

**Community Advisory Council
September 12, 2024
Action Items/Notes**

Final

*Note: This was a hybrid meeting, held virtually through Zoom and in-person in Berkner Hall, Room B
A video recording of the Zoom meeting is available.*

These notes are in the following order:

1. Attendance
2. Correspondence and handouts
3. Administrative items
4. Message from the Director
5. Environmental updates
6. Annual Lab Plan
7. Community Comment
8. Agenda setting

1. Attendance

Members/Alternates Present: See Attached Sheets.

Others Present: B Barth, R Decandia, R Dineen, B Dorsch, A Emrick, A Engel, W Fischer, P Genzer, J Gettler, S Gonzalez, K Green, T Green, J Hewett, A Klein, S Kohler, D Manning, R McKay, J Milligan, A Moodenbough, A Morocho, A Ozelis, D Paquette, C Polanish, A Rapiejko, J Remien, J Wanless, K White

2. Correspondence and Handouts

Items numbered one and two were e-mailed to Members on September 5, 2024. Item number three was e-mailed to Members on September 12, 2024

1. Draft agenda for the September 2024 meeting
2. Draft notes from the May 2024 meeting
3. Copy of presentation: Environmental updates

3. Administrative Items

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 p.m.

Ken White, facilitator, welcomed everyone. He reviewed the ground rules, draft agenda, and meeting logistics.

All those present, both in-person and virtual, introduced themselves.

Amy Engel, Manager – Community Engagement, explained that those participating online can either raise their virtual hand, and wait to be called on, or they can enter their questions into the chat. She will call on online participants and read questions from the chat. She said a survey

was sent out recently and the results will be shared shortly with discussion to follow at the October CAC meeting which will guide any changes to the bylaws.

Ken White said there is a process we will follow, that is outlined in the CAC guidelines. If anyone needs a copy, please let us know and we can provide that to you.

Approval of minutes:

The May 2024 CAC Action Items and Notes were approved as written with none opposed and three abstentions.

4. Message from the Director – JoAnne Hewett

JoAnne Hewett, Laboratory Director, welcomed everyone to the CAC meeting. She said she wants to be open, honest, and transparent with the community and has some news to share.

- She explained that the Lab's accelerator magnets are typically cooled by a water system.
 - There are active monitoring systems in place for the status of a variety of system parameters.
 - Real time data for each system across the collider complex is monitored
- There was a tritiated water systems event, which posed no environmental or health risk.
 - 75 gallons of tritiated water leaked from the Alternating Gradient Synchrotron (AGS) cooling system onto the roof of Building 911.
 - This was a slow leak which occurred over the course of 3 weeks.
 - There was dilution from heavy rainfall during those 3 weeks.
 - Water samples taken from the leak site did have tritium levels measured above drinking water standards.
 - Water samples taken at the outfall had no detectable levels of tritium.
 - The faulty system component was immediately repaired.
 - An external causal analysis team investigation was commissioned and completed.
 - This leak was roughly the same size as leaks reported to the CAC in 2020/2021.
 - This event took place on January 2, 2024, but only recently came to light to Lab management.
- The AGS Magnet cooling system is aging, and steps are being taken to prevent future events.
 - Twice daily visual inspections will occur until the end of 2024 collider run on October 21, 2024.
 - The system will be flushed at the end of the 2024 collider operations during the winter 2024/2025 to reduce the level of tritium in the system.
 - The cooling system will be replaced during the EIC construction period.

Questions/Answers:

- Member Esposito said since this is a closed system, does the level of tritium stay at 6200 pCi/L or does it continue to increase every year.
 - Hewett said the level increases gradually every time it circulates. At the end of a year the amount of tritium added to the water is 6,200 pCi/L.
- Member Sprintzen asked about the timeframe. He said management learned about this incident in August, but it happened in January. How does that happen? Who made those decisions?

