

NEWHALL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Final Meeting Summary
November 2, 2005
6:30 pm – 8:35 pm

Members Attending: Herman Alexander, Sheila Epps, Rhonda Hayward, Scott Jackson, Rev. Keith King, Pamala Moore, Deloris McNair, Henry Platt, Roosevelt Young, LaNorma Webb

Alternates Attending: Willa Taylor

Absent: Henry Blue, Pastor George Bulgin, Mike Colaiacovo, Luther Cooper, Donald Eaton, Elizabeth Hayes, Loydon Henry-Phillip, Dr. Abdul Hamid, Leonardo Melendez, Rep. Peter Villano

Facilitator: Kathleen Conway

Agenda.

Call by NAC Members for an Emergency NAC Meeting. Some NAC members called for an emergency meeting to discuss the:

- NAC recommendation to remove all fill from the Newhall neighborhood
- letter prepared by the Chair of the NAC DEP Subcommittee; and,
- article in the New Haven Register dated October 28, 2005 discussing the NAC recommendations.

Some NAC members expressed regret upon voting for the recommendations since they did not have time to read the subcommittee's report, did not understand the recommendations and did not realize the impact of removing all the fill on the neighborhood. Removal of the fill would require the demolition of 168 homes, 5 streets, the Hamden Middle School, Rochford Field, Mill Rock Park, and the Mill Rock Pump station. Other NAC DEP Subcommittee members had thought they would have input into writing the letter and that some explanation of the alternatives from the report would be attached to the letter. Others expressed surprise at the newspaper article in light of the groundrules that no member of the NAC would speak for the NAC unless authorized to do so.

The facilitator provided copies of 4 emails received from NAC members with 3 against an emergency meeting, 1 for the meeting. Based on the number of NAC members that indicated by telephone they wanted a meeting, the meeting was held. There were also several NAC members who could not attend but felt that the meeting should be held to discuss how best to inform the community about what the alternatives and impacts were.

Mission of the NAC and Groundrules. The NAC members discussed the Mission of the NAC "to provide information to the community on contamination and clean up options, provide DEP with input/recommendations regarding clean up of the neighborhood, and be a forum for discussion and information exchange among the stakeholders." They also

discussed their Groundrules, specifically relating to the mission of the NAC and communication with the media.

Proposed Alternatives and Impacts. They discussed the proposed alternatives and impacts:

- removal of all the fill;
- removal of up to 4 feet of fill where fill was less than 4 feet (131 within the Consent Order and 103 outside the Consent Order); and
- removal of up to 4 feet where fill was deeper than 4 feet (90 homes within the Consent Order)
- Disposal Off-Site and On-Site

Issues

- Properties ***with less than 4 feet*** within and outside the Consent Order. Members agreed that the main issue was where the fill would be disposed of, at the Hamden Middle School (“HMS”) or off-site somewhere. Construction issues could be discussed in more detail later.
- Properties ***with over 4 feet*** of fill:
 - Disposal of fill at the HMS or off-site
 - Structural impacts – existing and future
 - Residual Fill - social and economic impact
 - ELURs – economic impact
- ***Hamden Middle School***
 - Design of remediation should not restrict redevelopment options
 - Disposal of fill from the residential properties would impact character of neighborhood
- **Remedial Costs**
 - Removal of all fill – over \$200 million. Members questioned whether 100% removal was possible or realistic technically or financially.
- ***Environmental Justice.*** A NAC member asked whether DEP had approved contaminated fill left in place at depths below 4 feet with ELURs in white, wealthy residential areas. The Newhall community perception is that the fill would be completely removed in those areas and cost would not be a factor.

He stated that DEP has not articulated well to the community that leaving contaminated fill at depths deeper than 4 feet in the Newhall Neighborhood has nothing to do with the fact that Newhall is an urban area comprised mainly of

minority working class residents; and, that the standard of cleanup would be the same for white, high income neighborhoods.

Fact Sheets and NAC Mailing to the Community. The members talked about the NAC's role and the importance of explaining the alternatives and impacts to the community residents. NAC members felt that the community should be informed of what "removal of all fill" would mean to them personally and to the community before asking them to approve the recommendations without any explanation. Members were provided with a list of properties that would require demolition. Some members had identified the properties on a map and provided handouts to the members.

The NAC members felt it was important to send a mailing that would include:

- Cover letter explaining the mailing and requesting input from the community
- Fact Sheets with bullets highlighting the cleanup, impacts, costs and concerns that the community would want to address if this alternative was approved.
- Each fact sheet could have a list of addresses impacted by that alternative so people would know if their properties are within that alternative.
- A map could be provided showing the impact of an alternative on the neighborhood.
- A response request for comments, follow-up telephone calls.

Members agreed to work on draft Fact Sheets and the mailing through the Community Outreach Committee.

The members agreed that DEP should be invited to the next meeting to further explain the figure depicting the "removal of all fill" alternative and its impacts; to discuss whether other areas exist where DEP has approved residential housing over residual fill or an engineered cap; and to provide fact sheets, written summary of its review of the supplemental reports and the investigation outside the Consent Order. Olin should be asked to explain the renderings depicting fill disposed of at the HMS.

Members discussed inviting the media to the NAC meetings as an additional way of educating the community and increasing awareness.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm