

Site: Stamina Mills  
Break: 13,4  
Other: #8 381

**FINAL PUBLIC MEETING SUMMARY**

**FOR**

**STAMINA MILLS SITE  
NORTH SMITHFIELD, RHODE ISLAND**

**REM II DOCUMENT NO.: 305-CR1-EP-CHWT-1**

**REM II**

**PERFORMANCE OF REMEDIAL RESPONSE  
ACTIVITIES AT UNCONTROLLED  
HAZARDOUS WASTE SITES**

**U.S. EPA CONTRACT NO. 68-01-6939**

**CAMP DRESSER & MCKEE INC.**

**ROY F. WESTON, INC.**

**WOODWARD-CLYDE CONSULTANTS**

**CLEMENT ASSOCIATES, INC.**

**ICF INCORPORATED**

**C. C. JOHNSON & ASSOCIATES, INC.**

205 8-11

**FINAL PUBLIC MEETING SUMMARY**

**FOR**

**STAMINA MILLS SITE  
NORTH SMITHFIELD, RHODE ISLAND**

**REM II DOCUMENT NO.: 305-CR1-EP-CHWT-1**

**CDM**

environmental engineers, scientists,  
planners, & management consultants

CAMP DRESSER & McKEE INC.

One Center Plaza  
Boston, Massachusetts 02108  
617 742-5151

---

April 4, 1986

Mr. Dennis P. Gagne  
Regional Project Officer  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Region I  
J.F. Kennedy Federal Building  
Boston, MA 02203

Ms. Debra Prybyla  
Regional Superfund Community Relations Coordinator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Region I  
J.F. Kennedy Federal Building  
Boston, MA 02203

Subject: Public Meeting Summary for the Stamina Mills Site  
Work Assignment No.: 266-1L48.0  
EPA Contract No.: 68-01-6939  
Document Control No.: 305-CR1-EP-CHWT-1

Dear Mr. Gagne and Ms. Prybyla:

Camp Dresser & McKee Inc. is pleased to submit this final public meeting summary for the Stamina Mills site in Region I.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact me or Wendy Rundle.

Very truly yours,

CAMP DRESSER & McKEE INC.

*Laurence Partidge*  
For

William R. Swanson, P.E.  
REM II Regional Manager

WRS/gfi

encl.



**ICF INCORPORATED** International Square, 1850 K Street, Northwest, Washington, D.C. 20006 (202) 862-1100

MEMORANDUM

**TO:** William R. Swanson, P.E., REM II Regional Manager  
**FROM:** Marion Cox, REM II Community Relations Manager  
**DATE:** April 4, 1986  
**DOCUMENT NO.:** 305-CR1-EP-CHWT-1  
**PROJECT:** REM II Contract No. 68-01-6939  
**SUBJECT:** Final Public Meeting Summary for the Stamina Mills Site  
**ACTION:** Transmit to EPA

---

The attached final public meeting summary for the Stamina Mills site was prepared by Wendy Rundle, REM II Community Relations Specialist, at the request of Debra Prybyla, EPA Region I Community Relations Coordinator. The meeting summary has been reviewed by EPA community relations and technical staff, and reflects their comments on the draft public meeting summary.

If you have any questions about this public meeting summary, please do not hesitate to contact me.

  
Marion Cox, ICF Incorporated  
REM II Community Relations Manager

Date April 4, 1986

PERFORMANCE OF REMEDIAL RESPONSE  
ACTIVITIES AT UNCONTROLLED HAZARDOUS  
WASTE SITES (REM II)

U.S. EPA CONTRACT NO. 69-01-6939

FINAL PUBLIC MEETING SUMMARY

FOR

STAMINA MILLS SITE  
NORTH SMITHFIELD, RHODE ISLAND

REM II DOCUMENT NO.: 305-CR1-EP-CHWT-1

Prepared By: Wendy R. Rude Date: April 3, 1986  
Wendy Rude  
REM II Community Relations  
Specialist

Approved By: Marion Cox Date: April 4, 1986  
Marion Cox  
REM II Community Relations  
Manager

Approved By: William R. Swanson, P.E. Date: April 8, 1986  
William R. Swanson, P.E.  
REM II Regional Manager

**Public Meeting Summary  
Stamina Mills Site  
North Smithfield, Rhode Island**

**Municipal Annex Building  
North Smithfield, Rhode Island  
March 10, 1986 7:30 pm**

On March 10, 1986, approximately 35 to 40 people attended a public information meeting in North Smithfield, Rhode Island to hear the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) describe the remedial investigation/feasibility study (RI/FS) activities planned for the Stamina Mills site. Susan Patz, EPA Site Project Officer for the Stamina Mills site, presented background information on the Superfund process and on the Stamina Mills site. She also conducted an hour-long question and answer session. The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:15 pm.

