

Central Tucson

(Park-Euclid, 7th Street and Arizona Avenue, Stone Avenue and Grant Road)
Water Quality Assurance Revolving Fund (WQARF) Sites
Community Advisory Board (CAB) Meeting

Tuesday, September 13, 2022

Pima Partnership School, 25 E Drachman Street, Tucson, AZ 85705
and
Via Zoom

FINAL Meeting Minutes

CAB Members Present: Keith Bagwell, Katie Bolger, Bill Richards, Bill Ellett, Jonathan Salvatierra, Jacky Turchick, Menachem Turchick, Marc Verhougstraete

CAB Members Absent: Richard Byrd, Diana Lett

ADEQ Staff Present: Josh Campbell, Mary Charlson, Wendy Flood, Tereza Marks, Gianna Trujillo

Members of the Public: Frank Bonillas, Max DiSante, Cathrine Estar, Rolanda Mazaka, Beth Scully, Kayla Virgone

Call to Order/Introductions:

ADEQ staff Wendy Flood called the meeting to order at 6:20 p.m. and confirmed CAB member quorum.

1. ADEQ Presentation on Stone Avenue and Grant Road WQARF Site:

ADEQ project manager Gianna Trujillo reviewed the site location (Properties A and B), contaminants of concern, and current phase in the WQARF process-- Operation and Maintenance (O&M). Trujillo reminded the attendees that there are two plumes from two sources. Trujillo stated that Soil Vapor Extraction (SVE) systems are in operation at both properties. Data presented was collected since the last CAB meeting and shows a decline in contaminant concentration. At Property A, the SVE system is likely nearing the end of the remediation process; the SVE system has been operating since 2017. The SVE system at Property B started running January 2022 and is targeting the area of the former dry cleaner building. This SVE system is trenched underground so it is not visible. Trujillo is trying to work with the property owner to get more

probes installed and possibly wants to install a future extraction well. Twenty-six pounds (lbs.) of tetrachlorethene (PCE) and trichloroethene (TCE) have been removed since the system went online.

At the next CAB meeting, ADEQ will show trends with data over time and pre- and post- data for Property B. One groundwater monitoring well showed a discrepancy in results due to a possible lab error or may be related to issues with well construction. ADEQ will continue to examine this well, but does not believe the contamination is from another source. From now through June 2023, ADEQ will continue SVE. ADEQ is continuing to pursue indoor air monitoring at the identified residence along W. Alturas with previous indoor air detections of PCE but could not obtain access in August 2022.

2. CAB and public discussion on ADEQ presentation:

Johnathan Salvatierra asked for clarification on the separation of both plumes.

Salvatierra also asked about rebound times when the SVE system at Property A is taken offline. Trujillo stated that ADEQ had previously reviewed the data from previous rebounds and determined that 200 days was sufficient.

Salvatierra was also concerned about entry of contaminants into the regional aquifer. Trujillo explained that previous investigations showed that this was not an issue and continued monitoring is conducted to ensure that this does not change in the future.

Salvatierra also wanted to know if the strip mall parking lot run off has any influence on the movement of the plume. Trujillo explained that it doesn't currently affect it because the plume is underground, but it may have had a historic influence.

Flood asked for feedback from the CAB on the best way to present data. The CAB would like to see more maps, data, and trends.

Salvatierra asked about the air quality monitoring that was mentioned at the last meeting. ADEQ has had trouble getting access to the facility so no monitoring was completed.

Ellett mentioned that there is a school northwest of site that has an irrigation well and was previously sampled. Trujillo will look into it but many wells in that area are abandoned or capped.

3. ADEQ Presentation on 7th Street and Arizona Avenue:

ADEQ project manager Joshua Campbell reviewed the site location (two source areas), contaminants of concern, and current phase in the WQARF process. Campbell showed how the plume size has changed over the last eight years and remaining contamination areas are located close to the sources. At the Stone Avenue source, there is a well in the building and, although this site has historically shown high levels of contaminants, over the last 3 years there has been a significant reduction in contamination due to natural attenuation. At the Oliver source, the southern plume is expanding because of a diesel plume associated with the adjacent railroad property. There is an intermixing of TCE with the diesel. The diesel is no longer being actively treated. Two years ago, there were plans to do SVE on this plume and ADEQ will revisit this.

Over the next year, ADEQ will continue to monitor soil and groundwater at the North Stone Avenue site. The SVE system will continue to run as scheduled for up to 25 years. The Oliver site will be sampled this year. An SVE system is scheduled to be added in fiscal year 2024.

4. CAB discussion on this presentation

Bagwell was concerned that the diesel plume was not being treated. According to Campbell, the railroad settled with ADEQ; however, the settlement was with the Underground Storage Tank (UST) program. Flood explained that UST has different procedures and standards than WQARF, but ADEQ can get information from the project manager for that site. Prior to 2008, SVE was able to lower contamination levels enough so it could dissipate through natural attenuation; however, the railroad was actively treating at that time.

Salvatierra asked about the depth of the soil vapor wells. There are three in total and 80 feet is deepest. Unlike Park-Euclid, this was not multiphase extraction but the diesel and SVE extraction were working in parallel. The diesel sits on top of the water column and had previously caught the PCE and the two plumes may be separating. Campbell will get data regarding contaminant concentrations when the railroad's system was taken off line and report it at next meeting.

