



own of  
onawanda  
Office of the Town Engineer

2919 Delaware Avenue  
Room 20, Municipal Building  
Kenmore, New York 14217-2308

Matthew Sutton PE, CPESC  
Town Engineer

Phone: (716) 877-8805

## Tonawanda Community Working Group (TCWG) Tonawanda Coke Remediation and Redevelopment

### MINUTES

- I. **WELCOME** - James Hartz - Meeting December 3rd at 10:00 a.m.  
Corrections to minutes from 1<sup>st</sup> meeting- Greg Stevens present  
Technical Support staff separated from members
- II. **ATTENDEES -**
- | <b>MEMBERS</b>  | <b>TECHNICAL SUPPORT PERSONNEL</b> |
|-----------------|------------------------------------|
| James Hartz     | Jon Williams                       |
| Emily Terrana   | Victoria Streitfeld                |
| Jay Farquharson | John Black                         |
| Tom Hersey      | Ben McPherson                      |
| Joe Emminger    | Chad Staniszewski                  |
| Jackie James    | Thomas Morahan                     |
| Matt Sutton     | Paul Morrow                        |
| Greg Stevens    | Earl Wells                         |
| Chris Murawski  |                                    |
| Ken Swanekamp   |                                    |
- III. **PROPOSED SUGGESIONS TO BYLAWS**
- Emily Terrana** –Clean Air Coalition
1. Clear on purpose of group-to review discuss & provide recommendations to DEC in the remediation process as well as provide our own technical expertise outside of that provided by the DEC, RITC and Honeywell.
  2. TCWG will have a dedicated website to hold the minute & possibly video recording since it's a public group.
  3. Clear that lived expertise, lived experience and knowledge of the issues of people in the community is also relevant to discussion.
  4. Questioned any decisions being made by the group should be spelled out
- James Hartz** – Change of wording for section 4 from Consensus-Based Decision Making to Consensus-Based Recommendations.
5. In terms of when group could meet, suggested written in bylaws to meet more often during periods of remediation, planning & testing processes if needed.

6. Only members of the group, those who represent Community interest will be voting on the consensus based recommendations made to the DEC & other responsible groups.

**Jackie James** – Would like a discussion to continue this working group beyond this Remediation and used as a successful example for other sites.

**James Hartz** - At this time we want to get this off the ground. Down the road it's a good idea for other larger sites.

**Tom Hersey** – This group was brought together specifically for the Tonawanda Coke Site, specific to Brownfield and Super Fund Sites. Down the road this could be used as a format to look at how we bring the people and partners together. There is specific missions, objectives and responsibilities for this group.

**Joe Emminger** – Agreed. Don't want to lose the focus or have things unmanageable so not to delay anything that can be done on the Tonawanda Coke Site.

**James Hartz**- Will be sending out a set of amended by laws to get a consensus from the group at the next meeting in January.

IV. **Jon Williams** – Need time to go through comments since it is important to how the group will be managed.

**General Comment**-This working group is under the SuperFund and Brownfield Agreement with the state which are executed contracts that have legislative oversight. We cannot do anything in this group that contradicts the requirement and processes in that legislation. Public involvement needs to be consistent with the executed agreement with the state.

**James Hartz** – Public participation component needs to fit into the framework of the clean up program.

**John Black** – **UPDATE ON PROGRESS**

1. Ongoing interim remedial measures involves another layer of testing and analysis on top of the remedial investigation.
2. Improved surface water controls put the effort in a great position to manage surface water through the winter.
3. Asbestos Abatement – two contractors working on site.  
One for the three stacks, two of the three are ACM free.  
Second for the piping and buildings, working through pipe racks & through the buildings on the property.
4. Remedial Investigation – only 1 well to complete. Finishing up, wells need to set and come into equilibrium. Have submitted 5-11 individual samples from over 200 sample locations.

V. **DEC – Ben Mcpherson**- Presented a brief summary and Investigation Schedule:

<b><u>Task</u></b>	<b><u>Start Date</u></b>	<b><u>End Date</u></b>
Monitoring Well Installation	October 27, 2020	Ongoing
Groundwater Sampling	January 12, 2021	January 22, 2021
Test Pit and Surface Soil Sampling	October 27, 2020	November 20, 2020
Surficial Site Water	November 18, 2020	November 20, 2020
Sediments	November 17, 2020	November 17, 2020
Photo of Test of test pit to give perspective of trench.		

## **Superfund Sites**

109 and 110- Investigation complete aside from ongoing ground water sampling.  
108 – Test pitting is complete, well installation is ongoing. Sediment collection is also ongoing.

