Community Advisory Council
June 13, 2002
Action Items/Notes

FINAL

These notes are in the following order:

1. Attendance
2. Correspondence and handouts
3. Quorum
4. Administrative
5. Update on Workshop on Groundwater Systems, Robert Howe, Group Manager
6. Presentation on Bio-terrorism, Dr. Ralph James, Associate Laboratory Director
7. Update of pilots, Sewage Treatment Plant, schedules, Skip Medeiros, Group Manager
8. OUV Subcommittee Report
9. Community Comment
10. Open Discussion
11. Agenda setting

1. Attendance

Present:
Members – R. Biss, G. Campbell, A. Capozzi, R. Clipperton, R. Conklin, J. Corrarino, A. Espositio, D. Garber, M. Giacomaro, H. Guthy, J. Heil, E. Kaplan, G. Proios, D. Sprintzen, T. Talbot, M. Walker.

Alternates – W. Evanzia, A. Graves, B. Henigin, J. McLoughlin, J. Minnasi, J. Ottney

Others – M. Bebon, P. Bond, A. Carsten, J. Clodius, F. Crescenzo, J. D'Ascoli, J. Granzen, K. Grigoletto, L. Hill, R. Hodgin, B. Howe, R. James, S. Kumar, M. Lynch, S. Medeiros, L. Nelson, G. Penny, A. Rapiejko, J. Rohlf, K. Shaw, T. Sheridan, K. White.

Absent:
Members – R. Amper, M. Barrett, M. Cohn, S. Cullen, N. Essel, D. Fischler, A. Jones, J. Jordon-Sweet, J. Kassner, J. Mannhaupt, P. Martino, M. Shea, C. Swenson,

Alternates – S. Bail, S. Carlin, K. Crowley, J. Gibbons, T. Guglielmo, L. Jacobson, R. Johannesen, B. Martin, J. Pannullo, P. Pizzo, W. Prospect, K. Skinner, P. Stephens, K. Timmins

2. Correspondence and Handouts

Items 1 - 4 were mailed with a cover letter dated June 7, 2002. Item 5 was included in the folders and item 6 was available at the meeting as a handout.

1. Draft agenda for June.
2. Draft notes for May.
3. Final notes from April.
4. Sewage Treatment Plant Fact Sheet.
5. Presentation by Bob Howe
6. Presentation by Skip Medeiros

3. Quorum

The meeting began at 6:36pm. A quorum was present. Reed went over the draft agenda and the ground rules for the meeting.

4. Administrative

The notes from the May 9 meeting were approved with one abstention with the following changes: Page 2 – the results of the sampling will be added per Jeanne D'Ascoli. The statement on Page 5 regarding the Risk Assessment being provided to the regulators will be clarified, and Don Garber will be listed as the primary representative from ABCO, not the alternate.

Member Sprintzen asked about the status of the search for a Laboratory Director. Tom Sheridan reported that a new group has been commissioned by BSA Chairman, Dr. Shirley Kenny to find a director. They have hired a search firm to assist with the process.

Marge Lynch announced that Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham will visit the Lab on Friday, June 14. She extended an invitation to all to attend the 2 p.m. All Hands meeting at Berkner Hall.

5. Update on Workshop on Groundwater Systems, Robert Howe, Group Manager

Bob Howe described the community outreach activities in the area south of the Laboratory. Howe explained that according to the Records of Decision approved in 2000 and 2001, six groundwater treatment systems would be installed off-site. The systems will include piping, extraction wells, and treatment system buildings. He stated that the goal of the outreach was to gather input from the community on the locations and aesthetics of the systems. He said that a groundwater cleanup brochure had been mailed to 1700 residents, that comment cards were collected, and that 170 homes were canvassed prior to the June 11workshop.

He reported that the major concerns of the community were the safety of children, preventing leaks from the pipes, repaving the roads, landscaping the buildings, and preventing ATVs from using the sites. Participants at the workshop agreed that systems 1 and 2 should be combined at the airport and the building in LIPA right-of-way eliminated, the North Street system should be moved to the east side of the road, and that pipe should be installed on the airport buffer not in the street. Howe said the Lab will make final decisions on the designs in the next few weeks to stay on schedule. He also said that the Lab will continue to involve the community and maintain a dialogue with them to keep them informed during the project.

Member Giacamaro said that the East Yaphank Civic Association mailed a survey to over 400 residents and got a 7 percent return. He said that suggestions from the community included recommendations that sites A and B be combined and that the North Street system be moved to the Boxwood location. Residents also expressed concerns about the roads, preventing leaks in the pipes, and recharging water back to the vicinity of extraction wells.

Member Kaplan asked if anyone had raised noise or security as issues at the workshop. Howe said that noise was a big issue and that was the reason carbon treatment was chosen. Howe explained that the buildings will be fenced and there will be motion detectors. Members also asked about the dimensions of the buildings for the systems, about monitoring the pipes for leaks, in-well stripping versus the carbon filter treatment, and having personnel on the sites around the clock for security purposes. There was a lengthy discussion on recharging the treated water to the area of the extraction wells.

6. Presentation on Anti-terrorism, Dr. Ralph James, Associate Laboratory Director, Energy, Environment, and National Security.

Dr. Ralph James gave a presentation on developing technology to enhance the security of the nation and how the technology also impacts environmental cleanup and improved health care. He explained that his directorate is broken into three main business sectors - Energy Sciences, Environmental Sciences, and National Security. In Energy Sciences ways to increase the energy supply and lower energy costs are being looked at. More efficient burners for combustion processes, renewable energies such as geothermal and wind, advanced liquid fuels and bio fuels, and ways to reduce and eliminate nuclear waste are being studied.

