

PINE RIVER SUPERFUND CITIZEN TASK FORCE

March 21, 2012

The meeting was called to order by acting Chair, Gary Smith, at 7:00 pm. There was not a regular business meeting as this was for questions and comments from the local community. Approximately half of the attendees were from the neighborhood adjacent to the plant site.

Gary gave an overview from the EPA and DEQ public meeting that was held a month ago. The plan chosen by the EPA is #3. Thermal and chemical oxidation treatments will be used in the heavily polluted areas of the plant site. There will be new walls and cap installed when the cleanup work is finished. A pump and treat system will be used to keep the liquid contaminants within the confines of the plant. The area is to be restored so that it can be a user area by the city meaning that it needs to be cleaned up so the river and the people are safe.

1. A question about when the work on the neighborhood cleanup would begin and how long it would take. Scott Cornelius, DEQ Project Manager, said it was planned to do the removal this year and it would take about 5 months to complete. The risk is low in the fenced in area. An emergency removal was asked for, but was denied. The average amount of dirt to be removed is 2 feet. Direct contact with the dirt inside the fences is above human health levels being 201 screening level. Plantings and grass may have to be removed and all of it will be replaced. Every homeowner will be contacted before the project begins and will be informed what is going to happen. People will be able to stay in their homes while this is going on. If there is a risk they will be notified otherwise.
2. It was suggested that the contaminated soil be piled up and made into a ski hill. It will cost \$50 million to maintain the site. It has sand seams and the NAPL will need to be chased.
3. The aquifer is on the bottom. There will be wells to keep the liquid from migrating off the site. The bottom of the new wall will go 10 feet into the clay till. The old slurry wall will be inside of the new wall. A tile will be run between these walls transporting liquid waste to the water treatment plant. The steel pilings that remain in the river from the river cleanup will be removed.
4. Some of the contaminants in the soil are highly toxic and are a male sterilant. They are attached to the soil and are not mobile. The containment system works as the water goes down, not outward. The collection system for NAPL removes it from the water and transports it elsewhere to be incinerated.
5. The contaminated soil will be tested in the laboratory with the thermal treatment and oxidation to see if it works. Then testing on site will be done in a small area before moving on to using on the whole outlined area. This is the pre-design testing after the plan has been developed. The top of the area will be sealed with vapor collection taking place. When the contaminate removal takes place the soil will be in a moist state so there is no dust and the trucks will be covered. The standards for health and safety will be followed for the workers and the neighborhood. Air monitoring will be done using wind soxs to determine the direction of the wind. A quieter method of inserting the sheet piling will be used than was used when the river was cleaned up.

6. The neighborhood home fencing was done by using a grid. The testing was done 2 years ago. There will be pre-design testing after the plan is developed. If DDT is in the soil it doesn't move as it is attached to the soil. If it is in the water, it doesn't dissolve. The soil outside of the fencing tested below the health risk standard for the state.

Michigan's standards are higher than the EPA's.

7. There were questions about the health risks from the contamination. Diane Borrello explained that there has not been a lot of cooperation from the government in our attempts to get this information and to have a study done. It is "unknown" at this time.

8. The CAG is planning to have cameras in place to monitor the work that is being done once it begins so that any citizen can watch what is taking place. No one, who is not working there, will be allowed to enter the site for safety reasons.

9. Cleanup of the plant site is predicted to take 10 years and cost \$374 million dollars. At this time it is unknown how many yards of material will be removed from the site. When the ROD is signed the city of St. Louis will receive \$6 million for a new drinking water system. The Velsicol Burn Pit is a separate Superfund site. Its cleanup cost is estimated to be under \$25 million.

11. While it is not nice living next to a chemical plant it is time to think positive. The work that will be done will make the area more presentable. There are good teams working on this project.

YouTube: prsctfoffical

The study downriver to where the Pine and Chippewa Rivers join was done in 2002. The areas of the cleanup are designated as plant site OU-1, river site OU-2, and the area between the St. Louis dam and where the two rivers join as OU-3.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol J. Layman, Co-secretary