

McLouth Steel Superfund Site Community Advisory Group (CAG)

TECHNICAL MEETING SUMMARY

November 10, 2022 | Virtual Meeting No. 9

MEETING IN BRIEF

The November 10, 2022 meeting of the McLouth Steel Superfund CAG took place online in a Zoom webinar. The objectives of the meeting were to receive updates on:

- Remedial investigation of the NPL site
- Clean-up of the northern portion & GLNPO sediment work
- CAG website & communications
- Other relevant updates from members

See **Appendix A** for a list of CAG members, alternates, and agency representatives who were present. Links to summaries, presentations, and recordings from this and previous CAG meetings can be found at the CAG website here: <https://mclouthsteelcag.org/resources-and-documents/>.

ACTION ITEMS

Responsibility	Item
CAG members	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide feedback to improve the accuracy of this draft November Meeting Summary• Disseminate final November Meeting Summary to constituents and community members
US EPA/EGLE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Share updates on remedial investigations on the NPL site and RTRR portion at future meetings
CBI	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Produce and distribute the draft November Meeting Summary, integrate CAG feedback, and share the final version for CAG dissemination and EPA posting• Coordinate with Leadership Board on agenda for the next CAG meeting and internal CAG business (including a review of membership)• Add links to recordings to the CAG website

DECISIONS REACHED & PROPOSED TOPICS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION

Decisions reached

- CAG and public questions or concerns about cleanup or investigation activities at the McLouth site should be sent to EPA, EGLE, and/or Stacie Smith, CAG facilitator (stacie@cbi.org), and information or responses will be sent to the CAG to disseminate to the public.
- The next meeting will be held in 2023.

Proposed topics for future discussion

- Review of the Human Health Risk Assessment report from MDHHS
- Review of membership
- Further updates on Remedial Investigation (EPA & EGLE)

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS

Consensus Building Institute (CBI) facilitator, Stacie Smith, welcomed participants and reviewed the meeting agenda and ground rules.

Updates on the southern portion (NPL site)

Greg Gehrig, US EPA Region 5 Remedial Project Manager, informed the CAG that EPA is still in the process of contracting a firm to carry out the remedial investigation. EPA is currently negotiating with the contractor and hopes to be able to grant an award soon. The goal is to begin the investigation in the summer of 2023.

Mr. Gehrig also reached out to the developer (MSC) for updates, but there were none at the time.

Updates on the northern portion

Jacob Runge, EGLE engineer and project manager, provided updates on the northern/Riverview Trenton Railroad (RTRR) parcel. Mr. Runge reported that EGLE has wrapped up the phase I Corrective Action Consent Order (CACO) and is moving into the phase II CACO. The main driver of phase II work will be addressing groundwater contamination.

Mr. Runge also shared that EGLE has been working with EPA's Great Lakes National Program Office (GLNPO) and their contractor on sediment work related to the Monguagon Creek Upper Trenton Channel (MCUTC) Site Lakes Legacy Act Project. The engineering consultant for that project is looking for any and all geotechnical data that might be relevant for GLNPO's sediment work, and EGLE has been communicating with them on that effort.

[Note: Amber Falkner, US EPA GLNPO, clarified afterward that Ramboll is the contractor for NFS (Bridgestone) for the MCUTC project. Jacobs is the GLNPO contractor, and the US Army Corps of Engineers is also involved in the project.]

Finally, Mr. Runge shared that he will be leaving EGLE to take up a position for the City of Cincinnati. He thanked the CAG for their mentorship and for nurturing his passion for public service. CAG members also thanked Mr. Runge for his responsiveness to requests for support and information, along with his warm and cooperative demeanor, and wished him well for his new position and home. Marc Messina, EGLE geologist, will be taking over responsibility for the site until a new project manager has been appointed.

CAG members offered the following comments and questions (*answers in italics*). [Note: some of these questions or comments were made during later parts of the agenda – they are documented here to promote clarity. Some answers have been expanded in order to ensure that all the member’s questions have been addressed.]

