

Community Advisory Committee (CAC) for Soil Study Wednesday, April 25th 2018 Meeting Notes

In attendance: Dr. Joe Gardella (JG-UB), Dr. Mike Milligan (MM-SUNY Fredonia), Jackie James-Creedon (JJC-CSCR, Kenmore Resident), Katie Little (KL-UB, CSCR), Sue Mazur (SM, ToT Resident), Jeanine Justin (JJ, Grand Island Resident), Anne Bazinet (AB-ToT Resident), Rich Mpelezos (RM, Buffalo Resident)

Absent: Jay Farqueson (JF, Grand Island resident), Maria Tisby (MT, ToT Resident), Dr. Tammy Milillo (TM-UB),

(SM) Could not attend entire meeting, but wanted to make a statement to the group about her health situation. A long discussion encompassing ~30 minutes is summarized here.

(JJC/JG/MM) It's up to medical doctors, like Dr. Bonner and others working on the Health Study, to determine health effects from industrial pollution.

(JJ/AB) People in the community should share their stories in their own words. We could publish them and keep them in our own library.

(JG) Nellie Brown will be coming to UB for a meeting to discuss the background of the study on 5/18/18. She offered to talk to the CAC about her experience working at TCC as a chemist.

(KL) Updates on UB progress:

- # samples taken – 182
- # reports delivered – 179
- # secondary permissions – 129
- # needed secondary permissions – 48
- # officially declined to submit secondary permission – 5

(JG) In response to Jay F's questions:

Jay poses some valid questions, but the issues he raises are complicated and not always easy to answer in a FAQ document. We need to have a conversation about those items when JF is here.

(MM) Air sampling update:

We will be taking samples on site at TCC. We will also be taking 8 samples in the community. They would be 24hr samples. We have two pieces of sampling equipment, one of which requires an extension cord. (See air sampling FAQ for more details)

(RM) Can you run the equipment off of a generator?

(MM) No, because it would pollute the sample.

(JJ) Are sampling locations chosen strategically based on wind?

(MM) It's a consideration, but we can only predict the wind a few days in advance.

(JJ) Will this soil study turn into another Love Canal? How will this affect property values?

(JG) I don't know. Real estate people are way ahead on this. They already have a sense for things. Redlining the whole area has already been done, to some extent, and had nothing to do with the data. In regards to a cleanup plan, elected officials will advocate for that after Phase 2 of the soil study. If there is a demonstrable need and interest from the community

(JJ) Will they make me move?

(JG) I can't answer that and we won't have all the data until after Phase 2. We need more secondary permissions. We are waiting for Supervisor Emminger to receive feedback from an independent consultant. We don't want to alienate him because he will be the primary push for a cleanup in Tonawanda.

(RM) How is deposition distributed?

(JG) Deposition is very spatially variable. Soil is really heterogeneous. We tried to avoid areas where chemicals would be artificially increased, such as near grills or driveways. The only barrier to releasing the maps is getting the permissions from participants. We are open to listening and responding to resident's concerns so that their concerns are addressed by the work that we're doing with the soil study.

(AB) Using different SCOs (from NY, MA, and PA) may be confusing. Some residents may ask why areas of interest are considered a hotspot under the TCC soil study, but not for NY State. Inquired about options for remediation.

(JG) The best cleanup is excavation and replacement of soil. Another option is to cap contamination in the soil and leave it buried. Elected officials need to pursue cleanup if one is warranted.

**Next meeting Wednesday May 23rd, 2018
6pm - Location TBD**