

Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) Meeting – July 21, 2009, 4:00 p.m.

In attendance: Laurie Cannon, EAC Chair; Diane Canterbury, FMERPA Staff; Dr. Arie Kremen, Birdsall Engineering; Frank Barricelli, EAC Member; Wanda Green and Joe Fallon, Garrison Reps; Frank Cosentino, FMERPA Staff; Ed Dlugosz, EAC Member; John Schiels, Eatontown Council President; Jonathan Cohen, EAC Member; Larry Quinn, NJDEP Rep; Tom Mahedy, Public Attendee

1. Ed Dlugosz gave a presentation on the stream banks' stabilization process and reviewed environmental concerns about the Fort Monmouth property as it relates to Eatontown. His presentation included the Princeton Hydro presentations of October 2008 and July 2009 that were given at RAB meetings. The Army contractor has begun work on parcels M8 and M3. The Eatontown Environmental Committee is concerned that the stabilization efforts are commensurate with the hydraulics of that particular landfill. Frank Barricelli noted that they haven't encountered waste deposits from the areas they have been working on so far. Eatontown's concern is that the tidal waters can move the contaminants and they would have preferred capping the landfills first, and then proceed to stabilize the stream banks. Larry Quinn noted that we haven't arrived at what the plan is to clean up the landfills. In the meantime, stabilizing the stream banks is underway, and that's a good thing. Frank Cosentino reiterated that none of the landfills will be built on or disturbed in any way, based on the Reuse Plan.

Tom Mahedy raised a question: if samples were tested before, during, after the restabilization project? Joe Fallon said that it was not required in the permits that were issued in relation to the work. The Army felt it wasn't necessary. Note: FMERPA will review this determination through NJDEP.

According to Dr. Kremen, Eatontown is concerned that the capping be done correctly during this process to avoid the possibility that the township will be held responsible for any problems with these landfills and stream banks down the road, after Fort Monmouth is closed and the Army is gone. He also stated his belief that the landfills should have been recapped first, then stabilize the stream banks. Diane Canterbury brought up the fact that the Army would continue to be responsible for contaminants based on negotiated parcel disposition. However, as an example, if a new owner identifies an environmental issue 20 years down the road that they would like the Army to come back and clean up, it would have to be proven that the Army is actually responsible for said contaminants. Insurance is available for some of these potential issues, but that is not fail-safe. Ed Dlugosz asked that the FMERPA comments on the Environmental Assessment be made available to the committee. Frank Cosentino said that it was a matter of public record, and these comments can certainly be shared with the committee. Currently, no construction or developments are planned for any of the landfill areas on the Fort Monmouth property.

Diane Canterbury pointed out several areas of concern brought up in the Birdsall letter and addressed each with Larry Quinn, NJDEP, Dr. Kremen, and Joe Fallon, representing the Army to make sure that these concerns were addressed and responded to.

2. Jon Cohen, representing Tinton Falls, in replacement of Merwin Kinkade, will speak to the Tinton Falls environmental committee next week and come back to us next month with concerns and questions.

3. Frank Barricelli stated that he will give his report in a few months when he meets with all members of the Oceanport environmental committee.

4. Larry Quinn stated that there was no change in No Further Action status or monitoring wells at this time. Larry will provide a tracking document of all clean-up and monitoring projects so we have the status of each of these. This will be provided during the Aug. 18, 2009 EAC meeting.

Frank Barricelli added that seven of the 27 underground storage tanks were removed already and that process is well underway.

#### Committee Member Comments:

Ed Dlugosz suggested that we review the FMERPA comments to the Environmental Assessment at our next meeting. Diane Canterbury will gather comments from multiparties, including FMERPA's, to be discussed at the Aug. 18 2009 EAC.

#### Public Comments:

Tom Mahedy stated that Brian Quinn, NJDEP, did not have many comments about the Environmental Assessment and that was one of the reasons that Tom had asked if FMERPA had seen the comments from Clean Ocean Action.

Mr. Mahedy also asked for a clarification of the Army's requirements to comply with the DEP should the DEP recommend an environmental impact study be done. Larry Quinn agreed that they would not be "required" to comply. Frank Cosentino suggested that his feeling was that the DOD would most likely comply with that request, if asked.

Tom noted that Tim Rider did not notify him of the RAB meeting and that it was not put on the website. Tom added that he is disturbed that the inches of sand and topsoil figures keep changing in relation to the landfill covers. Larry Quinn stated that he believes that an additional 12 inches of soil cover on the landfills would be sufficient to avoid direct contact threats.

Joe Fallon reminded the committee that the sites are not heavily contaminated, the Army has done its job (beyond DEP requirements at times), and that he feels some members of the public are just not listening.

Tom Mahedy added that he is concerned that no one from this committee is requesting an environmental impact study be done. Larry Quinn, DEP, said that an environmental impact study will not affect what the DEP is already doing and will continue to do in

relation to the site remediation plan. Diane Canterbury added that in previous EAC meetings, this was addressed and the response was that creating another layer of reports will just be a repeat of similar information that is being or has already been collected and reported on.

Tom was disturbed that the DOD has the final say on this.

John Schiels, Eatontown Council President, said that the public comments at his meetings have centered on who will be responsible for the cost of cleanup after the Army has left the property. Wanda Green answered that the Army is responsible for the next two years. Frank Cosentino assured the committee that the date the Army leaves does not impact the Army's ultimate responsibility for the cost of cleanup. Mr. Schiels reiterated his fear that this will be a huge expense to the taxpayers if each parcel is not negotiated properly in regard to its environmental issues at the time of sale. Mr. Schiels also requested the document which Princeton Hydro stated was their "expert opinion" via July 2009 RAB, for the town of Eatontown to review. Larry Quinn will forward it to Diane Canterbury at FMERPA and she will distribute to interested parties.

Mr. Schiels asked what the No Further Action status is of each site being reviewed. Larry Quinn stated that no NFAs were granted for the landfills in question at this time. Mr. Schiels also noted that the stream bank stabilization was previously referred to as the landfill stabilization. Is it stream bank or landfill stabilization, or both?

Tom also queried about flooding and the FEMA flood plain zone. Frank Cosentino and Larry Quinn provided responses.

Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Aug. 18, 4:00 pm. Ben Forrest will take the minutes at that meeting.