

Pompton Lakes Environmental Community Advisory Group (CAG)
DRAFT February 1, 2012 Meeting Summary
7:00 PM – 9:30 PM

Pompton Lakes High School Media Center, 44 Lakeside Avenue, Pompton Lakes, NJ

Meeting Facilitator: CAG Member John Soojian

Members and Alternates Present: Steve Grayberg (Pompton Lake Restoration Committee), John Soojian (Acid Brook Vicinity), Bill Pendexter (Hydrologist, Non-Plume Resident), Art Kaffka (Chamber of Commerce), Liz Kachur (In-Plume Resident), Jimmy Rose (In-Plume Resident), Ella Filippone (Passaic River Coalition), Michele Belfiore (Pompton Lakes Residents for Environmental Integrity) Ed Meakem (alternate Pompton Lakes Residents for Environmental Integrity), Anne Silversey (alternate Acid Brook Vicinity)

Members Not Present: Abby Novak (Pompton Lakes Environmental Committee)

Ex Officio Members Present:

Pompton Lakes Borough Council: Councilman Bill Baig and Councilman Mike Serra
US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA): Adolph Everett, Clifford Ng, Ariel Iglesias, David Kluesner

NJ Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP): Anthony Cinque, Mindy Mumford
Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR): Leah Graziano

NJ Department of Health & Senior Services (NJDHSS): Katharine McGreevy, Somia Aluwalia

Public Present: Barbara Doka, Jefferson LaSala, Carolyn Fefferman, Ed Merrill, Karen Magee, Joe Filippone, Debbie Priestner, George Popov, Maria Kent, Nancy Chou, Joel Schectman, Karen Manneback, Mike Forte

I. Welcome and Administrative Updates

John Soojian served as meeting facilitator and called the meeting to order. The January 18 CAG meeting summary was approved, as corrected (the January CAG meeting summary will be revised to show that Liz Kachur was present).

II. Ex Officio Updates

New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services (NJ DHSS) Update: Katharine McGreevy informed the CAG on the following:

- NJ DHSS plans to launch the Pompton Lakes Household Health Survey the first week of February. Approximately 450 households that are located above the groundwater contamination plume will be the focus of the health survey. The purpose of the Household Health Survey is to provide the NJ DHSS and the community with an understanding of whether there are health outcomes that are occurring more frequently than expected in the population of the plume area of Pompton Lakes.
- Over the next couple of weeks, NJ DHSS will send postcard notices to the eligible households, followed by detailed letters explaining the survey and encouraging participation. The postcards and letters will be sent out in four phases.

- Trained NJ DHSS staff will then conduct confidential telephone interviews with household representatives who agree to participate. The NJ DHSS expects to complete data collection by the end of April.
- NJ DHSS scientists will then analyze the survey data and prepare a summary report for the community and a CAG meeting will be scheduled to discuss the results.
- NJ DHSS will evaluate the findings from the household health survey along with the Community Health Profile, which is in the final stages of review, to determine whether additional public health investigations are warranted.

CAG members and the public had a number of questions about details of the survey and whether there will be comparisons of data to other towns. Comparisons will be made to national estimates of rates of the health outcomes included in the survey. NJ DHSS stated that they are following the interview protocol of the National Health Interview Survey. The survey does not cover the whole town, just the plume. The survey will cover multiple types of illnesses/diseases. This is first step to identify if there are elevated rates. There could be additional steps taken down the road.

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJ DEP) Update:

Ground Water and Pump & Treat Split Sampling: NJ DEP collected split samples with DuPont on November 15 from both on-site and off-site ground water monitoring wells. NJ DEP and DuPont results showed consistency between the two. Samples were analyzed in different labs. MW-28 deep well showed benzene at 2 ppb, an unknown source. 1,2-DCA was also detected and further investigation by DuPont will be performed to identify possible sources. NJ DEP will be meeting with DuPont on this matter.

EPA collected split samples of ground water influent and effluent (after treatment) with DuPont during the first week of November. This was the first time split sampling was performed for influent/effluent. EPA should have the results by the March 7 CAG meeting. The CAG requested a report out of the meetings between NJDEP and DuPont geologists on the 1,2-DCA issue.

Groundwater Contaminants of Concern Review Follow-up: NJ DEP reported that the plan is for DuPont to sample ground water monitoring wells on-site this spring for perchlorate and explosives, an outgrowth of the CAG's technical review of ground water contaminants of concern.

