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**own of
onawanda**
Office of the Town Engineer

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Town Engineer

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

MINUTES

- I. **WELCOME** - James Hartz - Meeting August 25th at 10:00 a.m.
(Via Zoom Conference Call)

ATTENDEES

MEMBERS

Paul Nyznyk
Emily Terrana
Jay Farquharson
Matt Sutton
Matt Chimera
Jill Jedlika
Ken Swanekamp
Jen Pusatier

TECHNICAL SUPPORT PERSONNEL

John Black
John Hood
Earl Wells
Ben McPherson
Rich Galloway
Chad Staniszewski
Paul Morrow
Angela Martin
Victoria Streitfeld
Gene Melnyk
Andrea Caprio
Serena Labrecque
Michelle Rickan

- II. **Minutes**

Approval of minutes from 6/30/21 - Matt Sutton – No objections

III. **Owner/Developer Updates** - John Black – Update

1. Events of Fire – On 8/10/21 a stock pile of coke gas residual spontaneously combusted. Emergency Services were called & Fire Department put fire out. Material that combusted is hard to differentiate. Have conducted tests to determine means to manage materials.

Questions: Jill Jedlika – How was the water run off managed from putting the fire out?

Response: John Black – All water captured on the property and directed to the clench pit which doesn't discharge to surface water or sanitary sewers. This containment area was built for this purpose. Have collected samples of water in the pit, sediment in the pit, and soil around pit for emergent contaminants.

Question: Jay Farquharson – Was it just the ambient heat of summer that caused material to reach its auto emission point?

Response: John Black – I think it's both the temperature and oxidation of ferric iron oxide & ferric iron sulfide. Tested material using a temperature probe to separate out the materials that had heated up.

Question: Paul Morrow were you testing for PFOS or target compound list?

Response: John Black – both PFOS and the full compound list.

2. Asbestos Program – Asbestos coating found on the west wall in Coal charging building. Material was abated. Former light oil building – roof is asbestos but building is condemned so it will be taken down in a controlled demo.
3. Final Storm water point are the North & South settling ponds- have been cleaned out, stabilized, moved to mixing pad to dry and then shipped off site.
4. Demolitions – Coke conveyor – last big obstructions to come down.
5. Tank Management Program
6. IRM'S – 470 tons of material shipped in Aug. and over 12 mil lbs total removed from property. Close to approval of getting rid of pipes & materials discovered in River Rd tunnels. Byproducts in tanks to be recovered. Large waste water treatment tanks scheduled for end of year.

IV. **DEC** – Ben McPherson

1. Brownfield Site Update of plans
2. Additional work plans to address fire and materials and how to handle. Went over follow up actions after fire. Management of coke oven gas pipes have been suspended until an updated work plan is approved. Have requested more sampling in the immediate area for PFOS - doing a more targeted sampling and different analysis.
3. Inspection after Fire- material was consolidated & covered w/brick and debris to keep saturated and prevent re-ignition. Pipes have also not reignited.

4. Superfund Site 108- Wetlands permit granted on 8/6/21. Additional monitoring wells & sediment sampling began 8/19/21.
Site 109 – Field work complete – second ground water sampling once wells in 108 are complete.
Site 110 - Field work complete – second ground water sampling once wells in 108 are complete.
Minor Modifications DEC has approved for the three sites as distributed on slides.

Question: Was fire fought with just water, or both foam & water?

Response: Ben McPherson– Both water and foam.

Question: Was residue that ignited in the yellow pipes?

Response from Ben & John – Yes, pipes were originally pink.

Question: Emily - Any update on Northern Outfall. Will that be put into a remediation program or put in current work. Will DEC release a public facing report on fire?

Response: Ben McPherson– There will be a report after sampling the ground water wells, had to reinstall a damaged well.

No report from DEC on fire but Riverview has a memo on the website
John – memo will be continually updated after continued investigation of causes and controlled technologies.

Question: Jill Jedlika – Question about testing parameters around area so it's not just going to be left alone.

Response: Ben – getting information now to see what the ground water is and knowing the different compound concentrations. This can help predict what is active & can be used to stimulate naturally occurring bacteria to help address contamination.

Question: Emily Terrana– If there were to be another fire, the members were worried about lingering concerns that may have been in the smoke that may have mitigated onto properties or playground. Is there any preventative education.

Response: John Black– No detections of anything in the emissions from the fire. Nothing left should be of concern and don't know of anything that went off site. Wind monitoring showed it went towards the refinery and did not go towards Sawyer Ave or the playground.

- v. Next meeting date Wed. September 29th 10am via Zoom