USEPA AMCO Superfund Site CAG Meeting, May 10, 2010

EPA Attendees:	Leana Rosetti Rose Marie Caraway Nick Vargas
EPA Contractors:	Kent Baugh/ITSI Yash Nyznyk/CDM Frankie Burton/CH2M HILL
CAG Members:	Angie May Brian Beveridge/*West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project* Rafael Navarro Adan Navarro Juan Lopez/Attorney at law John Schweizer/Technical Assistant Kerri Atwood Eric Maundu Khay Pettway Gary Marsh Jolie Coursin

Purpose of Meeting

- Provide update on Superfund process and timing for AMCO site
- Hear concerns on DRAFT clean-up proposals to date
- Answer outstanding questions about the process
- Provide outline of process for providing input to the formal public comment period

Review of Superfund Process

- **Preliminary Assessment/Site Inspection (PA/SI):** process of collecting and reviewing available information about a known or suspected waste site or release. **AMCO PA/SI draft is available online and in** West Oakland Branch Library.
- **Remedial Investigation (RI):** The collection of information from a Superfund site to determine the extent and severity of hazards posed by the site. It follows and is more extensive than a preliminary assessment. The purpose is to gather information necessary to score the site, using the Hazard Ranking System, and to determine if it presents an immediate threat requiring prompt removal.
    - Draft in West Oakland Branch Library
- **Feasibility Study (FS):** 1. Analysis of the practicability of a proposal; e.g., a description and analysis of potential cleanup alternatives for a site such as one on the National Priorities List. The feasibility study usually recommends selection of a cost-effective alternative. It usually starts as soon as the remedial investigation is underway; together, they are commonly referred to as the "RI/FS". 2. A small-scale investigation of a problem to ascertain whether a proposed research approach is likely to provide useful data.
- **Proposed Plan (PP):** The preferred alternative is detailed in a plan for a site cleanup that is available to the public for comment. **A very important step in the process for the public to be involved with!**
- **Record of Decision (ROD)**: A public document that explains which cleanup alternative(s) will be, and includes responses to the formal public comments made to the Proposed Plan.
    - When EPA is uncertain as to how the project will be completely cleaned up in the long term, they have the option to write an “Interim ROD” until they have more information. Once the Interim ROD is complete a Final ROD will be written. This

basically breaks this one step down into two steps, allowing EPA to have more time to evaluate the best cleanup options.

- EPA is going to take the Interim ROD path, because a bio-treatment study must be performed before EPA can complete the final ROD. The bio-treatment study will resolve a disagreement between project scientists as to whether or not the "all bio-remediation" approach would be best. Also, in the process of excavating the site as part of the Interim ROD, the nature of the contamination below the concrete will be more apparent and the most appropriate methods for cleanup can be better determined.
- EPA can move forward with some of the common elements now, while they determine if the bio-remediation and heating alternative should be a combination or only bio-remediation.
- After the Interim ROD is complete, but before the Final ROD is complete, a "Focused FS" regarding methods to remediate the remaining waste will be prepared.

Update of AMCO Clean-up Plans

- **Excavation Alternatives**
    - No Action (not preferred)
    - Excavation (of 10-15 feet) with Dual Phase
        - Since there are many unknowns, the Interim Remedial Action will give EPA time to investigate. The investigation will garner important information allowing EPA to fine tune the technology and cost to clean up the site.
        - Another benefit of the Interim Remedial Action is that EPA will begin remedial activities at the AMCO site much earlier than they would be able to otherwise.

- **Possible Relocation Alternatives:**

- **NOTE: On May 10 EPA presented the following alternatives that were being considered. However, in order for relocation to occur the State of California and /or a local entity has to agree to take title to the homes that would be part of the permanent relocation process. EPA staff is currently setting up meetings with both state and local agencies to discuss permanent relocation. After EPA has completed discussions with state and city agencies, EPA will be revising the list of alternatives presented below. The new alternatives will be presented this summer, but will still involve permanent and temporary location options.**
    - Alternative 1: No Action (not preferred)
    - Alternative 2: Permanent relocation of 3 homes on 3rd Street and Temporary relocation of all residents on both sides of Center Street.
    - Alternative 3: Permanent relocation of the homes on 3rd Street, permanent relocation of 5 homes on the East Side of Center street, and temporary relocation of homes on west side of Center Street.
        - Waste is most likely underneath the 1428 3rd St. home, and the only way to get to it is to remove the home. Removing the first home would inevitably damage the other two because of close proximity
        - EPA can use space for placement of treatment components
        - Homes are an impediment to construction
        - The groundwater is moving more toward the freeway as far as EPA can tell. If this is the case then the homes farther away from the AMCO site may not be at risk for exposure to VOCs.
        - Temporary relocation due to noise, odors, etc. that could impact families who are home during the construction hours (approximately 9-5).
        - EPA does not think it will be necessary to permanently relocate the homes on the East Side of Center Street because at this time there is no strong evidence that AMCO Waste Material would be located beneath the