Getting access agreements from National Grid and permits from Army Core of Engineers for areas not owned by RITC.

**Questions from Last Meeting** concerning Rattle snake Creek and Erie Canal Corridors - Honeywell agreed to install additional wells and odometers along channel path.

## **Contact Information for Government Agencies**

**NYSDEC Project Manager:** Benjamin McPherson 270 Michigan Avenue Buffalo, NY 14203 (716) 851-7220 [benjamin.mcperson@dec.ny.gov](mailto:benjamin.mcperson@dec.ny.gov)

**USEPA:** Michael Basile Basile.Michael@epa.gov

**NYSDOH Project Manager:** Angela Martin Bureau of Environmental Exposure Investigation Corning Tower, Room 1787 Albany, NY 12237 (518) 473-4671 [bee@health.ny.gov](mailto:bee@health.ny.gov)

## **VI. QUESTIONS**

### **1. Chris - Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper**

Where are the sediment samples for the Brownfield site?

**Response - Ben-** From the onsite settling ponds that are part of the storm water & from a small section of state wetland on South Easter corner.

### **2. Jay- Testing Parameters**

Was there any oil poured on the coal piles and do the tests account for PCB's or Dioxin's?

**Response – Ben -** Any oil was added toward the battery and not the coal pile and samples from ground water & soil are being tested for PCB's

### **3. Do the tests account for radioactive items others than are normally in coal?**

**Response – Ben -** There was a radiation consultant available during investigation that did field scans of materials encounters and had no enhanced radiological signal detected during investigation

**John Black -** In addition to field scans they collected 5 samples and they were submitted to a laboratory to confirm that data. No results yet from the lab.

### **4. Emily - Clean air**

What is the protocol to test offsite parameters if a ground water plume or other ground water contamination was found to see how far it had traveled offsite.

**Response – Ben –** We start close so you don't overshoot it and begin a track down process if plume was suspected.

### **5. Ken Swanekamp**

Is there any demolition scheduled as you get rid of the asbestos?

**Response – John Black –** Demotion is driven by safety. Contractor found loose bricks at the top of the stacks that had to be removed. Also there are four buildings that are not stable to be entered. A permit was required from the Dept. of Labor for Controlled Demolition and the demolition debris will be sampled for asbestos. Also scheduled for demo is the East Clench Tower because siding is unstable and unsafe for work. Once asbestos is done the normal demolition will begin.

## VII. COMMENTS

**Chad- DEC-** Wanted to note that responses were provided to comments from last meeting regarding Superfund Remedial Investigation.

**Greg Stevens - Niagara River Greenway-** Thoughts about landscaping plans to improve appearance and ecological health of area surrounding the trail shoreline.

**John Williams** – Good idea to get together, but still waiting for more environmental data. Can start to get some general configurations and boundaries.

**Joe Emminger – Town Supervisor-**Town has also had discussions with John about what they want to see done on site.

**Tom Hersey – DEP -** About to open bids on whole renovation and upgrade to trail and making enhancements. Have the resources to spend and plans to start construction in early spring. Should coordinate with all the businesses and with John and Greg.

**John Williams** – First have to figure out environmental issues, the contamination, and areas that need to be addressed.

**Chad – DEC -** Make sure to loop Ben into plans to make sure it's consistent with the requirements of the remedial programs.

**James Hartz -** Town will be holding a public information meeting regarding our Town zoning code update. The River Road Corridor is critical to Town's future.

### FINAL QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

**Paul Morrow** – Was there any staining of soil, particularly blue purifier waste found in test pits?

**Response - John Black** - Yes there was and we sampled the purifiers and pile of material next to the purifiers specifically.

**Paul Morrow** – Did not see PCB analysis in water work plan.

**John Black** – PCB generally not mobile in water. If we start to see high levels in the soil samples we can revisit that.

**Tom Morahan – Clean Air -** Is the blue stuff by purifiers related to cyanide?

**John Black** – Yes that is what we are looking for.

**Chris - Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper** – Want to put on the record that they reviewed comments from Emily at Clear Air and we support and back up those comments.

**Jay Farquharson** - Is there a forecasted date for final demolition?

**John Williams** – Too soon to put a target date b/c a lot has to do with the samples. Depending on testing and samples could be end of 2<sup>nd</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter 2021.

Biggest step to getting demolition cleared is the abatement.

**John Black** – Current schedule for abatement about 3-4 months to go, weather and permit dependent.

### James Hartz- FUTURE MEETING DATE

Wednesday Jan. 27<sup>th</sup> 10am via Zoom

