

**Meeting Minutes
Public Meeting**

**Former Schenectady Army Depot – Voorheesville Area
May 9, 2013
Lynnwood Reformed Church
Schenectady, New York**

Attendees

Charles Reilly, Acting Community Co-Chairman, Restoration Advisory Board (RAB)
Ted Ausfield, Acting Community Co-Chairman, RAB
Joan Burns, Member, RAB
Donald Csaposs, Town of Guilderland Industrial Development Agency (IDA)
Neil Sanders, Guilderland Central School District (GCSD)
Ronald Groves, Albany County Department of Health (ACDOH)
Bridget Callaghan, New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH)
Heather Bishop, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC)
Mark Williams, H2H Associates, LLC (H2H)
Al Hall, H2H
John Gansfuss, H2H
Michael Sykes, P.E., HydroGeoLogic (HGL)
Jeff Bigelow, HGL
Gregory J. Goepfert, Project Manager, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District
Dean D. Brammer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District
Hamid Rafiee, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District

Introductions

G. Goepfert called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. and thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) members, project staff, and other attendees introduced themselves. G. Goepfert referred to a fact sheet that included a brief historical and physical description of the former Schenectady Army Depot-Voorheesville Area (FSADVA) and a summary of the nine areas of concern (AOCs) within FSADVA being investigated under the Defense Environmental Restoration – Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS) Program. G. Goepfert identified the 9 AOCs on a map, located within the meeting room. The primary purpose of this meeting was to provide the public (including RAB members) an update as to the status of the AOCs at the FSADVA site. G. Goepfert also referred to a fact sheet on the front table as well as some other documents and maps on the nearby easels that would be used to frame our discussion concerning the landfill cap and soil cover that will be built in 2013 for the Southern Landfill (AOC 1).

Discussion

Summary of Design-Build Project – AOC 1 U.S. Army Southern Landfill

G. Goepfert provided an overview of AOC 1 activities per the 4-page handout laid next to the Fact Sheet. A Pre-Design Investigation was completed in the fall and early winter to collect

information required to develop the remedial design for the final landfill cap and soil cover for the Southern Landfill. Findings were sufficient to move forward with the design of a 2.8-acre landfill cap system, located along the southern section (points to map), and installation of an 8-acre soil cover along the northern portion of AOC 1.

The design phase is broken into phases (30%, 60%, 90%, and 100%). Our project team is currently approaching the 60% phase of design; the 30% phase was reviewed by the Army, the owner, the Albany County and New York State Health Departments as well as the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC).

M. Sykes (HGL, Design Engineer) mentioned the overall intent of each phase of design and plainly described the performance goals for the landfill cap as being to limit water infiltration into the landfill and to mitigate the potential for off-site migration of impacted groundwater within the landfill mass. The soil cover system will be applied to the northern area to prevent contact with site soils.

M. Sykes briefly described the materials to be used and environmental protection measures to be implemented for the landfill cap and soil cover system.

G. Goepfert briefly overviewed other elements including schedule for construction of the cap and soil cover.

G. Goepfert indicated that the construction phase would likely start soon and would take one to four months to complete. The Prime Contractor is H2H (a local firm out of Troy), the Design Engineer is HGL, and Maxymillian will build the cap and cover systems. The Corps will provide oversight of this effort.

M. Williams (H2H, Program Manager) indicated that other important elements will also be performed, including development of a site management plan, long term groundwater sampling, post-surveying, and the implementation of land use controls.

G. Goepfert indicated that the environmental easement will be granted to prohibit the use of potable groundwater in the vicinity of AOCs 1 and 7.

G. Goepfert indicated that the owner is aware that no development will occur in this area.

Questions/Responses

T. Ausfield (RAB, Co-Chair) asked if the NYSDEC was aware of a C&D Landfill to the southwest.

H. Bishop (NYSDEC, Case Manager) stated that she would look into this.

D. Csaposs (Town of Guilderland) asked about the life of the liner for the landfill cap and the connection of different sections.

M. Sykes responded that the liner application will be pretty quick given the small size and dimensions for the landfill. He also described how the panels were connected and tested per specification. The warranty for the subject liner is 5 years but should be good for 50 plus years.

R. Groves (ACDOH) asked about the responsibilities for inspection and maintenance.

G. Goepfert mentioned that the contract with H2H financially covers the immediate period following landfill cap and soil cover installation to inspect the integrity of the landfill cap and soil cover, mow the grass, and maintain that stormwater drainage features are working. The Army will be responsible for 30 years, but this could be subject to change based on the availability of funds.

C. Reilly & T. Ausfield (RAB, Co-Chairs) raised concerns over various wildlife affecting the cap and cover.

M. Williams mentioned that several large beavers were recently removed from the Northeast Industrial Park. The cap and soil cover area will be inspected for vector populations to ensure that the integrity of the remedial measure is not compromised.

