

**Community Advisory Group (CAG)  
for the  
Omaha Lead Site**

Minutes for Meeting Held  
Wednesday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2004, 10:00 a.m.  
Metro Community College  
Industrial Training Center, Room 107  
27<sup>th</sup> and Q Streets

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**OLS CAG Members Present:**

Janet Bohm—*Citizen at Large*  
Janet Bonet—*Citizen at Large*  
Sue Casteel—*Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry*  
Brenda Council—*Facilitator*  
Todd Davis—*Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality*  
Connie Determan—*MFG, Inc.*  
Bob Feild—*Environmental Protection Agency*  
Clifton Jones—*U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development*  
Jeff McDermott—*Union Pacific Railroad*  
Dr. Donna Polk-Primm—*Nebraska Urban Indian Health Coalition*  
Dr. Adi Pour—*Douglas County Health Department*  
Dr. Shireen Rajaram—*University of Nebraska, Omaha*  
Chris Rodgers—*City of Omaha*  
Ben Salazar—*Nuestro Mundo*  
Marian Todd—*City of Omaha Planning Department*  
Vernon Waldren—*Douglas/Sarpy County Extension*  
Warren Weaver—*City of Omaha*  
Cheryl Weston—*Lead Safe Omaha Coalition*  
Cammellia Watkins (Designee for Melissa Gardner)—*Sierra Club*

**Others Present:**

Alvin Butler—*U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*  
Marti Cieslik—*AEW*  
Sara Colboth—*Iowa Department of Public Health*  
Dr. John Crellin—*ATSDR*  
Richard Ethridge—*Citizen*  
Laura Ethridge—*Citizen*  
Mike Felix—*Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality*  
Sonny Foster—*Senator Ben Nelson's Office*  
Nancy Gaarder—*Omaha World-Herald*  
Doug Hadley—*U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*  
Herman Hanner—*Professional Environmental Engineers*  
Bob Henderson—*AnLab Environmental*  
Kevin Howe—*U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*  
Debbie Kring—*Environmental Protection Agency*  
Denise Jordan-Izaguirre—*ATSDR*

Jan Lambert—*Environmental Protection Agency*  
Peter Lieben—*Guild Communications*  
Barry Long—*Omaha Housing Authority*  
Jesus Magana—*AEW*  
Stacy Meacham—*MFG, Inc.*  
Youlanda Outin—*NCEH/ATSDR*  
Kristen Petersen—*Guild Communications*  
Stan Quy—*U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development*  
Jennifer Rawley—*MFG, Inc.*  
Steve Sanders—*Environmental Protection Agency*  
Stu Schmitz—*Iowa Department of Public Health*  
Sue Semerena—*Nebraska Health and Human Services*  
Senator John Synowiecki—*Nebraska State Senator*  
Dr. Kirby Tyndall—*MFG, Inc.*

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Ms. Council thanked Mr. Rodgers for arranging the meeting room. Introductions were made.

Ms. Council asked for any corrections to the minutes from the June 9, 2004 CAG meeting. Ms. Weston moved to approve the minutes as written. Mr. Jones seconded the motion. The motion to approve the minutes passed unanimously.

Ms. Council invited EPA to provide an update. Mr. Feild stated that 500 yards have been excavated since 1999, and sod has been replaced in 488 of those yards. Mr. Feild stated that the Remedial Investigation was released last week. He stated that 15,000 yards (out of 40,000) were sampled for lead concentrations in soil for the Remedial Investigation. Mr. Feild stated that the Risk Assessment would be released soon and that 159 dust samples were collected for the Risk Assessment. Mr. Feild stated that an apportionment study (speciation study) indicated that at least 38% of lead contamination of yards is attributable to historic smelter emissions. He added that the swine study (bioavailability study) indicated that the lead in soil ranged from 37% to 51% bioavailable, while an in-vitro study indicated that the lead in soil was 40% bioavailable. Mr. Feild stated that the default value for bioavailability under the IEUBK model is 30%. Mr. Feild stated that a higher bioavailability percentage could drive the cleanup level down.

Mr. Foster asked what the cleanup IEUBK model predicts as the cleanup level if only default values are used. Ms. Sanders replied that using all defaults, the cleanup number would be 400 parts per million (ppm). Mr. Foster asked if the cleanup number predicted by the IEUBK model would be lower than 400 ppm because the estimated bioavailability percentage for Omaha is higher than the default value. Mr. Sanders stated that the Risk Assessment would suggest a number lower than 400 ppm. Mr. Feild stated that an interim Record of Decision would allow EPA to gather additional bioavailability information.

