Superfund Records Center
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Superfund Program Centredale RI
Nancy Bolduc to: Anna Krasko
Cc: [redacted]

02/12/2012 10:06 PM

From: Nancy Bolduc [redacted]
To: Anna Krasko/R1/USEPA/US@EPA
Cc: [redacted]
Please respond to Nancy Bolduc [redacted]

Dear Anna Krasko,

These are my concerns about The Superfund Program on the Woonasquatucket River / Allendale Pond / Centredale Manor Restoration Project Proposed Plan – a 2 to 5 year plan.

I have done some research regarding toxins with some of my neighbors due to the toxic emissions from the Johnston Asphalt Company located on the Woonasquatucket River, Allendale Pond. It has been a struggle. The noxious odors have affected the quality of life in the surrounding neighborhood, here in North Providence and nearby Johnston.

My understanding is that toxins released into the air last for hours and can remain in the body for hours, days or up to years,(10 -20 years or more). The Woonasquatucket River and the Allendale Pond contain toxins such as Dioxin, Furans, PCBs, Volatile Organic Compounds and Semi-Volatile Compounds, and Sulfur all of which are hazardous to all life. There will most likely be more toxins discovered during the project.

It is my understanding that PCBs type of toxins intensifies with heat (warm weather) unless you heat it to 1200 Fahrenheit causing the toxin to diminish. How can you protect the residence in the area from increasing PCBs toxins when temperatures rise particularly in the summer?

Is the river and pond water currently acting as a barrier from the PCBs toxins and other toxins now?

When the drainage is completed, the new vegetation will be absorbing the PCBs and other toxins and releasing them into the air via dust or pollen or decay, how will you control the vegetation or will it be controlled at all? If the vegetation is not eliminated, toxins will go into the air. Will cutting the vegetation help reduce the particular matter and toxins released into the air?

What are the effects to humans and the environment from PCBs toxins exposure; include short term, long term exposure, at low levels and high levels of toxic waste? Seeing this Superfund Project will take 2 - 5 years.

Where is the relief from toxic exposure?

What action will take place should an area be higher in toxic waste than expected?

What will happen to us and the environment after completion and years later after a 2-5 year exposure?

It is my understanding that Volatile Organic Compounds never leave the atmosphere. What levels VOCs are you expecting to find in the river? The combination of VOCs levels in the riverbed and emissions from nearby manufacturers along the Woonasquatucket River of your proposed cleanup could rise to an astronomical level. What action would be taken to prevent greater VOCs in the residential area when the riverbed is drained and when cleanup is in progress during the same time as the manufacturers are releasing toxic VOCs?

The Johnston Asphalt Company and Baccalla Concrete Company (a neighboring company of Johnston

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Asphalt) are known to store piles of crushed asphalt and red brick used as "recycled" material in asphalt production and Baccalla stores piles of broken concrete. I don't know if Baccalla uses it in production. Anyway, I am confident you are aware that the crushed materials are toxic PARTICULATE MATTER (dust) and are released into the air and carried by wind. During relocation, blending and production, a greater amount of "dust" is released into the air than when it is just sitting in a pile. Toxic fuel vapors and emissions attach to droplets/moisture and become free radicals through the extreme heat of the summer just like the "high ozone levels". I can not see a "safe toxic level" that can be maintained. Also remember that those piles and the new materials stored on site contribute to polluting the river by "runoff" during rain and snowmelt.

The manufacturers (particularly Johnston Asphalt Company) along the river bank subject residents to toxic emissions and odors that force them indoors. We can not enjoy our yards or maintain our property when the odors make us feel so sick we are forced to seek refuge behind closed doors and windows. Imagine trying to explain that to the children when they want to stay outside and play. There are many symptoms residents have experienced and complained to "officials" both in the political arena and DEM. Johnston Asphalt Company production is typically 9 months out of the year. DEM guide lines allow for 12 months to be factored into the averaging of toxic emissions generated during the 9 months. If the levels were divided by the ACTUAL number of months (9) of production, I'm sure they would exceed the limit. Do not forget the use of some toxic recycled materials such as recycled asphalt and recycled rubber contain higher levels of toxins when reprocessed.

How can a safe toxic level for the residents be achieved while the Superfund Project, Johnston Asphalt Company and Baccalla Concrete Company Woonasquatucket River / Allendale Pond are all in operation? What is the point of having "clean river" we don't drink from or swim in when the air we breathe is toxic? Keep in mind that your project includes creating a park like area for people to enjoy a walk, a run, a picnic or leisure time with family.

I truly feel that the removal of the toxic waste by the Superfund Project Program is a good idea and would be "safe" if the asphalt and concrete companies were not located in the area. Those offending companies should be mandated to leave the area by the practice of "Eminent Domain". The well-being of residents, health and quality of life, would dramatically improve.

You really should visit the Johnston neighborhood near Baccalla Concrete and see the effects that company has had. See the pile of recycled concrete stored (particulate matter) near Johnston residents' backyards. There is a huge GREEN pond which is fed by a large pipe that is partially buried. It looks to be coming from the plant. God only knows what is in it!! The surrounding neighborhood has suffered. It is a pitiful and depressed area now. It looks like it is being swallowed-up by the company. The neighborhood has been described by environmentally concerned people as the LOVECHILD of "Deliverance" and "Armageddon". It's an abomination.

When the Superfund Project is in operation what measures will be taken to manage the odors and sounds form the site?

How will the toxins emissions and particulate matter be monitored at the clean up site?

Will the asphalt & concrete toxic emissions and particulate matter be part of the monitoring that your project will be self-administering? If not, I feel it should be.

What action will be taken for the safety of residents, wildlife and vegetation, should levels of toxins and particulate matter become dangerously high?

How will the residents be notified and what shelter and provisions will be given to them should an emergency arise, (at no cost to them)? I have a niece with severe, multiple allergies and a hotel, motel or shelter would not be medically adequate. Also, what provisions etc will be given to the pets of those residents?

With everything in mind, what do you consider high toxic levels health risks and lower level health risks?

Can you explain the long term and short term exposure to toxins, toxic emission and particulate matter at high levels and low levels health risks?

Can you explain how toxic waste in the river and the attaching toxic vapor to the toxic particulate matter in the area will affect all life in the area exposed?

Lastly, what steps will be taken to protect the residents from any disease and nuisance from the displaced river rats and mice when the river is drained and during the cleanup? Will they be rounded-up and exterminated? Also, there are many fowl species living along the river, how will you take care of them?

After the Superfund Project is completed, manufacturers like the Johnston Asphalt Company and Baccalla Concrete will continue to pollute the area. I fear the efforts, hardship and money will be wasted. I wish there was a way for your group to help us in North Providence and Johnston regarding those offending companies. They should not be there. There are plenty of available sites on Allens Ave. in Providence along the docks. That area is taken up with fuel storage, metal recycling dump, Narragansett Asphalt Co., truck parking lots, storage lots, strip clubs and the like. There is no one there who wants to be outdoors enjoying the air.

Thank you for reviewing and addressing my questions and concerns. I look forward to hearing from you.

Nancy Bolduc
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