

## McLouth Steel Superfund Site Community Advisory Group (CAG)

# TECHNICAL MEETING SUMMARY

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Thursday, November 9, 2023 | Virtual Meeting No. 13

### Meeting in Brief

The November 9, 2023, meeting of the McLouth Steel Superfund CAG took place virtually via Zoom. The objectives of the meeting were to:

- Share updates on the remedial investigation & feasibility study (RI/FS) for the Superfund site; and
- Inform the CAG about recent issues related to the northern portion.

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"><li>● Provide feedback to improve the accuracy of this draft November Meeting Summary</li><li>● Disseminate final November Meeting Summary to constituents and community members</li></ul>
US EPA/EGLE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Continue to share updates on RI/FS for the NPL site and corrective action on the RTRR portion at future meetings</li><li>● Upload sampling data to the EPA website and announce to the CAG once the data is released</li></ul>
MDHHS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Share updates on the Public Health Assessment when available</li></ul>
CBI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Produce and distribute the draft November Meeting Summary, integrate CAG feedback, and share the final version for CAG dissemination</li><li>● Upload materials from this meeting to the CAG website</li><li>● Coordinate with Leadership Board on agenda for the next CAG meeting and internal CAG business</li><li>● Send email inviting members to nominate themselves for positions on the Leadership Board</li></ul>

## Decisions reached & proposed topics for future discussion

### Decisions reached

- CAG members and members of the public should send questions or concerns about cleanup or investigation activities at the McLouth site to EPA, EGLE, and/or Stacie Smith, CAG facilitator ([stacie@cbi.org](mailto:stacie@cbi.org)). Information or responses will be sent to the CAG to disseminate to the public.

### Proposed topics for future discussion

- Review of the Public Health Assessment report from MDHHS (when available)
- Further updates on RI/FS and high pH situation (EPA & EGLE)
- Initial findings from the remedial investigation (EPA & CDM Smith)
- Internal CAG business (review of operating protocols, updates to membership, and selection of a Leadership Board for 2024)

## Summary of Discussions

Consensus Building Institute (CBI) facilitator, Brandon Chambers, welcomed participants and reviewed the meeting agenda and ground rules. CAG members and representatives from agencies introduced themselves. Brandon introduced Ashira Pelt, a new member of the CBI team who is now supporting the CAG.

### Updates on the NPL site (southern portion)

Nilia Green (US EPA Region 5) introduced Chris Vandegrift as the new project manager for CDM Smith.

Chris gave a presentation on the updates of the site remediation. CDM Smith is currently in the data collection phase in which they plan to collect enough information to evaluate any risks to human health and the environment associated with the site.

Chris showed the group the recent work CDM had done at the site which included:

- using ground-penetrating radar to collect subsurface data;
- performing electromagnetic surveys across the entire site;
- conducting a groundwater investigation looking at the impacts or non-impacts;
- looking at the hydrogeology and evaluating the flow; and
- collecting sediment samples in the Trenton Channel.

Over the next couple months, CDM Smith will be:

- surveying the site;
- evaluating the sediments and concentrations in the river;
- conducting slug testing to determine the characteristics of the aquifer;
- placing sediment traps (late Nov 2023);
- collecting sediment traps (late Dec 2023/early Jan 2024);
- running analysis on sediment traps;
- sampling surface water; and
- conducting biometric surveys.

CAG members offered the following comments and questions (*answers in italics*).

- **What specific anomalies did you see using the ground penetrating radar? What are you going to do with this information?**
  - *CDM Smith: We will look at the preferential pathways and see if contaminants are migrating. If we find an anomaly we will attempt to trace it back to something on the site, for example, a utility or an old foundation in the area. We will look to what we know about the site historically and determine if anything else requires further investigation.*
- **When will data be available?**
  - *EPA: The data will be available in the second quarter of 2024, we anticipate that we will be able to share preliminary results at the next CAG meeting.*

#### Updates on the northern portion

Oonagh McKenna from EGLE updated the CAG on the investigation and remediation of the northern portion of the Riverview Trenton Railroad (RTRR) facility.

EGLE issued an approval letter for the facility owner's revised interim measures work plan on October 24. EGLE required this revised work plan after high pH water was observed on the site. This resulted in a few new conditions:

- 1) Surface water will be collected in frac tanks as needed, and the fence will remain until the revised interim measures work plan is implemented and the investigation report has been approved by EGLE.
- 2) If necessary, RTRR will dig below the surface onsite and pump ground water to prevent flow off site under West Jefferson through the railroad ballast.
- 3) RTRR must demonstrate that impacted groundwater is not migrating off site under West Jefferson Avenue in the investigation report.

RTRR and its consultant are in the process of scheduling field work and will give EGLE 14 days' notice prior to the start of any activities under the work plan.

Marc Messina (EGLE) explained that the data collection process would involve taking samples from the soil and groundwater. EGLE anticipates receiving a report on the sampling effort within 90 days.