The Environmental Sciences sector is driven by the aspects of global warming. Scientists are trying to understand the effects of greenhouse gases and aerosols and how they affect the respiratory system and contribute toward climate change. The National Security sector is largely driven by the threat of terrorism.

Dr. James stated that there is a gap between the risk and the tools now in place to address that risk. He said Brookhaven is working to develop science-based technologies to help close that gap. He discussed some of the new threats such as biological, chemical, and nuclear weapons. He described what the perceived targets are, government, telecommunications, transportation, and the financial system. He told of the effort to detect, identify, and localize these threats. He said that some of the work involves putting sensor technology into engineered instruments. Multi-sensors are being connected into an array that could be distributed to regions where there is a higher threat. The wireless technology would then be communicated to information and data processing centers.

James reported that some of the challenges that need to be addressed are detecting terrorists' intentions, improving protection against attacks, preparing the first responders with new tools, medical counter-measures such as new drugs, new vaccines, and new antidotes, and managing the consequences of search, rescue, and recovery. He said that there is a convergence of technologies that include micro-electronics, sensors, nanotechnology, biotechnology, wireless information and data visualization, engineered systems and treatments that can be developed to meet these challenges and that many of them are strengths for Long Island.

CAC members asked questions about the vulnerability of nuclear power plants, about DNA sequencing, radiation detectors, and exchanging and keeping information out of the wrong hands.

Action Item: Send copy of presentation to CAC members.

7. Update on Pilot Studies, Sewage Treatment Plant, schedules, Skip Medeiros

Skip Medeiros said that as the result of input from the Community Advisory Council and others in the community, it was decided to separate the cleanup programs for OUV to the Sewage Treatment Plant and the Peconic River. Skip noted that the Lab will be going into the field next week to initiate the Sewage Treatment Plant cleanup. He noted an error on his first slide and said that the cleanup goal for Cesium should read Cs-137>23 pCi/g (in Figure 3 box). He explained that the materials will be excavated, stockpiled, and sampled prior to disposal. He said that safety was a high priority and described the measures that will be taken to control dust and monitor the air. Member Sprintzen asked about the constituents in the sediment. Medeiros replied they were principally heavy metals, Plutonium, Uranium (added by member Esposito), and Americium. There was also some discussion on Brazil nuts and radioactive food available in the grocery store. Member Conklin asked how the berms would be excavated. Skip explained the process and said that they would need to go as deep as six feet in some areas.

Skip reported on the observations, recommendations and conclusions from the pilot studies. He showed before and after pictures of Area A where the vacuum guzzling was done and Area D where the sediment was removed and the area replanted. He said the observations included that the wetlands permitting process was lengthy, that there is more upfront work that can be done, environmental damage can be minimized by careful placement of the access roads, irrigation is important in the replanting process, increased pumping capacity was needed to manage water levels, the costs were higher than anticipated, and vacuum guzzling was good for high precision removal of contaminants. Skip said that the manpower needed was a big factor that contributed to increased costs and that the topsoil was expensive.

Medeiros reported that in going forward they would build in a buffer for weather delays, the full-scale remediation costs would be reevaluated, that cost-savings would be evaluated, in-house versus contractor costs would be looked at, the planting methods and material would be evaluated, and the cleanup technologies would be evaluated against CERCLA criteria.

The conclusions are that detailed planning minimizes wetlands disturbance, sediment removal and wetlands restoration is feasible in the river, and vacuum guzzling is feasible in select circumstances. CAC members asked questions about vacuum guzzling and the equipment needed for it and made comments about the success of the re-vegetation efforts.

8. OUV Subcommittee Report

Ed Kaplan gave an update on subcommittee activities that included a visit to the remediation sites. He expressed concern about interpreting the Risk Assessment and the need for more education about the risk assessment process and how values for various input data will be determined and how results of calculations will be used. He also mentioned the need for more time because the committee doesn't think they will be able to come back with educated information in the current time frame. There was discussion on the value of the risk assessment if it contained figures that were viewed as unreasonable.

Member Esposito reported that there was not consensus on the committee about the scenarios the risk assessment should or shouldn't use, but that they are unsure of how to put in their input using the current time line. Member Conklin asked how the banded sunfish and eastern tiger salamander, both endangered species, would be protected in the process. Member Guthy mentioned that NEAR had hired an expert to look at reports and get information; she suggested asking Member Mannhaupt if any reports were done and if the expert could provide any input.

Skip was asked about the schedule. He said the proposal for cleanup was to go to the regulators by the end of August. He also said that the Lab is not looking for a detailed, professional evaluation of how well the risk assessment was done. What he is looking for is whether or not the Lab has heard the concerns that have been expressed by the CAC, by the working group, and by the subcommittee and whether or not the Lab has addressed those concerns. He said it is most important that the risk assessment represent the community's concerns.

Member Giacamaro passed around a picture of a bass that had been caught in the river near Exit 71. Member Walker asked for a glossary of acronyms for documents over five pages. It was suggested that if the NEAR expert was available and if he had information ready that he make a presentation at the July meeting. Discussion continued on evaluating risk assessments, what is expected, and what one looks like. It was suggested the Lab find a good representative risk assessment that relates to the Peconic and have someone come in at the next meeting and spend 40 minutes and go through it.

9. Community Comment

No comments from the audience.

10. Open Discussion

Eliminated and continued with discussion on OU V.

11. Agenda setting

July
OUV update RA & strategy (cleanup goals)
NEAR expert
What does a risk assessment look like and how do you evaluate one?
Meet in July and August, (reevaluate in July)
Fire Management (if time)