After being introduced by Kenneth Bianchi, President of the North Smithfield Town Council, and Arthur Denomme, North Smithfield Town Administrator, Susan Patz introduced the individuals at the meeting who will be working on the Stamina Mills site. These individuals include: Randal Peterson, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Alicia Good, Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM); and Bill Norman and Dan Ostre, of GHR Engineering Associates, Inc. Also present at the meeting were Patty D'Andrea, EPA Community Relations Coordinator, and Wendy Rundle, REM II Community Relations Specialist.

Patz began her presentation with a brief description of the site and a chronology of EPA activities at the site, including the installation of a water line to about forty residences in 1985. She then proceeded to explain the process by describing EPA's procedures for placing sites on the National Priorities List, conducting an RI/FS, and initiating enforcement actions. Patz introduced Randal Peterson of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, explaining that the Corps would be conducting the RI/FS at the Stamina Mills site under EPA's management and that Peterson would be the Corps' project manager.

Peterson then took the floor and explained that the basis for the collaboration between EPA and the Corps on Superfund projects was a February 1982 interagency agreement. In April 1985, the EPA requested that the Corps conduct the Stamina Mills RI/FS. Using slides to illustrate his presentation, Peterson outlined the objectives of the RI/FS and explained that the RI field work will focus on three areas: 1) the on-site sewer pipe; 2) the on-site landfill; and 3) off-site residential wells.

Peterson explained that the RI/FS has been organized into three phases:

- Phase I - Initial Activities;
- Phase II - Remedial Investigation; and
- Phase III - Feasibility Study

Peterson then explained that GHR Engineering Associates, Inc., an engineering consulting firm based in New Bedford, Massachusetts, is under contract to the Corps to perform Phase I and Phase II of the RI/FS.

Peterson then briefly explained that as part of the remedial investigation (RI), EPA will conduct sampling of ground water, surface water, sediments, air, and surface soil. The current schedule proposed that field work start in early April and be completed in July. Completion of the draft RI and a public meeting on the RI are scheduled for October 1, 1986 and November 1986, respectively. Peterson concluded his presentation by pointing out that this schedule may change depending upon EPA funding and Superfund reauthorization.

Susan Patz then provided a synopsis of the history and current status of Superfund reauthorization. She explained that a budget was available for RI/FS work at the Stamina Mills site because it was allocated in fiscal year 1985; however, the current level of funding will only cover the costs of Phase I and Phase II. Phase III, the Feasibility Study, cannot be carried out at the current level of funding. Patz cautioned that funding may not be available for conducting the laboratory analyses required as part of the RI and that lack of funds could delay the RI phase of the site study.

Patz then opened the meeting to questions from interested citizens. Approximately fifteen questions were posed. Patz answered most of the questions and occasionally invited Peterson to respond. The questions and comments raised at the meeting can be categorized into the following five subject areas:

- (1) Speculation as to source(s) of contamination other than Stamina Mills,
- (2) Contamination of wells on Halliwell Drive;
- (3) Physical condition of site;
- (4) RI field work and schedule; and
- (5) Miscellaneous issues.

(1) Speculation as to source(s) of contamination other than Stamina Mills

- o Two citizens, one a co-owner of the Stamina Mills property, proposed that Stamina Mills may not be the sole source of contamination in the community. The site co-owner wondered why Stamina Mills is a Superfund site and the North Smithfield dump, located upgradient of the site, is not. The other citizen asked if EPA would check other possible sources of contamination.

EPA responded that the purpose of the RI is to determine the source of contamination and identify migration patterns. EPA explained that all potential sources of contamination will be investigated and if high levels of contamination are found upgradient of the site or in any other nearby areas, EPA will investigate the situation.

(2) Contamination of wells on Halliwell Drive

- o The Town Council President proposed that the Halliwell Drive area be included in the Stamina Mills RI/FS study. He stated that the fact that the contaminated Halliwell Drive wells are upgradient of the site does not eliminate the possibility that they could be affected by contamination from Stamina Mills.



EPA responded that, at this time, the Halliwell Drive wells have been slated for a preliminary assessment to determine the sources of contamination affecting those wells. In the RI/FS, EPA will determine if these wells are affected by the Stamina Mills site. If affected, the Halliwell Drive wells will be included in site remediation. If not affected, information from the preliminary assessment will be used to determine if further testing and study is required. EPA and the Rhode Island Department of Health are investigating the situation.

