

Minutes: Friends of Oxcroft Screens/ Stanfree Valley Preservation Group
Date: 13th December 2016
Location: Stanfree, Oxcroft Miners Welfare
Time: 7:00pm



St. Francis Group / DSM – Rob Cook [RC] **Environmental Manager for DSM**

Marcol – Alun Hayes(AH)

Coalite remediation information meeting

1. Apologies for absence: Initially, Cllrs, who were at the Parish Council Meeting. All attended later. MR stood in as chair for this meeting.
2. Talk by AH & RC
 - a) AH introduced himself and R C and explained their involvement. Bolsover Land initially took over the site in 2012. Marcol primary role is development and property assets. St.Francis Group/DSM are concerned with remediation.
 - b) Planning consent achieved last year for housing (approx.600) on greenfield across from pig farm, and commercial development on more contaminated site. BDC & NEDDC jointly dealt with the applications. The viability of a school as part of the masterplan was also mentioned.
 - c) AW interjected to explain where some public funding had come from. The Enterprise partnership (growth fund), DCC & Nottingham, and LEP sponsored the current clean-up, to the tune of £7.8m.
 - d) The funds were available in this financial year, but would be taken back by the Government if not spent, so there was reason for urgency. This has led to communication with the public being less than desired.
 - e) Question from the floor as to whether the Council thought they were getting value for money. AW responded that she believed it is good value, and that BDC and NEDDC set the standards required.
 - f) RC stated that their original advice to their client was to turn down the site, as the cost benefit was so low. Things changed, with the housing and the additional funding for the clean-up.
 - g) RC - 65 ton machine arriving on site this week to start cutting up the storage tanks. All barrelled waste has been removed, high temperature incinerator and also the large biocide store is all set to be removed. Some materials (certain coal tars) had been taken off site for high temperature incineration at Fawley incinerator / Esso refinery. All licenced asbestos has been removed from site, with the exception of a substation, which has not yet been opened. Regulations apply when dealing with contaminated land. Have to deal with three organisations:
 - i. Environmental Health dept who are dealing with smells (nuisance), fumes (aromatic hydrocarbons) and possibly dust.
 - ii. Planning department / minerals (DCC) overall responsibilities.
 - iii. Environment Agency – permit for Mobile Plant Deployment (issued for 1 year, but can be extended for another year). Still waiting for comments on method statement. Most concerns over surface waters (i.e. Doe Lea), river sediments and underground aquifers.
 - iv. Public Health England – yet to comment. But have advised on the locations of the solar powered environmental monitors (discussed later).
 - h) RC – they are aware of where the worst contamination is. They are able to monitor and drill out pilot holes before lifting the concrete slabs, with a buffer zone of 20m around them, but this is around 40m in reality. Testing for VOCs showing 100 times less than the 8hr exposure limit for Benzene.
 - i) RC – showed the group the hand held pid detector (photo-ionising detection). But they have just one monitor to cover the site. This is employed to detect benzene and hydrocarbons. Not dioxins.

- j) All dioxin contamination has to be sent out for laboratory analysis and cannot be done in situ.
- k) KA – concerned about dioxins. RC – So far, very low levels found. Most has probably already been removed (some by the weather). KA – what is an acceptable level? RC – dioxins are harmful if ingested.
- l) MR – informs Dioxins do not weather or disappear. Their Environmental fate is not yet determined. Bioaccumulation may be a factor – are dioxins in the current food chain?
- m) IS – smells are back. Is this because of disturbance? RC – Probably rain increases the smells. Probably due to lower atmospheric pressure.
- n) RC – in-situ ambient solar powered Environmental receptors / monitors are located around or near to the site, but as far away as Bolsover Industrial Park. Monitor Noise, Dust (pm10s), Vibration. Work on a traffic light system (amber, Green and Red). Alarms (red alert) send emails out to concerned parties, such as EHO, RC. Emergency procedures in place for such occurrence.
- o) RC – Using aerobic bioremediation to reduced VOCs to acceptable levels in the soils. The treatment location will be internal to the west of the railway line (Map shown by AH. Yellow area). This is where they are reliant upon bioremediation to take place, using soil microbes to break down long chains of benzene and hydrocarbons and then placing the “treated” soil back on site.
- p) RC – Some concrete (slabs) may have odour potential and will need to be covered with other materials.
- q) RC – Heavy metals and dioxins, if found, would probably need to go to landfill (Port Clarence, Peterborough) but this is a costly and last resort.
- r) RC – admittedly states that unusual substances have been found whilst under site clean-up. For example, pools of red phenolic liquid (although said not to contain any dioxins) and also where they have cut through the concrete, thick pink layers have been found well under the surface. A possibility of reaction states (reduction, redox, oxidation) of chemicals known to site.
- s) Substances found on site are prominently Cresols, Chlorinated substances and Phenols.
- t) MR – How many operators on site? RC approx. 17. Perhaps shared amongst 2 managers, 12 plant operators and full time ongoing security persons. Using sorbent tubes (passive) to analyse compounds around the site. Some tubes with pumps to detect VOCs on operators also.
- u) RC – Smells will decrease for a couple of reasons:
 - i. Tanks are being removed for scrap (shipped to China)
 - ii. Mentioned the relationship between source / pathway / Receptor. By encapsulating and covering the “Hot spot areas”, this breaks the cycle. The receptor being immediate community or neighbours.
 - iii. Where there are “Hot spot” areas, the buffer zone of up to 40m will be enforced.
- v) KA – How will information be shared? RC – Newsletter. AH – Website, been carrying out some filming; Community liaison group.
- w) RC – Using an odour mask (spraying a curtain of water with a type of oil) to remove smells. Also, after treatment, will spray soils with a polymer “Dirt Glue” to stop dust lift-up. Should have a 2 to 3 yr lifespan.
- x) MR – Perhaps one or two of our members (FOOS / SVPG) could attend liaison meetings? AH – to take it to the group.
- y) RC – will be treating roughly 260000 m³ of soils, of which, they estimate 10% will be contaminated.
- z) IS – DCC Insight magazine would be a good place for disseminating information.

3. Thanks to AH & RC for coming.

4. Next meeting on 20th December at 7:00pm.

Meeting closed at 21:15