

Newhall Advisory Committee (NAC) Meeting Notes December 16, 2004

Attendees:

Committee Members: Rhonda Hayward, Pamala Moore, Henry Platt, Roosevelt Young, Donald Eaton, LaNorma Webb, Leonardo Melendez, Sheila Epps, Deloris McNair, Scott Jackson, Rep. Peter Villano, Mike Colaiacovo, Jr.

Alternates: Herbert Randall, Willa Taylor, Herman Alexander

Other Attendees: Elsie Patton, Mike Harder, Edith Pestana, Jill Barrett

Absent:

Absent (no alternates): Dr. Abdul Hamid, Elizabeth Hayes, Loydon Henry-Phillip, Pastor George Bulgin, Stephanie Kollet

Agenda items:

1. Project Update by DEP

An update was given by Elsie Patton with these highlights:

1. **Testing of the residential properties** is on schedule and will be completed in March 2005. Olin will be doing more testing at residential properties outside of the known former landfill areas in early January. Olin's original workplan approved by DEP anticipated a need for a second phase of testing of isolated fill areas and bare spots once the results of the initial testing that occurred over the summer were known. Olin proposed testing at another 65 locations but DEP is planning to increase that number. Olin will be submitting a revised testing plan to DEP on December 22. This plan will be available at the Community Office in the Keefe center, local libraries and on the website. Dr. Dahmani and Kevin Hood will be reviewing the new testing plan on behalf of the community.
2. **Structural Assessment of homes** is underway. DEP's contractor has done initial assessment of 40 homes and still needs access agreements from 20 more homeowners.
3. **Expansion of the investigation to properties outside the consent order** boundaries will begin in early 2005. DEP's plan for testing will be presented at the next NAC meeting.
4. **Interim remedial measures at "hot spots"** have been completed. Ten properties were identified as having contamination at the soil surface higher than allowed by state health standards. DEP was granted permission to take immediate steps to create a barrier so people would not come into contact with contamination at 8 of the 10 properties. The soil was covered with a protective mesh barrier and either clean top soil or gravel.

2. Request for Proposals for a Facilitator for the Newhall Advisory Committee

An RFP that will be mailed to about 35 individuals who are professional facilitators in the environmental field was circulated among committee members. NAC members will recommend their top choice for selection to DEP. The agency will hire the facilitator to work directly with the NAC. The NAC recommendation on candidates will not be limited

by a set budget amount. Elsie Patton said the only limitation is that the facilitator's fee must be within a reasonable range for this type of service. A subcommittee of seven members was established to review candidates and make a recommendation to the full committee for approval. Members are Henry Platt, Pamala Moore, LaNorma Webb, Scott Jackson, Don Eaton, Deloris McNair, and Willa Taylor.

3. Organization of NAC.

The committee made a decision about establishing a regular meeting time – the third Thursday of the month at 6:30 PM.

Member Concern

Deloris McNair told the committee she had recently lost two tenants because of contamination. NAC members brainstormed about the problem and suggested DEP write a letter that Deloris could use to reassure prospective tenants that contamination at the property did not pose an immediate hazard. Elsie Patton said Shannon Pociu and Meg Harvey of the CT Dept. of Public Health could assist Deloris.

Actions Taken/Decisions Made:

1. Brian Cutler of Loureiro Engineering Associates, Inc., DEP's contractor, will come to the next NAC meeting to explain *where* and *why* DEP will expand testing to find the extent of fill outside the consent order boundary.
2. Elsie Patton committed to issuing a report on the meaning of the testing that Olin did during the summer before the next NAC meeting (Jan 20). NAC members were critical of the presentation made by Olin at the November public meeting.
3. DEP will develop a letter for Deloris McNair explaining the steps DEP has taken to protect human health. This letter can be shown to prospective tenants who may be concerned about living at a property with known contamination.
4. A subcommittee to review and interview candidates for the facilitator position was established. Members are: Henry Platt, Pamala Moore, LaNorma Webb, Scott Jackson, Don Eaton, Deloris McNair and Willa Taylor. The committee will meet on Thursday, January 13 at 6 PM to review proposals and qualification of candidates.
5. The NAC will have a regularly scheduled meeting time – the third Thursday each month. Meetings will be held at the Keefe Center and will run from 6:30 to 8:30 PM. The next meeting will be January 20. A published schedule of meetings for the entire year will be given to the committee at the next meeting.
6. Elsie Patton will make a presentation at the next NAC meeting on state regulations that will apply to the Newhall Remediation site.