

ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ADVISORY GROUP

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, June 4, 2013

Meeting was called to order at 10:00am.

Attendees:

Illinois EPA Headquarters:

Lisa Bonnett, Director, Illinois EPA; Ken Page, Environmental Justice Officer, Illinois EPA; David Bloomberg, manager, Illinois EPA's Air Quality Planning Section (Bureau of Air), Rory Davis (BOA) Sally Carter, attorney, Illinois EPA's Division of Legal Counsel; Ted Prescott, Illinois EPA's Division of Information Systems; Chris Pressnall, attorney, Illinois EPA's Division of Legal Counsel; Sayora Abatova, graduate intern, Illinois EPA's Associate Director's Office; Tamika Gibson, Illinois Environmental Council; Kurt Neibergall, manager, Illinois EPA's Office of Community Relations; Al Keller, manager, Permit Section, Illinois EPA's Bureau of Water; Chris Romaine, Illinois EPA's Bureau of Air; Rick Cobb, manager, Division of Public Water Supplies, Illinois EPA's Bureau of Water; Dominic Saebeler, manager, Illinois EPA's Division of Information Systems; Brenda Carter, Illinois Environmental Regulatory Group; Dr. Peter Wenz, Professor Emeritus, University of Illinois Springfield; Bob Bernoteit, acting manager, Permit section, Illinois EPA's Bureau of Air; Brad Frost, Illinois EPA's Office of Community relations; Jim Ross, division manager, Illinois EPA's Bureau of Air; and Scott Phillips, chief, Illinois EPA's Bureau of Land.

Collinsville:

Kathy Andria of American Bottom Conservancy and Amy Funk, project coordinator, Metro East Community Air Project, University of Illinois.

Chicago:

Elmo Dowd, Associate Director, Illinois EPA; Debbie Meyers-Martin, Mayor, Olympia Fields; Jerry Mead-Lucero of Pilsen Environmental Rights and Reform Organization (PERRO), Lara Lasky, United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5; and Tammy Johnson of Earth Tone Environmental Group

Teleconference:

Greg Michaud of American Council of Engineering Companies; Maria Chavez of Pilsen environmental Rights and Reform Organization (PERRO); Brian Urbaszewski of Respiratory health Association of Metro-Chicago; Keith Harley of Chicago Legal Clinic; Lisa Frede of , Naomi Davis of Blacks In Green; Cheryl Johnson of People for Community Recovery (PCR) and Dr. Dhitinut, professor, Southern Illinois University.

Welcomes & Introductions:

Lisa Bonnett (IEPA Director) welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Elmo Dowd (IEPA Associate Director) also welcomed the group. He highlighted Environmental Justice (EJ) as the core for the USEPA and that the IEPA is working hard to develop and conduct inclusive activities to reach out to the communities.

Ken Page (IEPA EJ Officer) also welcomed the group. He gave a brief overview of the previous EJ Advisory group meetings.

Presentations:

1. Lead Rulemaking for H. Kramer and Mayco

David Bloomberg, Rory Davis and Sally Carter, IEPA talked about Lead rulemaking for H. Kramer in Chicago and Mayco in Granite City. Illinois' Lead Rulemaking Factsheet, May 2013 was sent to all EJ Advisory members. The EJ Advisory group was informed of Lead Rulemaking outreach meetings scheduled for July 9th in Chicago/Pilsen neighborhood and July 11th in Granite City.

2. Illinois EPA's EJ mapping

Ted Prescott, Illinois EPA demonstrated the EJ Mapping screening tool. The mapping tool was developed to facilitate Illinois EPA's compliance with public participation obligations in the Geneva Energy Title VI Settlement Agreement.

3. National and regional EJ updates

Lara Lasky, USEPA Region 5 gave National and Regional EJ updates. Public comments on EJ rulemaking document coming out June 6th. She also discussed USEPA's EJ Screen in conjunction with Illinois EPA's internal EJ Mapping tool.