Oonagh then gave an update about signage related to the offsite pooled water discussed at the last CAG meeting. The Wayne County Department of Public Services Environmental Service Division is overseeing the design and placement of signs. The County stated they would develop signs for placement near the tracks and Monguagon Creek if necessary. However, the County has decided to hold off on placing signs because there has been no observed pooling at the site. The County will continue to monitor the site to determine if placing signs is necessary.

Oonagh concluded with an update on the extended and revised Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The MOU outlines how EGLE and EPA coordinate cleanup activities on the northern and southern portions under state and federal programs. The current MOU was set to expire in October of this year. EGLE has been in the process of drafting proposed modifications to include in the revised MOU. Proposed modifications would include:

- Information on the Phase II investigations;
- Communication protocols between EPA and EGLE; and
- Increased public engagement.

**CAG members offered the following comments and questions (*answers in italics*).**

- **At what point would pooling have to be enough for the county to put out signs?**
  - *EGLE: That is a decision that Wayne County would make.*
  - *Jim Wagner: They said that they were monitoring the pooling and at the proper time they would put up the sign.*
- **Can EGLE elaborate on the increased public engagement modification that was added to the Memorandum of Understanding?**
  - *EGLE: The previous MOU was drafted before the CAG was created. The new MOU will provide more information on the CAG and its relationship with the cleanup processes.*

## Other Site and Member Updates, Future Discussion Topic Ideas, and Public Comment

### Redevelopment and community engagement

Jim Wagner informed the CAG that the City of Trenton has entered into an agreement with Crown and Riverview Trenton Railroad to proceed with the Detroit Regional Partnership to examine the ability for future development of that site. The kickoff is Monday, November 13, 2023. Within the next 120 to 180 days, they anticipate having some documentation about what can be done on that site.

Jim also shared that the DownRiver Community Conference (DCC) is working with a consultant (Stromberg/Garrigan & Associates) on community engagement activities related to the closure of coal-power plants in nearby municipalities. DCC expects to have a report in the spring.

### Southern property fence line

Robert Johnson updated the CAG on the condition of the fence along the southern property and the degree of debris along the fence line. He observed some mowing had been done but expressed that additional effort could be made to beautify the area. Jim Wagner replied he mentioned the fence and the viaduct to the facility owner and he will bring it up to them again on Monday, November 13, 2023.

### Membership updates

Wendy Pate informed the CAG that she would be stepping down from her position on the CAG's Leadership Board. She plans to continue to listen in on meetings when possible. CAG members offered their gratitude for Wendy's service to the CAG and the community.

Brian Webb informed the CAG that he has been elected to the Riverview City Council. While his affiliation will change, he intends to remain involved in the CAG.

### Groundwater Sampling

Nilia Green (EPA) advised the CAG that there will be “boots on the ground” as CDM Smith will be conducting groundwater samples next week.

### Public Comment

Robert Medley, a resident of Grosse Ile, mentioned he has been seeing train equipment on West Jefferson Avenue and enquired about the activities taking place. Jim Wagner replied that the Crown Group has been installing a spur along the railroad track work going south onto the property. Jim also explained that the Crown Group is currently in federal litigation with the Wilkinson family regarding a portion of the site that remains under the Wilkinsons’ possession.

### Wrap Up & Next Steps

Mr. Chambers thanked the CAG, presenters, and members of the public for their participation. CBI will be in touch with CAG members about scheduling a meeting in January.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 PM.

**Appendix A. CAG members and agency representatives in attendance**  
*Primary and alternate CAG representatives present at the **November 9, 2023** meeting are listed below.*

<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Representative</b>
<b>City of Trenton</b>	Jim Wagner Wendy Pate
<b>City of Riverview</b>	
<b>Grosse Ile Township</b>	Joseph Porcarelli
<b>Riverview Brownfields Authority</b>	Brian Webb
<b>City of Trenton Brownfields</b>	
<b>Trenton Visionaries</b>	(Wendy Pate)
<b>Grosse Ile Nature and Land Conservancy</b>	
<b>Grosse Ile Civic Association</b>	Greg Karmazin Bill Heil, alt. Paul Gloor, alt.
<b>Friends of the Detroit River</b>	
<b>DownRiver Waterfront Conservancy</b>	Paul Frost
<b>Past Employees of McLouth Steel</b>	
<b>Abutters</b>	Robert Johnson
<b>At-large Community Representatives</b>	Judith Maiga Edie Traster Robert Medley
<b>Liaison for Rep Debbie Dingell's Office</b>	
<b>Downriver Community Conference</b>	
<b>Friends of Trenton River</b>	Robert Burns

Agencies & consultants represented

Nilia Green, US EPA Region 5  
 Kirstin Safakas, US EPA Region 5  
 Courtney Fung, EGLE  
 Elizabeth Garver, EGLE  
 Oonagh McKenna, EGLE

Marc Messina, EGLE  
Andrea Keatley, MDHHS  
Joost Vant Ervej, MDHHS  
Chris Vandergrift, CDM Smith  
Brandon Chambers, Consensus Building Institute  
Ashira Pelt, Consensus Building Institute