

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
December 4, 2017, 2017
7:00 PM**

CALL TO ORDER

The Special Meeting of the Environmental Commission was called to order at 7:05P.M. Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer called the meeting to order and read the following notice requirements.

Notice Requirements

Adequate notice of this meeting was provided in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act by publication of the notice in the Hunterdon County Democrat on November 16, 2017, and by telefaxing a copy of the notice to the Courier News and Express Times on November 9, 2017. A copy of the notice was also posted in the Kingwood Township Municipal Building on November 9, 2017.

In order to ensure full public participation in this meeting, all members of this Commission, and also members of the public are requested to speak only when recognized by the Chair so that there is no simultaneous discussion or over talk, and further, all persons are requested to utilize the microphones which are provided for your use by the Township. Your cooperation is appreciated.

Roll Call

Present

Debbie Kratzer
David Posey
Lois Voronin
Gail Ashley
Sandra McNicol
Thomas Ciacciarelli
Timothy Cahalin

Absent

Cynthia Niciecki
Willard Reasoner
Joe Zgurzynski

New Business

Presentation by Ramboll Environ and MEL Chemicals Inc. Professionals

Debbie Kratzer gave an introduction to the meeting. She reviewed the background of the Environmental Commissions concerns regarding MEL.

MEL Chemicals Inc.

Gavin Edwards - Plant Manager

2.

Gavin Edwards introduced himself and explained his position at MEL. He reviewed the use of zirconium and what it is used for. He noted that this is manufactured at sites all over the world, including the United Kingdom, United States and Japan. He explained that MEL is an oxides and solutions plant.

He gave a presentation over the projector of what zirconium is used for, which is used for many different uses. He talked about the benefits of zirconium. He note there are many different response teams and they have a system to prevent discharges from occurring.

Louise Manis - Environmental, Health & Safety Manager

Louise Manis commented and gave a review of what he is does at MEL.

Ramboll Environ

Drew Bonas - Principal - Introduced himself and noted that they are excited to be here. He reviewed the background of the MEL site. He noted there was an investistigation started in the late 1990's. He talked about an investigation that took place on the site. He noted that they work very close with MEL, which they have a very long history with MEL.

Drew Bonas reviewed several sites, which have been reviewed with the NJDEP. He explained what occurred since 1952 and identified releases that have occurred at the site. There are no concerns that have left the site. Salt is the main concern and it is from the site. He noted historic releases have occurred, but it was noted they are confined to the site. Constituents of concerns are primarily salts in groundwater and radionuclides in soil. Investigation and remediation have been performed in accordance with New Jersey rules within acceptable timeframes. Even though there is an LSRP on the site, the NJDEP have investigated everything on the site.

Drew Bonas explained that three of the 18 areas require further action. Remedy completion to be in 2019. He reviewed the ponds and the wooded areas. Waste water was discharged from the ponds through a drainage pipe. He noted that the past 25 years there has been no discharge from the ponds or pipes.

He noted that this is a local business from 1952 to present. It is the manufacture of zirconium chemicals through the reaction of zirconium intermediate materials. He reviewed an overhead site of MEL on the projector. He stated that MEL provided water for neighbors nearby.

William D. Kraft, III – LSRP and Principal Consultant

William D. Kraft, III – LSRP and Principal Consultant introduced himself. He noted he is the LSRP since 2012 and has been involved since 2005. He explained an issue that happened in pond 3. He remediates cases like this for the State. He stated this is to protect human health and safety, and to remediate all those cleanups and overseen LSRPs. He noted that they would like to keep the public informed. He stated that in 1995 ISRA process initiate was identified.

3.

He noted that the salt plume is investigated differently. He showed a map of the discharges over the projector.

He reviewed the Status of ISRA case #95161 AOC 11 sediment Wichecheoke Creek and drainage ditch. He reviewed the inactive ponds, which are pond 3, pond 7 and pond 8. He reviewed the areas that were closed out due to no ground water contamination.

He spoke of the salt plume which was a remedial investigation report submitted in 2010. He noted that they have a permit for an extraction. He reviewed what they did after obtaining a discharge permit. November 1990 MEL completed an off-site investigation of groundwater 30 monitoring wells. He noted that the ground water flows to the middle of the property.

Kevin Long - Principal Consultant and Human Health Risk Assessor

Introduced himself and reviewed what his position was and explained what he does.

Nick Scala - Project Manager of Environ Ramboll

Nick Scala, Project Manager of Environ Ramboll introduced himself and explained what he does in his position. The Environmental Commission asked the professionals questions, which they prepared and that was sent to them before the meeting.

Gail Ashley noted the Environmental Commission looked into the wells and explained over the projector a map of the properties and wells that were higher in salt. William Kraft answered her questions.

The members from MEL and Environ Ramboll explained the test wells along Locktown Road and the surrounding area for the salt plume and lines of evidence.

Gail Ashley asked questions and asked them to explain the groundwater flow.

She asked about the water flow and how deep it goes. Nick Scala responded and noted it is all contained to the bedrock.

Timothy Cahalin asked about the spill, which occurred in 2017 and where it was located. Gavin Edwards noted that it was pond 3, which collects rainwater. Pond 3 is still being investigated. This pond was used up until approximately three years ago. Gail Ashley noted the lack of water in the ground.

Gavin Edwards commented and answered several questions from the Environmental Commission.

4.

Nick Scala noted that pumping will probably continue for the remedial action as required by the State of New Jersey. There was discussion regarding sodium: chloride ratios.

There was a discussion on sodium chloride ratios, which were calculated for off-site wells and on-site monitoring wells.

Public Comment / Privilege of the Floor

David Frank, Muddy Run Road, talked about the amount of water used at MEL a long time ago and feels that a lot might have changed over time. Representatives noted they feel that this will change overtime.

Drew Bonas – Principal, noted the pumping is contained on the site by the map they were reviewing.

There were questions regarding the testing from the ditches and if it was affecting the Delaware River. They determine the effects and levels from the ditches and creeks and compare the wells nearby.

Sandra McNicol asked a question on offsite wells and what is the plan? William Kraft noted that all of these wells will be closed. He feels that there is no need to continue testing these wells. She asked if they will be decommissioned wells. Lois Voronin asked about the uranium.

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer thanked everyone for coming and feels that they covered a lot of information. Drew Bonas, noted that they would be happy to come anytime to explain any other questions or concerns the Environmental Commission may have.

Adjournment

It was moved by Sandra McNicol, seconded by Gail Ashley and carried to adjourn the meeting at 9:48P.M. **All** voted **Aye** on **Roll Call Vote**.

The Audio CD of this meeting of December 4th, 2017 is available at the Township to purchase.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia L. Keller,
Secretary, Environmental Commission