

Meeting Minutes: Speonk Solvent Plume Working Group

Meeting Date: June 13, 2013 from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Location: Westhampton Library

Attendees:

Robert DeCandia, Project Manager DEC
Walter Parish, Regional Hazardous Waste Remediation Engineer, DEC
Guy Bobersky, Section Chief, BURA, REM-A, Division of Environmental Remediation, DEC
Ron Paulsen, Associate Hydrogeologist, Division of Environmental Quality, SCDHS
Anna Throne-Holst, Town Supervisor, Town of Southampton
Chris Nuzzi, Town Councilman, Town of Southampton
Laura Stephenson, representing Fred Thiele, NYS Assemblyman
Jay Schneiderman, Suffolk County Legislator,
Jenn Hartnagel, Environmental Advocate, Group for the East End
Stephanie Davis, Resident, Hydrogeologist
Bob Mozer, Co-President, Speonk/Remsenburg Civic Association
Rich Baldwin, Co-President, Speonk-Remsenburg Civic Association
Hank Beck, Chairman, CAC-West
Jennifer Garvey, Deputy Chief of Staff, Town of Southampton

Discussion:

Community Feedback

The group was asked if there was any community feedback to report following the initial meeting and subsequent news coverage. It was reported that two residents called the Supervisor's Office to inquire about the working group and the location of the plume generally. No emails were received via the dedicated SSP account. The community representatives had no feedback to report.

Water Testing Analysis

It was reported by the Supervisor's Office that letters were mailed to approximately 160 residences during the last week of May 2013 in order to offer free well testing by the County Dept. of Health Services. The letters were targeted to locations that are not hooked up to public water. The Supervisor's Office is coordinating with County Staff to arrange the testing dates. The first round of testing was planned for June 18. The SPP Working Group will be updated on the testing progress and results as the information becomes available.

The outreach letters asked respondents to indicate whether they had a well for (i) drinking water (ii) irrigation purposes or (iii) had been hooked up to SCWA water. The survey results will be used to refine GIS data about the location of private drinking water wells.

Request from Legislator Schneiderman to Reclassify Speonk Plume

Suffolk County Legislator Jay Schneiderman provided copies of the May 10 letter he sent to the DEC requesting the plume be reclassified to the class 2 or 2A designation, in light of the findings at the second area of concern. The DEC representatives had no agency response to report, and the Legislator's Office has not yet received a written response.

Monitoring Plan

The DEC representatives reported that they expect to issue one work assignment incorporating a work plan that also serves the second area of concern. They inquired about the status of input from the community/professional representatives regarding their suggestions for the monitoring plan.

The community representatives reported that they were still working on their suggestions and would need more time. They stated that they were especially concerned with (i) developing a cost-effective strategy that avoided installing more testing sites than necessary (ii) considering all the potential purpose of the plan – including protection of public health and the environment. They felt that they may only get “one bite at the apple” so they are committed to making the work plan thorough and comprehensive.

In the interest of moving ahead as quickly as possible and to avoid duplication of work, it was agreed that the community representatives would sit with the DEC representatives immediately following the meeting in order to review the data, goals, and well location strategy.

It was agreed that the community/professional members and DEC representatives would inform the group of their proposed strategy, and the group would consider meeting again to review it, or make alternative arrangements (conference calling, for example) to continue the discussion as needed.

Meeting Closed. Next meeting to be determined.