Dr. Tyndall asked if the IEUBK model has been validated. Mr. Feild stated that he would let the State respond to that question.

Mr. Feild stated that the Remedial Investigation concludes that about 40% of homes had lead in soil concentrations above 400 ppm. Mr. Feild stated that 17% of yards had arsenic concentrations above background concentrations. Mr. Feild explained that arsenic is not considered a Contaminant of Concern (COC) in the Risk Assessment and that the arsenic was found to be unrelated to smelter emissions.

Mr. Feild, referring to a request Ms. Bonet had made at the CAG meeting on June 9, 2004, stated that he had located a contact and related presentation on bioavailability. He provided the CAG with the contact information. Mr. Feild also provided the CAG with a copy of the inter-agency agreement between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and EPA, as requested by the CAG at the June 9, 2004 meeting.

Mr. Feild reported on EPA advisory groups, as requested by the CAG at the June 9, 2004 CAG meeting. Mr. Feild stated that there is a National Remedy Review Board (NRRB), National Lead Site Consultation Group (NLSCG), Technical Review Workgroup (TRW), and a Lead Sites Workgroup. Mr. Feild stated that the NRRB is involved at sites with remedies over 30 million dollars. EPA regions are not required to consult the other groups; the NLSCG, TRW, and Lead Sites Workgroup are consulted as needed.

Mr. Feild stated that EPA Headquarters must be consulted under three circumstances:

1. If a cleanup level of less than 400 ppm or greater than 1200 ppm lead in soil is proposed.
2. If a Record of Decision is issued for a non-soil matrix (e.g. exterior lead-based paint).
3. If unique issues exist that would set a precedent.

Mr. Feild stated that EPA Headquarters would need to be consulted for the Omaha Lead Site.

Ms. Weston asked if EPA is closer to issuing an interim Record of Decision. Mr. Feild confirmed that EPA is moving toward an interim Record of Decision. Ms. Council asked if national policy allows or prevents an interim Record of Decision. Mr. Feild replied that an interim Record of Decision is permissible and will describe what work EPA can fund and perform as part of a comprehensive program.

Dr. Pour asked if the TRW typically comments on the Risk Assessment. Mr. Feild stated that the TRW can, but does not, as a standard procedure. Dr. Pour asked if it would be possible to bring a member of the TRW to a CAG meeting to answer questions, as a technical expert. Mr. Feild stated that a member of the TRW from EPA Region 7 could be invited to a CAG meeting, such as Mr. Mark Doolan or Mr. Gene Gunn.

Senator Synowiecki asked if EPA has a local office open to the public. Mr. Feild stated that EPA has a local field office, but the field office was not created for public information access. Mr. Feild stated that EPA has a toll-free number that citizens may call for information.

Mr. Salazar asked where replacement soil comes from for yard removals. Mr. Feild stated that local material that has been tested to ensure it is not lead contaminated is used as replacement soil. Mr. Salazar asked if this soil is from Omaha. Mr. Feild stated that the soil is from Omaha, but is from outside of the Omaha Lead Site.

Senator Synowiecki asked if the EPA toll-free number is specific to the Omaha Lead Site. Mr. Feild stated that it is a general number for EPA Region 7. Mr. Feild also stated that citizens are welcome to call him directly. Mr. Feild provided his direct phone number. Senator Synowiecki stated that because there is not a local office, a site-specific toll-free number should be made available.

Ms. Bonet asked if the toll-free number is accessible to Spanish-speaking residents. Mr. Feild replied that translators are available.

Dr. Rajaram stated that an outreach coordinator who speaks Spanish should be included in the comprehensive plan. Ms. Weston stated that the coordinator should have access to resources in multiple languages, such as Sudanese and Spanish. Dr. Rajaram stated that because the majority of non-English speaking residents are Spanish-speaking, the outreach coordinator should speak Spanish and have access to resources for other languages.

Ms. Council, referring to the apportionment study (speciation study), asked where the remaining 62% of lead originated. Mr. Feild replied that he has not reviewed the apportionment study. Mr. Feild stated that it was not possible to define the source of all the lead.

