

03MAR09 Environmental Committee Minutes:

Tuesday, March 3, 2009. Called to order at 3:15 pm. EAC Members in attendance were Laurie Cannon (EAC Chair), Ben Forest, Merwin Kinkade, Ed Dlugosz and Rose Estephan (via telecom); FMERPA staff in attendance were Frank Cosentino and Diane Canterbury; Ft Monmouth Garrison staff in attendance were Joe Fallon and Wanda Green; and public in attendance were Greg Pollack and Tom Mahedy.

We discussed the need for the committee to shift from research, to evaluation, and finally, recommendation to be forwarded to the FMERPA Board for the purpose of further investigating the areas of concern that the EAC has identified in our review of the Army's Phase 1 and 2 ECP. Those on the EAC with a specific area of interest or expertise could do research on a specific environmental concern for reporting to and discussing at future EAC meetings. This will allow the working EAC to delve into these areas. The Chair assigned areas for specific committee members to review and bring back for discussion at the next meeting: Ben Forest, landfills; Ed Dlugosz, re-surfacing of stream banks; and Merwin Kinkade, underground storage tanks. Diane Canterbury stated that as we gather information, there are multiple resources for EAC members to use: FMERPA website; Garrison website, Matrix, NJDEP....Diane will send links to all committee members. Additional environmental items will be assigned, reviewed, and discussed at forthcoming EAC meetings (e.g., monitoring wells, air and water quality, razed buildings and associated materials, etc.)

Discussion took place on when and how to involve the FMERPA contracted (via EDAW) environmental experts (Matrix Design Group) for these discussions. The decision was to have the EAC inform the FMERPA staff and the FMERPA staff will in turn get the answers to all concerns/queries or have Matrix attend (in person or by phone) a specified EAC meeting. The same applies when there are concerns/queries that need to be forwarded to NJDEP or the Ft Monmouth Garrison for response.

Next, we discussed the NFA status and how Larry Quinn (NJDEP) can help in providing current status of the gaps that were previously addressed in past EAC meetings. For instance, do NFA's stand even if they were granted pre-BRAC? Can they be issued with use/ deed notice/ CEA (classification exception area)? Shouldn't NFA's be granted with specific land use according to the FMERPA plan? Larry Quinn is expected at the 07Apr09 EAC and we will discuss these NFA items with him.

Another topic of discussion was who the end users of the property will be and what they will need to know for their planning of the property. The response was that as FMERPA becomes aware of the Army's departure dates, certain buildings will become available first, and we can start with those. For disposition we need to factor in the status of the environmental clean up process, the area's best use, and do it parcel by parcel. The discussion continued with multiple members commenting on long term responsibility that is in accordance with the law. FMERPA will do the overall Business Plan and Operations Plan of the entire site. All of these issues that have been discussed will be taken into account.

The idea of using a universal environmental checklist came up and how it would apply to each parcel. This was referred to as site characterization. A sample of this will be provided to the Chair and FMERPA staff.

After polling all committee members, we decided on a new meeting time in an attempt to meet everyone's needs. The EAC is held on varying Tuesdays and will commence at 4:00 pm at the FMERPA office located in Eatontown.

The EAC agreed that, in the future, members would notify the Chair if they cannot attend a meeting.

The EAC decided that public participation would be held at the end of the meeting. The EAC Chair has designated 10 minutes for this purpose.

Remarks by the public included the request to answer questions on the/a standardized environmental checklist (the fact that one already exists, and that as this committee evolves, it should be preparing one for each parcel), the shelf life of the EDAW/Matrix contract, questions that were previously submitted to the EAC and RAB and believed not to be answered satisfactorily, and the floodplain boundary of the Ft Monmouth property that FEMA recently imposed. All comments/concerns/questions from the public were answered and satisfied.

The next meeting was scheduled for April 7, 4:00 pm, at the FMERPA offices.

The meeting adjourned at 5:50 pm.