



Community Advisory Board (CAB) Meeting
Highway 260 and Main Street
Water Quality Assurance Revolving Fund (WQARF) Site

Tuesday, February 25, 2021
6:00 p.m.
Virtual Meeting (GoToMeeting)

Meeting Minutes

CAB Members Present: Roger Biggs, Debbie Breitreutz, Andy Groseta, Melissa Franklin, Michael Mathews, David Mongini, Bill Wade

CAB Members Absent: None

ADEQ Staff Present: Wendy Flood, Kyle Johnson, Mary McGillicuddy, Matt Narter, Morgan O'Connor, Gianna Trujillo

Members of the Public: Laurie Bullock, Hank Chaikin, Susan Kaleta, Shell Luttrell, Jacob McGill, Paula Woolsey

1. Call to Order/Introductions:

CAB co-chair Debbie Breitreutz called the meeting to order at approximately 6:00 p.m. and conducted introductions.

2. ADEQ Presentation on the Highway 260 and Main Street draft Remedial Investigation (RI) report:

ADEQ project manager Matt Narter reviewed site history and contaminants of concern (tetrachloroethene, or PCE, and trichloroethene, or TCE). Dr. Narter presented key findings from the draft RI report. Dr. Narter summarized site activities that occurred since the RI ended.

3. CAB Discussion on ADEQ Presentation:

Ms. Breitreutz asked how many monitoring wells ADEQ installed at the site. Dr. Narter said ADEQ installed 11 monitoring wells in the south area, and 11 in the north area. ADEQ installed additional wells in north source area as part of the Feasibility Study.

CAB co-chair Bill Wade asked how often ADEQ samples wells within the groundwater plume. Dr. Narter said ADEQ samples all private wells four times per year.

Mr. Wade asked what the "non-detect" level referred to for contaminant concentrations in groundwater samples. Dr. Narter said it is any concentration at or below approximately 0.3 micrograms per liter (ug/L).

Mr. Wade asked if ADEQ identified and tested all groundwater wells in the site area. Dr. Narter said ADEQ has searched for wells throughout the project using a number of different methods; however, ADEQ continues to search for wells that may exist but have not been sampled. Dr. Narter asked for assistance identifying a well on Main Street. Roger Biggs, CAB member, said he would assist Dr. Narter to identify this well owner.

Mr. Wade asked how ADEQ proceeds if a private well owner denies ADEQ access to their well. Dr. Narter said it is voluntary for a well owner to allow ADEQ access because ADEQ does not regulate private wells.

Mr. Wade asked if a property title indicates a private well was sampled for site contaminants. ADEQ staff Wendy Flood said the Arizona Seller's Property Disclosure Statement requires a property owner to disclose if the property is located in a Superfund or WQARF site. The disclosure is for the entire property, not a specific well.

Mr. Wade asked if title companies knew about the WQARF disclosure. Ms. Flood replied that the disclosure is more relevant to realtors, property sellers, and buyers. Ms. Flood acknowledged outreach efforts by Cottonwood resident Hank Chaikin and encouraged attendees to share information with title agencies.

CAB member Andy Groseta asked for the depth to groundwater within site boundaries. Dr. Narter stated groundwater is 65-80 feet below ground surface (BGS) near Main Street and 30 feet BGS near the Verde River.

Public Discussion:

Shell Luttrell asked if ADEQ tested the Verde River or Cottonwood Ditch for site contaminants. Dr. Narter stated ADEQ sampled the river previously and did not detect site contaminants. Dr. Narter added that ADEQ does not expect to detect site contaminants due to dilution effects, but could sample the river again due to the plume's migration. Dr. Narter stated ADEQ has not sampled the Cottonwood Ditch because the water does not connect to groundwater. ADEQ does not expect site contamination to affect the irrigation ditch in the future.

Ms. Luttrell asked if it would be safe to use irrigation water on food grown for human consumption. Dr. Narter said the Arizona Department of Health Services concluded irrigation water contaminated with PCE or TCE at 50 ug/L would not pose a human health concern. Dr. Narter added that contaminant concentrations in most private wells are much lower than 50 ug/L.

Mr. Chaikin asked if ADEQ contacted the local realtor association about the site. ADEQ staff Mary McGillicuddy said she invited the Sedona Verde Valley Association of Realtors (SVVAR) to this meeting. CAB member Michael Mathews said he contacted this association previously and they were not receptive. Mr. Chaikin encouraged ADEQ to present to SVVAR to protect the public. Mr. Chaikin suggested adding WQARF site information to a property's titling process in addition to the Arizona Seller's Property Disclosure Statement.

4. CAB and public comment on the Highway 260 and Main Street draft Remedial Investigation report:

No comments received.

5. ADEQ presentation on Remedial Objectives

ADEQ project manager Gianna Trujillo defined WQARF remedial objectives (ROs), explained required RO components, and shared RO examples. Ms. Trujillo said ADEQ will publish a Proposed RO Report after the meeting; the report will have a 30-day public comment period and be added to the final RI report.

