to obtain a measure of pollution reduction sooner. Mr. Gordon asked how much particulate matter is reduced by DPFs (90%) and by DOCs (20 -30%). Several CFMC members (Ms. Pyle, Mr. Gordon, Mr. Scheinbach) discussed the pros and cons of retrofitting equipment. Mr. Scheinbach said that the CFMC might support DOCs if DPFs were installed at a later time.

Ms. Kelpin said that on-road trucks removing soil and rock are using ULSD but that supplies of the fuel are scarce. Moreover, subcontractors' non-dedicated vehicles that are used at the Croton site as well as at other construction sites might fuel up elsewhere and come to the Croton site without ULSD in their tank. Ms. Pyle pressed to ensure that trucks use ULSD. She said that even with pollution controls, diesel particulate matter travels into the community.

Ms. Kelpin said that she is preparing a proposal for air monitoring at Croton upon the request of DEP Commissioner Emily Lloyd. The Commissioner asked Ms. Kelpin to recommend a scientific air monitoring program and its costs. Since Ms. Kelpin had not yet discussed the details of a program with the Commissioner, she was unable to present it at this meeting. Ms. Kelpin said, however, that three elements of good practice are being used by the contractor. They are dust control, reducing emissions on site by purchasing and using modern construction equipment, and the use of ULSD.

Messrs. Gordon and Scheinbach said that a scientific air monitoring program is essential even if the contractor is using good pollution minimization techniques. They asked Ms. Kelpin to present her air monitoring proposal at the next CFMC meeting. Mr. Scheinbach emphasized that any further delays would give the public cause to believe that DEP is not doing enough to curtail air pollution.

Follow up: Discuss air monitoring program specifics with CFMC at its next meeting (Kelpin). Note: Ms. Kelpin will provide an update on 7/7/05.

Current construction activities

Mr. Daly showed slides of the construction activities that are underway at Croton. He showed the asphalt paving at 233rd Street and the I-87 Ramp, the concrete roadwork at the new site entrance/exit roads. The concrete retaining wall alongside 233rd Street has been completed. Stone facing is to be installed. TCAs at the Croton site have helped manage the traffic. A left turn signal for southbound traffic exiting the Major Deegan Expressway onto 233rd Street has been installed and is operative.

Mr. Daly said that Woodlawn Cemetery officials will restore the sidewalk in front of the Mausoleum. In the meantime, DEP placed barriers along the roadway for pedestrian safety.

Mr. Daly showed photos of the project site, sheeting wall, noise attenuation barriers, rock drilling, and truck wash.

Mr. Daly explained that during controlled blasts – which are needed for rock excavation – NYCTA’s elevated subway line is not being impacted, as it is over 350’ away from the location of the blasting. The 200’ safety zone for blasting has had a negligible impact on the park and the golf course areas. Vibration monitoring is being conducted, with monitors placed adjacent to the NYCTA’s columns and at other locations around the site. Controlled blasting occurs between 7:30AM and 6:00PM on weekdays, and will continue for another approximately 23 months.

Mr. Daly said that DEP has approved the contractor’s dirt truck plan. Fr. Gorman reiterated that truck traffic must be kept off residential streets.

Local Purchases & Hiring

Richard Friedman, DEP, said that a significant percentage of the contractor’s workforce is comprised of Bronx residents. In addition, DEP is keeping its commitment to purchase goods and services for the Croton project from Bronx-based businesses. For example, most of the equipment and office supplies for the DEP community office have come from local suppliers.

CFMC Discussion

CFMC representatives discussed the time and date of the next CFMC meeting. Several requested no evening meetings, especially during the summer. Others said that they want

to meet in July. It was eventually agreed that the next meeting would be held on Thursday, July 7th beginning at 5:30PM at a location within Community District 7.

Fr. Gorman and Mr. Leonforte closed the CFMC meeting at approximately 9:55PM.

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Father Richard Gorman	Community Board #12 Chair	4101 White Plains Road Bronx, NY 10466	(718) 881-4455	(718) 231-0635	CB12CLA@optonline.net
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