

USEPA AMCO Superfund Site & Lead Cleanup CAG Meeting, November 13, 2012

- EPA Attendees:** Steve Calanog
Alejandro Diaz
Sophia Serda
- EPA Contractors:** Kent Baugh/ITSI-Gilbane
Yash Nyznyk/CDM Smith
Ahnna Brossy/CDM Smith
Jack Medina/Translator
- CAG Members:** John Schweizer (Technical Adviser)
- Other Attendees:** Frances Watson
Ellen Parkinson
Edward Henderson
Valerie Coleman
Krysta Morgenthaler
Bradley Angel

Purpose of Meeting

- *Update community as EPA nears the end of the AMCO Lead Project*
- *Introduce Community to Lead Egg Study*
- *Revisit EPA data on the Park and recent air data collected*
- *Hear Technical Advisor's comments on AMCO investigations*

6:40 Alejandro Diaz began meeting.

- Mr. Diaz stated that EPA did not do a quantitative cumulative impact assessment for the AMCO site.
- Mr. Diaz stated the meeting agenda.

Introduction from new EPA Project Manager for the AMCO Site – Steve Calanog

The meeting began with the introduction of Steve Calanog (EPA- Emergency Response Office). Mr. Calanog has managed the residential lead project over last 1.5 years. He was asked to take over as the EPA lead for AMCO. Rose Marie Caraway is no longer the EPA RPM for AMCO.

Lead Cleanup Progress Update – Steve Calanog

Steve Calanog

- Mr. Calanog gave an update to the Lead Cleanup Process, which is the in-situ stabilization of lead in soil.
- Mr. Calanog stated that 143 yards in Prescott neighborhood participated in the Lead Cleanup activities. There are eight plots that have not been treated, due primarily to the inability to contact the owner or property ownership issues. Overall, roughly 95% of the neighborhood participated in the Lead Cleanup activities.
- He indicated that there were still issues with the sod at some of the properties and that the EPA would look into it after the holidays.
- EPA has received positive feedback from the community.

- Mr. Calanog stated that the goals of this project included reducing the exposure of lead in soil to children and minimizing the environmental impacts during implementation. He felt that this was accomplished, in part, through the use of electric vehicles, use of solar power, and hiring of locals. He reported that of the 38 people that had worked on the project, a large number came from the Cypress Mandela Parkway Training Center. Additionally, five people from the community worked on landscaping.
- Mr. Calanog thanked the community for their help on this project.

Introduction of the Egg Study – Sophia Serda

- Dr. Sophia Serda has been involved on the AMCO project for a number of years, and served as the EPA technical lead on the risk assessment that had been performed for the AMCO Site (CH2M-Hill, 2010). In response to a concern raised by the community about lead impacts to chickens, Dr. Serda introduced information about the Chicken Egg Study with photos of the egg collection. The Chicken Egg Study will involve determining the lead content of eggs with (egg yolk, egg white, and egg shells will be measured separately). A comparison of lead content in eggs will be made looking at eggs from chickens raised within the fish bone project area and eggs from chickens located outside the fish bone project area.
- A Lead Egg Study was conducted by the New York Department of Environmental Health. They found lead in the egg yolk, egg white, and egg shells. So the eggs collected from our study may have lead too.
- In planning the egg study in the AMCO area, S. Serda noted that an EPA intern, Violette Ballieu, helped. We had a conversation with the FDA (US Food and Drug Administration) to confirm the appropriate procedures for lead analysis of chicken eggs. EPA's ORD (Office of Research and Development) lab at Research Triangle Park will analyze the eggs & provided several recommendations, including that the lead analysis be performed separately on the eggs and yolks, and that a spike be added to confirm analytical results.
- The purpose of the Oakland Chicken Egg Study is to determine if there is a correlation between how the chicken is raised, the lead in soil and amount of lead in the eggs.
- A local resident voiced her concern about raising chickens in areas with high concentrations of lead in soil. Mr. Calanog responded that the first step would be to learn what is showing up in the eggs and the second step would be to determine what should be done about it.
- Mr. Calanog mentioned that the issue of lead abatement came up in discussions with Alameda County. Alameda County has a permitting process that is required for individual plots that sell produce. A number of questions came up, including: Did they have a similar program for eggs? Are there recommendations for raising chickens in areas with high concentrations of lead in soil to ensure risk reduction safety? S. Serda indicated that the results from the Oakland Chicken Egg Study would be available from EPA's Research Triangle Park Study in about 4 months, and EPA will give a presentation in a May/June 2013 timeframe.
- There were a number of discussions regarding raising chickens, including:
 - Different styles of chicken coops.
 - Observation that chicken eggs came in different colors.
 - Questions about the differences between the digestive systems for chickens and humans.
 - Reports of one study (completed in Iowa), which indicated that there was a lot of lead present in the gizzard of a chicken. The study noted high lead in egg shells so the practice of feeding egg shells to chickens, might not be a good idea.
 - Mr. Calanog stated that chicken waste is high in phosphate. The lead binds with the phosphate, which makes the lead less bioavailable.

