

USEPA AMCO Superfund Site & Lead Cleanup CAG Meeting, February 26, 2013

EPA Attendees: Steve Calanog
Leana Rosetti

EPA Contractors: Kent Baugh/ITSI-Gilbane
Yash Nyznyk/CDM Smith
Ahnna Brossy/CDM Smith
Jack Medina/Spanish Translator

Community Members: John Schweizer (Technical Adviser)
Brian Beveridge (Community Co-Chair)
Krysta Morgenthaler
Val Coleman
Brigette Cook
Lisa Simmons
Vicky Valentine
Daniel Vigil
David Carter

Purpose of Meeting

- *Obtain input for upcoming Technical Forum to be held in March about the AMCO site cleanup*
- *Update community on next steps and estimated schedule for AMCO cleanup*
- *Hear Technical Advisor's comments on latest EPA AMCO documents*
- *Discuss possible community uses for the EPA Field Office*
- *Discuss Do It Yourself lead treatment outreach for extended community*
- *Respond to action items from last CAG meeting*

Welcome & Introductions

Leana Rosetti and Brian Beveridge (Community Co-Chair)

- Ms. Rosetti reviewed the meeting agenda.
- Meeting attendees introduced themselves.

AMCO Technical Forum with EPA, DTSC, Consultants, and Community Technical Advisor – Steve Calanog (Remedial Project Manager)

- Mr. Calanog discussed the ongoing role of the EPA field trailer as a community center for the AMCO Chemical Superfund site (Site).
 - It is an important resource for the community.
 - The EPA will try to have office hours at the EPA field trailer/community center (Brian Beveridge, John Schweizer, Steve Calanog, and Leana Rosetti).
 - The goal is to collect all of the reports for the AMCO site at the field trailer/community center, and have an accessible place for community members to discuss the site with EPA, the technical advisor, and the CAG co-chair.
 - Could the community center be utilized for workshops, talks, or classes (e.g., environmental issues or community concerns)?
 - Mr. Calanog asked if the community members had any other ideas.

- Mr. Calanog stated that the EPA will meet with the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) and community representatives to discuss technical aspects of the AMCO site and the best way to move forward with the AMCO cleanup.
 - Mr. Calanog began working on the AMCO site at the end of October 2012 and would like to re-engage the DTSC, which has not been an active participant in the AMCO project for the past several years.
 - Mr. Calanog will have a Technical Forum in two weeks with participation by DTSC. The meeting agenda will include updates about the recent field characterization activities, the current understanding of the AMCO site, and field work being considered at the Site. EPA, DTSC, City of Oakland, Brian Beveridge, and John Schweizer will be in attendance. The agenda will include the following points of discussion:
 1. **Sanitary Sewer Investigation.** A sanitary trunk sewer exists along 3rd Street. The sanitary sewer has an outside diameter of about 11 feet and is located about 15 feet below ground surface (below groundwater). Mr. Calanog stated that the sanitary sewer is located mid-stream of the groundwater contaminant plume. Based on the current understanding of the groundwater contamination, the EPA believes that the sanitary sewer line does not have significant influence on contaminant migration because contamination is present downgradient (to the south) of the sanitary sewer line. To evaluate if the sanitary trunk sewer is a possible preferential pathway, Mr. Calanog noted that the EPA proposes to drill borings and collect groundwater samples for analysis along the sewer line to confirm if the groundwater contamination has migrated along 3rd Street to the west.
 2. **Deep or Lower Aquifer Well(s).** Groundwater contamination within the aquifer zones beneath the Site appears to be confined to the upper aquifer/groundwater unit. The EPA does not believe that the contamination has migrated into the deeper aquifer, referred to as the Lower Aquifer. Installation of a well into the Lower Aquifer zone (to an estimated depth of at least 130 feet below ground surface) will help to confirm that. In response to a question from a resident, installation of a Lower Aquifer well could address the issue of communication between the Upper and Lower Aquifer zones.
 3. **Proposed Treatability Study.** Details regarding the proposed Treatability Study are under discussion.
 4. **Aquifer Pump Test.** Data from an aquifer pump test will be used to establish pumping rates from the aquifer system beneath the Site. Mr. Baugh stated that the field testing may also include injection testing, which could be incorporated as an element of the overall remediation at the Site.
- Mr. Calanog stated that natural degradation of the groundwater plume has been observed. What does this mean for the remedy?
 - Natural degradation of the groundwater contamination needs to be considered as part of the remedy (take advantage of what nature is already doing).
 - Mr. Calanog posed a question to the community members: Is the community interested in learning more about the natural degradation of contamination at either a future CAG meeting or an afternoon meeting? A community member mentioned that John Schweizer gave a great presentation showing this at the last meeting. Perhaps this could be offered again but at a separate meeting so as not to repeat it at the CAG.
 - Mr. Beveridge requested a visual representation of the breakdown of contamination products and a discussion of how to help the natural degradation process.
 - Mr. Beveridge commented that the natural degradation process is less intrusive, but it takes a long time; therefore, the AMCO site could not be redeveloped as quickly.
 - A community member asked about the time frame for a decision on the proposed remedy for the Site. Mr. Calanog stated that the EPA will make a recommendation for a remedy within the next year and a half.

