

Environmental Committee Minutes

The Committee met on Wednesday, August 6, 2008 at 7:00 pm in the FMERPA offices in Eatontown.

In attendance: **Chair Laurie Cannon, EAC Members: Rose Estephan (FMERPA Board Member), Ed Dlugosz, Merwin Kinkade, Ben Forest, and Fran Varacali, FMERPA staff members: Frank Cosentino and Diane Canterbury, Garrison Representatives: Wanda Green, Joe Fallon, and Tim Rider, and Public Attendee: Tom Mahedy.**

Steve Young, from Matrix Design Group Inc., joined the committee by phone and began the meeting by reviewing each ECP Phase II parcel while the committee asked questions:

Parcels 13 and 14 (former barracks buildings, Charles Wood area) were recommended for no further action (NFA) as there were no contaminants of concern ("COCs"). This was despite the fact that there was an underground storage tank (UST) found in parcel 14.

Parcel 15 (Meyer Center) was found to have numerous COCs in sediment and soil gas. This parcel was recommended for a second round of testing to make sure there are no COCs found above the allowable levels. Merwin Kinkade questioned whether the soil samples were slab or sub-slab. Joe Fallon answered that they would be defined as near-slab.

Parcel 27 (Charles Wood area, near the fire academy): This could be an area for future commercial construction. None of the environmental samples showed any COCs that would be of concern for this type of development. There were however, metals detected in the sediment that were above the NJ criteria, so the area will be sampled again.

Parcel 28 (former battery test facility) was not considered a problem for future development. The only COC found above criteria level was chromium.

Parcel 34 (active gas station): Benzene did show up in soil gas and therefore a further round of sampling will be conducted.

Parcel 38 (former outdoor firing range): was recommended for no further action.

Parcel 39 (Vail Hall: former administration building with history of film development in basement): B/N's and metals detected in sediments. Requested NFA for soil but sediment will be re-sampled.

Parcel 43 (auto repair and craft shop): TCE and PCE were found above screening levels in soil gas, but not in indoor air. Benzene and DCM found in indoor air. There will be a further round of indoor air sampling to confirm that there are no COCs above allowable levels.

Parcel 49 (former Squire Lab complex): Numerous COCs were found in soil, ground water, and sediment. This area has been identified as a potential future use for a higher education facility and/or administrative offices. Additional air sampling will be done in the Squire Hall building. A statement was made by Ben Forest that this would not be an ideal location for young children based on the findings, specifically, no residential development, day care center, etc.

Parcel 50 (former fuel distribution facility): Benzene and PCE were found in soil gas but not indoor air so another round of testing will be done to be sure that indoor air is not contaminated at levels above what is allowable in the state of NJ.

Parcel 51 (750 area, 787,788, and 789 area; 500 area, 600 area, and 1100 area): Groundwater contamination found underground storage tanks identified on this parcel. Diane Canterbury questioned "identified USTs" vs. those that have been removed or still in ground. Joe Fallon

explained specific parcels and stated there were eleven USTs at this site with a total of 24 USTs still underground within Fort Monmouth. The Army is requesting no further action for the underground storage tanks for this site. The tanks are thought to have contained heating oil but we cannot be sure. Merwin Kinkade asked how old the tanks were. According to Joe Fallon, they are estimated to be 56 years old. The army's recommendation to the DEP is to leave them alone. Laurie Cannon, referring to the age and material the tanks were made of, as well as the water table issues in these areas, asked about the likelihood of deterioration and future environmental problems that may occur from leaving them underground. The size of each tank was also discussed. The army believes they are 1,000 gallons each in size. According to Merwin Kinkade, if there is more than 2,000 gallons per parcel, the DEP may not approve leaving them there. The army must be considering each of the 11 underground storage tanks to be on its' own parcel, therefore, it would not be considered as 11,000 gallons totally, but 1000 gallons separately, 11 times. Merwin Kinkade questioned whether the tanks could contain motor fuel vs. heating oil. Joe Fallon stated that he felt that all motor fuel tanks have most likely been removed. Merwin also raised a concern that if the soil is sandy, the fuel oil leaks straight through and the soil areas that were chosen to be tested might not show contamination at those particular testing locations.

Parcel 52 (gas service station): PCE was detected on this site so further air sampling will be done.

Parcel 57 (coal storage area): Numerous COCs were found on this site in surface soil and metals were found in the groundwater. Further evaluation will be required. It was noted that the plan calls for reuse of the commissary building.

Parcel 61 (Patterson Army Health Clinic): Numerous COCs were found in surface soils and sediment at this site. Further evaluation of COCs will take place. PAHs were identified above NJ criteria for soil but the soil sample was obtained from underneath the asphalt, which may account for the PAHs. This is why further evaluation is needed.

Parcel 69 (former vehicle repair/ motor pool): Underground storage tanks were removed in this area. Several B/N compounds and metals were detected in sediments at levels exceeding NJ criteria. PCE was also found in groundwater in levels exceeding NJ criteria. Further evaluation of sediment and groundwater will take place at this site. A NFA request will be submitted for soil.

Parcel 70 (Armstrong Hall- Classroom): No problems were found. The army is requesting a NFA status for this site. A future workforce education type of facility is proposed for this site.

Parcel 76 and 79 (200, 300, and 400 area buildings): Again, the underground storage tanks in these areas are proposed to remain by the army. All tanks are assumed to be below the 2,000 gallon requirement and are believed to contain heating oil. The army has requested a no further action status for these sites.

Parcel 80 (buildings 105 and 106, former photo-processing site): Further evaluation needed of the groundwater contaminant, beryllium, found at this site, probably due to the photo-processing that occurred years ago. Otherwise, a NFA request will be submitted for soil.

Parcel 83 (former photo-processing, coal storage, maintenance shops, and transformer storage): a NFA status is requested for groundwater but further evaluation of surface soil contaminants is suggested. This is a flood plain area.

Sanitary Sewer System: Requested NFA status. No mercury was detected by any testing conducted.

Electrical Substations: No problems known. Requested no further action status.

Ben Forest wrapped up the meeting with his concerns regarding the elimination of the underground storage tanks and his continuing concerns about the various landfills.

Ed Dlugosz commented that this was a good first pass but that we have only touched the surface and that he felt there is much more to review and discuss in relation to this report in the future.

Frank Cosentino added that the environmental discussions most definitely will be ongoing, even after the plan submission date of September 8th.

The next meeting date for the FMERPA Environmental Committee was set for September 22, 2008 at 7:00 pm in the FMERPA offices.