Discussion (Revisit Park Data – Ambient Air Updates/Risk Assessment)

- Mr. Calanog mentioned that he spoke to Mr. Brian Beveridge that morning to get an idea of the community's concern regarding the park structure located on 3rd Street. Mr. Calanog

stated that existing environmental data suggest a very low risk at the park, but that if the park structure is moved, decisions would have to be made regarding where it would be moved to and what would it take to move it.

- Discussions regarding the park included:
 - Historic information regarding the location of the park.
 - Concern about the location near the highway, AMCO site, and underground utilities.
 - Concern that toxics have been found in the park.

- Mr. Calanog indicated that there are a number of government agencies that have a say in what happens with the park and that perhaps they can come to a resolution to move the park to a safer location. Mr. Calanog was going to have follow-up discussions with residents to better understand the history of the park.

Technical Assistance Services for the Community – John Schweizer

- Mr. Schweizer reviewed three EPA reports since the last CAG meeting and mentioned that his detailed review comments were available at the AMCO Information Repository at the Oakland Main Library and the EPA field office.
- He summarized his detailed written comments about the Draft Treatability Study Work Plan (TS Work Plan) as follows:
 - Draft TS Work Plan was more complicated than it needed to be.
 - Data show that biological activity in the groundwater has helped reduce contaminant concentrations and that it would be beneficial to take steps to enhance biological activity in the groundwater.
 - Rather than performing bench-scale testing, Mr. Schweizer recommended conducting pilot testing.
- Mr. Schweizer reviewed the Work Plan which addressed the lower aquifer well installation and made the following comments to summarize his detailed written comments:
 - Upper Aquifer extends to about 65 to 70 feet below ground surface (bgs). Below this there is a clay layer, and below the clay layer is the lower aquifer.
 - Proposed location of the deep aquifer wells looked good, but recommended that the screen intervals be placed across the silt/silty clay instead of just sand because the silt/silty clay layers may contain greater levels of contamination.
 - Some solvents are heavier than water and could have migrated below the upper aquifer into the lower aquifer
 - Soil and shallow groundwater contamination occurred as a result of spills during product transfer from rail cars.
 - In response to a question from Ms. Ellen Parkinson, Mr. Schweizer indicated that if a storm similar to Hurricane Sandy hit this area, the near-surface contaminated groundwater could rise to the surface.
 - Mr. Baugh stated that it would be hard to say what would happen to the water table in that short of a period, how much run-off would occur, or how much the water table would rise. He also indicated that the biggest impacts from contamination of the groundwater could be to subsurface infrastructure.
 - Ellen Parkinson, highlighted that there was a need to prepare for these unexpected events.
- Mr. Schweizer reviewed the raw data for ambient air and compared the data to the two previous events. Comments/observations are summarized as follows:
 - The data suggest that bioremediation is occurring in the groundwater, resulting in a retraction of the groundwater plume in the direction of the site.
 - Suggested that the CAG may want to ask the EPA to look further into air data for the 2 crawl spaces showing vinyl chloride detections. He noted that concentrations under the two homes were very near the detection limit and therefore could be subject to limitations of the laboratory that did the test, or even the individual analyst performing the test.

