

**Hoosick Area Community Participation Work Group (CPWG)
Meeting Summary – July 22, 2020**

CPWG Member	Present	Excused	Absent
Marianne Zwicklbauer			X
Emily Marpe	X		
Loreen Hackett	X		
Brian Keegan		X	
Barbara Lancour	X		
Brian Bushner	X		
Eric Sheffer	X		
Mark Surdam		X	
Rob Allen			X
Pat Dailey			X
David Lukas	X		
Michael Hickey			X
Facilitator			
Nancy Pattarini, The Paige Group	X		
Carrie McMurray, The Paige Group	X		
Presenters			
NYSDOH and University of Albany	X		
NYSDEC	X		
EPA	X		

Note: The July 22, 2020 meeting of the CPWG was conducted via an online video/conference platform due to the restrictions associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. It was emailed to contacts on the CPWG ListServ. Meeting-related materials may be found on the NYSDEC web site <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/108791.html>.

Discussion Summary:

- I. Welcome – The Paige Group
 - a. Facilitator – The Paige Group
 - i. The Facilitator welcomed new CPWG member, Brian Bushner, and provided an overview of meeting agenda and protocol for online participation
 - ii. The Facilitator noted that the opportunity for comments from participating community members will be provided at the end of each presentation

- II. NYSDOH and University of Albany Update, Erin M. Bell, PhD Professor, Department of Environmental Health Sciences, University at Albany, School of Public Health – Following are excerpts from NYSDOH’s and University of Albany’s presentation
 - a. Multi-community study
 - i. Objective: Enroll 1,000 adults and 300 children from Hoosick Falls and Newburgh combined
 - ii. New recruitment timelines: Invitations to participate to begin late spring 2021 with data collection to begin in summer 2021
 - iii. Will meet with community members throughout the remainder of 2020 and 2021 remotely and in-person to plan for the health study, answer community questions and gather feedback

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- iv. Each community will have a community advisory panel (CAP)
- b. Overview of Newburgh presentation
 - i. Address questions and concerns related to:
 - 1. Reproductive and Immunological associations
 - 2. COVID-19 related questions
 - 3. Breastfeeding
 - ii. 8/26/20 presentation in Newburgh will focus on children's health
 - iii. Future presentations may include both Hoosick and Newburgh residents
 - iv. The CPWG will identify topics of interest for Hoosick Falls; residents may provide topics to the CPWG by emailing hoosickfallscpeg@paigegroup.com
- c. CPWG Questions/Comments
 - i. Q: There are many studies on PFAS, several more were released today. How can you help the CPWG stay informed and up-to-date on the latest research and findings?

A: We are creating a repository for all related literature and research. You can send any research or literature you come across to pfas@albany.edu to be included. At the same time, we will issue a monthly email providing an overview of the most recent literature and research. We would also be happy to come back at any time and present additional information related to a particular study or topic.
- d. Public Questions/Comments
 - i. None

III. NYSDEC Update, Barbara Firebaugh, Project Manager, Division of Environmental Remediation – Following are excerpts from NYSDEC's presentation

- a. Remediation activities that were paused due to COVID-19 have resumed
- b. Several new work plans were approved and residents will begin to see drill rigs in and around the village in the coming month
- c. Municipal Water Supply Study
 - i. Well installation will begin during the first week of August
 - ii. Two overburden wells will be installed to gather more data about the hydraulic connection between the new well locations and the McCaffrey Street site
- d. John Street
 - i. Additional off-site remedial investigation activities were approved and work will begin directly after the **MWSS** wells are complete starting near the John Street site, some upgradient wells near River Street and Church Street
 - ii. The workplan showing proposed well locations is posted on the NYSDEC Hoosick Area Webpage
- e. River Road
 - i. An additional supplemental **SC** workplan is under review
 - ii. Work is likely to begin in mid-August
- f. CPWG Questions/Comments
 - i. Q: Are P-sites on hold due to COVID-19?

