

## Public Participation in the Georgia-Pacific Mill Site Clean Up Project

Meeting minutes: Community Advisory Group Meeting, April 11th, 2024, 4-5:00 pm

Attendees:

Caroline Mercury (Chair)  
Carrie Schulstad (DCA)  
Stephanie Ogle — Washington Department of Ecology  
David Ripp – CAG member  
Zach Linn - CAG member  
Marty Snell -CAG member  
Larry Keister - CAG member  
April Berlin – CAG member  
Mark Nickerson – CAG member  
Abbi Russell - Past consultant  
Will Henderson - Past Consultant  
Elena Ramirez (Yakama Nation, Observer)  
Molly McKay Williams (Observer)  
Joan Brueckner  
Ken Lederman

The meeting began at 4:03 PM. The first item was a discussion led by Stephanie Ogle, Manager of the Pulp and Paper Unit of the Industrial Section, Washington Department of Ecology. Stephanie started by confirming the Open House Ecology will be hosting, in conjunction with the Washington Department of Health and City of Camas, on July 9th. She understands the community's concern with PFAS. Continuing the Remedial Investigation Work Plan process requires balancing the need for information (there are many unknown given the mill's long history), with the need for action.

DOE now have staffing to work on the sediments portions of the site and hope to combine the upland and remaining areas of the site into a single effort. Ecology still has no data, both groundwater and soil, and the Conceptual Site Model, which includes groundwater modeling, has not been submitted.

Ecology has the Interim Action authority in the current order and will use that if there are indications of contaminants posing a risk beyond the mill. They will not wait until later in the process,

The Yakama Nation has submitted comments about the RI Work Plan and was asked for their thoughts. Elena Ramirez indicated DOE's experience with sediments sites has been that if you don't get the right data up front, you make the process longer. The Yakama Nation has supported expanding the scope of the RI. They believe in giving the RI its first best shot and avoiding having the study split between different parts.

Chair Mercury indicated the concerns raised with groundwater (PFAS) issues and asked Ms Ogle to speak to whether DOE could require the mill to look in their industrial wells for PFAS. She replied that they appreciated that comment and added a requirement for sampling to their comments. She reiterated that DOE uses the RI process as the its mechanism, and the Interim Action process if action is needed.

Chair Mercury asked about continued demolition of buildings, and when demolished if they are subject to sampling/investigation. DOE replied they were, and they had made a comment to GP they needed a better process for demolished buildings, and that DOE wanted input to the response/new investigation.

There was discussion of the size of the mill's holdings, and the number of 600-700 acres. Steve Young indicated that the mill used the slough all the way down to where 205 is now, and impacts may have gone beyond strict boundaries. Steve also indicated past demolitions included deposits in other parts of the city and may have included asbestos and other concerns.

Carrie Schulstad asked whether there would be an overall presentation on July 9th. DOE indicated they were still working on the format.

Randal Friedman thanked DOE for coming, and for scheduling the meeting in Camas. Randal wanted to confirm Ecology will be using the production wells for sampling. DOE replied yes, they did communicate that to GP. DOE appreciated that comment and will give GP some time to say what they're going to say, but DOE agreed this is a good idea and that's DOE's goal. Friedman also agreed with the Yakama Nation's statement about the dangers of too much segmentation and thanked the Yakama Nation for their work.

Chair Mercury also confirmed for those new to the call that (1) this is the Industrial Section's first cleanup order for an operating facility, and (2) while DOE looks for existing use for cleanup level, Washington's cleanup law allows for higher level cleanup based on city planning documents.

Chair Mercury asked Randal to talk about the items on the agenda relating to CAG actions. Starting with the statement, Randal summarized the progress made in the last three years with the community's ability to participate and help shape the cleanup. The CAG statement was giving back to DOE the findings regarding cleanup to unrestricted use, and a more holistic approach to the overall cleanup. This puts the CAG on record of what they did, what they saw and heard, and their recommendations. The CAG concurred with the statement. Carrie will post it and provide it by email to interested parties.

Chair Mercury brought up the revised charter. Randal thanked the Chair, and the subcommittee for their work. Part of the update was to reflect there is no longer a grant and recognized the extensive participation of other stakeholders such as the Yakama Nation. The Charter also makes clear that the CAG has authority beyond the DOE grant tied to the final Agreed Order. The Charter also seeks to make the CAG's process more transparent.

Larry Keister reminded the CAG that questions can be answered but not have discussion. Carrie Shulstad added that by asking for questions ahead of time, answers can be provided to close the loop. Randal confirmed that under the draft Charter, questions can be asked in the chat, but will not be answered at that time but grouped for response. The Charter was approved.

Randal also indicated the revised approach could result in an advantage in the next grant cycle. Chair Mercury asked if the CAG supported, if there is active work ongoing, applying for the next grant cycle and that was supported.

**Takeaways** — Chair will distribute the CAG statement and minutes.

**Next meeting – July 11, 2024, 4-5pm via Zoom.**