

Meeting Minutes: Speonk Solvent Plume Working Group

Meeting Date: September 4, 2013 from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Location: Westhampton Library

Attendees:

Robert DeCandia, Project Manager DEC (by Conference Call)
Walter Parish, Regional Hazardous Waste Remediation Engineer, DEC
Ron Paulsen, Associate Hydrogeologist, Division of Environmental Quality, SCDHS
Andy Raoiejko, Associate Hydrogeologist, Division of Environmental Quality, SCDHS
Doug Feldman, P.E., Chief, Office of Water Resources
Chris Nuzzi, Town Councilman, Town of Southampton
Fred Thiele, NYS Assemblyman
Jason Haan, Aide to Suffolk County Legislator Jay Schneiderman
Jenn Hartnagel, Environmental Advocate, Group for the East End
Stephanie Davis, Resident, Hydrogeologist
Bob Mozer, Co-President, Speonk/Remsenburg Civic Association
Rich Baldwin, Co-President, Speonk-Remsenburg Civic Association
Hank Beck, Chairman, CAC-West
David Wilcox, Town Planning Director
Jennifer Garvey, Deputy Chief of Staff, Town of Southampton
Tim Motz, Suffolk County Water Authority
Sharon McLelland, Public Health Specialist, NYS Department of Health (by Conference Call)
Phil Smyth, President, Remsenburg Civic Association

Discussion:

Community Feedback

The group was asked if there was any community feedback to report following the initial meeting and subsequent news coverage. The community representatives had no feedback to report.

Monitoring Plan

The DEC representative reported that a work plan request for the monitoring plan was submitted approximately three weeks prior to the meeting and is being reviewed by the appropriate internal personnel. The details of the requested plan remain confidential at this time, however, the representative stated the input provided by the technical members of the working group was considered in the draft plan. The DEC representative anticipated that it would be three or more weeks before feedback is received with regard to authorization of the draft plan.

The working group members reiterated their interest in learning the details of the proposed plan as soon as possible. Assemblyman Thiele offered to advocate for expedited consideration of the draft plan.

Water Testing Analysis

As reported previously, the Supervisor's Office mailed letters to approximately 160 residences in the Speonk/Remsenburg area during the last week of May 2013 in order to offer free well testing by the County Dept. of Health Services. The letters were targeted to locations that are not hooked up to public water.

As a result of the mailing, 43 wells were sampled. 114 property owners did not respond. Results are still pending for 12 samples, however, of those tested VOC's above the drinking water standard were detected on only one property. This property has previously tested positive for VOC's above the drinking water standard and protocols have been implemented to ensure the property owner has a safe water supply for household use.

10 samples showed a detection of VOC's but at level below the drinking water stand.

12 additional showed no detection of VOC's.

The Town agreed to send out a second round of letters urging property owners to take advantage of the free well test. There was discussion about the need to emphasize:

Even if a property's well water has been tested before with positive results:

- It is recommended that *all* well water be tested annually.
- Groundwater is dynamic, so contaminants can flow into or out of well water supply.
- Results can vary widely from property to property. Do not rely on the well test results of neighboring properties.

The Town agreed to underscore this information in the outreach letters.

It was agreed that the community/professional members and DEC representatives would inform the group of their proposed strategy, and the group would consider meeting again to review it, or make alternative arrangements (conference calling, for example) to continue the discussion as needed.

Next Steps

The group agreed that release of the DEC's proposed work plan is needed as soon as possible. The group will reconvene as soon as possible once the information is made available.

Meeting Closed. Next meeting to be determined.