

**MINUTES  
KPPC/EJP2  
WEST COUNTY COMMUNITY TASKFORCE  
MEETING**

**Tuesday, July 18, 2000**

The KPPC/EJP2 West County Community Taskforce Meeting was held at 6:00 p.m. at the Louisville Urban League, 1535 West Broadway, Louisville, Kentucky.

**ATTENDEES/MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Mr. Jonathan Miller, DuPont Dow  
Mr. Bobby Hickey, Portland  
Mr. Sharon Worley, MSD  
Ms. Daphne Wilson, APCD  
Ms. Peggy J. Bolton, Shawnee  
Mr. Bill Wetter, Jefferson County Health & Environment  
Mr. Neil Webster, Webster Environmental Associates  
Mr. Norman Robinson, MSD  
Mr. Isaac Shoulders, Parkland  
Ms. Melissa Dickson, Park DuValle  
Mr. John Hartman, Sierra Club  
Mr. Gary Swanson, CH2M Hill  
Mr. Don Szymansky, MSD/MFWTP  
Ms. LaLetta Jenkins, Shawnee  
Ms. Laura Hackett, Russell  
Ms. Arnita Gadson, KPPC, WCCTF  
Ms. Penny Williams, KPPC

Arnita Gadson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Any corrections to previous Taskforce meeting minutes should be e-mailed to Penny at [plwill01@gwise.louisville.edu](mailto:plwill01@gwise.louisville.edu).

It is time to do another survey. In the twelve neighborhoods there are approximately 53,000 residents. More people 70,000 population, but 53,000 residents in this area. It was suggested that after completing the text of the survey we send it out to the 53,000 residents. A 10-15% return on the survey is a good sampling. The basic expense will be the postage. As a group we can tabulate the results. We will probably need two or three meetings. The date and times will be set and forwarded to those who volunteered (Peggy, Bill, Daphne, Bobby, Norm and Isaac). We're almost at the end of our grant and in my report I would like to put in that we're in the process of doing the survey.

*Question from Taskforce :* "On the mailing since it so expensive is it possible for us to get bulk rate?"

*Answer:* "Yes, we can definitely get bulk rate. We need to look at doing it sometime within the next quarter."

### **EPA Sites**

Two sites are now totally controlled by EPA. They are the background and control sites located at the Shelby Campus and Otter Creek. The reason being they are testing for volatiles as well as semi-volatiles and they would release this information once QAPP'd.

The Task Force was concerned that the sites were eliminated prior to any communication or input from the task force and has requested a written explanation for the change.

### **June 30 Article**

The June 30<sup>th</sup> article in the Courier-Journal reported EPA as saying; "The University was doing a disservice to the community". There was some controversy around that article. The Courier-Journal reporter didn't thoroughly explain the meaning of the statement. The EPA meant that because the QAP (Quality Assurance Plan) had not been put into effect the information that they were given had not been validated. The "rest of the story" would have not been as lethal. The QAP is still in the process of being completed and signed. It has been revised numerous times. It is a very lengthy document. The final document will be posted on the web page and a copy of the hard copy will be located in the information center.

*Question from Taskforce :* " Who is going to sign off on this?"

*Answer:* "Representatives from APCD, the state, University of Louisville, WCCTF and EPA. The names didn't print out legibly on the copy we have here."

The industry has always wanted a disclaimer on the web page. I was against it at the time because I thought that we would not have to put it up until the QAPP was validated under the QAP. We were not aware that Russ was going to give raw data to the Courier-Journal, so of course what you saw there was some of the information and a lot of it was what Jim Burgess had put together. Representatives from Uof L and EPA were disappointed this information was given without their knowledge. .

### **Web Page**

Information was distributed from the Web page. You'll notice that some of the information on the concentrations is not the same on this page as it is on the web page. That was the reason why it was causing so much trouble. What we would like to put on the web page is that this is preliminary data that has not been validated, and some of the problems in having clean samples, contamination, etc. We want to walk people through the process with us so people are aware of the complexity of this project.