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A: P-sites will likely be announced in the fall. Sites currently under investigation are the priority right now.

- ii. Q: Will residents be informed prior to work beginning on their street?

A: NYSDEC will inform residents when work will begin on their street prior to work beginning.

- g. Public Questions/Comments
i. None

IV. EPA Update – Following are excerpts from EPA's presentations

- a. Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) and TRI-listed PFAS – David Turk, Branch Chief, Regulatory Development Branch of the Toxic Release Inventory Program Division

- i. A reporting program tracking the releases and waste management of certain toxic chemicals that may pose a threat to human health and the environment
- ii. TRI can tell you about:
 1. Releases
 2. Waste transfers
 3. On-site waste management
 4. Pollution prevention
- iii. TRI collects data annually from more than 21,000 facilities
- iv. TRI covers 767 individually-listed chemicals and 33 chemical categories (as of January 2020)
- v. TRI Statutory Authority
 1. Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act of 1986 – facilities in certain industry sectors must report toxic chemical releases to air, water, and land and other waste management to EPA and the states each year
 2. Pollution Prevention Act of 1990 – TRI facilities must report progress in reducing waste generation and moving towards safe waste management alternatives
- vi. Purpose of TRI information
 1. Inform persons about releases of toxic chemicals to the environment
 2. Assist governmental agencies, researchers, and other persons in the conduct of research and data gathering
 3. Aid in the development of appropriate regulations, guidelines, and standards
- vii. TRI can help communities:
 1. Identify how many TRI facilities operate in the community and where they are located
 2. Identify which chemicals are being released by TRI facilities
 3. Track increases or reductions of toxic chemical releases from facilities located in the community over time
 4. Compare the toxic chemical releases and pollution prevention efforts of facilities in one location with similar facilities across the country

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5. Prioritize efforts to reduce pollution from facilities located in the area
- viii. Facilities with at least 10 employees who manufacture, process, or use a certain amount of TRI-listed chemicals per year and who are in the following TRI-covered industry sector or category must report:
 1. Manufacturing
 2. Coal/oil electricity generation
 3. Certain mining facilities
 4. Hazardous waste management
 5. Federal facilities
- ix. TRI reporting facilities report the following:
 1. Maximum amount on-site
 2. On-site releases of TRI chemicals to air, water, land (including disposal)
 3. Transfer of chemical waste to off-site locations
 4. Recycling, treatment, energy recovery
 5. Pollution prevention activities
- x. Limitations of TRI include:
 1. Annual data is collected from TRI reporting facilities once per year
 2. Covers some, but not all, toxic chemicals and not all industry sectors
 3. Small facilities are not included (under 10 employees)
 4. Does not cover all sources of pollution, e.g. cars and trucks
 5. Does not describe how long or how often chemicals were released
- xi. PFAS and TRI
 1. EPA published its PFAS Action Plan in February 2019 (updated in February 2020) to outline the agency's multi-media approach to addressing PFAS
- xii. National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA)
 1. Enacted on December 20, 2019
 2. Section 7321 of the NDAA pertains to TRI reporting and provides for the addition of certain PFAS to the TRI list of chemicals
 3. First reports on TRI-listed PFAS are due by July 1, 2021 on 2020 data
 4. For additional information, visit: <https://www.epa.gov/toxics-release-inventory-tri-program/addition-certainpfas-tri-national-defense-authorization-act>
- xiii. Section 7321 of the NDAA addresses TRI reporting of PFAS
 1. Reporting requirements became effective on January 1, 2020
 2. 100-pound reporting threshold was established
 3. Certain EPA activities involving PFAS will trigger automatic additions to the TRI in the future
 4. Requires EPA to assess remaining PFAS for listing suitability based on EPCRA criteria
 5. Provides a process that EPA must follow before any PFAS covered by the NDAA whose identity is subject to a claim of protection from disclosure is added to the TRI
- xiv. For more information about TRI:
 1. Regional TRI Coordinator: www.epa.gov/tri/contacts

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2. EPA's TRI Information Center: 1-800-424-9346, menu option #3 for TRI
3. TRI Program's website: www.epa.gov/tri and www.epa.gov/tri/communities
4. TRI Pollution Prevention (P2) Search Tool: www.epa.gov/tri/p2
5. TRI Help Desk by email: tri.help@epa.gov

b. CPWG Questions/Comments

- i. Q: PTFE is not on the TRI. How do we get it listed?

