

RAYMARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Draft Meeting Summary

17 April 2001 Meeting

6:30 PM – 9:00 PM

Members Attending: Michelina Buchino, Jack Daley, Edwin Fordham, John Goodsell, Lewis Knapp, Karen Krulikowski, Robert Osborne, Charles Perez, Veronica Peters, Paul Rohaly, Ronald Smith, Ed Ward

Government/Agencies Attending: Elaine O'Keefe, Town Health Department

Technical Advisors: David McLean, John Gilbert

Others Attending: -

Facilitators: Patrick Field, Kathleen Conway.

Members Absent: Janet Carlucci, Barbara Clancy-Dragalin, Robert DelBuono, Tom Fahy, Jan Kristof, Ron Mazzeo

Convening of Meeting

The Raymark Advisory Committee convened at 6:30 PM.

Action Items

• **RAC:** *Report to Town Council.* A RAC member summarized her presentation on RAC's progress to the Town Council on 9 April 2001. The RAC member recommended that periodic updates and mailings be provided to the Town Council to ensure that the RAC's work is understood and familiar to the Council members. The RAC would like some affirmation from the Town Council that it could hear quarterly progress updates and would act on the RAC's recommendations. RAC members suggested that media attention before a Town Council meeting and web site information would help the Council to be more aware of the RAC and its mission. The RAC asked the facilitators to write a letter requesting the name of a Town Council member who would be willing to act as lead contact person for the RAC and a quarterly schedule on its agenda to give a project report (January, April, July, October).

West Nile virus: A RAC member will be providing information on the West Nile virus and pesticides to EPA.

• **Town:** *Redevelopment Land Grant Update.* At its 9 April 2001 meeting the Town Council authorized the Town Manager to accept EPA's \$100,000 grant. The final approved copy of the Application included comments received from the RAC. The Town will create a memorandum

of agreement incorporating certain obligations of the selected property owners and the Town. The Health Director attended a two day EPA workshop for town recipients of the land use grants. The RAC requested copies of the materials received at the workshop for their library. Other sites that were the focus of the grant include the GE Housatonic and Bedford sites.

The Town discussed the consultant selection process and skills needed. A consultant should be selected this summer. Four members of the RAC have agreed to serve on the SRI subcommittee. They questioned how quickly the non-RAC members of the SRI subcommittee could absorb the information that it took RAC members 7 months of presentations, reading and background to identify and understand the issues. The Town believes the RAC members will be a valuable resource for the SRI. The Town has used many consultants in the past that may have the skills needed for land reuse evaluation in addition to familiarity with the Raymark Superfund Site. The Town agrees with the RAC that the timing is complicated. The RAC questioned whether the SRI schedule has the flexibility to slow down for the RAC to complete its remedy selection recommendations given the SRI grant time limitations. The Town believes it should be able to extend the period of activity. RAC members noted that remedial options can determine land use options. The Town stated that the SRI money is solely for planning purposes. It will rely on the RAC for the evaluation of EPA site investigation and proposed remediation.

Phase I of the SRI project consists of initial property owner interviews (22 sites) and a consultant selection process. The SRI subcommittee will then determine selection criteria for selecting 8 properties for detailed planning. The RAC questioned what would happen if the RAC and SRI go on divergent paths (removal as opposed to capping); if a sale necessitates a change of business; or, if the town creates a new recreational zone? The Town contemplates that the SRI committee will develop an interactive survey. The SRI will assume the EPA work is reliable and will rely on RAC for remedial recommendations. EPA will be at SRI meetings for technical assistance.

The RAC states that the real issue is the lender. What if the property owner can't get loans for expansion, development, etc. What about liability issues? The Town said that DEP is looking at engineered solutions (capping) for individual properties and will be talking with the property owners. DEP's preference is a long-term solution, i.e., removal or limited future excavation. RAC members stated that it appears EPA set a precedent on the Raymark Facility letting the buyers, WalMart and Home Depot, "off the hook." Why isn't this possible for all the sites? The RAC considered EPA's prior offer to have EPA lawyers attend a meeting and discuss liability issues. The RAC members felt that they would not be ready to consider liability issues until they knew what the remedial options and land use restrictions were.

- **EPA:** Action Items will be addressed at the next meeting.
- **Facilitators:** Mailings would be sent to state and federal legislators. A new tape recorder and binders were provided. A RAC research binder will be a work in progress as the RAC requests information and resource cites.

Consultant and RAC Discussion Session. From 7:40pm until 9:00 pm, GeoInsight provided the RAC with an update on its review of OU2 RI and preliminarily discussed OUs 3, 7 & 8.

GeoInsight is preparing a list of questions for EPA for the purpose of seeking additional information and clarification regarding OU2 RI and proposed additional sampling. The RAC authorized GeoInsight to speak to EPA directly on OUs 2, 3, 7 & 8. The RAC questioned the source of the groundwater plume, the extent of the plume, the flow rate, its short-term and long-term impact on Ferry Creek, the contaminants of risk and the remedial options with their associated risks and costs. RAC members stated that the ultimate goal for property owners is to determine what options are available to clear the title of tainted properties, to make them saleable and to eliminate lending issues.

The RAC wants to research information gathered by agencies for other purposes, for example, oystering, water quality and ecological health of the Housatonic River and its tributaries and Long Island Sound, to see what impact, if any, the Raymark Superfund site has on the overall health of the adjacent area.

The RAC questioned why copper is a contaminant of concern. What is the significance of the ecological risk, if any? Who are the receptors? What about background or other sources? What are the regulations that identify copper as a contaminant, determine its risk and trigger cleanup?

The RAC discussed long-term maintenance and operation of DNAPL systems and how they are monitored. What criteria drive further action or reopens issues?

EPA has requested that the RAC create a schedule for the remaining year 2001. EPA would like the RAC to consider evaluating the RI and AS for OU5 as soon as possible. The cap is an interim solution and does not meet the depth standards required by the RSRs. The RAC asked GeoInsight to consider how the evaluation of OU5 would affect its schedule and budget.

GeoInsight will attend the 15 May meeting to continue discussions on its review of OUs 2, 3, 7 & 8. The meeting will begin earlier at 6:00pm to maximize time for RAC and GeoInsight discussions. The RAC will review its proposed schedule at its next meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting ended at 9:05 pm.