Ms. Council stated that reviewing the Remedial Investigation could be addressed via a subcommittee. Ms. Council asked any members interested in reviewing the Remedial Investigation to contact Ms. Determan. Ms. Council stated that if members were not able to form a subcommittee, MFG, Inc. would review the document and report back to the CAG. Ms. Bonet volunteered to be on the subcommittee and encouraged other CAG members to review the Remedial Investigation.

Mr. Feild announced that the Feasibility Study would be released in the next week, and the Proposed Plan would be released in early July. Ms. Semerena provided the CAG with a copy of the Risk Assessment.

Dr. Tyndall, referring to the speciation report, asked how soil removal would address the other 62% of lead not attributed to smelter emissions. Dr. Tyndall stated the 62% indicates that another source, other than smelter emissions, is present, such as lead-based paint. Mr. Feild stated the EPA would work to be part of a comprehensive program to address the issue.

Ms. Weston asked if the Community Involvement Plan had been finalized. Ms. Kring stated that the Community Involvement Plan would be available by the next CAG meeting.

Ms. Council stated that Mr. Howe from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) was available to answer questions regarding the upcoming performance-based contracting (PBC). He stated that extra funds are available for PBC and were acquired by EPA for the Omaha Lead Site. EPA contacted USACE to utilize this PBC funding to perform soil remediation. Mr. Howe stated that USACE would be utilizing seven pre-qualified contractors that will compete for task orders. Mr. Howe stated that financial incentives would be provided to encourage contractors to spend funds within the Omaha Lead Site.

Ms. Bonet asked how small businesses would be notified of subcontracting opportunities. Mr. Hadley replied that businesses could contact the USACE for information, that information is available on the USACE web site, and that a network opportunity would be arranged so that firms can meet each other.

Ms. Weston stated that the CAG would like disadvantaged businesses, such as HubZone, 8(a), and minority businesses, to be involved. Ms. Weston stated that incentives do not work. Ms. Weston asked what percentage of minority and HubZone businesses were used by USACE before 2000. Mr. Howe stated that about 8% to 10% of the USACE work load goes to 8(a) businesses each year. Ms. Weston stated that she wanted to know what percentages would go towards such businesses on this particular contract. Mr. Howe stated that USACE is looking at ways to involve HubZone, 8(a), and minority businesses. Ms. Weston stated that she would like to see a percentage set aside for these businesses. Mr. Hadley stated that the seven contractors are small businesses and that specific goals could not be set for small businesses.

Ms. Weston asked why the seven contractors did not include any HubZone businesses. Mr. Feild replied that because the remediation work must be completed quickly, pre-qualified contractors were selected.

Dr. Pour asked if any of the seven contractors are local contractors. Mr. Howe replied that none of the contractors are local. Dr. Pour asked if any of the seven contractors are minority businesses. Mr. Howe replied that one of the contractors is a small, disadvantaged business.

Dr. Polk-Primm suggested holding a well-publicized job fair to engage local businesses. Mr. Howe stated that he assumed the CAG would help publicize the opportunity.

Mr. Davis stated that future contracts for remediation work would be awarded in the next year to five years. Mr. Davis asked if it would be possible for the CAG to form a subcommittee on contracting to ensure that future contracts are written to allow contractors within the Omaha Lead Site to participate in the bidding process. Mr. Feild stated that EPA could look into future contracting opportunities.

Ms. Council extended an invitation to USACE to provide the CAG with an update at the next CAG meeting.

Ms. Council invited Dr. Crellin to speak about the ATSDR Public Health Assessment. Dr. Crellin summarized the Public Health Assessment and stated that ATSDR would be

accepting public comments until August 6, 2004. Dr. Crellin stated that all comments received would be appended to the final version of the Public Health Assessment.

Ms. Weston asked what role ATSDR must play at a Superfund site. Mr. Feild replied that ATSDR is required to perform a Public Health Assessment at National Priorities List (NPL) sites. Ms. Weston asked if it is mandatory for ATSDR to provide services in the Record of Decision. Mr. Feild stated that there is no such requirement and that the Record of Decision does not state which agencies will do what.

Ms. Weston asked if EPA funds ATSDR. Ms. Jordan-Izaguirre stated that Superfund dollars are funding ATSDR activities at the Omaha Lead Site. Ms. Jordan-Izaguirre stated that although the only mandatory component is the Public Health Assessment, funding is also being used for public health education. Ms. Weston stated that funding should not go to ATSDR activities when the Douglas County Health Department can provide health education. Ms. Weston stated that she did not understand why ATSDR was using Superfund dollars to perform work that can be done by community organizations.