- In response to a question from Mr. Angel, Mr. Schweizer stated that one home was located on 3rd Street and one home was located on Center. Mr. Schweizer did not know whether or not there were children present in these homes.
- Mr. Angel raised the issues of EPA not addressing cumulative risk at the site. He suggested that rather than repeated studies, some action needs to be taken.
- Another resident commented that the EPA was not being responsive to a concern from the CAG regarding the risk from impacted air.
- Mr. Calanog indicated that he will look into what the EPA can do.
- Mr. Schweizer reiterated that the vinyl chloride results in the crawl spaces may not be real, and that there is no evidence of vapor intrusion from AMCO into the homes. He noted that sources such as household chemicals, construction materials, and smoking are consistent with the results for those compounds detected above screening levels in the homes, because they are not present in the groundwater under the homes.
- Mr. Angel raised the issue of dioxins/furans in the groundwater and what could be the source. Mr. Calanog stated that he will talk to a few people in an effort to better understand the source of the dioxins/furans. Mr. Angel mentioned that during the installation of the park, a comment came up about a dioxin source. Mr. Calanog stated that the recent fire in the area could serve as a new source of dioxins.

Steve Calanog's comments

- Mr. Calanog indicated that he would like to create a Project Office for the AMCO site at the EPA trailer. The EPA Trailer would have office hours and CAG meetings could be held there. In response to a question from a resident, Mr. Calanog stated that there would be plenty of parking.
- A resident asked Mr. Schweizer how fast the groundwater was moving (e.g., 1 foot per year). Mr. Schweizer stated that groundwater is moving at about 10 feet per year, but the plume is receding due to biological activity.
- Mr. Schweizer also indicated that the vinyl chloride concentration is so close to the detection limits/screening levels that results could sometimes be influenced by the laboratory that performed the analysis.

Action items

1. EPA (Steve Calanog) – Talk to civic leaders about park equipment (on Center between 3rd Street and Mandela).
2. EPA – Regarding the VC detections in air in crawl spaces under homes, EPA to determine next steps.
3. EPA – (Steve Calanog and Alejandro Diaz) Address any potential sod issues during 2013.

Health Risk Assessment –Dr. Sophia Serda

- S. Serda showed a few slides from her 2010 Health Risk Assessment talk and discussed the definition of Cumulative Impact:
 - Cumulative Impact = (exposures + public health effects + environmental effects) x (sensitive population + socioeconomic factors)
 - Ms. Serda stated that the interactions of risk factors over the life span determine individual health status (slide).
- Ms. Serda stated that West Oakland is vulnerable community A resident stated that he lives in the community, should he be scared? If not, why not?
- Mr. Angel mentioned that statements have been made by EPA that concentrations are safe.
- Mr. Yash Nyznyk (CDM Smith) indicated that statements made at the June 2012 meeting were specific to contaminant concentrations in groundwater and compared to Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) which are safe.

- Mr. Angel stated that there has never been analysis for the true cumulative risk.
- S. Serda stated that MCLs are cost-based as well as risk-based.
- Miscellaneous discussion points:
 - Community member asked about the limitations of the risk assessment. Did the risk assessment conclude that it was safe? S. Serda stated that she believed they were safe. from vapor migration of chemicals from groundwater at the park.
 - In response to a question from the community regarding clean-up of the Site, Mr. Calanog stated that everyone needs to come together to clean up the site and that there may be some actions taken that won't satisfy everyone.
 - It was noted that residents are waiting to make plans for the AMCO property as part of improvements to the West Oakland area. The property needs to be cleaned up and the land needs to be available for other uses.
 - Mr. Calanog stated that everyone agrees that it needs to be cleaned and that his job is to get everyone together and do what makes sense to clean it up.
 - Refer to the following website for information on the risk assessment:
www.Epa.gov/region09/amco = Technical Documents = 2010 Human Health Risk Assessment

Next Meeting

- The next CAG meeting will be in February/March 2013 (date to be determined) from 6:30 to 8:30 PM, at the Mandela Parkway Apartments Community Room or perhaps the Field Office.

Meeting Adjourned