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## **GALAXY / SPECTRON SUPERFUND SITE**

### **NEWSLETTER**

July 1997, Number 6    A Publication of the Cecil County Health Department for Providence Valley Residents

#### **May 7th Public Meeting Unveils the RI/FS Work Plan**

On May 7, 1997, a public meeting was held in Elkton by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to discuss the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) plan for Spectron. The RI/FS is being completed pursuant to the Administrative Order on Consent, dated May 24, 1996, between the EPA and the Potentially Responsible Party (PRP) Group. The RI will build upon the existing database, collecting data needed to characterize potential exposure pathways and contamination sources not addressed by the Removal Action, and will be the basis for selecting the final remedy for the Site. The FS will identify and evaluate potential remedial alternatives to cleanup this Site. The RI/FS workplan field activities are underway and will continue for the next 18 months.

Many different questions were asked and issues raised by residents who attended this meeting. This issue of the Galaxy/Spectron Newsletter is intended to respond to many of those specific issues and questions.

#### **Technical Assistance Grant (TAG)**

The TAG program provides funds for qualified citizens' groups affected by a Superfund site to hire independent technical advisors to help interpret and comment on

site-related information. Initial TAG awards are limited to \$50,000 per site.

The technical advisor's primary responsibility is to review site-related technical documents and data and interpret them for the non-technical community. Other duties may include participating in site visits and assisting community members in communicating their concerns to EPA.

To be eligible for a TAG, interested groups must be non-profit and must incorporate for the purpose of administering the grant. Parties who may have contributed to contamination at a site are not eligible for a TAG, nor are government organizations and officials, nor organizations funded by the government. Additionally, TAG recipients are required to contribute, or "match", 20 percent of the total project costs. For example, a grant of \$50,000 would require a match of \$12,500. Volunteer services and donated office space and supplies may be used toward the "match".

To begin the process to obtain a TAG, an interested group must submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) or an application. EPA then notifies the community as a whole that an application is or will shortly be under review, giving other potential applicants 30 days to contact the original applicant to form a coalition and submit a single application. Since only one TAG may be awarded for a

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site, EPA encourages groups to consolidate in order to provide technical assistance to the most widely representative group of individuals affected by a site.

For additional information and application forms, contact Amelia Libertz at 1-800-553-2509 or at US EPA (3HW43), 841 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, Pa 19107.

### **What is the National Priorities List (NPL) ?**

This is a list of the United States' worst hazardous waste sites, which are commonly known as Superfund Sites.

### **How does a site get onto the National Priorities List (NPL) and what is the Hazard Ranking System (HRS)?**

The HRS is a system which determines whether a site will be included on the NPL. The NPL is a list of sites which score 28.5 or higher using the HRS. These sites warrant further investigation and action under the Comprehensive and Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA)- also known as Superfund. An HRS score for a site is determined by evaluating four pathways by which people can be exposed: contaminated groundwater, surface water, soil, and air. The sites are not ranked in any way on the NPL. The final score does not specify the level of risk a site poses, nor does it dictate the level of priority a site will have.

All sites which score 28.5 or more on the HRS scoring system are listed on the NPL and are scheduled for investigation and cleanup under CERCLA.

### **Who pays for the site remediation?**

Whenever possible, those parties who are believed to be responsible for the contamination will ultimately perform the site remediation. Work required to

eliminate immediate threats to human health and the environment is paid for out of the CERCLA fund or "Superfund". This fund comes from a specific tax to industries that use or produce hazardous materials.

### **Is regular well sampling enough?**

Yes. Regular well sampling will allow us to detect whether contamination gets into the wells. The residential well monitoring program samples those wells which are considered potentially susceptible to site-related contaminants. Residential wells are sampled every 3 months, as is the Little Elk Creek. Contamination found in wells, thus far, is below levels which cause adverse health effects. If there is odor associated with your well water, the EPA recommends that your well be included in the regular sampling program.

### **Will the groundwater be treated?**

Yes, the groundwater seeps which enter the stream will be treated with the stream containment system. The purpose of the stream containment system is to collect the contaminated water from the seeps and pump and treat it before it enters the stream. The treatment will continue for a minimum of 30 years or until the levels of contamination are no longer a threat to public health and the environment. Stream and residential well monitoring will continue to protect both the public and the environment. The stream containment, the treatment of the contaminated groundwater, and the stream and residential well monitoring are all part of the Removal Action. Additional remedial actions may develop as a result of the RI/FS.

### **Was the air tested?**

Air testing was completed in August 1995. The results of this air work were presented in the May 1996 issue of this newsletter. No airborne chemicals are currently present

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at levels of public health concern.

**Could there ever be a large construction site right next to Spectron and could Spectron ever be used for anything?**

The area is currently zoned for residential use only. There are no current applications or requests for changes in zoning. If an application for zoning change were filed, the application would require a minimum of two hearings- one before the Planning Commission and one before the Board of County Commissioners. These hearings would be advertised in the Cecil Whig, a notice of hearing would be posted on the property, and adjoining property owners would be notified by certified letter.

**Is there an ongoing process to continually evaluate the site, especially after disasters?**

Yes. There are provisions in Superfund that specify a site be evaluated after a major change or potential major change has occurred.

