

CONDUCTORLAB OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
SEPTEMBER 8, 2015, 5:00 PM
DRAFT MINUTES

Chairman Hanninen called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM in the Town Hall

Members present: Hanninen, Collette, Horowitz, and Schulman

Member absent: Deuger

The Committee met with Maria Kaouris of Honeywell, Attorney Michael Scott of Nutter, McLennan & Fish, LSP Kerry Tull of AMEC, Mark Baldi and Joseph Loughton of the Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) to discuss progress at the Conductorlab site on Main Street. Also present were abutters John and Laurie Smigelski, 150 Mill Street, and Corey Massaro, 179 Mill Street.

Ms. Kaouris updated the Committee on progress at the site. She said they are moving toward final closure after operating the pump and treat system for many years. Mass DEP audited the site and identified two outstanding issues:

1. Adequate impact to surface water
2. Indoor air quality issues.

LSP Kerry Tull presented the Powerpoint slides showing background on the remediation and recent efforts to oxidize TCE in-situ chemical oxidation. Other concerns include impact on the unnamed brook and downstream residences. Remediation has controlled TCE and Cr6, which now meets GW3 standards. Water quality fluctuates in two surface water points. TCE indoor air levels are above the new standards adopted in 2014 which lowered standards from 30 to 6 ug/L. The permanent closure requires Method 3 Risk Characterization including ecological risk and human health risk. Focus will continue on the Cr6 levels in two monitoring wells. In 2015, the buildings will be demolished and the risk assessments will be done. MassDEP will do a follow-up audit when the risk assessments have been completed and will share the results with the Committee.

Mr. Baldi of MassDEP said this is one of the oldest sites in the Central Region. MassDEP did the audit as a result of a call regarding demolition of a building. A phenomenal amount of work has been done to remediate the site. The audit only showed minor issues – indoor air quality with TCE and surface water quality fluctuations. Honeywell is on track to address these issues, then MassDEP will do a follow-up audit.

Member Horowitz asked if the monitoring wells will remain after the site is closed. The Board of Health would like to know what MassDEP recommends for long-term monitoring. Mr. Tull said the Risk Assessments must be done first. If the permanent closure report is accepted by MassDEP, no future monitoring will be required. Mr. Baldi said if all the standards are met and there is no condition of risk, then they are done.

Member Horowitz asked if the unnamed brook could be checked for five years after the closure. Mr. Tull said the final closure will not be accepted until there are no contaminants left in the unnamed stream and there is no risk to human health.

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Mr. Massaro asked about the two monitoring wells on his property. The unnamed brook runs through his property to a pond on his property. He asked what protects his family and the community. Mr. Baldi said Honeywell must demonstrate a "no risk" condition. He recommended closing the monitoring wells on Mr. Massaro's property because the wells are a pathway to groundwater.

Mr. Massaro asked what they should do if contaminants show up in the future. Ms. Kaouris said Honeywell will stand by the closure. Mr. Baldi agreed that Honeywell will always be responsible and will have liability in the chain of title.

Attorney Scott said all owners, past and present, are liable. Honeywell has done the work to close the site.

Mr. Massaro said MGL Chapter 31E is the law. Mr. Baldi said the Massachusetts Contingency Plan is very comprehensive. Mr. Massaro asked if a bond is appropriate. Attorney Scott said he has never seen one required by MassDEP.

Member Schulman asked about the proposed Activities and Use Limitations (AUL) on the Conductorlab properties if the site is not cleaned up to residential standards. Mr. Tull said no residential uses and no day-care facilities would be permitted. Mr. Tull said the AUL will also prohibit vegetable gardens on the site.

Member Schulman asked if Cr6 is reduced to Cr3, would the Cr3 go back to Cr6. Mr. Tull said, "no," the Cr6 is reduced to Cr3 by chemical oxidation. The breakdown of TCE results in ethane.

Member Schulman asked about indoor air quality tests. Mr. Massaro said the tests were done in his house. Mr. Tull said the tests showed "no detect."

Chairman Hanninen asked when the next chemical application would take place. Mr. Tull said in a few months.

John Smigelski asked when the AUL's would be placed on the properties. Mr. Tull said the use of AUL is a standard tool. Mr. Massaro said he and other residential owners have AUL on their properties that restricts any use of groundwater. Attorney Scott said the AUL's on the residential properties were recorded on the deeds as part of the settlement agreements in 1991 and 1995.

Mr. Massaro asked if the AUL's could be removed in the future. Mr. Tull said the permanent closure requires the AUL's on the site and groundwater restrictions on the downgradient area. The grant of the environmental restriction limits exposure to groundwater.

Laurie Smigelski asked if land on the west side of the rail trail could be used for pasture with the AUL in place. Mr. Tull said there are no restrictions on residential-agricultural uses such as pastures.

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Mr. Massaro asked if the monitoring wells would be removed. Mr. Tull said all 100+ monitoring wells would be removed after MassDEP completes the audit process. Both MassDEP and the owners do not want a portal to groundwater.

Mr. Massaro asked about the long-term plan for Cr6 in surface water. Mr. Tull said the chemical injection into the groundwater reduces the Cr6 to Cr3.

Member Horowitz asked if the monitoring wells would be tested before they are removed. Mr. Tull said one last sample will be taken after the MassDEP audit.

The Committee requested that Mr. Tull provide a CD of the Powerpoint presentation.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Collette
Member