

Community Advisory Group for Health Pompton Lakes

Summary Meeting Notes
Meeting Date: March 4, 2010

Attendees

Community: Maria Kent, Regina Sisco, Wendy Charyak, John Sinsimer, Cas Stark, Kathy Troast, Tim Troast, Karen Magee, Josephine Bruno, Ed Fischer, Mayor Kathleen Cole, Mary Anne Orapello, Bruce Weiner, Kevin Carroll, Mike Serra

NJDHSS: Joe Eldridge, Jerry Fagliano, Sharon Kubiak, Somia Aluwalia, Pam Agovino, Kate McGreevy, Christa Fontecchio

ATSDR: Leah Graziano, Elena Vaouli

Notes

The New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services (NJDHSS) opened the meeting with introductions, an explanation of the purpose of the Health CAG, and a discussion of the group's membership, roles and responsibilities.

The remainder of the meeting was devoted to hearing from the community members about concerns related to past and current environmental exposures and health outcomes. The following notes attempt to capture the range of issues discussed, with a focus on the action steps arising from the meeting.

Defining Past and Present Environmental Exposures of Concern

The members of the Health CAG discussed the following contaminants and pathways of exposure:

- Volatile Organic Chemicals (VOCs) in indoor air in/near plume area
- Changes in the extent of the groundwater contamination plume through time
- VOCs in ambient (outdoor) air as a result of vapor intrusion remediation systems
- VOCs in private wells used for drinking and/or irrigation (gardening, pools) in the past
- Lead and mercury in sediments and soils of Acid Brook and vicinity, and the delta at Pompton Lake

- Lead and mercury in sediments of the Wanaque River, and possible exposures to children at town parks
- General ambient air quality
- Dust generation from I-287 construction and allegations of improper soil disposal

Health Issues of Concern

- Cancers
 - Benign brain tumors
 - Definition of “cluster”
 - Scope of incidence analysis: entire town, each block group, and/or plume vs non-plume; surrounding towns?
- Neurological and Neurobehavioral Outcomes
 - Multiple sclerosis
 - Lupus
 - Learning disabilities/special education/school attendance
- Respiratory Health
 - Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)
 - Asthma
- Lead Poisoning
- Kidney disease
- Health of people who moved away
- Linking health problems with suspected exposures

Action Items

For Next Health CAG Meeting:

- ATSDR will provide the Health CAG members with links to other investigations by ATSDR involving the vapor intrusion pathway, in particular the Endicott site in New York State.
- ATSDR will attempt to get community contact information from CAGs from Endicott and Hopewell Junction and distribute it to the group.
- NJDHSS will compile and distribute: 1) a directory of Health CAG members; and 2) agency contacts, e-mail addresses, phone numbers, and web links.
- NJDHSS will prepare a glossary of acronyms and terms for the Health CAG.
- NJDHSS will begin preparing: 1) general toxicological information on health effects potentially caused by exposures to VOCs, lead and mercury; 2) a list of signs and symptoms related to medical conditions caused by chronic

exposure to these chemicals; 3) appropriate medical follow-up actions if exposures are of concern.

- NJDHSS will prepare and present background information to the Health CAG on the epidemiology of cancers, including: 1) lifetime risks of cancers; 2) how cancer risk differs by sex and changes with age; 3) time trends, geographic patterns and disparities in cancer incidence; 4) comparison of cancer incidence rates in NJ and US; and 5) causes of cancer. NJDHSS will make available to the CAG members a variety of cancer information resources.
- NJDHSS will complete and present the analysis of cancer incidence for the entire town of Pompton lakes, for the period 1979-2007.

For Future Health CAG Meetings:

- ATSDR will arrange to have Greg Ulirsch of ATSDR in Atlanta to meet with the Health CAG about health investigations in Endicott, NY.
- NJDHSS will review the Endicott ambient air modeling and determine whether a similar evaluation for the Pompton Lakes groundwater plume is feasible or useful.
- ATSDR will develop a proposal for training of local health care providers regarding relevant exposures and health effects; training may include use of physicians from ATSDR, Mt. Sinai's Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit and/or the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey/ Environmental and Occupational Health Clinical Center.
- NJDHSS will consider options for conducting additional analyses of cancer incidence for sub-areas of the town, and for the region surrounding Pompton Lakes
- NJDHSS will consider options for analyses of other health outcomes raised by the Health CAG or suggested by documented exposures to Pompton Lakes residents in the past.
- NJDHSS will prepare a presentation for the Health CAG regarding the pros and cons of epidemiologic methods to determine occurrence rates of diseases, and linking diseases to exposures.

Notes by J. Fagliano, NJDHSS