

**Pompton Lakes Environmental Community Advisory Group (CAG)**  
**September 14, 2011 Meeting Summary**  
**7:00 PM – 9:30 PM**  
**Civic Center, 25 Lenox Avenue, Pompton Lakes, New Jersey**

**Members and Alternates Present:** Steve Grayberg (Pompton Lakes Restoration Committee), Liz Kachur (In-Plume Resident), Michele Belfiore (Pompton Lakes Residents for Environmental Integrity), Ed Meakem (alternate Pompton Lakes Residents for Environmental Integrity), Tim Troast (In-Plume Resident), Abby Novak (Pompton Lakes Environmental Committee), John Soojian (Acid Brook Vicinity), Bill Pendexter (Hydrologist, Non-Plume Resident), Ella Filippone (Passaic River Coalition), Jimmy Rose (In-Plume Resident)

**Ex Officio Members Present:**

Pompton Lakes Borough Council: Councilman Bill Baig  
US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA): Dave Kluesner, Barry Tornick, Barbara Finazzo, Adolph Everett, Clifford Ng, Ariel Iglesias  
NJ Department of Environmental Protection: Mindy Mumford, Anthony Cinque  
Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR): Leah Graziano

**Public Present:** Jefferson H. LaSala, Donald Soutar, Karen Magee, Carolyn Fefferman, Jacky Grindrod, Michael A. Keough

**I. Welcome and Administrative Updates**

Dave Kluesner called the meeting to order, and stated that he would be facilitating the meeting and Barbara Finazzo would be taking notes once again. The August meeting summary was approved as written and will be posted as final on the EPA website. Discussion on the amount and use of contractor funding was mentioned, and agreed to be discussed towards the end of the meeting.

**II. Agency and Congressional Updates**

Vapor Mitigation System Installations

Barry Tornick provided an update on the status of the installation of vapor mitigation systems. DuPont has installed 231 systems and has 11 more in the process of being installed. Fourteen systems have been installed through the third party installation process and 34 more are in the process of being installed. A statement was made by Ed Meakem that during the recent storms (Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee) that there was no back-up power to homes that had these systems. This was further discussed by members of NJDEP who stated that there was probably no immediate danger since it most likely would take 3-4 days for vapors to build back up under a home that has a system. It remains a concern voiced by a few meeting participants.

Groundwater Constituents of Concern (COCs) Independent Review

Dave provided an update on the technical review of the groundwater reports by the independent expert from Skeo Solutions (EPA contractor). The expert, Hagai Nassau, will be preparing a

report and summary of recommendations. He will be attending the October 5, 2011 Environmental CAG meeting to present this information. The CAG members asked for an advance copy of his report. It was agreed that both EPA and CAG members would receive the report concurrently on or around October 3<sup>rd</sup>. The agencies are not expected to respond at this October 5<sup>th</sup> meeting to any of the recommendations.

#### Unannounced Audits

NJDEP was in the field during the hydraulic flow testing necessary for the groundwater pilot study and no problems were reported on how the test was conducted. NJDEP also reported that a report from DuPont on this testing was just received by the agencies. Both EPA and NJDEP groundwater experts will be reviewing the results and NJDEP will provide a summary at the October 5<sup>th</sup> CAG meeting, as well as an update on the state's on-site soil standards requirements.

NJDEP also reported that they recently received the analytical results of groundwater samples that they split with DuPont from on-site and off-site monitoring wells last May. The data had some QA issues that render the quantitative numbers suspect; however, the constituents detected were not different from previous monitoring well data. The state will be conducting another round of split sampling with DuPont in November. EPA will be conducting split sampling of the pump and treat system as well.

EPA was on the DuPont site on September 1, 2011 after Hurricane Irene. DuPont reported that the pump and treat system was down from 5PM on August 31 through 2 PM on September 1<sup>st</sup>. DuPont reported that the infiltration beds and retention basins keep the surface water on-site. EPA is planning to sample off-site along the Acid Brook to determine if recontamination is an issue. It is expected a limited number of surface water and sediment samples will be collected and analyzed for volatile organic compounds and metals (lead and mercury). It was agreed that a CAG resolution requesting this sampling was no longer needed.

#### Video Taping the Tunnels on the DuPont Site

This was an outstanding action item that EPA had agreed to look into doing at the request of the CAG. EPA asked the CAG if this was still needed since many of the members actually went inside one of the tunnels when they had their on-site visit last May. The CAG agreed this was no longer needed.

#### Future Health Study

Carolyn Fefferman reported that Senators Menendez and Lautenberg and Congressman Pascrell sent a letter to the Centers for Disease Control requesting that additional resources be provided to NJ's Department of Health and Human Services to conduct future health studies in Pompton Lakes.