- Community member asked if the concrete is a barrier to the contamination. Mr. Calanog stated that the concrete on the AMCO Site does assist in limiting direct human health exposure to subsurface contamination.
- Mr. Calanog stated that vapor intrusion is the primary exposure route that currently exists due to the contamination at the Site. The EPA has installed some vapor intrusion mitigation measures in several residences in 2009. Additional air samples in the homes are collected periodically to ensure that the mitigation systems are functioning.
- Mr. Beveridge stated that the EPA Remedy Review Board encouraged EPA to better characterize the extent of contamination at the Site. The ongoing field work is part of this effort.

Technical Assistance Services for the Community – John Schweizer, TASC

- Mr. Schweizer reviewed two EPA reports since the last CAG meeting. He initially commented on the draft versions of these reports in June/July 2012. His comments are available on the South Prescott Community Forum website (<http://southprescottcommunityforum.org>).
- He indicated that many of his comments to the draft reports had not been incorporated into the final document.
- He summarized his comments on the Final Lower Aquifer Well Installation Work Plan. The Work Plan described the installation of the deep groundwater monitoring wells below the clay layer. This clay layer separates the Upper Aquifer and the Lower Aquifer.
- Mr. Schweizer reviewed the Final Technical Memorandum - Cone Penetrometer Testing (CPT) and Membrane Interface Probe (MIP) Investigation and made the following comments:
 - The soil characterization activities were performed at the AMCO site since he had reviewed the draft reports in 2012. The soil characterization work resulted in important information regarding the nature and extent of contamination.
 - For example, the original idea in the Conceptual Site Model (CSM) was that the clay layer that separates the Upper Aquifer (contaminated) from the Lower Aquifer (drinking water resource) was 90 feet thick and continuous across the site. The soil investigation showed that in some places, the clay layer was only 3 feet thick and may not be continuous across the subsurface beneath the Site.
 - Sea shells were also found south of the Site (depth not indicated), so the clay layer could have been a prehistoric bay bottom.
 - Based on the new soil characterization data, he questions the original CSM, which suggests that the Lower Aquifer has not been impacted with Site contaminants. Mr. Schweizer believes that it is of value to further investigate the Lower Aquifer.
 - Mr. Schweizer recommended that the CAG request that the EPA modify one of the proposed locations for the Lower Aquifer wells in order to determine the source of contamination currently existing southwest of the AMCO site in Prescott Park. Dense non-aqueous phase components were detected in a groundwater monitoring well (installed to about 50 feet bgs) located in the park. Moving the location of the monitoring well may help to determine whether the source of the off-site contamination was the AMCO Site or some other off-site source.

Community Member Questions

- What company was at the AMCO site?
 - Mr. Beveridge stated that AMCO Chemical operated at the Site from the mid-1960s to 1989. Site activities included chemical transfer from the trains that came onto the site into drums.
- Is it problematic to drill in the park?
 - Mr. Baugh stated that wells have already been installed in the park. Since the park is owned by the City of Oakland, additional time would be needed to gain access to the park.
- Are there any vapor issues for children playing in the park?
 - Mr. Calanog stated that the vapors in the park continue to be monitored. Additionally, EPA does not believe that there is a risk associated with the vapor issues.
 - Air samples were collected near the sand about five years ago. The laboratory analysis indicated detections near the laboratory detection limits (in other words, very low detections and not a risk to human health).
- I thought that the groundwater plume was not moving?
 - Mr. Beveridge stated that the groundwater plume concentrations were declining and the groundwater plume was retracting as a result of ongoing natural degradation of the contamination.
 - Ms. Schweizer stated that data collected as part of the soil gas samples are a one-time event. The concentrations detected in the vapor samples collected during the last sampling event (in 2012) were very close to the laboratory detection limit. Since the detections were so close to the laboratory detection levels, Mr. Schweizer recommended that additional vapor samples be collected again.
- Can we set up a frequency of vapor sampling? Set up averages? It seems like there is not a whole lot of vapor data.
 - Mr. Schweizer stated that vapor concentration trends (increasing or decreasing) are more important than averages.
 - Mr. Beveridge asked Mr. Baugh about the schedule for groundwater monitoring and soil gas sampling. He suggested that the CAG might want to ask for annual soil gas/vapor testing.
 - Mr. Baugh stated that the groundwater monitoring was performed semi-annually, and the indoor air/soil gas sampling was not on a set monitoring schedule. The last indoor air samples were collected last year (2012).
 - Mr. Calanog stated that the EPA is open to suggestions from the CAG regarding the frequency of soil gas/indoor air sampling events. Mr. Calanog requested that the CAG send him an email regarding the monitoring schedule request.
- Regarding the Technical Forum meeting with the EPA/DTSC, there are two community priorities:
 - Protection of human health, particularly the children. What has been most attractive to the community is the use of remedial technologies that are minimally invasive. Once the concrete is removed there would be an increase in exposure. Would the community rather have a longer or shorter remediation process?
 - Protection of the environment: Is the use of groundwater in the deep aquifer protected or not?

