

PROGRESS IN 2004
Raymark Advisory Committee (RAC)
January 2005

The Stratford Town Council established the Raymark Advisory Committee on 2 June 2000. The objectives of the Town Council in establishing the Raymark Advisory Committee were:

- to ensure all stakeholders have meaningful input in cleanup decisions at the Raymark Superfund site; and,
- to provide a forum for on-going dialogue and cooperation among members of the Stratford community, Town officials, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency New England (EPA), the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), and other concerned parties about issues related to the Raymark cleanup.

In the last year, since January 2004, the RAC has undertaken several actions. The RAC has accomplished the following.

Review & Comment on Investigations

- Reviewed and commented upon the OU6 (commercial properties) Remedial Investigation (RI), which was then finalized by EPA.
- Reviewed and commented upon the OU2 (groundwater) Remedial Investigation (RI) in draft form.
- Obtained volume estimates for the OU6 properties for waste that would have to be remediated in some fashion above the water table. This is estimated at some 250K cubic yards in total, but it's likely that, at most, 125K cubic yards might be excavated.
- Obtained preliminary volume estimates for the OU3, 7 and 8 sites (primarily wetlands and their associated sediments) for waste that would have to be remediated in some fashion. This volume is currently estimated at between 60 to 100K cubic yards.
- Reviewed and recommended revisions to draft letters and other materials sent to OU6 property owners in early 2004 to ensure minimal disruption to abutters to Superfund properties.

Development of Remedial Alternatives

- Discussed alternatives for an "off ramping" approach rather than a comprehensive feasibility approach for all OUs. Agreed to prioritize commercial properties within OU6 whenever possible.

- Instructed GeoInsight and the Consensus Building Institute to reach out to property owners affected by Superfund for confidential conversations.
- The RAC reconfirmed its current opposition to the disposal of any additional materials at the former Raymark Ballfield (OU 4).
- Instructed GeoInsight to develop various alternative scenarios for remediating OUs 4, 5, and 6. This alternatives development included numerous “mix and match” scenarios of in-place capping and excavation and consolidation at various locations.
- Identified additional potential consolidation areas.
- Developed matrices of “Issues” and “Trade Offs” for various alternatives in order to offer a comprehensive view of choices and their implications for the property owner.

Budget and Schedule

- Obtained updated budget numbers for the federal and state Raymark accounts. The most current accounting as of August 2004 shows a current federal special account balance of \$10.8 million obligated. Monies obligated on this account in 2004 included remedial investigation work by EPA’s contractor on OUs 2, 6 and 9 and monies for the RAC’s facilitator and technical consultant. In the state account, some \$3.2 million was obligated, primarily for the indoor air system work.
- Identified that careful spending of remaining Superfund monies is essential in order to ensure money remains for at least key remedial actions, especially for OU6.
- Heard from the national administrative head of Superfund, Mr. Michael Cook, including his confirmation that national Superfund monies are extremely limited and not likely to increase anytime soon.

2005 is the year in which the RAC and the agencies are seeking consensus about the remedial approach, primarily for OU6 properties. The following is expected.

- By February, identify a limited range of alternatives (3 to 4) to be reviewed in a detailed Feasibility Study. The RAC will brief the Council on these results.
- By April, complete a draft Feasibility Study and share results with the RAC for its comments and feedback.
- By July, issue Proposed Plan for RAC, Town Council, and public comment with a preferred approach to remediation of OU6 identified.
- By the end of '05, prepare a Record of Decision in order to begin final engineering and design in '06.

Stratford residents are encouraged to attend the RAC meetings. The RAC typically holds meetings the second Tuesday of each month starting at 6:30 PM at Birdseye

Complex First Floor Conference Room. The RAC posts agendas and a meeting schedule with the Town and Town Council Clerk. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to the facilitator, Patrick Field at (617) 492-1414 x18, or RAC member Paul Rohaly at (203) 378-3822.