

Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) Meeting – August 18, 2009, 4:00 p.m.

In attendance: Laurie Cannon, EAC Chair; Frank Barricelli, EAC Member; Ed Dlugosz, EAC Member; Jonathan Cohen, EAC Member; Wanda Green, U.S. Army Garrison; Joe Fallon; U.S. Army Garrison; Alexandra Maldonado, Cong. Pallone's office; Ellyn Kahle, Borough of Oceanport John Schiels, Eatontown Council; Frank Cosentino, FMERPA Staff; Diane Canterbury, FMERPA Staff; Larry Quinn, NJDEP Rep; David Gibbons, Habitat for Humanity; Tom Mahedy, Public Attendee; Heather Saffert, Clean Ocean Action; Cindy Zipf, Clean Ocean Action; Linda Zucaro, Monmouth A-Team; Phil Welch, Monmouth A-Team;

- Ed Dlugosz reported on behalf of the Eatontown Environmental Commission regarding environmental concerns related to the Fort Monmouth property. Birdsall thanked the FMERPA for allowing him to participate in the meeting. The EAC received a memo (Exhibit A) from Birdsall commenting on the streambank stabilization project currently underway and landfill capping that will follow.
- ED Cosentino addressed the CERCLA issue (Comprehensive Environment Response to the Compensation and Liability Act – Section 334). According to the CERCLA Act, at any time in the future, if additional contaminants are found in relation to the property, the Army is responsible for the cleanup. It was noted that even if there was a potentially responsible party that had agreed to take up this cleanup, if more contaminants continued to surface, it would still be the Army's responsibility to clean up these contaminants. However, the fear is that the Army could say they don't have the funds in the budget to take care of the cleanup.
- ED Cosentino stressed that the liability for protection should not rest with these communities, which always has been FMERPA's position.
- Eatontown Councilman John Schiels asked that if the landfills are going to be open space and the County or the towns will own those spaces, how would they be protected long-term financially. ED Cosentino responded that in the next 10-12 months, all of those questions will be negotiated with the Federal Government.
- Larry Quinn, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), suggested that the DEP will ensure that the landfills are adequately cleaned up. In regard to the Birdsall letter, it should be noted that the streambank stabilization project was never intended to be a landfill remediation project. It was intended to stabilize the streambanks only, and landfill remediation and capping will take place at a later time.
- Frank Barricelli stated he is concerned that many people who haven't been on the EAC and the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) haven't seen the great lengths that the Army has gone to in cleaning up and remediating these sites. He added that the Army has been forthcoming with all data, numbers, locations of contaminated sites, and they have tested and monitored the sites, often beyond NJDEP's requirements.
- ED Cosentino noted that the CERCLA information will be added to the FMERPA website so that people can understand the protection that is in place to hold the Army responsible for the cleanup of these sites. He added that the most challenging cleanup site on the Post is the gas station and that the Army is working diligently on that site.
- Cindy Zipf and Heather Saffert from Clean Ocean Action felt that the Environmental Assessment (EA) did not adequately address the need for a clear data summary for the prospective future owners and that an Environmental Impact Study is necessary. ED Cosentino stated that FMERPA doesn't have a position on the Environmental Impact Study as yet, and comments to the contrary are false.

- FMERPA Project Manager Diane Canterbury requested that the DEP provide us with a listing of the No Further Action Status for all sites that have been granted NFA status and all those that are non-NFA sites. Larry Quinn provided the EAC with a document review of current monitoring and work that is being done (Exhibit C).
- The Environmental Advisory Committee's next meeting is Monday, September 14, 3 pm at the FMERPA offices.