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June 2003

# Lincoln Park Citizens' Update



Colorado Department  
of Public Health  
and Environment



## Public Meeting Scheduled for Thursday, June 26

**Who:** Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and U. S. Environmental Protection Agency

**What:**

1. To update citizens on Remedial Activities
2. To discuss status of sampling for plutonium, uranium, lead and molybdenum
3. Update the status on the Natural Resource Damage Proposal

**Where:** Fremont County Administration Building, Commissioners Chambers  
615 Macon Avenue, Cañon City

**When:** **Thursday June 26, 2003 6:30-8:30 p.m.**

## Remedial Activities

As part of a Federal Court Ordered Consent Decree signed in April 1988, Cotter Corporation was required to implement a Remedial Action Plan. This Remedial Action Plan was to be overseen by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. Many of these activities have been completed.

The past year has been a period of monitoring with very little field activity. Phil Stoffey, the on-site coordinator for the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, will discuss the status of the Remedial Action Plan at the public meeting.

Representatives from the U. S. EPA Superfund program will also be in attendance.

**Hope to see you there!**

## Update on Plutonium Sampling

On October 31, 2002, a public meeting was held to introduce a draft soil sampling strategy to the community and get citizen input on sampling locations in the Lincoln Park area for plutonium and other contaminants.

Additional meetings in November and December resulted in the selection of twenty sample locations in the community and on Cotter property. Samples were collected in January 2003 and submitted to the CDPHE Laboratory at that time. Tony Harrison,

manager of inorganic and radiochemistry at the state, explained that there have been some delays in getting the samples analyzed, but the analysis should be completed in June. He hopes to have a report on the results for the community by the end of the month.

State laboratory staff split the samples with EPA and those splits were submitted to the EPA laboratory in Las Vegas, NV. Sample splits also were given to Colorado Citizens Against Toxic Waste.

## State Health Department Grants \$1.2 Million Dollars For Natural Resource Restoration

As part of the 1988 settlement agreement between the State of Colorado and the Cotter Corporation, Cotter paid the state a million dollars for damaging the state's natural resources. These funds were deposited at the time of the settlement in the Natural Resource Damage Recovery Fund (NRDF), an interest-bearing account in the Colorado State Treasury. The state requested project proposals from local governments that could be funded by this money.

Fremont County, Cañon City Area Metro Recreation Park District, the City of Cañon and the Town of Brookside submitted a collaborative proposal. The proposal includes:

- purchase of property for a regional park;
- extension of the Riverwalk;
- and wildlife enhancement, including riverbank restoration.

The proposal included using approximately \$1.15 million dollars of the available \$1.9 million NRDF money and to obtain an additional \$1.3 million from the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Great Outdoors Colorado, and grant money from other agencies.

The Natural Resource Damage Recovery Fund trustees accepted the proposal, after first rejecting the proposed regional park site near Cedar and Pine. The proposers were able to select another area near the Arkansas River between Cañon City and Florence, which was subsequently accepted by the trustees. The trustees are:

- Doug Benevento, Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment;
- Ken Salazar, Attorney General of the State of Colorado;
- Ronald W. Cattany, Director of the Division of Minerals and Geology, to whom the executive director of the Colorado Department of Natural Resources has delegated his trustee duties. State Trustees are in the process of finalizing the contract for the approved funding.

Local governmental agencies are in the process of negotiating for or completing contracts involving property acquisitions that involve the extension of the Arkansas Riverwalk Trail System, open space area and the possible future site of a regional sports park/county fairground.

The local agencies have applied for and have been awarded additional grant funding for these projects amounting to \$888,000. These additional grant funds come from Great Outdoors Colorado, Colorado State Parks/State Trails and the Fremont Community Foundation. An application to Colorado Department of Transportation for a \$329,000 alternative transportation grant has also been made. These additional grant funds will help maximize the local community benefit of the Cotter Natural Resource Damage funds.

The planning and design work has already started on Phase I of the trail extension projects and for the improvements to Sell Avenue. These projects are expected to go to bid soon, with construction soon to follow.

Phase II, to use the remaining NRDF money, will not begin until work has been substantially completed on Phase I. A representative from the successful bidders will be at the meeting on June 26 to answer questions.

### **Radiation Management Unit Moves**

The Radiation Management Unit joined the Hazardous Materials and Waste Management Division on the main campus of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment in May 2003. New phone numbers can be obtained by calling the staff person's old number, or the receptionist at 303-692-3300, or **toll free** at 1 (888) 569-1831. Please see the last page of this newsletter for the new Radiation mailing address.



## **FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:**

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