Status of Groundwater Remediation Pilot: Anthony Cinque provided an update on the status of the groundwater flow study. EPA's groundwater experts in Ada, OK reviewed the flow study results and they believe that there are other options and strategies. NJ DEP concurs with Ada's assessment. The flow study evaluated both the shallow and intermediate aquifers, but that the vapor intrusion effects are the result of contamination in the shallow aquifer. Flow velocity (determined by how fine or coarse is the granular material in the aquifer) and flow gradient (how steep or flat the layer of material is) are factors in the effectiveness of the biological treatment, but there is a range of acceptability with these factors which needs to be discussed. EPA and NJ DEP met with DuPont in December to discuss the ground water remediation technology pilot study. EPA and NJ DEP just received a revised pilot study implementation plan from DuPont.

During March/April DuPont should be starting to inject the lactate. Insitu chemical oxidation review indicates that biotreatment is better. EPA and NJDEP also just received a draft report on improving the shallow groundwater remedy, in response to agency comments. CAG suggested that DuPont should present on shallow ground water technology and bioremediation at the CAG's April meeting. As early as May/June, DuPont may begin injection of clean water in the West area of the plume in shallow aquifer to move ground water down gradient faster to reduce vapors. This may require new infiltration beds, and the NJDEP discharge to groundwater permit may also need to be modified. The public requested appropriate notification be provided in advance of implementation of pilot activities.

Additional Delineation of Eastern Manufacturing Area: NJ DEP has informed DuPont that additional characterization is necessary before the Remedial Investigation Report (RIR) can be approved and a draft Remedial Action Selection Report (RASR) prepared for the EMA. Soils and ground water reports will be separated to expedite soils review and development of remedial options. A RIR Addendum for the EMA was submitted to the agencies a couple days before the CAG meeting in response to NJDEP comments. This identifies supplemental work (additional GW sampling for perchlorate and explosives and additional delineation). Work to be done in the Spring 2012. The CAG suggested that DuPont be asked to present at the March 7 CAG meeting.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Updates:

Update on Bathymetric survey of Lake Bottom: DuPont performed the survey, but the results were not yet provided to EPA.

Acid Brook Sampling Update: Adolph Everett provided EPA's update to the CAG. In response to the CAG's request and draft resolution on Acid Brook sampling, on November 2, 2011 EPA staff collected surface water and sediment samples at four locations on the DuPont property: one at each of the two tributaries that join to form the Acid Brook, and two down gradient locations, Location 09, at the weir (to measure water flow leaving Retention Pond 1) just down gradient of the guard house, and Location 10 (spillway of Retention Pond 2) at the property boundary where the Acid Brook discharges off-site. The purpose of sampling was to determine whether site contaminants were migrating off-site. Sampling results were validated by EPA in late December. EPA reviewed and interpreted the results in January.

Mercury was detected in sediment at the two down gradient, on-site locations at 2.3 and 13 parts per million (ppm). The detected levels of mercury are below both the current New Jersey residential direct contact soil standard (23 ppm) and the former standard (14 ppm). Detected levels of lead in sediment at the down gradient locations were far below both New Jersey soil standard.

The results for surface water samples: neither lead nor mercury was detected in surface water samples collected from Acid Brook at the same locations where mercury and lead were detected in sediment. Tetrachloroethene (PCE) was detected in both down gradient surface water samples collected from Acid Brook at levels that exceed the New Jersey fresh water human health standard. Detected levels of PCE were 1.6 parts per billion (ppb) and 1.2 ppb. The New Jersey standard is set at 0.34 ppb.

EPA staff (Mark Reiss) walked the Acid Brook on January 25, from the lake to the DuPont site property boundary to survey the brook for “sediment inventory”. The survey indicates a lack of a significant sediment source in Acid Brook. Approximately 50% of the run of Acid Brook is bounded by retaining walls. Most of Acid Brook is lined with rock. Sediment that is present is located at the outfalls of storm sewers coming from the neighborhood, not from the site.

The exceedence of the PCE surface water human health standard does raise an issue that requires further assessment and follow-up, but is not likely to affect water flowing into Pompton Lake. PCE would likely attenuate long before reaching the Acid Brook Delta. EPA and NJ DEP are reviewing possible next steps, such as refinement of the on-site groundwater monitoring well network or modeling to improve contaminant delineation. EPA believes that there is very little potential for Acid Brook sediment or surface water to re-contaminate Pompton Lake because of lack of a significant sediment source in Acid Brook and the absence of lead and mercury in Acid Brook water. EPA and NJ DEP will evaluate alternatives to address the mercury/sediment results.

Update on lake remediation comment process: Adolph Everett reported that EPA is still evaluating comments received from the public and is also awaiting comments from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Some CAG members expressed concern that the science behind the proposed permit modification is being overshadowed by adverse comments.

