

EPA AMCO Superfund Site & Lead Cleanup Community Advisory Group (CAG) Meeting March 3, 2014

EPA Attendees: Enrique Manzanilla, Director of the Superfund Division, EPA Region 9
Steve Calanog, EPA Emergency Response
Lynn Suer, EPA Remedial Project Manager for AMCO
Caleb Shaffer, EPA Superfund Division, EPA Region 9
Sarah Cafasso, EPA Community Involvement Coordinator for AMCO

EPA Contractors: Kent Baugh, Gilbane
Yash Nyznyk, CDM Smith
Ryan Wood, CDM Smith

Community Members: Brian Beveridge, Community Co-Chair
John Schweizer, Technical Adviser
Bradley Angel, Greenaction
David Carter, SPNA
Margaret Gordon, Resident
Arthur (last name not known), Resident
Craig Cherry, Commercial Property Owner
Rusty Harris-Bishop, Resident
Jose Rodriguez, Community Member
Ivery McKnight, Resident
Jay Itote, Community Member / Farm2city

Purpose of Meeting

- *Provide update on the “state of the EPA trailer”.*
- *Notify CAG regarding transition to new EPA Remedial Project Manager (RPM).*
- *Discuss technical data presented in the Draft Remedial Investigation Report Addendum (RI Addendum).*
- *Discuss the project timeline and introduce concept of the Engineering Evaluation/Cost Assessment (EE/CA).*

Introductions and Review of Agenda – Brian Beverage and Sarah Cafasso (Co-Chairs)

Introduction of Enrique Manzanilla – Steve Calanog

- The EPA is still very interested in AMCO. S. Calanog has been replaced as the RPM on the project by Lynn Suer. S. Calanog intends to stay involved with this project.
- S. Calanog introduced Enrique Manzanilla, EPA Region 9 Superfund Division Director.

Enrique Manzanilla’s comments:

- There have been quite a few discussions regarding the AMCO site within the EPA, which have been focused on developing a strategy for remediation of the Site.
- Under Superfund, there are complex processes that need to occur in order to move things forward and certain programs within the Superfund Division take longer than expected.
- Although, it’s taken a long time to get where we are right now, a great deal of work has been accomplished at the AMCO Site.

“State of the Trailer” (transition of lease from EPA) – Brian Beverage

- The AMCO Site CAG and the community group interested in the lead cleanup project became a single entity.
- For the lead cleanup project, the EPA had been responsive to the CAG’s request for engaging local residents and providing opportunities for local residents to work on the project. A field office was needed in order to accomplish this.
- After completion of the lead project, there was less of a need for EPA to continue maintaining the trailer; however, the West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project (WOEIP) wanted to maintain the trailer as a community resource. B. Beverage said that progress had been made in establishing a lease for the trailer and that the intent is for the community to continue to operate out of the trailer.
- B. Beverage said that they will continue to have John Schweizer, Community Technical Adviser, available at the trailer on a weekly basis to answer technical questions regarding the AMCO Superfund Site.

Discussion of the EPA RPM Transition – Caleb Shaffer, Lynn Suer, Steve Calanog

Caleb Shaffer:

- We’ve reached the end of the site characterization process. The goal now is to begin to address the cleanup of the site. C. Shaffer stated that EPA is developing a strategy to begin remediation at the AMCO site and will share some of that with the community at this meeting. C. Shaffer provided some background information on Lynn Suer, the new AMCO Site RPM. The EPA Region 9 office intends on seeking funds from EPA Headquarters for implementing a removal action (described below).

RI Addendum/Engineering Update – John Schweizer

- The EPA released the *Draft Remedial Investigation Report Addendum* (RI Addendum), which documented all of the investigation activities that have been performed after completion of the *Remedial Investigation Report* (finalized in January 2011). J. Schweizer provided review comments to EPA on the RI Addendum. There were three main issues identified by J. Schweizer that he felt affected the community.
 - 1. Vapor Intrusion Pathway**
 - With impacted groundwater beneath the homes, the contaminants in the groundwater can volatilize (transition to a gaseous state) and enter homes through the crawl space or through the concrete slab.
 - The EPA has performed in-home air testing and determined that vapor intrusion is not occurring; however, over time, conditions can change and vapor intrusion may become an issue.
 - Biodegradation can result in production of contaminants that are more toxic than the original contaminants (e.g., degradation of PCE/TCE and the production of vinyl chloride). Vinyl chloride exists as a gas and not as a solvent.
 - Crawl space ventilation systems had been installed in several residences located near the AMCO Site to ensure that in-home breathing spaces are not impacted from vapor intrusion.
 - 2. Detection of Pesticides.** As part of the Soil Characterization effort, pesticides were detected, primarily in the shallow soils in the Large Vacant Lot and in soils of the AMCO property.

3. Contamination in Groundwater

- A low level detection of trichloroethylene (TCE) in a deep soil sample collected during the Soil Characterization effort indicated a location where TCE may have migrated downward. To assess whether TCE had migrated further downward, the Lower Aquifer well was installed at this location. Based on data from this well, chemical releases at the former AMCO facility have not impacted the water quality of the Lower Aquifer groundwater.
- J. Schweizer requested that VOC concentration trend plots be developed by EPA's technical consultant for wells that are located on the perimeter of the VOC plume. These plots would be useful in assessing whether groundwater concentrations were decreasing or increasing in the vicinity of the residences on 3rd Street. The data from these wells are available, but trend plots for these particular wells have not yet been generated.

Project Timeline and Introduction of EE/CA – Lynn Suer

- L. Suer discussed a strategy to implement a removal action to address the source area at the AMCO Site.
- L. Suer discussed her background and experience prior to work on the AMCO Site.
 - Marine Aquatic Biology academic background.
 - 35-year resident of Oakland.
 - Started her career working with the Water Board.
 - Experience on the closure of several military bases.
- To be able to implement a removal action, EPA Region 9 will have to get approval for funding from EPA Headquarters.
- Handout provided an outline of the steps and tentative schedule for the Removal Action:
 - This action would be a Non-time Critical Removal Action. Emergency response actions are typically considered to be “time-critical” removal actions.
 - Non-time Critical Removal Action:
 1. The National Committee Review Board reviewed the draft Focused Feasibility Study prepared to address source area remediation at the Site, and concluded that we did not have enough characterization data. Based on the work over the past several years, we have collected sufficient characterization data to move forward.
 2. Need to prepare an EE/CA, which evaluates several remedial action alternatives and provides an estimate of the costs for each alternative.
 3. We will evaluate three remedial alternatives of cleanup as part of the EE/CA. The intent is to involve the community in the evaluation with community review of the EE/CA.
 4. The EE/CA is tentatively scheduled for completion in mid-November.
- Other items, community questions and comments
 - What will be done with the three houses located on 3rd Street?
 - What is involved with the public comment period?
 - A question was raised about the concentration trend plots discussed by J. Schweizer. It was explained that the data are available, but that plots for these particular wells had not been developed. Those plots can be prepared.

Next Meeting

No plans were made for the next CAG Meeting.