- **The W Jefferson Ave storm drain was finally installed, but I noticed last week that a drill rig was punching holes into the new road surface. Have you heard anything about the reason for that new work? Did they dig into something which they should not have?**
 - *EGLE: I have not heard anything, though I am curious about what they could be doing.*
- **In the past there were conversations about dredging the Trenton Channel to remove mercury. Could the McLouth Steel site have contributed to that contamination? What do you do when you find a contaminant that has not been contributed by McLouth?**
 - *EPA: In general, under Superfund, we are required to tie remediation back to the source of contamination. It would be premature to say what we will find in our remedial investigation, but any additional contaminants that we find will be remediated.*
 - *EPA: One driver for the Great Lakes Legacy Act (GLLA) process is that for some contaminants, the entity responsible for them are no longer around, but there are still parties that have contributed other contaminants. The GLLA process is a cooperative cost-sharing program between federal and private entities, rather than an enforcement program like Superfund. Under Superfund, there is the concept of contaminants becoming “comingled”, which would yield some liability. GLLA projects are mainly focused on sediments and have a set budget. Overlap between Superfund and GLNPO’s work will continue to be coordinated; it should also be noted that because the GLLA process is voluntary means that it generally takes a long time.*

Update on the website and communication process

CBI gave an overview of the new communication process for the CAG. CAG members and alternates will continue to receive drafts and other member-only mailings directly in their email inboxes. However, documents for the public (like final agendas, meeting summaries, and meeting materials) will be shared via the website’s “blog” function. Anyone interested in receiving those mailings can sign up by going to www.mclouthsteelcag.org, scrolling to the bottom of the homepage, entering their email address, and accepting the confirmation email. The CAG website blog will replace EPA’s mailing list for CAG-related information.

CBI will also update the CAG website to show meeting recordings in a separate column under the “Meeting materials” page.

OTHER SITE AND MEMBER UPDATES, FUTURE DISCUSSION TOPIC IDEAS, AND PUBLIC COMMENT

Member updates

John D’Addona informed the CAG that the Downriver Community Conference (DCC) is working on a \$2.1 million grant from the US Economic Development Administration (EDA) to develop a community-inclusive strategy for the Jefferson Avenue Corridor and nearby coal power sites. DCC has been meeting with the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) and the Detroit Regional Partnership on future plans for sites, including the McLouth Steel site. MSC has not shared any information about their intentions for redevelopment and future use of the property. DCC and their partners are waiting for MSC to come forward with that information.

Wendy Pate also provided updates on the DTE Trenton Edison Facility and related matters. It appears that the owner would like to tear down the facility. The City recently passed a new ordinance which includes requirements for carrying out teardowns, including removing underground infrastructure. There have been conversations about how much the owner will be able to comply with the ordinance and what would be best for the community. A group of students from University of Michigan’s Taubman College have been working to explore options for making the site an interactive part of the landscape. (Their scenarios are available [here](#).) There are other sites, such as the refurbished Lansing power station, that have been redeveloped that could serve as models.

Brian Kelly, US EPA Region 5 on-scene coordinator, recommended that it would be helpful for the City to understand what the CACO requires the DTE facility owners to do, particularly as the owners may propose to undertake activities with the City that the CACO otherwise requires.

(The ordinance is not believed to apply to the McLouth Steel site as it was “grandfathered”.)

Marc Messina shared that he works on the former Solutia sites, which were a former Monsanto chemical plant. Their assets are currently being auctioned, and a firm called Trenton LLC is bidding for the site. Trenton LLC’s parent company is Community Development Corporation (CDC) which is in the business of tearing down and remediating sites.

Ms. Pate also shared that she had spoken with a gentleman who was interested in joining the CAG. She also suggested that it would be good to do another review of membership, and potentially invite new members for the new year.

Diane Russell, US EPA Region 5 community involvement coordinator, informed CAG members that funding remains in place for quarterly meetings through the summer of 2023. She will inform CAG members if there are any changes.

WRAP UP & NEXT STEPS

Ms. Smith thanked the CAG, presenters, and members of the public for their participation, questions, and comments. The CAG will meet next in 2023.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm.

Appendix A. CAG Stakeholder Representatives in Attendance

Primary and Alternate CAG representatives present at the **November 10, 2022** meeting are listed below.

Affiliation	Representative
City of Trenton	Wendy Pate
City of Riverview	
Grosse Ile Township	
Riverview Brownfields Authority	Brian Webb
City of Trenton Brownfields	
Trenton Visionaries	(Wendy Pate)
Grosse Ile Nature and Land Conservancy	Doug Thiel
Grosse Ile Civic Association	Greg Karmazin Bill Heil, alt.
Friends of the Detroit River	Robert Burns
DownRiver Waterfront Conservancy	
Past Employees of McLouth Steel	
Abutters	Robert Johnson
At-large Community Representatives	Judith Maiga Edie Traster
Liaison for Rep Debbie Dingell's Office	
Downriver Community Conference	John D'Addona

Agencies represented

Greg Gehrig, US EPA Region 5

Brian Kelly, US EPA Region 5

Kirstin Safakas, US EPA Region 5

Courtney Fung, EGLE

Marc Messina, EGLE

Jacob Runge, EGLE

Amber Falkner, US EPA Great Lakes National Program Office