**What was blue fog?**

The chemicals associated with this "blue fog", which occurred in the 1960s and 1970s, were likely volatile chemicals. Once these chemicals were in the air or on the surface of the ground, they evaporated and dissipated rapidly. The most recent air monitoring data indicate that airborne levels of chemicals are below levels of concern.

**What is happening with the Childs Road Site?**

This site was extensively investigated years ago by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE). There was no contamination present to warrant removal.

**NEED MORE INFORMATION  
ABOUT CECIL COUNTY**

## **SUPERFUND SITES? THE CECIL COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY IN ELKTON HAS IT!**

The library keeps a repository of all public documents on all the superfund sites. To inquire about specific documents you may reach the library at

**(410) 996-5600**

and ask for the reference desk.

Library hours are:

Monday-Thursday 10 A.M.-9 P.M.

Friday and Saturday 10 A.M.-5 P.M.

## **MORE INFORMATION:**

For more information not available at the library or on issues not covered by the Superfund Program, you may contact:

**Environmental Protection Agency**

**Toll Free Hotline:**

**1-800-533-2509**

**The Maryland Department of the**

**Environment**

**Toll Free Number**

**1-800-633-6101**

## **CECIL COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT CONTACTS**

**Mary Ellen Rapposelli, R.N., M.S.N.**

**Acting Director**

**Division of Health Promotion**

**Cecil County Health Department**

**401 Bow Street**

**Elkton, Maryland 21921**

**(410) 996-5168**

**Charles Smyser, R.S.**

**Director of Environmental Health**

**Cecil County Health Department**

**401 Bow Street**

**Elkton, Maryland 21921**

**(410) 996-5160**

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You may submit a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to EPA using the following address:

Mr. Richard VanHolt  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
FOIA Office  
841 Chestnut Building  
Mail Code 3EA10  
Philadelphia, PA 19107

**CECIL COUNTY STATE AND LOCAL  
OFFICIAL CONTACTS**

Residents may contact county officials, commissioners, and congressman to keep them informed about community concerns. Contacts to whom you may voice your concerns are listed below:

Providence Road Bridge Repair  
Charles Dominic  
Cecil County Public Works Dept.  
Roads Division  
(410) 996-6270

Cecil County Commissioners' Office  
(410) 996-5201

Representative Wayne T. Gilchrest  
Superfund Site Contact  
(202) 225-5311

Ericka Feller  
Aid for Superfund Sites  
332 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

**CONTACTS FOR OTHER CECIL  
COUNTY SUPERFUND SITES:**

Call EPA Superfund Community  
Involvement Hotline at:  
1-800- 553-2509

**Maryland Sand, Gravel and Stone Site,  
Elkton:**

Lisa Brown  
Community Involvement Coordinator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
841 Chestnut Building  
Mail Code 3HW43  
Philadelphia, PA 19107

**Woodlawn Landfill, Woodlawn**

Vance Evans  
Community Involvement Coordinator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
841 Chestnut Building  
Mail Code 3HW43  
Philadelphia, PA 19107

**MANY THANKS** for input on this  
newsletter to the staff at:

**The Agency for Toxic Substances and  
Disease Registry  
The Environmental Protection Agency  
The Maryland Department of the  
Environment  
The Cecil County Health Department**

**The Cecil County Health Department  
welcomes your comments regarding these  
newsletters and your ideas for possible  
topics. Please call  
(410) 996-5168.**

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Dear Resident:

The Cecil County Health Department is preparing information for physicians regarding the Spectron Site, (the superfund hazardous waste site near Elkton, Maryland), chemicals released into the environment, and related health effects. If you would like to request that a copy of this information be sent to your physician, please complete the tear-off request form below.

If you have any questions, please call (410) 996-5168.

Sincerely,

Mary Ellen Rapposelli, R.N., M.S.N.  
Acting Director  
Division of Health Promotion

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MAIL THIS REQUEST TO:           Cecil County Health Department  
                                  Division of Health Promotion  
                                  401 Bow Street  
                                  Elkton, Maryland 21921-5515

Please mail information regarding Spectron, released chemicals, and their related health effects to:

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Name of Physician Office or Medical Group

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Office Name or Location

---

Street Address

---

City

State

Zip Code

REQUEST MADE BY:

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Name of Resident

---

Street Address of Resident

---

City

State

Zip Code

\_\_\_\_ You may use my name in contacting my physician.

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Resident's Signature

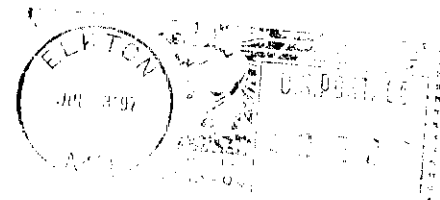
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Date

\_\_\_\_ Please do not use my name when contacting my physician.

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Cecil County Health Department  
Division of Health Promotion  
401 Bow Street  
Elkton, Maryland 21921



Randy Sturgeon  
Environmental Engineer  
Superfund Remedial Branch  
EPA Region III-Mail Code 3HW23  
841 Chestnut Building  
Philadelphia, PA 19107

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