Fishbone Project – Leana Rosetti

- Long term maintenance of yards to maintain lead safety
 - The Fishbone Project Facts Sheets were sent out last month. The Facts Sheet includes some discussion regarding what the resident will need to do to maintain the property after implementation of the Fish Bone project. The EPA also sent out a letter with the information to pass on to future property owners to make sure that the work is not forgotten.

“Do It Yourself” Fishbone Project – Leana Rosetti

- Be aware that the greater Oakland area has lead problems.
- There is guidance available to local community members to treat their own yards with “Do It Yourself” information, including Facts Sheets and possible workshops.
- Mr. Beveridge is looking for volunteers to assist with workshops and classes. He would like to take the EPA material and separate it out based on how to approach the project from the standpoint of ongoing gardening versus a soil remediation.
- Mr. Calanog stated that there are so many facets to the lead issue. He wants to be able to provide as much information as possible so that residents can make an informed decision on gardening in their yards.
- A resident asked about the fact that the fish bones are only available in one ton quantities. Mr. Beveridge stated that they were still working on that issue.
- A resident asked about the extent of the lead test boundary. Ms. Rosetti stated that the lead test boundary was to Peralta Street. Alameda County may have collected the soil samples outside of the South Prescott Neighborhood.
- In response to a resident question about the Fish Bone project funding, Mr. Calanog stated that the money for the project came from EPA.
- Mr. Beveridge stated that elevated levels of lead were detected west of the AMCO site, but that the lead is not related to the AMCO site. Random soil testing conducted at 50 homes in the neighborhood indicated that there was an ambient elevation of lead, but no point source. Therefore, Mr. Calanog did some research to come up with the Fishbone project idea, which was funded by EPA.
- Mr. Beveridge stated that it is important that the community demonstrate that the community center is a valuable resource.
- Ms. Rosetti requested that the CAG community members send the EPA their ideas for community use and office hours for the EPA Field Office.

Action items from last meeting – Steve Calanog

- Sod issue in some yards which participated in the lead cleanup project
 - Mr. Calanog would like to meet after the meeting and communicate with residents one on one regarding this issue.
- Indoor air investigation
 - This item was discussed earlier in the meeting.
- Questions associated with the possible movement of playground structure in park included:
 - Where can we move this playground?
 - How can he help coordinate these discussions?

- Do we remove the equipment and store it until a proper place is found for the equipment?
- In response to a question from Mr. Calanog regarding how the community members felt about the playground, one community member stated that because of conditions at the playground site (mostly due to safety), they don't consider that the playground exists (i.e., don't consider that the playground is safe for children to use).
- Mr. Calanog stated that if the park were to be moved, the ultimate location would largely be determined by the community. Mr. Calanog asked if there was a more appropriate location for the park. The community responses included:
 - Corner of Henry and 5th, but it would still be a place for "sketchy" people to hang out.
 - The park should move because it is built adjacent to a Superfund Site.
 - There is no place in the park that is actually used.
 - Could a part of it be a dog park or community garden?
 - Should have a larger dialogue about Prescott Park. How do we re-possess it as a community?
 - It's a lousy place for a playground, and people have not used the park in the past few years...only dogs.
- Mr. Calanog stated that there must be a way to move the equipment, but that he does not have the authority to move it.
- A representative for the City of Oakland Council asked if the CAG had been in contact with the West Oakland Transit Village plan regarding open space options.
 - Mr. Beveridge stated that he had not heard any discussion of any open space.
 - The City of Oakland representative stated that the City of Oakland would like input from the community regarding what they would like and the possibility of open space incorporated into the area.
 - A community member stated that he had not heard anything from the City regarding the West Oakland Transit Village plan in several years, and was shocked it was still in existence. The city representative thanked him for the comment and made note to improve communication with the neighborhood.
- Mr. Calanog asked if a community survey should be conducted in order to assess how the community would feel about moving the park.
 - When will the community survey occur?
 - Mr. Beveridge would like to conduct a youth survey to count the number of people who use the park. Lisa Simmons expressed interest in helping. Ms. Rosetti mentioned that GreenAction had also offered to help in this effort.

Next Meeting

The next CAG meeting will be in April 2013 (date to be determined) from 6:30 to 8:30 PM, at the EPA Field Office located at 349 Mandela Parkway, Oakland, California.

Meeting Adjourned