

Amphenol/Franklin Site Stakeholders Monthly Call Summary Report

March 13, 2023, 4:00 p.m. CDT/5:00 p.m. EDT

Facilitator Pam Avery opened the meeting with a welcome and roll call of participants (names of participants below) and then turned the meeting over to Ed Nam, EPA Region 5 Land, Chemicals and Redevelopment Division (LCRD) Director. Ed greeted those in attendance and then announced that Valerie Voisin, who has been working on the Amphenol Franklin project for several years, would be replacing Chris Black as the primary project officer. Chris has taken another position at EPA. Ed also told the group that he had just signed the Final Decision and the response to comments and that the documents would be posted to the Amphenol Franklin project website <https://www.epa.gov/in/amphenolfranklin-power-products-franklin-ind>, and a copy sent to the Franklin Public Library. He thanked all who took the time to review and comment on the draft Statement of Basis and then turned the meeting over to Valerie Voisin.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Updates:

Valerie Voisin reiterated that the Final Decision and response to comments was signed on March 13 following EPA management review. The document is now scheduled to be posted to the EPA's electronic records system and then published on the website in a few days with a copy sent to the Franklin Public Library. She said the next order of business is for EPA and Amphenol to work together on a Corrective Measures Implementation (CMI) order that will cover the work detailed in the Final Decision document as well as long-term stewardship and financial assurance. As this is being developed, EPA will work on a CMI work plan where the details of the Remedy Implementation will be located. She said that EPA is tentatively anticipates field work will begin in summer of 2023, however that timeframe is largely dependent on the issuance of the CMI order as well as approval of the CMI work plan.

EPA Questions, Comments and Responses

Shannon Lisa, counsel to If It Was Your Child (IIWYC), asked if either Valerie or Ed would be willing to give a short summary of the Final Decision.

Ed Nam said the EPA could give a high-level overview of the Final Remedy as well as near-term timelines and asked Valerie to go over some of the high points that might be different from what was proposed in the initial plan.

Valerie responded that the Final Remedy is mostly what EPA proposed in June of 2022, with a few corrections by IWM that were incorporated into the final document. She said that EPA received more than 60 comments and that similar comments were grouped into categories. Topics touched on questions about the well field monitoring, the impacts and spatial extent of VOCs in the ground water, EPA's plans after implementation of the Final Remedy, and if EPA still be actively involved with the site. She said there also were a few questions about PFAS chemical sampling.

Joe Cisneros, EPA Region 5 Program Manager Branch Chief, asked Shannon Lisa if there were any specific comments that she would like EPA to go over.

Shannon thanked Valerie for the summary and asked if any changes or updates to the proposed permeable reactive barrier (PRB) locations are included in the proposed map in the Statement of Basis. She also asked if there are any further updates regarding the monitoring well network, both horizontal and vertical delineation, and especially monitoring frequency and additional monitoring work planned prior to and after field mobilization for the remedy.

Valerie responded that the location of the PRBs is the same as in the statement of basis. As for the monitoring wells, EPA does not have any updates to the proposed network. However, with implementing the final remedy EPA will have to install wells that can monitor the performance of the PRBs and that may require the installation of new or temporary wells to show that the VOCs in the groundwater are being degraded by these barriers. Valerie added that a monitoring schedule will be required as part of the remedy.

Shannon also asked if EPA would have a separate document focused on the communications plan with the community and stakeholders, including a regular notification system as to when the project mobilizations will occur. She said a site activities plan will be important both for the awareness of the surrounding public and for potentially for an independent environmental consultant to have access to the site to review activities occurring in the field.

Ed Nam responded that this was a good question and that EPA will continue to update the site website when the project hits various milestones and that EPA will continue to notify residents when work will be occurring in their areas. He added EPA will reduce the frequency of the monthly stakeholder meetings since the agency does not expect changes to the site on a frequent basis. Information will continue to be placed on the project website.

Phillippa Cannon, Region 5 EPA Community Involvement Outreach Manager, said that residents and other stakeholders can receive updates directly by signing onto the project Listserv, which is on the website. Ed Nam added that EPA will consider any public requests for more detailed presentations about intermediate results and how the project is going.