6. CAB discussion on ADEQ presentation:

Mr. Groseta said he looks forward to the proposed cleanup plan and asked if ADEQ needs to install more wells. Ms. Trujillo said ADEQ installed extra wells in the north and south area to better understand groundwater and soil vapor contaminant concentrations near the source area. Ms. Trujillo stated ADEQ may install additional wells based on the needs of the Feasibility Study.

Mr. Wade mentioned potential concerns of property owners within the site. Dr. Narter said ADEQ considers community concerns when deciding on a site's remedial actions.

Public Discussion:

Ms. Luttrell asked how long it would take for wells to be clear of site contamination. Ms. Trujillo said some WQARF sites take 30 years or more without active remediation. Ms. Trujillo said the cleanup duration depends on the remediation technique and local geology.

Ms. Luttrell asked if businesses that contributed to contamination have financial responsibility for the site's cleanup. Ms. Flood explained how ADEQ identifies potentially responsible parties and allocates financial liability. Dr. Narter said

the current business owners in the source areas did not contribute to the site's contamination and have no financial responsibility.

Ms. Luttrell asked how ADEQ discovered the site. Dr. Narter said ADEQ started its initial investigation in 2005 and described early site activities. Ms. Flood said ADEQ staff will send additional site history to Ms. Luttrell after the meeting.

Paula Woolsey said she is selling property within the site's boundaries and wants to know how to proceed. Ms. McGillicuddy and Ms. Flood said they will follow up with Ms. Woosley after the meeting.

7. CAB and public solicitation of Remedial Objectives for the Highway 260 and Main Street Site:

Ms. Breitreutz said that as the public water supplier in the area, the City of Cottonwood would like the remediation efforts to lower the TCE and PCE levels to non-detectable levels where applicable.

8. ADEQ presentation on the Highway 260 and Main Street Early Response Action Operation and Maintenance Manual

Ms. Trujillo described the Early Response Action Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) water treatment systems installed on private groundwater wells impacted by site contaminants above the AWQS. Ms. Trujillo summarized key components of the Operation and Maintenance Manual for these systems. Ms. Trujillo explained how to submit comments before the comment period ended.

9. CAB discussion on ADEQ presentation

Ms. Breitreutz asked if ADEQ will backflush the systems' GAC vessels and how often the filters will be replaced. Ms. Trujillo confirmed ADEQ will backflush the systems manually which will help reduce the frequency of GAC changeout. Ms. Trujillo said ADEQ has yet to replace a filter on any treatment system.

Public Discussion:

Mr. Chaikin asked if external hose bibs are part of the treatment systems. ADEQ employee Kyle Johnson said most treatment systems were installed upstream of hose bibs or were configured to ensure hoses received treated water.

Mr. Chaikin asked if impacted well owners can connect to City of Cottonwood water. Ms. Trujillo stated some areas of Cottonwood do not have service lines to receive city water, adding that it is up to the property owner to decide to connect.

Ms. Luttrell asked who pays for the treatment systems. Ms. Trujillo said ADEQ pays for the system and all future maintenance. Ms. McGillicuddy said ADEQ will pay for the system until the site is delisted.

10. CAB and public comment on the Early Response Action Operation and Maintenance Manual

No public comments received.

11. ADEQ presentation on Highway 260 and Main Street groundwater sampling results (June—December 2020), updates, and next steps

Dr. Narter presented groundwater sampling results from June to December 2020. Dr. Narter said some samples from private wells in the north area exceeded the AWQS for site contaminants. Dr. Narter added that ADEQ is working with these well owners to provide clean drinking water.

In the south area, Dr. Narter said sampling results indicated contaminant concentrations may be decreasing; many samples had no detection of site contaminants. Dr. Narter said ADEQ will install five more GAC treatment systems on private wells where PCE concentrations exceeded the Aquifer Water Quality Standard.

Ms. Trujillo reviewed the release dates of recent site reports. Ms. Trujillo summarized ongoing work, future site activities, and upcoming reports.

12. CAB discussion on ADEQ presentation

No discussion among CAB members.

Public Discussion:

Ms. Luttrell asked how to share information about wells near the site. Dr. Narter told her to contact Ms. Trujillo.

Mr. Chaikin asked if title agencies or counties record WQARF site information. Ms. Flood said this information is public record at the state level only. Ms. Flood added that ADEQ could consider outreach to title agencies.

Laurie Bullock requested a copy of the presented maps. Dr. Narter encouraged her to contact ADEQ staff, adding that monitoring reports and other site documents are also publicly available.

13. CAB review/acceptance of the March 2020 meeting minutes

Mr. Wade motioned to approve minutes; motion seconded by CAB member Roger Biggs. Motion approved.

14. Future CAB meeting date and agenda discussion

Ms. Trujillo suggested a late April or May meeting; February groundwater sampling results will be ready in late March.

Mr. Wade motioned for a CAB vote to meet in-person with social distancing; motion seconded by CAB member Melissa Franklin. Motion approved.

Ms. Breitreutz said she will check if the CAB can meet at the Riverfront Water Reclamation Facility. Mr. Biggs recommended scheduling the next meeting after ADEQ releases new site documents.

15. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

*This meeting was recorded as a record of the proceedings. To listen to recording, or for additional information about the content of this meeting, contact:
ADEQ: Wendy Flood 602-771-4410.*