Web Page Address: [www.kppc.org](http://www.kppc.org), select “EJP2”, and then select “Air Quality”, and then “Air Quality Data”. It is very user friendly.”

**Shawnee Golf Club Community Forum** sponsored by Rep. Bather and Alderwoman Bryant-Hamilton

The climate of the meeting was emotional regarding the issues addressed. Art Williams was told that Rubbertown should be located in the Crescent Hill area. Once the WCCTF presentation was completed, questions centered on better environment in the schools, concerns for data gathering. We will be sponsoring a community workshop hopefully sometime in October on permitting, environmental justice, green buildings, etc.

Paris Anderson broadcast the forum. Paris who is a member of the task force has a nightly community forum Monday through Friday from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. on 1350 AM station. As a result of the forum I was asked along with Dr. Tuckson to make a presentation on the show.

Alderman Sherry Bryant Hamilton approached me and stated she was very excited about the workshop we were talking about doing, and wanted to try to get the city to help us with the funding of the workshop. I left a sign up sheet with Myra Friend Ellis and asked her to get a list of people who wanted to attend the workshop. Out of all the people who were present at the forum no one signed up. I asked her if they still wanted us to conduct the workshop and she said, yes.

*Question from Taskforce :* " What are green buildings?"

*Answer:* “Environmentally efficient buildings,” “High performance buildings”

### **Data Assessment**

Because of the Chattanooga experience, EPA is being very critical on the data collection and process of interpretation. There was some controversy surrounding that project with proper validation of information.

*Question from Taskforce :* "Do you assess the data once it is collected? How is it assessed? Who assesses it?"

*Answer:* “When the canisters are collected everything is sent through what is called a “Round Robin”. The university conducts its tests, then the canisters are sent to the state and Athens Georgia. It goes around like that for a consensus as to what is there.”

*Question from Taskforce :* " So there is some interpretation of the results that you presented?"

*Answer:* “Yes, the interpretation comes later on, but we have to have a complete year of testing. Once the year is completed it will then be averaged.”

*Question from Taskforce :* " Aren't they supposed to provide us with the data?"

*Answer:* "Yes, they are supposed to provide us the data. Since they took over the other sites mentioned, it makes them responsible for that data. I will relay your concerns to Leslie".

*Question from Taskforce :* "I thought there was going to be a health assessment and a risk assessment done afterwards."

*Answer:* "Yes, there will be one completed.

### **MSD Presentation -**

Neal Webster of Webster Environmental Associates presented the following update on the Morris Foreman Survey. This is a presentation on MSD's overall odor control program and some of the people that are involved are Don Zymanski, Aaron Swanson and Sharon Worley. The community odor survey began when there were some odors in the community that were possibly linked to the biotower at the MorrisForeman Treatment Plant. The decision was made that the scrubbers would be installed on these biotowers and that we would add domes to treat the air from the scrubbers to make sure that there were no odors from these biotowers.

The purpose of the community odor survey is to establish a baseline. What are the odors in the community before the biotower scrubbers were placed in service and then a comparison reading after those scrubbers were on line. Where we are today is that the biotowers have been running since March 1<sup>st</sup> with the scrubbers on so we have completed essentially our baseline survey and are well into the survey after the biotower scrubbers are started up. There are eleven months of a background survey so we really wanted to demonstrate that this odor control technology that MSD installed was effective. We also wanted to use this as a way to reach out into the community and discuss some of the things that MSD is doing in regards to odor control.

What we did was set up eleven monitoring stations around the treatment plant to cover all of the wind direction. We then go there on a weekly basis and conduct monitoring measuring hydrogen sulfide (an odorous compound that is characteristically found in water treatment plants) and we're able to monitor that down to levels as low as 2ppb.

*Question from Taskforce :* "What are some of these sites you named around the plant. How far are they out there? Are they within close proximity?"

*Answer:* "They are in fairly close proximity within a mile away from the treatment plant. Some of them are within e a half a mile or so...for example, Chickasaw Park north of the MF plant. They are also to the west and the south of the plant; they are not of course on the Ohio River.