foundations of those homes. During the temporary relocation EPA will verify whether or not waste material has crossed the fence lines, but since the property lots are so long the technical staff believes that if waste is on those properties it could be excavated without impacting the homes.

- Must be justified using the following **Nine RCRA Evaluation Criteria** which are being added to the minutes and are summarized below.
    - **Performance Standards**
      Any option selected by the agency as the final cleanup option must meet these performance standards. If the option does not meet these standards, the option will be rejected.
        - **Protect Human Health and the Environment, Attain Media Cleanup Goals, Control Sources of Releases**
          The clean up must protect human health and the environment, meet the selected cleanup goals, and control or eliminate any sources of contamination.
        - **Comply with Applicable Legal Requirements**
          The clean up action must meet all relevant state and federal legal requirements or provide a basis for being granted a legal waiver.
    - **Modifying Criteria**
      Two additional criteria for consideration are public and state government concerns and preferences in selecting a remedy. These criteria are evaluated during the public comment period for the agency's proposed final cleanup action/plan.
        - **State Acceptance**
          The extent to which an option is acceptable to the State.
        - **Community Acceptance**
          The extent to which an option is supported and accepted by the community
    - **Balancing/Evaluation Criteria**
      Balancing/Evaluation criteria are used to compare options that can achieve the performance standards against one another.
        - **Long-term effectiveness, permanence, and reliability**
          The extent to which the cleanup action is effective and reliable at maintaining protection of human health and the environment over time, taking into account any risk to people or the environment after the cleanup is complete.
        - **Reduction of toxicity, mobility, or volume through treatment**
          How effective the cleanup action will be at controlling or reducing the contaminant's level of potential harm (toxicity), its movement (mobility) and amount (volume) at the site.
        - **Short-term effectiveness**
          The length of time needed to implement the cleanup action, and the risk the clean up poses to workers, residents, the community and the environment while it is being carried out.
        - **Implementability**
          The anticipated technical and administrative feasibility of the cleanup option, including the availability of materials and services needed to carry it out.
        - **Cost**
          The estimated construction, operation, and maintenance costs of the option for the anticipated life of the cleanup action.

Public Comment Period Reviewers

- Residents

- Technical advisor
- State of California
- Contractors
- Etc.

Community Comments

- A resident wanted to point out to the South Prescott neighborhood that the band across the top of Superfund handout (PA/SA to FS) has taken approximately six years for them, while due to what EPA plans to do the next "loop" (from FS to Interim ROD) will occur in a few months.
- Confirmed that the residents understand what the bio-remediation and heating alternatives are.
- When does EPA anticipate the ROD will be complete? Fall?
    - EPA is anticipating the Proposed Plan to come out in the winter, and the Interim ROD will come out a few months after that, dependent on the public comments. So, the ROD may come out around April or May of next year.
- Will the Final ROD have relocation alternatives as well?
    - No, it should not be necessary, because the first phase of the work will be the most invasive.
- How locked in will you be to the relocation decisions after the Interim ROD and once you start construction?
    - It is somewhat flexible, because RoseMarie Caraway will be in constant communication with the residents who have the temporary relocation option. People can choose to be relocated temporarily after construction starts even if they previously thought they would rather stay.
- Facilitator: Clarify where EPA is now in the process:
    - Draft FS for final ROD on hold
        - Remedy review board triggered, because the clean-up plan may be over $35 million
    - Working on Interim ROD, which includes:
        - Draft PP, which EPA is working on
        - Focused FS, which EPA is working on
            - 35 pages in length
            - Will review against the **Nine Evaluation Criteria**
- A resident wanted to highlight the fact that an official public comment period is rapidly approaching and it is important for the residents to use that time period to officially comment on the EPA decision documents.
    - EPA has taken the resident comments into account throughout the process, but it is important for them to review the documents (Draft FS, Proposed Plan, Interim ROD, etc.) to confirm that EPA incorporated their comments.
    - 30 – 60 day public comment period around January, 2010
- In the event that there is permanent relocation what is EPA's opinion as to how many and which homes would be affected?
    - Three homes on Third Street as detailed in the Relocation Alternatives.
    - It is too soon to say what would happen in the long term with those properties.
    - After the first phase of the project EPA will reevaluate the situation and finalize their plans to completely clean up the site.