Shannon said she understood but expected that EPA would have a contingency plan within the Final Decision that might include additional public meetings should something be discovered while in the field. She also reiterated that IIWYC wants to be able to coordinate and collaborate in some capacity with the EPA on scheduling so that they can send an independent consultant to the field. She said that ideally this would include having some level of advanced notice to make those arrangements, and not just posting updates to the website after activities have occurred.

Ed Nam responded that EPA can send advanced notification of major activities on the listserv and that if stakeholders wish to participate in activities EPA can consider those on a case-by-case basis. He added that should any developments come up at the site EPA will provide additional public engagement.

Joe Cisneros explained that once the CMI work plan is approved Amphenol will schedule the work since the cleanup process is drive by a site's responsible parties. Amphenol will conform to the CMI plan timeline as closely as possible and will inform EPA when there are delays. He said that EPA can make sure stakeholders are aware of the work planned for say June or July is actually going to take place in say August. He added that EPA does not anticipate spending a lot of time in the field during this process but will be there on occasion and ask for progress reports from Amphenol on a regular basis. He said that representatives of the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) may be asked to visit the site on behalf of EPA aside from visits by Valerie Voisin, her supervisor Shilpa Patel, and, on occasion, Community Involvement Coordinator Kirstin Safakas.

Shannon responded that IIWYC is less focused on additional public meetings, and more on access to the activities in the field by their consultant Mundell & Associates so that their personnel can issue comments and provide observations and brief summaries on behalf of the community. She reiterated that there is a significant interest in the outcome of the site and that it is important to prioritize early, frequent and detailed communication out to the community due to past frustrations conveyed by community members in the past. She urged EPA to have a strong community awareness plan in place and not just focus on internal communications with Amphenol.

Franklin Mayor Steve Barnett said he doesn't have a question but that his only concern was the wording that field work would "tentatively" start in the summer of 2023. He added that the community does not want to wait any longer and that he is hoping there will be no more delays. He added that EPA has done a good job relaying information to his office and the City of Franklin.

Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) Updates

Tim Johnson, IDEM Senior Environmental Manager, provided the following updates:

Former Hougland Cannery Site

Eastern Portion (Hurricane Industrial Development):

Tim told the group that the pilot study and system work plan has been approved as of March 13, 2023, and that implementation of the permanent system should begin within the next few days. He said that IDEM does not yet have the November and January monitoring reports, but that he has discussed results with Hurricane Industrial Development representative Mike Casper who said that the groundwater is continuing to respond to the remediation applied so progress is looking good. Tim added that a few wells may be lagging a bit so IDEM is keeping an eye on those and if needed will do additional injections.

Western portion (Reed Manufacturing):

Reed has finished but not submitted a final report and is working on a draft ERC for the property. Once done, Reed will request closure, likely within the next two to three weeks.

IDEM Questions, Comments and Responses

Shannon Lisa asked when the last monitoring report or decision document for the Houglund site was posted in the virtual filing cabinet (VFC), adding that as far as she could tell it was in January 2023. Tim responded that she was correct and that the January posting was the 2022 third-quarter monitoring report. He added that IDEM is owed a monitoring report for the November and January samplings and that the approvals noted earlier should be in the VFC within a few days.

With no further questions asked of IDEM or EPA, Pam Avery told stakeholders that they would be receiving a draft summary report of the meeting. She added that it has been a pleasure working with stakeholders these past few years and that they would be notified when another meeting is scheduled. The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m. CDT/5:40 p.m. EDT.

March 13, 2023, Meeting Participants:

EPA: Ed Nam, Shilpa Patel, Joe Cisneros, Valerie Voisin, Phillippa Cannon and Gillian Asque

IDEM: Tim Johnson and Kevin Davis

Local/State Stakeholders: Mayor Steve Barnett (City of Franklin); Terry Seitz (Senator Braun's Office); Kari Rhinehart, If It Was Your Child (IIWYC); Shannon Lisa, consultant to IIWYC

AveryMassey: Pam Avery, facilitator, and Rachel Massey, note taker.