A: The EPA will report back on status of PTFE.

c. Public Questions/Comments

- i. None

d. PFAS Innovative Treatment Team (PITT) – Tim Watkins, Director, Center for Environmental Measurement and Modeling, EPA Office of Research and Development

- i. PFAS research is organized around:
 1. Understanding toxicity
 2. Understanding exposure
 3. Assessing risk
 4. Identifying effective treatment and remediation actions
- ii. Additional information can be found at: <https://www.epa.gov/chemical-research/research-and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas>
- iii. PITT is addressing the following questions:
 1. How do we properly treat PFAS-containing wastes?
 2. Do treatment technologies have uncharacterized environmental releases?
 3. Are current thermal treatment technologies sufficiently protective of human health and the environment?
 4. What alternatives to thermal treatment are promising?
- iv. Challenges
 1. Effectiveness of thermal treatments is unknown
 - a. Carbon-Fluoride bond is strong
 - b. Sampling and analytical methods are under development
 - c. Field sites have not been sampled
 - d. Historical laboratory research on destructibility has not reported products of incomplete combustion
 2. Research approach
 - a. Develop sampling and analytical methods
 - b. Conduct laboratory and pilot scale thermal research
 - i. Determine if incineration of PFAS waste is a sufficient treatment technology
 - c. Sample existing treatment facilities
 - d. Promote innovative treatment technologies (mechanochemical, supercritical water oxidation, electrochemical oxidation)
 - e. Produce science-based answers

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- v. PITT team is comprised of full-time, multi-disciplined research staff
- vi. PITT is concentrating efforts and expertise on a single problem: how to remove, destroy, and test PFAS-contaminated media and waste
- vii. PITT goals include:
 - 1. Assess current and emerging destruction methods being explored by EPA, universities, other research organizations, and industry
 - 2. Explore the effectiveness of methods while considering by-products to avoid creating new environmental hazards
 - 3. Evaluate methods' feasibility, performance and costs to validate potential solutions
 - 4. Provide states, tribes and local governments the ability to use this information to select the approach that best fits their circumstances, leading to greater confidence in cleanup operations and safer communities
- viii. PITT timeline – results are expected later this year
- ix. Anticipated outcomes:
 - 1. PFAS treatment
 - 2. Air emission measurement methods for PFAS
 - 3. Inform NDAA incineration guidance
- x. Potential impact on Hoosick Falls
 - 1. Identify solutions for the treatment of PFAS-contaminated media and waste
 - 2. Advance the scientific understanding and technical capabilities to measure and characterize air emissions
 - 3. Inform the development and evaluation of thermal emission control devices
- xi. CPWG Questions/Comments
 - 1. Q: What is the anticipate timeline?

A: We expect to have results later this year, targeting September – December timeframe.
 - 2. Q: Are you working with colleges and universities?

A: We have multiple agreements in place and are committed to working collaboratively with colleges and universities.
- xii. Public Questions/Comments
 - 1. None

V. Additional CPWG Agenda Items

- a. June meeting cancelled due to conflict with Hoosick school events; CPWG business conducted via email and conference calls
- b. Legislation – several bills are currently in progress; CPWG members will update the group with status
- c. Meeting schedule – Meeting location/format TBD
 - i. 8/26/20
 - ii. 9/23/20
 - iii. 10/28/20
 - iv. 11/18/20
 - v. 12/16/20

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- vi. 1/27/21
- vii. 2/24/21