Indoor Air Sampling Results

- RoseMarie Caraway provided the shorter document to help the residents understand how to digest the sampling data.
- RoseMarie Caraway provided the longer document to the John Schweizer/Technical Assistant, who will be available to go over the document with interested residents.

- RoseMarie Caraway only provided indoor air sampling results for the homes that approved the release of their information.

How to read the Indoor Air Sampling Results

Example: AMCO Superfund Site, 1414 3rd Street:

- Sample types:
  - **RSG = Residential Soil Gas:** Soil gas sample taken from a grab sampling location. A grab sampling location is a one-time sample location without a properly constructed well or probe.
  - **RSP = Remedial Soil Probe:** Soil gas sample taken from a permanent sampling lcoation with a properly constructed well or probe.
  - **CA = Crawlspace Air:** Air in the crawlspace of a residence.
  - **OA = Outdoor Air Supply:** Air brought into a building from outside.
  - **AA = Ambient Air:** Any unconfined portion of the atmosphere: open air, surrounding air.
  - **OA = Outdoor Air Supply:** Air brought into a building from outside.
- The **first column** in table lists chemicals found in the indoor air.
- The **second column** in the table shows each chemical's **Screening Level (SL)**, which are protective levels set by the U.S. federal government to provide a sufficient margin of safety for everyone, including "sensitive" individuals (such as children and pregnant women). See the screening level handout provided at the meeting for more information.
- The remaining columns list the actual level of chemicals found in the indoor air samples. The column headings include date of sampling event (i.e.; SEP 2004 means September, 2004).

Community Comments

- What does U mean?
  - Not detected at listed reporting limit.
- Does it mean the device was not set correctly?
  - Some mean that the device may not have been set correctly.
  - Rosemarie Caraway will look at the validation report to determine what the J and U designations mean and will let the residents know.
    - The detection limit is not always achieved.
- John Schweizer/Technical Assistant: Has not had contractual authorization from TASC to review documents. Will that authorization come through before the next CAG meeting?
  - Leana hopes that the authorization will come through by the June CAG meeting.
- On Figure 13 of the South Prescott Park sampling data, is the circular area where the play structure is?
  - Yes

TASC/TAG Update

- EPA's TASC funds are limited by each region. The AMCO Superfund Site is in Region 9 (CA, NV, AZ), which has run out of funding. A request was sent to EPA headquarters for additional funding, which should come through in the next few weeks.
- Brian Beveridge/*West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project* submitted letter of intent for the Technical Assistant Grant, which will be followed by a 30 day period for other non-profit groups to submit a letter of intent.

Community Comments

- John Schweizer/Technical Assistant: This is pretty important stuff. 4,4'-DDT (mg/kg data) is not a major component in the AMCO Superfund Site. Why is it on this Figure 44A? Seeing this kind of data raises a lot of questions in John Schweizer/Technical Assistant's mind that does not necessarily lead to answers. He did not like seeing it on a figure since it is bad PR and not a Constituent of Concern for the AMCO site.

    - EPA provides CAG members with draft copies of documents and graphics as they are being developed internally for the EPA project manager. The maps provided at the meeting are draft maps that the contractor generated to show the RPM the limits of concrete removal on all the properties involved. It was not intended to imply that the reason for the excavated concrete was only 4,4'DDT.

- When will decision documents be available for John's review?
    - Rosemarie Caraway does not know yet. The timeline EPA passed out is a first cut timeline and subject to change.

Upcoming meetings:

- AMCO Superfund Site CAG Meeting: June 14 6:30 – 8:30 PM at the Mandela Gateway Apartments Community Room located at 1400 7th Street, Oakland.
    - CAG meetings will occur the second Monday of every month through August.
    - **June 14, 2010 Agenda:**
        - West Oakland Lead Assessment Update
        - More Indoor Air Sampling discussion
          Latest indoor air sampling preliminary results