III. CAG Work Group Updates

- Lake Remediation Work Group: Steve Grayberg reported that January was filled with a number of lake remediation issues, including the January 5 public hearing and the public comment period. The work group noted that the Pompton Lake Restoration Committee is working to get grant money. They are consulting with Ella Filippone (Passaic River Coalition) to focus on lake water quality issues unrelated to the DuPont site, e.g., bacteria, pathogens from local and upstream sources. A meeting will be held on February 16 in the Pompton Lakes Civic Center to discuss possible grants sources. February 13 is the date of the Lake Restoration Committee meeting.
- Technical Work Group: Bill Pendexter reported that the work group has not met lately. They will meet soon to go over the Eastern Manufacturing Area additional delineation work. The CAG and members of the public asked if they can get a copy of the Eastern Manufacturing Area RIR Addendum. The work group may focus a technical review on this. At the CAG’s suggestion, It was noted that the 2010 RI reports for the three site manufacturing areas are the latest versions, with the exception of the recently submitted addendum for the Eastern Manufacturing Area. EPA suggested that the work group review possible technical assistance needs through TASC.
- Outreach Work Group: John Soojian reported that the work group has received EPA’s compiled canvassing results from multiple campaigns urging plume residents to have a vapor mitigation system installed. The work group plans on conducting follow up canvassing that will build off both EPA’s work and the canvassing performed by the CAG in late 2011. EPA handed out a vapor mitigation system installation summary by

year and quarter. The CAG appreciated the system install history and summary. More detail was requested by the CAG on those systems that are in the pipeline.

- Property Valuation Work Group: Michele Belfiore requested that a full discussion of property valuation be postponed to March 7 meeting due to a packed February meeting agenda. She requested to be first on the agenda for March 7. Michele indicated that the work group will push DuPont for a property value protection plan for plume residents. The work group feels that many members of the media, attorneys, real estate agents and others are not informed on real estate values in the plume, plume problems and vapor mitigation systems. Michelle's research on Pompton Lakes vs. Wanaque home values indicates that there is about an \$8000 drop in Wanaque home values vs. a \$35,000 drop in Pompton Lakes home values. Councilman Mike Serra reported that the Borough is seeking members of the public to come forward with re-financing problems for the Borough to review possible actions to take. Residents are having problems getting letters of denial from the lender. A member of the public suggested that the Borough and EPA work with service institutions such as the Boy Scouts and the high school to deliver information pertinent to the plume/town. Need to pressure DuPont to sponsor low interest loans. Need to come together as a community to do something positive to help the plume residents. Liz Kachur prepared a preliminary draft resolution that will be discussed next month. The resolution would urge DuPont to put together a plume home value protection plan. Michele reminded the CAG that she still is in need of a brochure from DuPont (house specific) that explains the testing, explains the house test results. This could be used in selling the house. Bill Pendexter said there is a Pompton Lakes specific brochure prepared by Tom Hatton.

IV. Administrative

- NJDEP requested sufficient lead time in agenda planning. Steve Grayberg expressed his understanding of the request and will work quickly with the Executive Committee to plan ahead.
- The CAG Executive Committee is discussing who from the CAG should represent the CAG at future Borough meetings or planning board hearings. Those attending the Feb 21st hearing should speak on their own behalf. Steve Grayberg sought consensus on speaking on behalf of the CAG and filling voids with CAG members. Steve Grayberg concluded that the CAG gave its permission to address Mayor and Borough Council about the Future Use Work Group and the CAG's open seats. The CAG feels that it should promote their accomplishments.
- March CAG Meeting Agenda Items (proposed):
 - Review of bathymetric survey
 - Lake permitting process
 - DuPont presentation on Eastern Manufacturing Area delineation
 - Property valuation plan
 - Acid Brook sampling
 - Project timelines
 - Groundwater Report-outs

V. Action Items

- NJ DEP & EPA will reach out to DuPont to request their presence at the next two CAG meetings.
- EPA will post the Feb 1 CAG meeting presentation on line.
- Report out from NJ DEP on meetings with DuPont on 1,2-DCA and Perchlorate issue (NJ DEP)
- Report out from the agencies on outreach plans for notifying residents of ground water pilot work to be conducted in March/April
- CAG consideration of future technical assistance needs through TASC (Technical Work Group)
- Provide a copy of the EMA RIR Addendum (NJ DEP or EPA)
- EPA to provide overall progress and additional details of vapor mitigation system installs (number of systems in the pipeline) as a regular handout at CAG meetings
- Locate copy of house/plume specific brochure on plume home sampling (Bill Pendexter or others/DuPont?)
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