

## Community Advisory Group (CAG) Minutes for April 4, 2011

**Present:** Ken Deschere, Regina Deschere, Jennifer Dotson, Peter Fortunato, Michele Palmer, Leia Raphaelidis, Kathy Woodcock

**Absent with Excuse:** Maria Coles, Eric Rosario

**City Staff:** Nels Bohn, Facilitator

**Guests:** Cynthia Brock, West Hill resident, Rich DePaolo, Ithaca Town Board Member, John Graves, President of the South Hill Civic Association

**Minutes from the March 7, 2011 CAG meeting are approved and will be posted on the City of Ithaca website.**

### **Agenda Additions and/or Deletions**

- Anthony Hay, CU Microbiologist/Toxicologist offered to help CAG decipher DEC reports

### **PROJECT SITE UPDATES:**

***\*See the attached Department of Conservation (DEC) update from Stephanie Harrington and Karen Cahill***

### **GENERAL DISCUSSION ABOUT SITES:**

#### Coal and Tar Remediation Meetings held in March 2011:

Ken was pleased with committee work done to encourage neighbors to attend the March 11&14 DEC coal tar remediation public meetings. There was a good turnout. At the second meeting the power went out so the meeting had to end earlier before the alarm system kicked in. Ken summarized the meetings and noted DEC will respond to questions from the public and CAG in a written document.

Status of “Therm Site” Home Toxin Test Results: People are beginning to receive test results in the mail. Several homes with mitigation systems are still experiencing vapors so the DEC will re-inspect these homes and try to remedy the situation. Several more homes will be tested during April 2011.

Two committee members shared their home test results, both of which showed very low readings. No standards for what is considered the normal range were listed, making it difficult to analyze. Tetrachloroethene (PCE or “PERC”) standards vary from state to state, e.g., NYS standard for PCE is 100 parts compared to MA standard of 4.1 parts. Based on NYS standards, the Department of Health will determine whether a home needs a mitigation system installed.

Chemicals of concern are Carbon Tetrachloride, Dichloroethene, Tetrachloroethene, Trichloroethane, Trichloroethene, and Vinyl Chloride.

Therm has declined to accept responsibility for the toxins found near its plant. Its site continues to be called the Axiohm “Off-Site “until DEC declares Therm a toxic site.

Emerson Site – Upgraded water dual phase system continues to remove TCE from the fire water reservoir. East Spencer Street will receive 300 feet of vented sewer lines, perhaps as soon as this summer.

Nels Bohn said the mayor will meet with Town and County officials for an update about the sale and reuse of Emerson.

Rich DePaolo said the DEC does not notify the Town of Ithaca about industrial pollution even though the businesses of concern are located in the town.

**Assignments:**

Therm Neighborhood CAG Members – Communicate with neighbors about their test results to gather more information.

Ken and Regina Deschere – They will share toxin guideline information.

Jennifer Dotson – She will contact Karen Cahill to get more of the Therm neighborhood test results. If not successful, she will request public information with a FOIL request.

**Next Meeting Schedule:**

***Monday, May 2, City Hall, 6:30-8 p.m. (Please note time change.)***

## **DEC COMMENTS PRESENTED AT CAG MEETING, APRIL 4, 2011**

### **From Stephanie Harrington, 3/24/2011:**

**Clinton West Plaza** – Robert S. Casey, Project Manager for EA, on 3/23/2011

Just an update on the immediate future for field activities and data for the Clinton West Plaza Site:

- April 4<sup>th</sup> – Install micro-wells and advance soil borings (5-8 days effort)
- Following micro-well installation EA will develop the wells, and then conduct the baseline groundwater sampling event (April 18 – 29).
- Indoor Air data should be validated by end of April 2011, I will confirm delivery schedule with validator.

### **From Stephanie Harrington, 4/1/2011:**

#### **Campagnolo Property (Site No. 755013)**

Letters describing the results of soil vapor intrusion sampling will be sent to the homeowners the week of March 28, 2011. Sampling results indicate that actions are not necessary at the two homes. The Responsible Party (RP) has until the week of March 28, 2011 to enter into an Order on Consent (Order) with the State to perform the selected remedy documented in the Record of Decision for this site. The RP has had detailed discussions regarding payment of past costs associated with this site and it appears likely that the RP will enter an Order.

#### **315 North Meadow Street (Site No. 755014)**

The DEC has sent an Order on Consent (Order) to the Potential Responsible Parties (PRPs) as an offer to implement the Record of Decision (ROD). It appears unlikely that the PRPs will be able to fund the selected remedy as documented in the ROD for this site. If this is the case and they decline to enter into an Order, the State will implement the remedial program in accordance with applicable State and Federal Law. The PRPs willingness or ability to enter an Order should be known by the end of the month. One PRP has started the process for settling past cost associated with the site.

### **From Karen Cahill, 4/4/2011:**

#### **Emerson Power Transmission**

Here is the proposed schedule I received via email from Emerson's consultant on March 1, 2011 for the items specified in the 2009 ROD Amendment. I have also asked them to submit a revised schedule which also includes submittal of a letter work plan for degreaser area cap installation, including limits of cap area(s) and materials/depths of construction, but have not yet received. Will send you update once I have it. As far as I know they are still on track to start OU3 remedial construction this summer.

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\* FWR pre-design report submission (including proposed remedial action). June 2011

\* FWR remedial action work (if any based on pre-design). September 2011

\* completion of remedial work for degreaser area.

Cap installation June 2011;

Completion of investigation work and Pilot Test June 2011;

Remedy Fall 2011

\* final remedial action report submission for all 3 efforts. Early 2012