

**North Ridge Estates
Meeting Records for July 23, 2003
From notes by Judy Smith, EPA**

On July 23, 2003 EPA and DEQ representatives were invited to meet with groups of residents at their homes in North Ridge Estates for discussion about the on-going emergency removal of asbestos containing material from yards. A summary of discussion from both meetings is included in these notes.

Agency Representatives:

Dan Heister, EPA On-Scene Coordinator
Tom Eaton, EPA Deputy Director Environmental Cleanup Program, Seattle
Judy Smith, EPA Community Involvement Coordinator, Portland
Julie Wroble, EPA Risk Assessor, Office of Environmental Assessment, Seattle
Frank Messina, DEQ Air Quality Program
Chris Garcia, U. S. Coast Guard Pacific Strike Team

6:00 meeting at Bailey home. Attendees: Bailey, Hopper, Gurske, Linman, Dykstra, Graham, Roberts

7:30 meeting at Selim home. Attendees: Selim, Stearns, Devish, Mingus, Li, Homfeldt, Burns, Peterson, Villa, Winn, Gibson, Bryden, Lindley

Dan Heister provided this update at both meetings:

- Introduced the representative from the Coast Guard Pacific Strike Team and described their role in safety, logistics, supervision and oversight.
- Dan will be on leave from August 11-15. OSC Jeff Rodin will be on-site in his absence.
- Surface removal of asbestos-containing material (ACM) is continuing. Progress is a little slower than hoped for but 10 properties have been completed.
- MBK contractor PBS Environmental submitted the Sampling and Analysis Plan to EPA last week. Hoping to resolve last questions and approve the document by the end of the week.
 - Data will be collected on outdoor air, indoor air and dust.
 - All data should be collected by the end of August.
- A geophysical crew is tracing out steam pipe
- SAP specifies taking three air samples over an eight-hour period with a person staffing the site. Results will be available in 4-6 weeks. Three houses can be done at a time.
 - *Archie Linman said his house would be a good reference sample site.*
- There will be lead screening on some sites next week.
- The Coast Guard will look at PCB's at old transformer site.

Bill Maynard – EPA START Contractor

Sampling information from workers has been collected. Sixteen hours of air was collection with information on all fibers. All samples were an order of magnitude below the OSHA action level, so respirators don't have to be worn.

One EPA issue – May need access to power for high volume air samplers.

Questions and comments from 6:00 meeting at Bailey home:

Opening comments from Mike Roberts:

We want to live here in a clean healthy environment for a long time.

We approve of what EPA is doing.

We appreciate the efforts of the agency.

I heard that the Stewarts said they are willing to pay for the pipe removal. Can that work be done now?

The removal must be done properly which takes careful planning, especially since the lining of the pipes is 90% amocyte, which is the most friable type of asbestos. If they are willing to do it now, hopefully they will not change their mind in a few months. The pipe is safe in the ground now.

We want to continue living here. We want pile cleanup and we want the pipe out in the long run.

Steam pipe has been found over on Thicket Court at the Newton residence. Tom explained difference between short and long term actions – removal versus remedial.

Will MBK continue to pay and perform?

Yes, it is in the best interest of the cleanup.

Where is the asbestos going once it is picked up?

It is being stored in the big trailer over by the Memorial Park until being hauled off site to the landfill.

Two residents met with the solid waste disposal board and proposed reduced fees for disposal of material from North Ridge Estates. It is under consideration and would allow cleanup dollars to go further.

Pits will be excavated and explored to determine if it is a consolidated burial site or scatter from a building knocked down in place. It appears debris from many buildings was knocked down in place and covered with dirt. People will need to know this for future landscaping projects and excavations. (Bailey deck is an example)

Questions from 7:30 meeting at Selim home:

What type of air monitoring and dust control will be done with excavation?

Workers will wear personal air monitors. Area will be wet down with water truck and kept wet. Coast guard will monitor and cease work if air quality concerns arise. "Big digs" will have air monitoring.

Old drums were found on the Bailey property containing roofing tar, resin and silica. They will be removed.

