

**U of L Center for Predictive Medicine
Emergency Preparedness Advisory Committee
Room 139A Founders Union Bldg., Shelby Campus
Dec. 5, 2006**

Attendance

The meeting came to order at 6:15 p.m. Cheri Hildreth, director of U of L's Department of Environmental Health and Safety, welcomed the following attendees:

Ed Wessel, Bellemeade neighborhood
Jay Comstock, Bellemeade neighborhood
Judi Sikes, Bellemeade neighborhood
Jerry Klopfenstein, Old Dorsey neighborhood
Dennis Sullivan, emergency management U of L
Vikki Stempkowski, emergency management, U of L
Denise Fitzpatrick, communications and marketing, U of L

Handouts

Handouts were distributed, including a meeting agenda, revised timeline for the Center for Predictive Medicine and draft emergency communications plan for the facility.

Minutes

Ms. Hildreth said that within one week she would distribute minutes of the June and December meetings to everyone in the work group either by e-mail or through regular mail.

Revised project timeline

Ms. Fitzpatrick gave an update on the project timeline, noting that the groundbreaking for the lab is now set for April rather than March. Mr. Klopfenstein suggested that the university have a public groundbreaking ceremony and invite as many neighbors as possible. Ms. Fitzpatrick said she would raise this point with university officials.

Environmental assessment

Ms. Hildreth explained that the National Institutes of Health is directing the environmental assessment process for the lab. U of L has submitted an assessment to the agency and is awaiting a response.

Besides doing a basic assessment, U of L also conducted four extra assessments related to cultural artifacts, running buffalo clover, bat habitats and wetlands. None of the assessments has identified any environmental problems as a result of building the lab.

Ms. Hildreth added that U of L expects to receive a letter from NIH in the next month or two stating that the environmental assessment shows Findings of No Significant Impact (FONSI). Once this letter arrives, she added, U of L will make it public, along with a copy of the environmental assessment.

Ms. Hildreth and Mr. Sullivan gave a brief overview of the threat-risk assessment for the facility, explaining that they could not give too much detail or they might compromise security for the facility. They also reported that the design phase of the lab is 100 percent completed and is being submitted to NIH for review.

Mr. Sullivan reported that Middletown Fire Prevention District has approved the site plan for the lab (and he displayed the plan at the end of the meeting).

Commissioning agent

Ms. Fitzpatrick reported that U of L has hired a commissioning agent, International Commissioning Engineers of Atlanta, to test and certify all of the systems in the lab. She said this step will add another layer of protection to assure that the facility is secure and safe.

LEED certification

Ms. Hildreth said that the university is pursuing a “silver” certification for the lab from the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) program. The program is administered by the U.S. Green Buildings Council in Washington. U of L’s lab is one of the first regional biosafety labs in the country to pursue this rating for environmentally friendly buildings.

Emergency communications

Mr. Sullivan went over a draft emergency communications strategy with everyone at the meeting. He explained that Metro Emergency Management Agency already has agreed with its provisions. He added that once the strategy becomes final, it will be condensed to a one-paged quick reference and the university will provide copies to all surrounding neighborhoods.

Mr. Comstock asked about the possibility of handling emergency notification with special telephone “ring tones” (e.g. one tone for evacuation, one tone for shelter-in-place) instead of through telephone messages. Ms. Sullivan and Ms. Hildreth offered to look into this idea, but said they weren’t sure if it would be possible because of limitations with the Dialogic emergency notification system.

Ms. Fitzpatrick mentioned a new interactive feature on the Center for Predictive Medicine website. People who want to keep up with news about the biosafety lab can now subscribe to an RSS feed on the page that will automatically e-mail them every time the page is updated.

Public forums

The group discussed how the university could notify more people about its public forums. Mr. Wessel said most people need more than two weeks’ notice.

Ms. Fitzpatrick said U of L will try in the future to give three weeks’ notice of its forums. Ms. Hildreth and Mr. Sullivan said they would explore the possibility of using Dialogic to notify people about forums, but mentioned that there would probably be an associated cost or that it might even be impossible because the service is intended for use only in emergencies.

Mr. Comstock asked if U of L could get the Courier-Journal to announce the public forums in the Neighborhoods section of the newspaper.

Mr. Wessel suggested that U of L put a large marquee sign on Shelbyville Road announcing the public forum on Dec. 12. He also suggested that a U of L marketing class might be able to come up with a plan for better forum notification as a class project.

The group discussed the question of sending out postcards to people in surrounding neighborhoods about upcoming forums. Ms. Fitzpatrick said she had checked into it and had learned that it would be cost-prohibitive, but agreed to revisit the issue.

Future meetings and membership

The group agreed to being having quarterly meetings. The next meeting will take place in March before U of L breaks ground on the lab.

Ms. Fitzpatrick asked whether it might be useful to try to expand the group to include representatives of all surrounding neighborhoods. Attendees eenthusiastically endorsed this idea.

Ms. Sikes recommended that Ms. Fitzpatrick call Ellen Reitmeyer to see if she could provide neighborhood contacts.

The meeting adjourned at 8 p.m.