- o One resident asked if EPA funding was available to pay for connecting the Halliwell Drive residences to the town waterline and if so, when EPA could apply for that funding.

EPA responded that the section within EPA that handles emergency responses could provide funding for a waterline if it were determined that there was a serious potential threat to the community.

(3) Physical condition of site

- o The Town Council President pointed out that the community was extremely dissatisfied with the physical condition of the site. In particular, he mentioned the incomplete fencing, the open buildings, and rubble on the site. He asserted that it is EPA's responsibility to clean up and control the physical condition of the site (apart from the hazardous waste contamination) and that EPA should be liable for any injury occurring on the site.

EPA responded that the agency plans to fence the site and that the site has been surveyed for a fence.

- o The Town Council President repeated that the community wants the rubble removed from the site. He expressed frustration with the fact that, had EPA allowed it, the surface of the site could have been cleaned up and the property put to use years ago. He accused

EPA of stopping viable projects on the site that would have generated significant tax revenues for the town and stated his goal of making the Stamina Mills property usable again.

EPA responded that under the Superfund law the agency is authorized to address the risks posed to the public and the environment by hazardous waste sites. The agency does not have the jurisdiction to remedy physical hazards. Patz stated that EPA personnel would be informed of the community's requests and she would look into the ability of EPA to address the pile of rubble.

- o Finally, the Town Council President stated that the community was "putting [EPA] on notice" that it would not accept anything less than complete clean up of the rubble. He said that the town could no longer be patient and that EPA had done a poor job of protecting public health and safety.

EPA listened attentively and acknowledged the speaker's concerns.

- o One resident mentioned that he supported the Town Council President's position on this issue and wondered why it had taken EPA nine years, since the 1977 fire on-site, to begin to address the substandard conditions at the site.

EPA responded that, while it has been nine years since a fire destroyed most of the site, the Superfund law was not passed until 1980 and funding was not available until 1982. EPA also pointed out that it is presently working to make the site inaccessible. As a first step to this end, fencing would be installed, followed by other safety measures.

EPA also reiterated that when wells were shown to be contaminated in 1984, EPA installed a waterline to protect the public.

(4) RI field work and schedule

- o One resident asked if the Forestdale wells that were previously sampled and found to be uncontaminated would be retested as part of EPA's RI/FS.

EPA responded that EPA will conduct testing at some Forestdale wells. EPA also stated that the Rhode Island Department of Health will test any residential well at the owner's request.

- o One resident mentioned that his well was just beyond the "buffer zone" separating those wells that were tested from those that were not. He wondered if his well would be tested by EPA during the RI/FS.

EPA responded that the resident's well would likely be tested during the RI/FS as EPA attempts to identify and characterize the migration of contamination.

- o One resident asked what would be the geographic limits of the RI/FS.

EPA responded that the agency would provide a detailed map indicating sampling locations in future public documents on the site, specifically fact sheets. The agency explained that it will keep the community up-to-date on site activities by distributing written materials and holding informal meetings as necessary.

- o The Town Council President expressed anger and exasperation at the length of time it has taken EPA to take action at the site. He expressed concern about EPA staff turnover and how that may have contributed to the delay. He threatened that the community will "keep [EPA's] feet to the fire" on the issues raised at the meeting.

EPA listened carefully and acknowledged his comment.

(5) Miscellaneous issues

- o One resident expressed concern about the status of the Superfund reauthorization and asked for the names and addresses of U.S. Senators and Representatives for community members to contact for support.

EPA encouraged the community to contact their Congressional delegation and urge them to approve Superfund legislation.

- o One resident asked about the responsibilities of those companies and other parties found to be responsible for the contamination.

After a general explanation of the Superfund enforcement process, EPA answered that there is an attempt underway to have responsible parties pay for cleaning up sites. As explained, enforcement actions will not hold up work at the site. If the responsible parties will not pay up-front, EPA will clean-up the site and then attempt to recover the costs of clean up from responsible parties.

- o One resident asked if EPA would recommend a moratorium on the blasting of ledge in the area around the site.

EPA responded that the agency has no plans to conduct blasting as part of the site investigation; but that it would be unable to prevent any construction or blasting outside of the site area.

- o The Town Council President asked what the total cost of EPA's RI/FS would be.

EPA responded that \$500,000 had been allocated to complete the RI/FS.

In conclusion, Patz thanked the group for their questions and comments. She mentioned that her telephone number and Patty D'Andrea's, another EPA contact, were listed in the RI/FS fact sheet that had been distributed earlier.