- Hewett said it was detected on Jan 2nd and immediately contained. Samples were then taken, and the leak was fixed as soon as possible. The incident was written up and classified as low-level because the sample from the outfall had no reportable levels of tritium.
- Member Sprintzen asked who made those decisions.
 - Hewett said members of the Lab's Collider Accelerator Dept. (C-AD) They have their own safety personnel.
 - Jason Remien, Manager – Environmental Protection Division, said he was fully aware of this and was part of that decision. There is a process and based on the amount and the samples that were collected, it was reported as a low-level event which would have been reported to the CAC as part of the Site Environmental Report. Lab leadership is taking this very seriously.
- Member Sprintzen said he is surprised that the CAC didn't learn about this earlier from Remien.
- Member Esposito said you keep saying the outfall was tested, and it was below standards, but it was probably in the Peconic River by then.
 - Remien said it didn't get to the Peconic River.
- Member Esposito asked where it went then.
 - Remien said that the drip was mixed with hundreds of thousands of gallons of rainwater and once-through cooling water at the outfall, so it was diluted before it even got to the outfall.
- Member Esposito said 75 gallons is a lot.
 - Remien said that was over a long period of time of three to four weeks.
- Member Esposito said she can understand the infrastructure is old, but her big concern is that this is why the CAC was established and BNL has promised to have changed the culture. Leaks and contamination would not be taken casually. We need to be assured we aren't slipping back into the mentality of the past. A lot of progress has been made over the last 20 years and this should be taken seriously.
 - Hewett said she believes and understands everything being said. She said that is why she is here today presenting this information to the CAC. The Lab has a full new leadership team that is dedicated to making sure things like this don't slip through. It is a pledge we make to this group.
- Member Keenan asked what steps the Lab is taking to make sure this doesn't happen again.
 - Hewett said everyone involved in the whole chain of this event has been spoken to and is aware.
- Member Schuhmann asked what other facilities will be affected when the AGS is shut down for a while.
 - Hewett said the Lab's isotope program and the NASA Space radiation laboratory. When the AGS is flushed there will be some effect to those users, however, we will warn them in advance. But this must be done, and the Lab should have been doing it all along.
- Alexander Klein, NYSDEC, asked what institutional controls Brookhaven uses to communicate spills and incidents to internal ESH groups.

- Sharon Kohler, Associate Lab Director for Environment, Safety & Health, said the Lab has a system called ORPS, Occurrence Reporting & Processing System, a DOE wide system that requires the Lab to report certain events that exceed certain criteria. This event did not meet that criterion, so it was considered a non-reportable into ORPS event, but one that we were watching within our own system as a low-level event. At all our facilities, we have individuals that are trained, called categorizers. They review the event or circumstances that occurred against the criteria, it is logged, assigned a number and recorded. Then management looks at it and decides if something further is required to identify a cause or go through further analysis. Then lessons learned are circulated and corrective actions are identified.
- Member Madigan asked how much of a change will there be to prepare for the next event. What needs to be different that would make it work better?
 - Hewett said the Lab will flush the system out and replace the tritiated water with clean water. In the meantime, we are doing twice daily visual inspections, and we have set the alarm to a lower standard.
- Member Esposito asked when the last time was that the water was flushed out of the system.
 - Remien said it is a process that C-AD has been following. It used to be annually, but not sure if that's still the case.
- Member Esposito asked what the levels of tritium are now.
 - Hewett said 25,000 pCi/L, that is why we are doing these inspections.
- Member Mancini asked what is being done with the water that is being flushed out of the system.
 - Kohler said it is pumped into tankers and goes through an evaporation system and evaporated out. Then the fresh water is reintroduced into the closed system.
- Member Esposito asked when the regulators were informed.
 - Hewett said the local community, congressional offices, and others will be informed first thing tomorrow.
 - Remien said this incident didn't trigger any notifications to the regulators because nothing was detected.
- Alex Klein, NYSDEC, asked what makes it a reportable spill in terms of volume.
 - Remien said if it was confirmed that there was a release above drinking water standards it would have been reportable. That was not the case.
- Member Esposito asked how 25,000 pCi/L is not reportable. That is over the standard.
 - Remien said that is part of the investigation. Point well taken.
- Member Keenan asked if there will be an update next month.
 - Hewett said yes. We can cover the causal analysis.

5. Environmental updates – Jason Remien (See presentation)

Topics covered:

- Building 197 High Bay Demo and Mercury Remediation project
- Operable Unit III Building 96 (AOC 26B) Source Area Optimization

Questions/Answers:

- Member Schuhmann asked what exactly liquid carbon is. Is it a suspension?
 - Bill Dorsch said liquid carbon is a micro carbon. It's a fine material that impedes the progress of contamination because it slows it down.
- Other Accomplishments/Updates

Questions/Answers:

- Member Esposito asked how many monitoring wells will be installed and what is the greatest depth.
 - Remien said 15 new temporary monitoring wells with a depth of between 200-220 feet so they will capture any contamination.
- Member Esposito asked what levels of PFAS and 1,4-Dioxane are being found.
 - Remien said levels of PFAS are greater than 10-99 ppt. This is just a PFAS map so it doesn't include 1,4-Dioxane.
- Member Esposito asked when the new data from the additional wells will be available to the CAC.
 - Bill Dorsch, Groundwater Protection Group, said results will be available in December, so we will present it to the CAC in the Spring.
- Member Esposito asked if the CAC could be notified of the levels found of 1,4-Dioxane at the November meeting.

6. Annual Lab Plan – JoAnne Hewett

- Hewett suggested she only give the first half of her presentation this evening since it is getting late. The CAC agreed.
 - The Annual Lab Plan (ALP) is presented to the Department of Energy every two years.
 - The Lab has a lot of new members of the Leadership team.
 - Advancing the Lab's Strategic Initiatives
 - Vision: To accelerate pathways to scientific discovery and technological innovation that transform the world.
 - Four strategic initiatives: understanding the building blocks of the universe, leading to discovery with light-enabled science, developing next-generation information science and technologies, addressing environmental and societal challenges.
 - AI research and development in a responsible manner.
 - Sprintzen asked Will this information be in the minutes, will the report be distributed.
 - Hewett said yes, the file is large and cant be emailed but we will find a way to share it with you.

7. Community Comment

Member Schuhmann asked about the status of the new water tower onsite.

Ann Emrick, Deputy Director for Operations, said the scaffolding is currently going up for the painting of the new water tower. There have been some challenges. An engineer noticed the scaffolding design wasn't safe, so they stopped the project to redesign the scaffolding. But it is moving along.

Member Karp asked how the Summer Sunday Open House events were this year.

Engel said they went well. The biggest turnout was the NSLSII Sunday, which had about 1500 visitors. The average was 1200-1300 people per Sunday. The last one is this Sunday and we would love for you all to come.

Manning said there have been some inquiries about the movement of the train station. The property on the southern boundary near the AVR industrial park has been acquired by the LIRR. All approvals are in place. The only issue now is the owl habitat, so they are working around their mating season. It is planned to be operational by the end of 2025 and will be a great asset to the Lab. He also said there are lot of dead pine trees along the highway due to the pine beetle infestation. The County and the Lab are working on removing those dead trees.

Member Esposito asked if a frost would kill the pine beetles.

Tim Green said it will set them back, but we haven't had a good frost in a while.

8. Agenda Setting

Engel said at the October CAC meeting, there will be a presentation on the Site Environmental Report, the second half of the Annual Lab Plan, and a discussion on the CAC survey results. In November, there will be the second half of the Site Environmental Report, discussion on the CAC bylaws and any potential amendments. She asked if there are any other suggestions.

Member Esposito asked if the Lab could prioritize a presentation on battery storage.

David Manning said yes, we can ask Esther Takeuchi to give the CAC a presentation on that topic.

Ken White asked members to review the CAC Guidelines prior to the discussion.

