Attachment 4 Interview

The interview questions that were used to facilitate the discussion are listed below, followed by a summary of the responses.

1. What is your overall impression of the cleanup efforts at the Manchester site?

   Barry Pepich responded that USACE "has dropped the ball" on site monitoring and should provide more oversight and inspection. He stated that he is anxious to see data and is disappointed that we have no data for this five year review.

   James Hackett responded that there has been a good effort to complete the project although there have been some gaps and miscommunication.

   Kyra Lynch responded that she felt that the remediation is still function as designed; however, she stated that the Corps needs to collect data to verify this.

   Denise Taylor responded that after looking at the ROD, the Suquamish Tribe believes the remedies were implemented as intended by the ROD. She reported being satisfied with current activities, and has participated in completing the first five-year review.

   Des Maynard and Tom Flagg responded that everything with respect to the NOAA property has been done to their expectations.

2. Are you aware of any community concerns regarding the site or its operation and administration?

   Kyra Lynch responded that she is not aware of any.

   Denise Taylor responded that the Suquamish Tribe is part of the surrounding community. The Clam Bay EPA and NOAA beach areas are "Usual and Accustomed" tribal fishing grounds. The tribe recognizes that contamination has affected the safety of the clams for human consumption, and acknowledges the site is not available for harvest. The Tribe has a concern for a healthy environment and marine resources, and would like to harvest there again.

   Des Maynard and Tom Flagg responded that they are not aware of any.

3. Do you have any comments, suggestions, or recommendations regarding the site's management or operation?

   Barry Pepich responded that the management focus could tighten up and suggested that USACE continue to have annual meetings to address any communication gaps.

   Ms. Taylor responded that after the remedial action, management of the site has gone into limbo. She said USACE needs to get back on track with monitoring to evaluate the effectiveness of the remedies. She wonders when a harvest will not be limited due to contamination.

   Des Maynard and Tom Flagg responded that they are happy with the way things are going.

4. Do you feel well informed about the site's activities and progress?

   Robert Manos stated that he would like to be notified before the I&M contractor comes to the site.

   Mr. Hackett told us he has been kept "pretty much well informed" on issues regarding the landfill remediation, and confirmed he knows whom to call at USACE (Seattle) if he has any questions.

   Ms. Lynch felt that she was well informed now, and that we have made a lot of progress over the last three months.

   Ms. Taylor felt well informed when something comes up that needs to be addressed. However, project planning and continuity issues are not being relayed to her. Communications have been sporadic, and needs some work.

   Mr. Maynard and Mr. Flagg responded that they feel well informed.

5. Are you aware of any situations that may require changes to the completed remedial actions or the decision documents?

   Ms. Lynch stated that she is not aware of any.

   Ms. Taylor expressed concern with the lack of sufficient clams to sample the clam tissue at the site. She said "seeding clams" on the whole beach may be the only way to monitor remaining contamination issues. She suggested that we discuss another way to sample such as sampling a different species that is more abundant at the site, or placing clams in pouches for later testing. Ms. Taylor stated tissue analysis should still be part of monitoring cleanup goals for tissues and sediments, and protectiveness for fishers on the beach. Ms. Taylor also expressed concern about how the cleanup levels and cleanup goals are related to the cancer risk; and stated that the shellfish consumption rate used in the RI/FS is too low.

6. Have any problems or difficulties been encountered regarding land-use or other institutional controls?

   Mr. Manos stated that the fence line on the backside of the landfill is maintained, and is in good condition right now. Both Mr. Manos and Mr. Pepich reported that there are no known problems with break-ins or vandalism other than a few people wandering down the beach during low tide in the summer. The beach combers are stopped by security on the site. Mr. Pepich reported that there are two small ornamental trees planted by Manchester Lab staff on the landfill cap that may have to be relocated on the northeast end of the landfill cap, since their roots may be long enough penetrate the liner.

   Mr. Hackett said people have been seen walking down the beach, or bringing their boats onto NOAA property, and one of the NOAA trucks was stolen. He stated that the property has a security alarm and monitoring system, and they have a security agreement with the adjacent US Navy facility.

   Ms. Lynch stated that USACE needs to put land use controls in place, in particular, to make the EPA lab workers aware of use restrictions with regards to the landfill.

   Ms. Taylor stated that the tribe has not seen any problems. Nobody from the tribe is harvesting from the site.

Mr. Maynard and Mr. Flagg responded that they did not know of any.

7. Do you feel the completed remedies are functioning as expected?

   Ms. Lynch replied that she feels that generally the remedies are functioning as expected but we need data to verify this.

   Ms. Taylor replied that we need additional data.

   Mr. Maynard and Mr. Flagg responded with "yes".

8. Are you aware of any issues, which may call into question the site's short-term or long-term protectiveness?

   Ms. Lynch replied that she is not aware of any.

   Ms. Taylor replied that the consumptions rates used in the RI/FS were lower than the consumption rates established by the Suquamish Tribe and may have to be adjusted.

9. Is the Operation and Maintenance (I&M) program satisfactory? (I&M consists of periodic inspections, signage, maintenance schedules, sampling to support the monitoring, and land use controls).

   Mr. Manos reported that within the last six months, the mowing contractor has torn up the ground cover on the cap with defective mowing equipment. Mr. Manos asked how he could get in touch with the contractor or a representative for the contractor. We told him May Carrell would be a good contact person right now. Mr. Manos sad the Scott's Broom control and mowing has been good from what he has seen. He also asked who is supposed to inspect the site routinely, the contractor.

   Ms. Lynch replied that the USACE is been deficient in their monitoring effors.

10. Do you have any other comments, concerns or recommendations regarding the site?

    Mr. Pepich and Mr. Manos both stated good communications is very important on this project, and that some past "disconnects" with the mowing contractor should be avoided in the future. They both also asked for the project team list. Mr. Pepich stated he believes commitment is the key to a successful remediation project.

    Mr. Hackett requested USACE provide data after the five year review report is completed. He would like to see information provided annually by email if possible to let NOAA know what is happening with the landfill remediation. He asked if the monitoring wells in front of building 1 can be decommissioned (USACE inspected these wells and determined that they had been decommissioned in accordance with state regulations).

    Ms. Taylor asked that we complete the clam survey on the NOAA property. She also requested that we discuss the results of the sediment sampling with her once the results are in and that we discuss a path forward for the long term monitoring and the possible need for a change in the monitoring strategy with regards to clam sampling. She went on to say the site sediments may be fine now, but the habitat may not be suitable for clams.

    Mr. Maynard asked if there is a library of documents related to the Superfund activities. May Carrell said she will send them copies of the documents we have related to the site.