



Lincoln Park Citizens' Update

Vol. 14, No.1
October 2004



Colorado Department
of Public Health
and Environment



PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE

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

Invite you to attend a meeting on the Remedial Action Plan (RAP)
for the Superfund Cleanup of the Cotter Uranium Mill Site

When: Thursday, November 4, 2004

**Where: Cañon City Council Chambers
128 Main Street**

Time: 6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

This meeting will address RAP issues only. Subjects to be discussed are described briefly in this newsletter. For more information, call:

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
Phil Stoffey, Project Manager 1-888-569-1831, x3452
Marion Galant 1-888-569-1831, x3304

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Rebecca Thomas, Project Manager (303) 312-6552
Ted Linnert (303) 312-6119

Feasibility Study for Cleanup of the Old Tailing Ponds Area

Following EPA Superfund guidance, Cotter Corporation has prepared a feasibility study for the Old Tailings Ponds area. Paul Rosasco of Engineering Management Support, Inc., will make a presentation on the six alternatives for cleanup up of the contamination in the Old Ponds area.

The Remedial Action Plan (RAP), signed in 1989, required Cotter to perform pilot testing to evaluate the feasibility of flushing contamination from the soils that were under the Old Tailings Ponds. Cotter had previously tried three pilot tests to address the issue, which included injection trenches and recovery wells, injection

wells and recovery trenches and 10-acre in-place flushing and fixation ponds. These methods did not demonstrate the ability to do an acceptable job. Rosasco's report is available in the Cañon City Public Library, and at the EPA and CDPHE records centers in Denver.

Those agencies would like public input on this Feasibility Study. Comments should be sent to Phil Stoffey by December 3, 2004 at the return address for this mailing, or email at philip.stoffey@state.co.us. The chosen alternative will be incorporated into a revised RAP.

ATSDR Review of Lead Study Information

At one of the “All Topics Considered” meetings hosted by the State and EPA last winter, EPA Cotter Mill Superfund Site Project Manager Rebecca Thomas offered to contact the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), a branch of the U.S. Public Health Service, to evaluate the Lead Data Compilation Report EPA had commissioned (March 2004).

The Compilation Report accumulated all available data from various lead studies previously conducted in Cañon City, such as the cleanup of the College of the Canyons, to

determine what information was available. As the preamble of the report states, “Following a 2003 lead sampling event, the Cañon City community was concerned that lead contamination might be a more wide-spread issue than previously believed.”

Urged by the concern of citizens about whether various health problems might be linked to lead dispersed in the environment, EPA and the state concluded that consolidation, evaluation and summarization of what is already known about lead levels in the Cañon City area from previous investigations needed to be done before considering further action. Evaluating this information, conceivably by ATSDR, would be appropriate to answer some of the public health questions posed by Lincoln Park residents. The Compilation Report accomplished this task.

The Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA 1986) mandated a Public Health Assessment for every subsequent

Superfund site. That requirement was not retroactive.

ATSDR continues to work on the three issues where EPA, the state and the community have requested assistance:

- 1) Lead—Clem Welsh, ATSDR Atlanta, was in Lincoln Park in late July to interview local citizens and gather information about lead in the community. ATSDR has also requested blood lead data for Fremont County from CDPHE for the period 1996-2003. ATSDR expects to release a report describing the findings of those activities early this winter, according to Welsh. At this preliminary state of the investigations, the available evidence has raised questions related to lead in dust in area homes. In response, ATSDR is discussing, with EPA and CDPHE, what next steps are appropriate to answer the questions about house dust contaminants.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PLAN FOR LINCOLN PARK SUPERFUND SITE

A revision of the 1998 Community Involvement Plan will be available by the first week in December, according to Marion Galant of the state health department, the lead agency for this document. The report, based on citizen interviews conducted last winter, revisits issues related to communications, primarily where citizens prefer to meet, and how they prefer to get their information on the site.

The interviews also point out where citizens believe the regulatory agencies could enhance their communication efforts with the community.

Copies of the report will be available to all those who volunteered to be interviewed, and in the Cañon City Public Library, the EPA Records Center, and at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, or by calling Marion Galant at 1-888-569-1831, ext. 3304.

2) Air Monitoring—EPA and the state have provided ATSDR with relevant air monitoring plans, recent quality assurance audits and monitoring results. ATSDR is evaluating this information to determine if they have any recommendations for improvements to the air-monitoring program.

3) Health Assessment—ATSDR is well aware of the community’s interest in performing some type of health assessment for Lincoln Park. Alternatives for proceeding with a focused assessment are under evaluation in ATSDR’s Atlanta office.

