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Office of the Town Engineer

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**Tonawanda Community Working Group (TCWG)
Tonawanda Coke Remediation and Redevelopment**

MINUTES

- I. **WELCOME** - James Hartz - Meeting on October 28th at 10:00 a.m.
(via Zoom Conference Call)

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Paul Nyznk, Hayes Construction
Emily Terrana, Clean Air Coalition
Dave Stinner, USitek/Tonawanda Chamber of Commerce
Jill Jedlika, BN Waterkeeper
Jay Farquharson, Grand Island Resident/CSCR
Jackie James, Kenmore Resident/CSCR
Matt Chimera, Ken-Ton Union Free School District
Cathy Piciulo, Pres/CEO – Ken-Ton Chamber of Commerce
James Hartz, Town of Tonawanda – Planning & Development
Matt Sutton, Town of Tonawanda – Engineering
Joseph Emminger, Town of Tonawanda – Supervisor
Carl Szarek, Town of Tonawanda – Councilmember
Thomas Hersey, Erie County – DEP
Ken Swanekamp, Town of Tonawanda – Planning Board
Technical Support Personnel – Honeywell
Riverview Innovation Technology Campus
Department of Environmental Conservation

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Greg Stevens, Niagara River Greenway Commission

- II. **OPENING REMARKS**

Joe Emminger - Recognized additional member present – Brian Gould, E3
Communications
- Goal – Ensure former Tonawanda Coke site is cleaned up in a
responsible manner and put back into productive use in our
community

- James Hartz - Draft of ByLaws – To provide structure for group
- Vision of Group – Facilitator of information regarding remediation and study of potential options for redevelopment
- Record keeping- Recorded - Matt Sutton, Town Engineer
- Minutes - Michelle Rickan, Technical Support

III. HONEYWELL PRESENTATION

John Morris - Introduced: Victoria Streitfield

John Black

John Williams

Introductory Remarks - Overview of what took place at site in order to understand what contaminants may be left behind

- John Black - Perspective of Property
- Management & tracing of by-products
- Remedial Investigation & Comprehensive view of property
- Asbestos abatement, tank closures, sewer maintenance and controlled demolition

Questions

1. Clean Air Coalition: Ways community comments were incorporated into final work plans for remediation process?

Response : Chad (DEC) - All submissions were emailed a responsive summary, also provided DEC info locator website as well as Ben MacPherson @ DEC as contact

John Morris: Introduced Steve Coladonato - in charge of the three Superfund Areas

IV. NYSDEC

Chad Staniszewski – Introduced Angela Martin from Department of Health

Overview - DEC called in EPA for an Emergency Removal Group to stabilize site so no contaminants migrate from site and they could safely shut down plant

- Explained the three operable units, one Superfund site already in the Superfund Program – Remainder of Site was area RITC applied to Brownfield Cleanup Program
- Compared State Superfund Program to the Brownfield Cleanup Program (BCP)

Ben McPherson - Interim Remedial Measures (IRM's)

- Clean site from industrial debris
- Storm water pollution prevention plan and removal of sediment
- Mixing pad – goal to decontaminate pad
- Excavation work plan to safely excavate coal & coke materials and ensure no storm water problems

Remedial Investigation (RI)

- Starting now – taking groundwater soil sediment
- Superfund Site work plans approved July 2020 - Field work started Sept. and Oct. 2020- currently ongoing
- Another work plan approved last week of Oct. - Field investigation should start Nov. 2020

Questions

1. Ken Swanekamp: Is there any former Tonawanda Coke property not in either BCP or Superfund Site?

Response: Ben – two small sites

2. Ken Swanekamp: What is left at bottom area where usable coal and coke were removed and will it be removed to get down to clean soil?

Response: Ben - this area is included in remedial investigation

V. FINAL REMARKS

Jim Hartz – Questions from group members

1. Chris Bera – Could an additional operable unit be devoted to supplemental investigations on settling ponds shown on the site?

Response: Chad -The settling ponds were addressed with Honeywell and they are doing a site characterization- no other operable unit unless it indicates a significant threat

Steve Coladonato – In the process of preparing work plan for spring time

2. Jill Jedlicka – How do you reconcile the site management in perpetuity requirement w/the limited liability requirement- concern about groundwater transport, offsite migration pollutants in the future.

Response: Chad – After remedial investigation is complete the DEC makes a significant threat determination and can enforce cleanup under BCP and the site management

plan. Certificate of completion could be terminated if failure to complete cleanup

3. Clean Air – Wanted to confirm opportunity for group to comment on SSF remedial investigation and studies for the official 45 day comment period for the preps.

Response: Chad - Intent is for information to be shared in real time so not to slow Down process. Group should be well informed as each process moves along. All formal comments will happen during 45 day public period.

4. Jill Jedlicka: Is the site plan that was approved this week available?

Response: Ben-Yes in DEC newsletter-can email to get on listserve, also on info locator and document repositories at Kenmore and Central Branch of EC Public Libraries
Steve Coladonato: added website - Riverviewtechcampus.com

5. Jackie James: Do you still plan on continuing soil sampling during winter months?

Response: John Black: Yes will continue straight through winter

Jackie James: Can you comment on procedure for looking at migration of pollution into the neighborhood?

Response: Chad - We only go offsite if there is an indication from remedial investigation. Data is compiled and a qualitative offsite exposure assessment is done. From that, the DEC evaluates if it's a threat to the environment. If so remediation would be required.

VI. FUTURE MEETING DATES

Jim Hartz – Thursday Dec. 3rd 10am

Wednesday Jan. 27th 10am