Beth Scully asked about a well on southwest corner that has had a significant change in contaminant levels. Campbell will follow up; Scully will email him.

5. ADEQ Presentation on Park-Euclid:

ADEQ project manager Mary Charlson reviewed the site location, contaminants of concern, and current phase in the WQARF process (O&M). O&M monitoring began in March 2022, when SVE was restarted and data was collected from all stratigraphic zones. Data presented from the upper vadose zone, perched aquifer and regional aquifer was from April 2020 and March 2022 for comparison. Data presented from the lower vadose zone was from February 2022 and May 2022 for comparison before and after the SVE system was restarted. In the upper vadose zone's highest source area, the average PCE concentration decreased by 8.7 parts per million (ppm) by volume. In the perched aquifer, the average vinyl chloride (VC) concentration decreased by 439 micrograms per liter (ug/L). The perched aquifer contains a diesel layer, but this is managed by UST. For the lower vadose zone, contaminant vapor concentrations are all within calculated Soil Remediation Levels (SRL) and Groundwater Protection Levels (GPL), but ADEQ will continue running the SVE system to remove as much contamination as possible. Since March 2022, 34.85 lbs. of contaminants have been removed by the SVE system. PCE levels in the regional aquifer are highest downgradient from site.

The plume has split into two downstream parts. ADEQ will continue to monitor the plume. Annual sampling will begin again in early 2023, but it will not be a full regional aquifer sampling event, as that is scheduled on 2-year cycle. SVE on the lower vadose will run into January 2023 and will be restarted in March 2023 after a rebound monitoring period. A monitoring well for the upper vadose zone will be replaced toward the end of year.

6. CAB discussion on this presentation

There was a question regarding why well MPE 3 showed an increase in concentration. Charlson will get more information to report at next meeting.

Salvatierra was concerned about the mixture of contaminants at the site and the potential for an additive effect from exposure to a combination of chemicals. Flood explained that the ROD can be reopened if new information becomes available and that currently there is no exposure to those chemicals. Mark Verhougstraete validated Salvatierra's point and stated that multiple people are doing research on how combinations of chemicals may impact health.

Salvatierra asked for data of the diesel plume from Union Pacific.

Jacky Turchick commented that the reduction of the amount of contamination and size of plume was good news.

7. Public Discussion:

A comment was made that as compounds degrade, they become other compounds that may be more hazardous; success of the project should not be measured by the lack of PCE as other compounds may be rising, like VC. Charlson explained that each stratigraphic zone had a primary contaminant(s) defined, but will present information on degradation compounds at the next meeting. The CAB felt that more maps and contaminants should be added to future presentations.

A question was asked about the meaning of "protect the use of groundwater" as a remedial objective (RO) in the ROD. Charlson explained that the ROD called for natural attenuation. Tucson Water and the University of Arizona have wells far downstream that are not impacted. Flood clarified protecting the use means whatever that use is. Per the ROD, if any wells show high levels of any contaminants then treatment can be started again.

Bagwell would like to see more information on VC since it has serious health implications.

8. Personal Address from Co-Chair Jacky Turchick

Jacky Turchick presented a letter about how she came to serve on the CAB, how appreciative she is of ADEQ's work, and how there are still more environmental concerns that have to be addressed and ADEQ should be given the power to do so.

9. Charter and Name Change Discussion and Vote:

Tereza Marks explained that the Arizona statutes have changed and now there is no meeting requirement for CABs. Thus, the charter needs to be revised to reflect this change. Also, the name of the CAB would be easier for record keeping if changed to Central Tucson which would encompass all three sites.

Motioned to make all changes: Bagwell

Seconded: Jacky Turchick

Jacky Turchick amended the motion by stating under III. Members section F, “members” should be added for clarity as groups cannot join the CAB.

Amended motion seconded: Bagwell and Katie Bolger

Salvatierra felt the name should not be changed as the names of the sites are important historically and for context. Flood clarified that changing the name of the CAB would not impact what site information is provided.

Salvatierra wanted to amend the motion to add three annual meetings or more. Bill Richards felt that there would be more flexibility if there was not a minimum number. This motion not seconded.

Jacky Turchick then amended the motion to keep the name unchanged. This motion was not seconded.

Salvatierra abstained on the vote for addition of the term “members” under section III subsection F. All other CAB members in attendance voted yea. The addition of the term “members” was passed.

On the vote to accept all changes as presented, all members in attendance except Salvatierra and Jacky Turchick voted yea. Suggested charter changes were passed.

10. Review and approval of September 2021 minutes:

Jacky Turchick moved to approve the minutes; Bagwell seconded the motion. Motion passed with none against. September 2021 minutes approved as presented.

11. Future CAB meeting and agenda:

The next meeting will be held at the discretion of the CAB. At the next meeting, ADEQ will present more data in a different format, adding more contaminants to the presentation, more information from Union Pacific on the diesel fuel effect at the sites, and more information on the split plume at Park-Euclid. Slides at the next presentation will avoid yellow and gray so they are easier to read.

12. Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 8:14 p.m.