Dr. Polk-Primm stated that in the Public Health Assessment, on pg. 15, it is stated that there is a greater health risk from lead to fetuses than to children or adults. Dr. Polk-Primm asked why the risk to fetuses was not addressed in the recommendations section of the Public Health Assessment. Dr. Crellin stated that risks to fetuses were considered, though not specifically mentioned in the recommendations. Dr. Polk-Primm asked if Public Health Assessments typically do not address demographic relationships. Dr. Crellin stated that demographics are factored in at many sites. Dr. Polk-Primm stated that cultural concerns should be incorporated into the Public Health Assessment. Dr. Crellin stated that cultural concerns could be included in the final version, but that these concerns would not be included in the recommendations.

Dr. Tyndall stated that the Public Health Assessment lacked aggressive recommendations to address lead-based paint. Dr. Tyndall stated that it is recognized that lead-based paint is a major contributor to lead exposure. Dr. Crellin replied that addressing lead-based paint is not something that can be done under Superfund. Dr. Tyndall stated that other Public Health Assessments are very explicit about lead-based paint measures. Ms. Council asked if Dr. Crellin was saying that because ATSDR received Superfund dollars to perform the Public Health Assessment, the Public Health Assessment could not address sources other than soil. Ms. Casteel replied that lead-based paint issues would be addressed by ATSDR's health education program.

Ms. Council asked if, recognizing the impact of lead-based paint, the Public Health Assessment could include recommendations addressing the mitigation of exposure to lead-based paint. Dr. Crellin stated recommendations for lead-based paint reduction measures could be included in the next version of the Public Health Assessment.

Ms. Rawley announced that the CAG could have a display booth at the UNMC Baker Square Garage Sale on June 26, 2004 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Ms. Council asked

CAG members to contact Ms. Determan if they were interested in assisting with the booth.

Ms. Council announced that discussion of the NRRB letter would be postponed until the next CAG meeting on July 7, 2004.

Mr. Foster asked if the meeting time could be earlier to allow for the long length of CAG meetings. Ms. Council stated that an email would be sent to the CAG to determine if an earlier meeting time is preferred. Ms. Council announced that the next meeting would be held Wednesday, July 7, 2004. The meeting time and place are to be announced.

Mr. Quy provided the CAG with a summary of U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development activities. Mr. Quy encouraged the CAG to push for a holistic approach at the Omaha Lead Site. Mr. Quy also encouraged the CAG to push the EPA to address exterior lead-based paint remediation in the Proposed Plan.

Ms. Council encouraged CAG members to provide ATSDR with any questions they may have regarding the Public Health Assessment. Ms. Council asked CAG members to come to the next CAG meeting with questions or comments on the Public Health Assessment that should be presented to ATSDR from the CAG.

Handouts Provided for the Meeting (June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2004):

*Draft Minutes from 06/09/04 (Provided by MFG, Inc.)*

*Approved Minutes from 05/26/04 (Provided by MFG, Inc.)*

*Availability Session Notice (Provided by MFG, Inc.)*

*ATSDR Omaha Lead Site Handout (Provided by Dr. John Crellin, ATSDR)*

*ATSDR Public Health Assessment Guidance Manual (Provided by MFG, Inc.)*

*Draft Letter to NRRB from the CAG*

*Lead Services Provided by Organizations and Government Agencies (Provided by MFG, Inc.)*

*Preparing CERCLA Records of Decision (Provided by MFG, Inc.)*

*Email to Bob Feild on 06/10/04 (Provided by MFG, Inc.)*

*Letter to the CAG from Governor Johanns*

*Making Lead-Safe Housing the Central Focus for Strategic Plans to Eliminate Childhood Lead Poisoning (Provided by Ms. Jonah Deppe)*

*The Prevalence of Lead-Based Hazards in U.S. Housing* (Provided by Ms. Jonah Deppe)

*The Foundations of Better Lead Screening for Children in Medicaid* (Provided by Ms. Jonah Deppe)

*Remedial Investigation for the Omaha Lead Site (CD)*(Provided by EPA)

Attachments to Minutes:

Sign-In Sheet (hardcopy to be delivered)