Meeting adjourned at 8:52

Next meeting: October 10, 2024

X = Present	2024	Affiliation		First Name	Last Name	Jan No mtg	Feb No mtg	Mar	Apr	May	June No mtg	July No mtg	Aug No mtg	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec No mtg
ABCO – Civic		Member	Ray	Keenan				X	X	X				X			
		Alternate	Michael	Madigan				X									
Brookhaven Coalition of Chambers of Commerce – Business & Labor		Member	Ron	Trotta										X			
		Alternate	Carmine	Inserra													
Brookhaven Retired Employees Association- BNL Affiliation		Member	Mark	Israel				X	X	X							
		Alternate	Eena-Mai	Franz													
Brookhaven Village Association – Civic		Member	Reinhardt	Schuhmann				X	X	X				X			
		Alternate	Chris	Ciervo													
Citizens Campaign for the Environment – Advocacy & Environment		Member	Adrienne	Esposito				X		X				X			
		Alternate	Maureen	Dolan-Murphy													
Colonial Woods Whispering Pines – Civic		Member	Jane	Koropsak				X						X			
		Alternate															
Cornell Cooperative Extension – Health based		Member	Chris	Pickerell				X		X							
		Alternate	Lorne	Brousseau										X			
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion – BNL Affiliation		Member	Noel	Blackburn				X	X	X							
		Alternate	Menzel	Smith-Jones													
East Yaphank Civic Association - Civic		Member	Robert	Feinman				X	X	X							
		Alternate	Laura	Reid													
Emeritus		Member	David	Sprintzen				X	X	X				X			
FOREST - Advocacy & Environment		Member	John	Pavacic				X	X	X				X			
		Alternate															
Foundation for Economic Education – Education, Science & Technology		Member	Craig	Pratka				X	X	X							
		Alternate						X									
Gordon Heights Civic Assoc. - Civic		Member															
		Alternate															
Individual		Member	James	Freeman				X		X							
Individual		Member	Jane	Corrarino					X								
Individual		Member	Karen	Blumer				X	X								
		Alternate	Michael	Madigan					X	X				X			
L.I. Pine Barrens Society – Advocacy & Environment		Member	Richard	Amper				X	X	X				X			
		Alternate	Travis	Cutter				X	X	X				X			
Longwood Central School Dist. – Education, Science & Technology		Member	James	Crenshaw				X									

X = Present	2024	Affiliation		First Name	Last Name	Jan No mtg	Feb No mtg	Mar	Apr	May	June No mtg	July No mtg	Aug No mtg	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec No mtg
			Alternate														
		Middle Island Civic Association – Civic	Member	Martin	Filler			X	X	X				X			
			Alternate	Margaret	Malloy												
		National Grid – Business & Labor	Member	Brian	Sapp			X	X	X							
			Alternate														
		New York League of Conservation Voters – Advocacy & Environment	Member	Casey	Petrashek				X	X				X			
			Alternate 1	Alexis	Hidalgo												
			Alternate 2	Lea	Gibbins			X									
		NSLS-II User Committee – BNL Affiliation	Member	Jean	Jordan-Sweet			X	X								
			Alternate	Matthew	Whitaker			X	X	X				X			
		Ridge Civic Association – Civic	Member	Scott	Wood				X								
			Alternate														
		Stony Brook Hospital – Health based	Member	Erika	Karp				X	X				X			
			Alternate														
		Suffolk County Legislature 1 st Dist. – Government	Member														
			Alternate														
		Teachers Federal Credit Union – Business & Labor	Member	Jashmin	Futch			X						X			
			Alternate	Sandra	Young												
		Town of Brookhaven – Government	Member	Karen	Dunne Kesnig												
			Alternate 1	Patricia	Kaloski				X								
			Alternate 2	Kathryn	Kollegger			X						X			
		Town of Riverhead - Government	Member	Bob	Kern			X	X	X							
			Alternate	Frank	Mancini									X			
		Wading River Civic Association - Civic	Member	Henry	Perez			X	X								
			Alternate	Linda	Rundlett					X							