

Parker Street Waste Site

June 13, 2011 Community Leaders Meeting

Attendees:

Jim Owens, EPA
Steve Novick, EPA
Wing Chau, EPA
Marcus Holmes, EPA
Jim Murphy, EPA
Kelsey O'Neil, EPA
Kimberly Tisa, EPA
Tarah Somers, ATSDR
Dave Johnston, MassDEP

Molly Cote, MassDEP
Kirby Webster, Skeo Solutions
Eddie Johnson, CLEAN
Tom Derosia, CLEAN
Deidra Ramos, CLEAN
Kerry Ann, CLEAN
Karen Vilandry, Former NBHS Attendee
Buddy Andre, Old Bedford Village
Jim Phillips, WBSM Radio

Introduction:

Goal of the meeting: forum to exchange information, provide clarity to issues, identify project milestones, identify concerns, and share information as it becomes available.

Suggestions:

- Record and distribute meeting notes from community meetings - EPA will record meeting notes today and at future meetings to be shared on the web and distributed to the community.
- Suggested need to invite cable access to broadcast meetings. - It was decided that cable access was more appropriate for the larger public meetings and that the Community Leaders meetings were intended to review work to date and provide direction for the project.

Field Work Update & MassDEP Re-evaluations:

- Status of property work, excavation
 - Wing Chau, EPA, explains the progress and status of removal activities that have been performed and are planned to be performed. Seven properties have had excavation work completed, 3 properties have excavation currently taking place, and 4 properties have been identified for the next round of excavation work.
 - Dave Johnston, MassDEP, explained the process for identifying properties where soil removal activities are recommended. MassDEP is in the process of re-evaluating data on properties to confirm the risk analysis regarding the levels of contamination.

- Community suggestions/concerns: EPA/MassDEP should contact the Boys and Girls Club as we proceed to determine the next steps for addressing the need to do work. Need to ensure parents are adequately and timely informed of cleanup activities and when they are going to place.
- Is the amount of soil excavated driven by the cleanup budget? No, the top three feet of soil are removed because that is the soil a resident is most likely to come in contact with. Activity and Use Limitations (AUL's) may be put into place on properties where contamination exists below three feet.
- What contamination drove the cleanup? On work that was started last fall, the primary contaminants were lead and several PAH's.

Health Related Issues:

- Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry's (ATSDR) explanation of role at the Parker Street Waste Site by Tarah Somers. ATSDR, has a cooperative agreement with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MA DPH) . ATSDR is a relatively small federal health agency and works with state health departments to share data and address contaminated sites. Some of the MA DPH staff focus on environmental health issues and are assigned to Parker Street among other sites. MA DPH will be releasing their reports on the PCB serum testing that was conducted last year. Tarah Somers from ATSDR has not seen the reports and could not comment on what the report will conclude.
- Lead exposure to children: Any child with elevated blood lead levels is reported to the state. A review of state records show there are no elevated blood lead levels in children who live near the Parker Street Site in the West lawn area of the site. ATSDR was asked how much city data from PSWS has been shared with ATSDR. Tarah Somers from ATSDR will follow up and get that information.

New Bedford Housing Authority

- Westlawn - Molly Cote, MassDEP, will look at a tank removed in the past from Westlawn. Community members expressed a concern about possible contamination in the area where the tank was removed and would like to know if testing was done in that area and if so, what the results show.
- Removal options for the Westlawn Housing Development are currently being evaluated by US EPA, in coordination with NBHA. A meeting with Westlawn residents will be scheduled within the next several weeks. CLEAN requested to have another community leaders meeting before this takes place. CLEAN wants the New Bedford Housing Authority (NBHA) to attend the next community leaders meeting.

- Question regarding money set aside for Westlawn removal activities. Steve Novick, EPA, estimates it will cost about \$2 million, funded by the EPA. CLEAN requests that examples of previous similar projects be shared.
- Housing of Urban Development (HUD) - EPA held a meeting with HUD regional administrator, who will be in touch with the NBHA to discuss status and clean up plans for the Westlawn housing property.

Environmental Justice

An EJ meeting is requested by CLEAN members. CLEAN would like to have HUD and NBHA at the table to discuss EJ and work on the Parker Street Site.

Dioxins Testing

Dave Johnston responded to a question regarding dioxin testing and advised that dioxin testing is only potentially an issue on only one or two properties where PCBs are present above standard and there is evidence of prior burning. This is because PCB above standard has only been discovered on one or two SAP related properties. Should the PCB contamination not be addressed by removal or capping, dioxin sampling might be necessary on those properties.”

MassDEP requested that the City perform additional dioxin sampling at the High School. Additional sampling has just been completed, but MassDEP has not yet received the results.

Next Meetings

- Community Leaders meeting= tentative date, July
 - ▶ Requested Attendees = HUD, NBHA, City Board of Health, MADPH, TRC, EPA, MassDEP, Army Corps of Engineers
- Westlawn residents meeting, prior to excavation activities.
- Public Meeting = end of August/beginning of September