Old Business:

1. **Chris Pressnall, Illinois EPA** presented Geneva Energy Title VI Complaint and Settlement Agreement. Keith Hartley is the attorney representing the plaintiffs for the above case. Office of Civil Rights has process before accepting complaints. Specifically, he discussed the Illinois EPA's commitments concerning enhanced public participation, posting of EJ Grievances received by the Illinois EPA and the outcome, and revamping Illinois EPA's technological capabilities to better identify potential EJ areas in Illinois.
2. **Tamika Gibson** of IEC gave update on the EJ Commission. She informed that the EJ was passed in 2011 and the first meeting will be held this summer.

Open Discussion:

- Jerry Mead-Lucero/Maria Chavez of PERRO had questions on lead limits re monitoring of Perez Elementary School. Ken provides monitoring data directly to Maria Chavez so

that she does not have to go through the Freedom of Information Act. Maria Chavez wanted to see if the monitoring data could be placed on the agency's website.

- Kathy Andria of American Bottoms Conservancy wanted to know how new lead limits will affect US Steel. Only Mayco is affected. IEPA will reach out to MAYCO/Granite City with lead rulemaking thru letters and set up meetings there. Ken stated IEPA will do the same for Kathy's area.
- Kathy has concerns if we require treatment of the discharge from the levee system. Al Keller responded no to this question. The agency will wait until the Corp of Engineers finalizes any modifications then respond. The agency will be checking with the Corp of Engineers to see if any modifications have been finalized.
- Cheryl Johnson stated USEPA has assessment tool on their website. IEPA and USEPA need to complement each other. We have been coordinating with USEPA regarding them sharing their information with us regarding their system. Elmo Dowd stated USEPA has offered to look at sites for us.
- Naomi Davis, Brian Urbaszewski and Jerry re issues on Norfolk Southern railroad project. Will put on agenda for next meeting.
- Mayor Debbie Meyers-Martin interested in information re Geneva Energy. Ford Heights is close to Olympia Fields where she's mayor.

Follow-up Answers to Questions:

- **Looking at all of the BOL programs (SRP, etc.) to evaluate for EJ. This issue was raised by Jerry Mead-Lucero, PERRO, because of the Lowenthal Metals property having contamination and the community now knowing about it until years later.**

As mentioned in the meeting, the Bureau of Land is evaluating sites in the state remediation programs that have not been progressing toward cleanup in a timely manner. Before sites are removed from these programs due to inactivity, they are evaluated to determine both whether and Right-to-Know action is needed and whether any enforcement action is needed. EJ issues are reviewed as part of that evaluation.

- **Sauget area 2 Superfund site. Kathy Andria wanted to know if anyone from the Illinois EPA would be attending the meeting next week.**

Yes, the Bureau of Land Federal Site Remediation Program management and staff will be attending USEPA's meeting.

- **Waste (radionuclides) coming from a St. Louis landfill going to Roxana landfill. Do they have the proper permit(s) to accept this waste? This issue was raised by Kathy Andria.**

Roxana Landfill is not permitted to accept radioactive waste. The landfill has a monitor on each scale that continuously monitors for radioactive nuclei. If sensors go off, they isolate the truck and call the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA). The truck is only released after approval by IEMA. The landfill upgraded its sensors about a year ago to more sensitive monitors.

Landfills are allowed to accept sludge from drinking water plants that contain naturally occurring radioactive material (NORM) at radium levels below 5 picocuries per gram (dry weights). Roxana landfill is not receiving any of this waste. The waste would have to go through an extensive approval process before acceptance.

- **Does the Does Milam Landfill accept sludge from American Bottoms? This issue was raised by Kathy Andria.**

American Bottoms has been sending their sludge to Milam Landfill for disposal per the semi-annual sludge reports submitted by American Bottoms.

Director Lisa Bonnett stated she's looking for comments from all EJ Advisory Group members regarding items discussed in this meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 11:43am.