

Tonawanda Coke Soil Study
Community Advisory Committee (CAC)
May 15 2019

In Attendance

- Dr. Joe Gardella (JG-UB)
- Dr. Tammy Millilo (TM-UB)
- Rich Mpelezos (RM-Buf Resident)
- Anne Bazinet (AB-ToT Resident)
- Laura Beth Hare (LBH-UB)

Absent

- Kattie Little (KL-UB)
- SallyJo Robins (SR-ToT Resident)
- Jackie James-Creedon (JJC-CSCR, Ken Resident)
- Jay Farqueson (JF-GI Resident)
- Jeanine Justen (JJ-GI Resident)
- Sue Mazur (SM-ToT Resident)
- Dave Gardner (DG-ToT Resident)

Public Comments

No public present

Source Apportionment

Collecting mass spec data from Dr. Gardella's lab to complement the air pollution data from Dr. Milligan's lab.

(Still waiting to see if there is data for the air samples)

Taking ALS extracts left over from sample processing and the instrument

Source apportionment does take extra time and has additional factors than looking at chemical concentrations. Lots of soil sample extracts and standards are being run to sift out what is going on.

There exists the possibility that source apportionment will continue on to fall.

May want to do a public meeting to announce final report. The structure and nature of the meeting when release the final report needs to be determined still. UB support helped a lot with the public meeting in January. May want DOH and EPA with us at the meeting to address health side of things.

Refresher of Judge's order: UB job is to detail historic impact of TCC on the soil.

Joe: We may want to make sure that the report highlights things that are not related to TCC but were found in the soil, to point out that these are outcomes that wouldn't have happened otherwise. Phase 1 found a lot of neighborhoods that were not contaminated.

There is the discussion about NYS-DEC brownfield versus EPA superfund, but it's going to take years to clean up the site properly and probably won't get it to the point as though nothing had happened there.

Joe: Also important to note that the whole idea of source apportionment acknowledges that there are multiple emitters in the area, such as Huntley or NOCO.

Phase 2 Update

Brief update for Talks with Tammy: they are still ongoing and we had four people attend the last one.

Secondary permissions are going well, you can see on the agenda that we are down to about 27 still to go (26 now that Joe has given Laura Beth one more that came in the mail box!)

Preliminary maps: PaHs, arsenic, and cyanide Phase 1 vs Phase 2

Tammy: Phase 2 sampling maps improve the estimation of Phase 1 data, kind of fills in where the gaps were in the original grid.

Joe: When looking at these maps, comparing arsenic vs PaHs, remember that arsenic when airborne will travel farther. I believe there is high arsenic on site.

Tammy: I see no reference to TCC burning arsenic. They might not have known or might not have had it all on the official records.

Joe: Note that the DEC doesn't analyze particulate matter. If it was emitted it wasn't taken into account by them. The standard test for particulate matter to weigh them and to go off mass amounts.

Mike: Arsenic is a trace element in coal.

Joe: Then if we look at cyanide there is again a correlating shape. I don't know if cyanide was emitted by the Huntley plant, but it could be part of incomplete combustion product.

Joe: The PaHs that are close by we don't know the source apportionment. If you look a little further out and consider the high stacks then it further complicates matters. We are going to be investigating PaHs like crazy. Interesting that there is a curvature to the arsenic

Tammy: Also notice on the maps that there are high BaP equivalents. The NYS-DEC has protocols that are not allowing for action as far as PaHs are concerned. Their current metric is by chemical compound so they have one cleanup standard for each type of compound. If one is elevated and the others aren't then they won't take action. It would have to be a large enough percentage of the carcinogenic compounds to warrant a cleanup for it.

Air Sample Update

Mike: We did six samples back in January. GFF filter (particles) and puffs (gas) tucked away in freezer, 1 sample from TCC taken in October before they shut down is also in freezer.

There are 5 cartridges left, so we may want to do some sampling in a rural area as a background site.

Mike: I'm curious if it is possible to do another sample at TCC now as an off-gasing kind of study?

Joe: I doubt this is possible, they are trying to secure the site.

Tammy: I'm concerned about whether keeping the samples in the freezer this long will impact the results?

Mike: These are semi-volatiles so we should be okay. If we do two samples at rural sites then we still have three sample to run.

Joe: By the way there is a wind monitor a block away from TCC, and there is archived data available as well.

Upcoming Meeting

Next meeting will be on June 19th, still at the Kenmore branch library on Delaware Rd.

We will have the meeting open to the public for the first half hour for June and see how it goes.