Leah Graziano also reported that the next Health CAG meeting will be held on September 21 in the library at the Pompton Lakes High School.

### **III. Lake Remediation Outreach and Input Plans**

Dave provided the following proposed timeline for the lake remediation effort:

- EPA will hold two informal public availability sessions sometime between October 10 and 20<sup>th</sup>. A similar format to the earlier groundwater and Superfund/RCRA sessions will be followed. Water quality experts from EPA and NJDEP will attend.
- EPA expects to issue the draft permit modification for the lake remediation work at the end of October. It will be public noticed and comments will be accepted for 45 days (until early December).
- A public hearing will also be scheduled sometime during the 45 day comment period.
- EPA expects to be able to respond to comments received and to issue a final permit modification by the end of January 2012.

Overall, the timeline was acceptable and discussion pursued. John Soojian asked how the timeline matched up to DuPont's proposed schedule; DuPont was proposing to be in the field in early spring. This would still be feasible. DuPont would most likely begin some of the planning for the field work (e.g., obtaining permits from the Borough) before the issuance of the permit modification. Ella Filippone and Jefferson LaSala requested links to the all the lake reports.

Steve Grayberg raised concerns about the lack of post-dredging confirmatory (verification) sampling as currently stated in DuPont's report and the exact area being proposed for dredging (26 acres versus the whole lake). Barry passed out a map that delineates the areas to be dredged at two depth levels. This led into the effects from the storms (next topic).

#### **IV. Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee Efforts in Pompton Lakes Area**

Dave provided a summary of EPA's role under a FEMA mission assignment in response to the two storms. He reported the agencies are still in the emergency response mode. Several CAG members and members of the public reported that the debris was flying through the lake that eventually was carried over the flood dam. Flooding occurred in the southern part of town and there are concerns that contamination from the lake was carried into the flooded residential areas. EPA reported that they are discussing with DuPont the need to conduct another bathymetric survey to determine if the depth of the lake has changed. Ella stated that the lake may have churned and redeposition of contaminants may have occurred which will not be picked up by bathymetry testing; she recommended that additional studies be conducted to determine the effects of the recent flooding. There was also reports of a strong diesel smell coming from the lake; many residents reported it to the police and to EPA. It is being speculated that the source may be from Tuxedo, NY where a tank farm was seriously impacted by the hurricane. Ella also mentioned the Blue Acres program in the state which is a buy-out program for flood prone areas in the state; she suggested that the CAG think about taking up the issue of flooding and buy-outs.

There were also questions about when methylation occurs (when sediments are exposed to sunlight) and is there increased exposure when the lake is drained. There was also concern that if any contamination is left in the lake, future dredging efforts could pose a problem. DuPont is proposing to leave some mercury in areas that are below the surface. Lake dredging occurs as part of the flood control process. The CAG discussed a need to engage an expert to sort out some of these issues. The Lake Remediation Workgroup will better define specifically what technical question(s) the CAG would like addressed.

Other issues related to the storms were raised including debris removal issues related to back-to-back storms (Hirschfield Park), impacts of high water tables in the plume area and so forth.

## **V. Workgroup and Committee Updates**

Administrative Committee: Liz Kachur, Administrative Committee Chair, stated that the CAG will need to place on the agenda for the October 5<sup>th</sup> meeting a vote to change the decision to have alternate members be voted on by the whole CAG as opposed to having each CAG member just name their own alternate.

Community Outreach Work Group: Work Group Chairman, John Soojian, reported that six CAG members have volunteered to distribute the surveys to homes that do not have vapor mitigation systems. Three teams of two will do the canvassing. Their efforts have been delayed because of the flooding in town. Dave Kluesner volunteered to send John information he has compiled on third party vapor intrusion sampling process that can be copied and handed out to the homeowners.

## **VI. CAG Facilitation and Technical Assistance Support**

After considering the future budget and the cost of services, the CAG decided to use the EPA funding for technical experts on issues not for facilitation. Future discussion will occur on facilitation and note taking needs of the committee.

## **VII. Action Items**

- EPA to send an advance copy of the report from the groundwater expert, Hagai Nassau, concerning the 10 constituents of concern before the October 5<sup>th</sup> CAG meeting.
- NJDEP will report out at the October 5<sup>th</sup> CAG meeting on the results of the hydraulic flow testing and on the state's on-site soils standards requirements.
- EPA will send John Soojian information on the third party vapor intrusion sampling program (UPDATE: sent on September 21<sup>st</sup>).
- EPA to send links to the lake reports (UPDATE: sent on September 21<sup>st</sup>).
- CAG to vote at October 5<sup>th</sup> meeting to change the requirement that alternates must be voted in.
- CAG (Lake Remediate Workgroup) to develop concise tasks related to lake remediation work for the purpose of soliciting technical expertise through EPA contractor.