

## **Community Advisory Committee (CAC) for Soil Study Wednesday, October 17<sup>th</sup> 2018 Meeting Notes**

**In attendance:** Dr. Joe Gardella (JG-UB), Dr. Tammy Milillo (TM-UB), Katie Little (KL-UB), Rich Mpelezos (RM, Buffalo Resident), Anne Bazinet (AB-ToT Resident), Jeanine Justen (JJ, Grand Island Resident), Jackie James-Creedon (JJC-CSCR, Kenmore Resident) – phoned in (note: meeting was held at the Kenmore library in the common area, JJC was on speaker but muted her sound in deference to other guests of the library).

**Absent:** Dr. Mike Milligan (MM-SUNY Fredonia), Jay Farqueson (JF, Grand Island resident), Sue Mazur (SM, ToT Resident)

### **Review last month's notes**

September notes were reviewed and approved

### **Update on Phase 2 Sampling**

**(KL)** KL and students are working on getting permissions to sample, sampling, processing data from ALS, creating reports, delivering reports, and following up with participants.

- # Samples sent to ALS - 80
- # Reports delivered - 27
- # Secondary permissions – 5

Participants are encouraged to come to a Talks with Tammy event to have an in-person consultation about their data, may have a phone call with JG to discuss data, and are also encouraged to call KL with any questions.

### **Sampling at TCC**

**(JG)** Soil and air samples were collected at TCC with the help and cooperation of the staff, especially from the environmental manager, Matt Schimpf.

- 6 soil samples collected for composite 10/12/18
- 1 24-hour air sample collected with SUNY Fredonia air sampling equipment 10/15/18-10/16/18
- The sampling team completed an abbreviated 3 hour (usually 9 hours) safety training on Friday, 10/12, and were able to collect the soil samples within a couple of hours. The team was allowed to collect the soil samples without any objections or interference from the TCC staff. The soil sampling team drove MM's car around the facility to get to each sampling site.
- 6 samples were collected – this number is based on the initial discussion JG had with TCC about a year ago.
- The TCC environmental manager requested that we collect "split samples", meaning that the UB soil testing team collected samples for TCC from each sampling site. TCC does not intend to have the samples tested, but wanted them archived in case of future need to sample.
- Sample locations were chosen based on suggestions from Nellie Brown, former chemist at TCC, and an aerial map created by TM. TM created a map that condensed our version of the 15 sample plan to 6 samples, maintaining a broad sampling plan to sample in various areas of the facility. Due to the compact terrain of the site we would not have been able to take 15 samples.
- Soil samples from TCC were composited on Tuesday 10/16/18 and were sent to ALS on Friday 10/19/18.
- After samples were collected the environmental manager, Matt Schimpf, gave a tour of the facility and showed the team where they could set up the air sampling equipment. He knew where to find all of the outlets at the plant and provided the team with several options.
- Parts of the coke oven battery looked like it was under repair. Cleanup of the facility will take a significant amount of work due to the nature of the infrastructure from 100 years ago. Coke and coal were stored directly on the ground. JG saw three drainage ponds on the site in areas where they toured the facility. Those are the ponds that the DEC is concerned could leach into the Niagara River.
- We were able to collect an air sample. KL called Matt Schimpf on Saturday 10/13 and we were able to set up the sample for the following Monday (10/15).
- JG asked the president of TCC if we could post a statement on the Friends of TCC Soil Study Facebook page. The statement notes that we collected soil and air samples and thanks the various employees at TCC who were very friendly, nice, and helpful in assisting us in the collection process.

**(JJ)** The employees were nice when we were picketing outside of the facility.

**(JG)** We have to remember that people work there.

**(RM)** Was the air sample limited in any way? Was it detrimental to the study that the UB sampler was not used?

(JG) The air sample location was chosen by identifying the closest outlet to the emission source. The sample was taken near the baghouse.

MM had spiked samples and the Fredonia sampler was ready to go for sampling at TCC. MM will do the extracting of the sample in his lab.

The Fredonia equipment samples for SVOCs, which matches what we are finding in the soil. We will use this data to help with source apportionment.

The UB sampler samples for VOCs and would have picked up chemicals like Benzene. We were only using the UB sampler to compare the air from TCC to the community samples.

#### **Air sampling update**

(JG) The ALS lab in California no longer analyzes the type of air sample we were planning to do. We had to find other places where we could send the samples.

Due to the shutdown of the TCC facility the community samples may be moot, however JG would still like to collect air samples from the community.

(All others present) Agree that air samples should be collected in the community.

#### **Update on DEC/EPA review of maps, Q&A meeting**

(JG) We will reschedule next month's CAC meeting due to its proximity to the Thanksgiving holiday.

(KL) We will plan the CAC meeting based on the availability of the DEC and EPA representatives. When we schedule and day/time KL will notify the group.

(TM) We should bring up that the SCOs are high, and may not reflect levels that are protective of resident's health.

(JG) We analyzed the data using lower SCOs because we wanted to take a conservative approach for a screening study. The DEC will follow their own guidance, which may reflect SCO values that have been recently increased.

The EPA and DEC standards are different. UB is under no obligation to use either of their standards to analyze the data. We set our own standards to be conservative for the screening study so that we would not miss anything.

(TM) The DEC and EPA have access to over 2,000 maps that TM has created (they may not have looked at all of them).

The DEC representative assigned to give feedback to the TCC Soil Study, Ben McPherson, came to the same conclusion as TM

(JJ) Did the DEC seem pleased with the result of Phase 1?

(JG) We will find out when they visit for Q&A next month.

We'll prepare maps and plan to meet next month in a space that has a projector.

**Next meeting TBD**