*Question from Taskforce :* "What risk assessments have you come up with?"

*Answer:* “We’re not doing a risk assessment. We’re just monitoring and identifying odors. What intensity is there, getting a description of the odor and a wind direction so that we can try to verify what the source of the odor is, but we haven’t really done any risk assessments. We’re not doing any analytical testing I think that this taskforce is doing that kind of monitoring right now and I thought that was the purpose to identify the particular compounds. We are not really identifying the particular compounds. We are saying what is the intensity of the odor, what does it smell like and again the purpose is to make sure that as the odor control systems go in place at MF that there is less and less odors within the community.

We have been monitoring hydrogen sulfide and the levels have been very low within the community and certainly at very safe levels, but we try to identify the source of the odor and determine what the odor character is. For the intensity of the odor, we use a standard industry method of measurement for strength of the odor and we use this referencing scale so at every location that we monitor, and as we locate the source, we identify it as faint or very faint or noticeable or strong or extremely annoying (Level 5). We made weekly observations starting in April 1999 and ran eleven months before the biotower ran, now we’ve been monitoring through this date, and will continue through the rest of the year in terms of monitoring after the biotower scrubber has gone online.

That’s where we are...we make presentations to the community... here tonight to present to the WJCCTF...we have made presentations to the Park Duvall Neighborhood groups ...and also there is MSD's webpage where all of the actual monitoring data, and there are tons of it by now, is recorded on the MSD webpage. That’s available for anybody who is seeking that information.

Where we are now...the first 48 weeks of April 1<sup>st</sup> before the biotower scrubber went on line (we call that the background) we sampled 41 weeks did some additional sampling when there were some particular odor problems. So, we actually had 51 separate dates. Most of the time when we were in the community, we smell something other than Morris Foreman Treatment Plant. When we have detected the Morris Foreman Treatment Plant it has been related to the zimpro odor.

*Question from Taskforce :* “What is zimpro?”

*Answer:* “Zimpro odor is a process that is used at the Morris Foreman Treatment Plant in their solids handling process and it creates, as they dewater the sludge an odor. Most of it is treated with onsite treatment systems but some of it escapes. It has always been a source of problem so MSD is in the process of shutting that process down and replacing it with something else that will have additional odor control.

We have detected industry odors primarily along Bells Lane. We’re not out to look at any particular industry but most of the time the zimpro odor is either faint or very faint and only occasionally is it noticeable to annoying and that’s only the closer you get to the treatment plant. In the community about a mile away, if I detect it, its usually faint a Level 2 as opposed to a

Level 3, which is very noticeable. Of that this is the total times we detected the zimpro odor 19 of which was noticeable and annoying, 19 times which is Level 3 and 32 times it was faint or a little annoying which is a Level 1 or 2. Most of the time that its noticeable and annoying, it is the closest point of Bells Lane if the wind is coming directly from the Morris Foreman Treatment Plant.

The Chickasaw Park area is also very close and if the wind direction is correct we can usually detect it there, and it would be primarily a Level 2, faint. Zimpro has a distinct characteristic that we can point out. This is just some data of the number of times that we detected it. A lot of times the wind direction was away from the Morris Foreman Treatment Plant we would detect the zimpro odor and it especially happens at certain locations.

*Question from Taskforce :* “Is there someway to have a public address warning come across the screen to alert the public when these odors are present?”

*Answer:* “The sewer system is so immense, and so interconnected throughout the downtown area. It’s only the city that has that problem because it’s called ‘a combined sewer’. It’s an older type of sewer where all of the sewage goes into a pipe and the surface water, rain and everything else goes into the curb gutter and goes into that same sewer system. It’s more open so there’s more chance for gases and odor to come out of the sewer. When there is not enough water to keep that flushed and keeps the system moving plus all that’s left in the sewers, you start getting the odors. When there’s a drought you start getting all of the solids clumping in the bottom, it gets septic and then it starts smelling. If there is ever anything unusual, we have to contact Sherry Bryant Hamilton, the Justice Resource Center and APCD.