C. Reilly (RAB, Co-Chair) asked where the soil was coming from for the project.

G. Goepfert mentioned that a local source would likely be used to support the project.

M. Williams mentioned that Larned would likely be the source for Fill material although additional testing was to be performed to confirm that the borrow source met project specifications. The proposed traffic route would be via County Route 158 to US Route 20 (Western Avenue) to Route 146 directly into the Northeastern Industrial Park. The purpose of this intended route would be to use appropriate rated roads and avoid the hamlet of Guilderland Center and traffic associated with Guilderland High School. Trucks will be monitored and no other routes will be permitted.

C. Reilly and T. Ausfield mentioned concern over selecting Larned given that they are so close to the Watervliet Reservoir and the steepness of one of their pit walls was jeopardizing nearby Stitt Road.

C. Reilly asked H. Bishop (NYSDEC) to confirm that the mine site was currently in compliance and (speaking to G. Goepfert) expressed a concern that the selection of this borrow source should be looked at very carefully.

G. Goepfert said that the Corps of Engineers welcomed comments like these and would critically review this borrow source as a valid option.

UPDATE: The borrow source for General Fill will be provided from the permitted Charles Desch Pit, located west of Route 158 and north of Becker Road. The project will not use the subject Larned Pit for the general fill borrow source although Larned will be subcontracted to truck the processed material to the site via the traffic route described above.

C. Reilly asked how many trucks would be incoming each day to serve the project.

M. Williams mentioned that approximately 40 truck trips per day will be required to support the project. Given that over 1,000 trucks use the same corridor each day the local impact to this traffic corridor would be negligible.

N. Sanders (Business Manager, GCSD) wanted to make the project staff aware that the peak traffic volume for the high school was between 6:45 – 7:30 A.M. and 2:45 – 3:15 P.M.

D. Csaposs wanted to know what the future use of the site would be.

G. Goepfert mentioned that the owner is aware that a deed restriction will restrict development on top of the landfill or soil cover area; further, an environmental easement will be issued to prohibit the use of potable groundwater in the vicinity of AOCs 1 and 7.

C. Reilly brought up concerns over the three bridges Larned trucks would travel to the project site.

M. Williams mentioned that proposed traffic route has ample capacity to handle the proposed load and truck trip volume for this project. Further, none of these bridges are “red-flagged” or are considered to have structural deficiencies that could threaten public safety. He also noted that the Route 146 bridge over the Normans Kill has a fairly new deck on it.

Status of Work Accomplished and Performed

G. Goepfert reported on other AOCs per the Fact Sheet.

G. Goepfert mentioned that the fact sheet can be accessed on the FSADVA website (<http://www.nan.usace.army.mil/Missions/Environmental/EnvironmentalRemediation/FormerlyUsedDefenseSites/FormerSchenectadyArmyDepotVoorheesvilleArea/Reports.aspx>).

- **AOC 2 – Former Bivouac Area, Post Commander’s Landfill:** No further action is necessary.
- **AOC 3 – Burn Pit and Disposal Area:** After completion of the cap and cover at AOC 1 the next big effort will be closing the issue with AOC 3. The Corps has been sampling monitoring well #9 for the past five years with fluctuating concentrations of trichloroethene (TCE) that straddle the MCL. Irrigation water from the Guilderland School’s wells (located north of and adjacent to AOC 3) was tested in April 2010, June 2011, and October 2011. The water has always tested safe for irrigation use although water from one of the contributing wells demonstrated the presence of TCE slightly above the NYSDOH’s drinking water standards. This well (Well #5) was never used for consumptive purposes and has been taken out-of-service with respect to irrigating the school’s fields. A Feasibility Study (FS) to evaluate the need for further action will be completed in 2013 once some additional field data is collected and evaluated. Incidentally, this work is also being performed by H2H.
- **AOC 4 – C&D Landfill:** No action under the FUDS Program as the C&D Landfill was not active during the Army’s occupation of the property.
- **AOC 5 – Defense National Stockpile Center (DNSC) Voorheesville Depot:** This area was operated by the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) until 2007 but has never been part of the FUDS Program. Some attendees may recall the recent installation of a retention basin to protect nearby Black Creek.

- **AOC 6 – Former SADVA Wastewater Treatment Plant:** The Army found no signs of buried items and a proposed plan will be prepared in 2013 to outline that no further actions are intended.
- **AOC 8 – Black Creek:** No further action is necessary per the decision document, signed on 28 July 2011.
- **AOC 9 – Building 60 Area:** A report will be issued in 2013 to include all pertinent data regarding previous removals of an oil/water separator and associated pipelines; this data will be compared to NYSDEC's soil cleanup objectives. A risk assessment will also be included. It is expected that a proposed plan of no further action will be prepared.

Discussion

G. Goepfert said he is seeing things happen on-site. He thanked attendees for coming and thanked his colleagues at the Corps (Baltimore District and New England District), NYSDEC, NYSDOH, ACDOH, and H2H.

T. Ausfield expressed his desire to tour AOC 1 and take a look around.

G. Goepfert stated that may happen after the fieldwork is completed.

Adjournment

G. Goepfert thanked the participants for attending the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:18 P.M.