

Newtown Creek Community Advisory Group (CAG) Steering Committee Meeting  
Wednesday, July 6, 2016  
5:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

## **Present**

Ryan Kuonen (via phone)  
Willis Elkins  
Leah Archibald  
Deborah Mesloh  
Mitch Waxman  
Sarah Durand  
Sean Dixon (via phone)  
Mike Schade

Paul Pullo  
Damion Lawyer (via phone)  
Laura Hofmann  
Tyquana Henderson-Parsons, Connective  
Strategies  
Stuart (Stu) Messur, Anchor QEA  
David Hart, Anchor QEA  
Terrie Boguski, Skeo

## **1. Newtown Creek Remedial Investigation Update - Presentation by Anchor QEA**

Anchor QEA is the lead technical consultant for the Newtown Creek Group, which comprises most of the potentially responsible parties at the Newtown Creek Superfund site. Anchor QEA is implementing the site's EPA-approved remedial investigation/feasibility study (RI/FS) work plans. The presentation provided a brief overview of sediment, groundwater, point source and other site investigations. Anchor QEA staff introduced themselves and their roles. Stu and David then gave a PowerPoint presentation on polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon (PAH), polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB), and copper contamination levels in Newtown Creek sediments, groundwater elevation studies and possible groundwater seepage into Newtown Creek, and point source monitoring.

CAG members asked whether upland data will be used to evaluate recontamination potential and why biological surveys did not include intertidal communities as well as benthic communities. CAG members stated that odors from the creek are a major concern for the community. CAG members asked for more information regarding the data in site characterization models. The group discussed climate change considerations and whether rainfall data is representative of past, current or future events.

The group discussed differences between the New York City Department of Environmental Protection's (NYC DEP's) ebullition study and Anchor QEA's study. The NYC DEP study found a more serious ebullition problem. Anchor QEA's study found minimal ebullition.

## **2. TASC Fact Sheets**

Terrie Boguski, the CAG's technical advisor, shared copies of two draft fact sheets summarizing the draft Phase 1 Remedial Investigation Field Program Data Summary Report (Submittals 1, 2 and 3). Terrie explained that the materials are draft documents and asked the Steering Committee

to review the documents and provide input. Technical Assistance Services for Communities (TASC) will adjust them based on CAG input and use the final document as a template for future TASC documents.

The Steering Committee provided the comments below on the draft documents:

- Create only one document with a brief, non-technical overview section. The short document presented was still too technical for some people.
- Add a glossary of acronyms and technical terms.
- Provide a clearer story within the document. Make it more inviting for the general public to read. For example, explain why sediments are being sampled.
- Make the main headings of the document easier to distinguish, by using larger fonts, bold formatting, numbering and underlining.
- Include a statement that the document has been created at the CAG's request.
- Include a disclaimer that the document does not necessarily reflect EPA's opinions or positions.
- Add a "For More Information" section that lists the CAG's website.

The Steering Committee may provide additional comments later.

### **3. Other Topics**

Other topics discussed included:

- Air sampling to date seems inadequate. This is a community concern.
- Accessing public information about past releases that could have contributed to site contamination is a community interest as well – and specifically, public records about penalties for Clean Water Act violations.
- Planning for the multi-stakeholder revitalization event to be held in September.
- Questions for the next CAG meeting:
  - o Ask Anchor QEA about its combined sewer overflow sampling results.
  - o Ask NYC DEP about the ebullition data issue, rainfall inputs for its models and progress on bending weirs.
  - o Ask EPA to explain the current status of the RI and to provide a timeline of upcoming activities.
- The next Steering Committee meeting will be held in September 2016.