Worst-case scenarios – It is EPA policy to do hot spots. Need to know how bad it can get. Hot spots will be sampled. If they are all testing positive then we will cease sampling and go to removal.

Stearns have an unknown structure they describe as a "concrete iceberg" in the middle of their lawn and are curious about what it might have been.

What about people who work and can't be there?

Person staffing the monitor could mimic activity and walk around every 10 minutes or so.

Bryden – Why is air sampling being done? Isn't it beyond the scope of the removal? Expressed opinion that it was worthless. HO can keep activity log.

Lindley – expressed concerns over the propriety of Bermans methods. Needs time to evaluate it.

Julie Wroble – Wipe samples harder to use in a risk assessment. It would be good though to have both wipe and air samples.

There was a general discussion about risk assessments at this point in the meeting.

Lindley – said MBK is telling judge that cleanup and risk assessment will be done in two months.

Bryden – Any asbestos in the dust is a problem.

Bryden – OSHA 8-hour worker exposure cannot be equated to a kid running around and digging in the dirt over an extended period of time.

Lindley – for future note: When buildings were torn down, copper wire was recovered by burning the insulation off the outside. These toxic burn spots should be found.

Dan asked if anyone had a burn pit on their land. (Devish said yes

Stearns - have an area on their lot where nothing will grow.

Devish – talked to fireman (Mr. Feedback). Recommends looking at fire response logs from the 70's and 80's for idea of when buildings were built in place.

Was there a laundry facility here we should be concerned about?

Dry cleaning agents used in the era are not the ones of concern unless OIT used the same facility. Lead paint is a higher concern.

What do you see as EPA's role after this removal?

- *An EPA Site Assessment Manager is looking at site for long term cleanup needs*
- *A preliminary Hazard Ranking Score will be developed for the site*
- *National Priorities List (NPL) if it scores out (or state cleanup alternative)*
- *It is premature to speculate.*

Are there technical assistance grants available from EPA?

Technical Assistance Grants are only available to sites that have been formally proposed for listing on the NPL

Concerns were expressed that removal decisions based on initial sampling. Risk Assessment based on limited or flawed science shouldn't be a rush.

The better designed the sampling plan is, the better data will result.

We all know who the "bad guy" is and EPA is taking advice from someone in his employ (Berman)?

Dr. Berman is a recognized expert in asbestos and would likely not compromise his reputation to promote unscrupulous testing. He is developing asbestos testing methods with feedback from academics and other agency professionals. North Ridge Estates provides a real site to help test his methods and theories.

Who will be out to remove new material that comes up over the winter with frost heave?

Long term operation and maintenance at the site will have to be figured out.

When can we see data, notes about what has been found, how many bags have been gathered, and copies of EPA records? We are concerned we might be losing information that is available.

*We will try to get information out sooner
Some information may be enforcement confidential
Greg Bryden has been reviewing draft documents.*

Does depth of pipe chance urgency of removal decisions?

Pipe Exposed on the surface

Will the simulated work practices tests discussed earlier in the process be done?

*Simulations have to be carefully planned and properly modeled
The group expressed interest in a "quick and dirty" simulation to get answers.
Would like to compile a list of activities for the Risk Assessment
Residents want to be more comfortable in daily activities.
Quality of life issue, also legal issues pending in lawsuit.*

Can I mow my grass to reduce fire danger without putting myself at risk from stirring up and breathing asbestos fibers? Would you cut the lawn if you lived here and if so what protective measures would you take?

Ms. Wroble responded: Determining how much risk to take is an individual decision. Speaking from a personal perspective, if I lived here I would weigh the risk of fire on my property against the risk of breathing asbestos fibers and I would probably go ahead and weed whack my property. Fumes from a gasoline powered weed whacker may present more of a risk than the risk from airborne asbestos fibers. One precautionary measure that could be taken (that I did not think of at the meeting) is wetting the ground in the vicinity of where weed whacking would occur prior to doing the whacking to minimize the amount of dust that would be kicked up by the weed whacking.

Status of landfills on site...

*The residents don't want them
The state doesn't want them
EPA doesn't want them*

If you were living here in this neighborhood, would you be comfortable with the level of investigation and cleanup your agency is providing to us?

Yes