

PUBLIC HEARING

**Assessment of Corrective Measures
Yamacraw Road Solid Waste Landfill**

Chairman Edward Goss, Jr. presided and called the Public Hearing to order at 5:30 PM on June 2, 2008. Also in attendance were Commissioners Eddie Freeman, Gwen Flowers-Taylor, Johnie McDaniel and David Phillips. Also attending were Curt Gorman of QORE Property Sciences; Sarah J. Barr, Geologist 3, Solid Waste Compliance Unit, Georgia EPD, Solid Waste Management Program; County Manager William Wilson; Assistant to the County Manger Paul Van Haute; and Teresa Watson to record minutes.

Curt Gorman of QORE Property Sciences, who is with the firm of QORE Property Sciences and who has contracted with Spalding County for about 15 years, provided a brief presentation, referencing display boards with pertinent site drawings. The Georgia Environmental Protection Division has required Spalding County to provide a plan to remediate contaminated groundwater caused by a release from the closed municipal solid waste landfill located on Yamacraw Road at its intersection with Parham Road. The site is located approximately six miles east of Griffin and one mile north of Georgia SR 16 (Arthur K. Bolton Parkway). This public hearing is to provide commissioners with an update on the status of the remediation effort and to allow for public questions and input. Prior to the Public Hearing, a copy of the Contamination Assessment Report/Assessment of Corrective Measures (CAR/ACM), correspondence with EPD and other documents were made available for public inspection at the Courthouse Annex.

Mr. Gorman briefly detailed the CAR/ACM for the former Yamacraw Road Landfill and responded to questions from commissioners. Spalding County must submit final corrective action plan within 90 days of this public hearing. Three wells to the east are above regulatory limits, exceeding in methylene chloride particularly, which is a solvent and for which there is an acceptable limitation of only 5 parts per billion. Some tests have indicated 11 to over 50 parts per billion, particularly on the downgradient (east) side of the landfill. However, offsite wells and computer modeling have shown that methylene chloride has not likely extended 130-150 feet beyond the eastern boundary of the landfill on to private land.

Spalding County has been aware of this issue since the mid 1990s, but contamination has actually decreased somewhat over time. The existing contamination is not going deeper in to the underlying bedrock which is very fortunate. He demonstrated cross-sections of the area, denoting the wells that are problematic. Concentrations are getting lower which speaks to the success of natural attenuation. Nature will take care of much of the concentrations as the chemicals break down with time. A period of 20-30 years is normal for post-closure monitoring. Hopefully, as statistical analysis has indicated, contaminant levels will drop below the accepted level of 5 ppb around the year 2012. QORE has proposed monitored natural attenuation (MNA) as the groundwater corrective action methodology. In the event that groundwater contamination trends indicate an increase in contaminant concentrations, groundwater air sparging has been proposed as a contingency remediation methodology. Air sparging supplies oxygen into the water and encourages the growth of bacteria, which generally decreases the type of contaminants observed at the site. Other kinds of treatments are much more expensive and must be redone in about every two years or so. A pilot test would be necessary to determine how many air sparge wells may be necessary.

Landfill gases can also affect groundwater quality. One well [GWA-2(old)] in the upgradient (western) portion of the landfill has had continued exceedances for methylene chloride, and a nearby well (GWA-2) has occasional exceedances for other contaminants. While not previously proposed as a corrective action method in the ACM, it is now proposed that landfill gas collection/venting be used to reduce groundwater contaminants in the western portion of the landfill. Studies have shown that reducing landfill gas concentrations in the subsurface may result in a reduction of contaminants in the groundwater. Several passive vent wells were put in the existing landfill gas venting trench with the intent of reducing landfill gas concentrations in the compliance landfill gas monitoring wells. However, this has not indicated a significant effect on reducing landfill gas concentrations. Therefore, it is proposed to connect blowers with higher vacuum capabilities to, in essence, suck out the landfill gas with the intended resultant effect of decreasing groundwater contaminant concentrations. Additional landfill gas venting wells hooked up to a gas collection manifold will be required. An additional benefit of the landfill gas collection/venting should be the reduction of methane concentrations in the landfill gas compliance monitoring wells.

Mr. Wilson advised that commissioners have reviewed this process during budget review and put additional monies in the budget for the anticipated increased expenses. The County will then apply for reimbursement from the state, as has been done successfully in the past. There was no public comment.

On motion and second by Commissioners McDaniel and Freeman, the meeting adjourned 5-0 at 5:58 p.m.

County Clerk

Chairman

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