CITIZENS ADVISORY GROUP DESIREABLE, ACCORDING TO INTERVIEWS

Although the Community Involvement Plan Update is still being written, there was a lot of interest among the interviewees in establishing a Citizen’s Advisory Group, or CAG, for the Lincoln Park site. EPA and the state are prepared to move forward with this idea.

Descriptive information and applications to participate will be available at the public meeting, or you may request an application by email from:

Ted Linnert at Linnert.Ted@epa.gov or
Marion Galant at marion.galant@state.co.us

EPA and the state would select perhaps five members, and those five would select the other members. We hope to move forward by the first of the year.

Natural Resource Damage Funding: Phase II

You may recall that last year the Natural Resource Damage Trustees awarded \$1.2 million to restore or replace natural resources damaged by the Cotter Uranium Mill. It paid for land improvement for the extension of the local river walk, stream improvements and land purchase to protect wildlife, portions of which will be developed into a regional park and a bird sanctuary. This work is nearing completion, and it is time to allocate the remaining funds.

Next year the trustees, designated by statute as: The Colorado Attorney General, the Director of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, the Director of the Department of Natural Resources, or their designees, will award an additional \$1.1 to one or more worthwhile projects suggested by a working group of local interested residents. Making up the working group for Phase I were representatives from

Fremont County, Cañon City, Brookside, Cañon City Area Metropolitan Recreation and Park District, Ron Cattany from the Department of Natural Resources, Jane Feldman from the Office of the Attorney General and Phil Stoffey from CDPHE. Representatives from these organizations will be asked to participate again in Phase II. Additional representation from Florence and Lincoln Park will be asked to join the group. They will review the submitted projects and make recommendations to the state Natural Resource Trustees.

In January a meeting will be held to define the award criteria and rules for the process. Those interested in participating in this process, which will involve one meeting a month for about 6 months, should contact Project Manager Phil Stoffey by calling toll-free at 1-888-569-1831 ext. 3452, or email at philip.stoffey@state.co.us.

STATE, COTTER CORPORATION TO CLEAN UP RAP

The State of Colorado has begun meeting with Cotter Corporation to update the Remedial Action Plan, the document that defines and guides the cleanup of the Cotter (Lincoln Park) Superfund site.

"We have never deleted the completed work from the RAP," explained Phil Stoffey, state project manager, "and it's time we did." Phil continues to meet with Steve Landau, Cotter's Environmental Manager, to explain modifications to the RAP over the years, clarifying which projects have been successfully completed. "Sometime in 2005," Stoffey added, we will formally seek public input on the RAP modifications. In the meantime, we are continuing to work on the remaining projects.

User-Friendly Computer-Accessible Information on Cotter

CDPHE staff recently placed all the available ground water and surface water data for the Cotter site on its web page, part of a Division-wide effort to make testing results directly available to citizens via the Internet.

At the November 4 RAP meeting, Andrew Putnam of the Hazardous Materials and Waste Management Division's Information Management Unit will demonstrate the accessibility of Cotter ground water and surface-water test sampling data on the internet. With a high demand from the community for information, the division has posted site data from 1961 forward. The data can be reproduced visually in a variety of chart formats (bar graphs,

line graphs, etc.) and is tied into an interactive mapping application. Junior high and high school students might be interested in this demonstration for future research or projects.

Andy's PowerPoint presentation will be first on the agenda after introductions at 6:30 p.m., and the meeting will be broadcast live and may be replayed later on Channel 19, according to Cañon City's City Manager Steve Rabe. You can find the data online at:

<http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/hm/cotter/CMmaps.asp>

Also available online is data for Rocky Flats, Rocky Mountain Arsenal, Left Hand Canyon, and the former Arapco landfill, while other sites are being developed and will be added.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
Hazardous Materials and Waste Management Division
Radiation Management Unit
4300 Cherry Creek South
Denver, Colorado 80246-1530
http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/lr/rs/li_hom.asp

Phil Stoffey, On-site Coordinator
(303) 692-3452
Toll Free: 1-888-569-1831, Extension 3452
E-mail: phil.stoffey@state.co.us

Marion Galant, Community Involvement Manager
(303) 692-3304
Toll Free: 1-888-569-1831, Extension 3304
E-mail: marion.galant@state.co.us

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
999 18th Street Suite 500
Denver, Colorado 80202
1-800-227-8917 (toll free)

Rebecca Thomas, Remedial Project Manager
(303) 312-6552
Toll Free: 1-800-227-8917, Extension 6552
E-mail: thomas.rebecca@epamail.epa.gov

Ted Linnert
Community Involvement Coordinator
(303) 312-6119
Toll Free: 1-800-227-8917, Extension 6119
E-mail: linnert.ted@epa.gov