

**MINUTES**  
**EJP2**  
**WEST COUNTY COMMUNITY TASKFORCE**  
**MEETING**  
**Tuesday, August 22, 2000**  
**6:00 p.m.**  
**NIA Center**  
**2900 West Broadway, Louisville, Kentucky**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Conference Room**

**ATTENDEES/MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Arnita Gadson, WCCTF/KPPC  
Karen Cairns, U of L  
Melissa Dickson, Parkland/Park DuValle  
Bill Wetter, Health Dept  
Tom Herman, Zeon  
Elizabeth Elliott, WCCTF  
Jodie Coxe, Chickasaw  
Evelyn Glass, Chickasaw  
Melinda Roe, Health Dept.  
Pat Germany, California/City of Louisville  
Daphne Wilson, APCD  
Bobby Hickey, Portland  
Bob Sofey, ATSDR  
Jonathan Miller, DuPont Dow Elastomers  
Isaac Shoulders, Russell  
Laura Hackett, Russell  
John Trout, APCD  
Kevin Spangler, Oxy Vinyls  
Mary Wheatley, Rohm and Haas  
Carri Hemminger, Sierra Club  
Joan Landop, Sierra Club

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

Arnita reported there was a misunderstanding for the request of the \$300,000 state appropriation for the next two years. The state thought Senator Neal's request was for a "no cost" continuation of the present funding. There has been \$150,000 located for the present year and we will be looking for the next \$150,000 for the 2001-2002 year.

Arnita will be making a presentation to the Board of Alderman August 24, at 1:00 p.m. recapping the activities, and presenting an update, of the air monitoring progress.

A correction to the previous minutes regarding Dr. Tuckson's presentation is as follows: Dr. Tuckson's statement regarding health risk from the environment was, if the body was already in a weakened state, the environment can exacerbate an illness that already exists.

**PRESENTATION** – Bob Sofey (ATSDR), Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry

- The agency looks at the health of communities near superfund sites or if communities petition to be assessed.
- ATSDR have been involved for seven years, more or less, in the rubbertown concerns.
- ATSDR is a non-regulatory organization that makes recommendations based on scientific data and research.

Bob presented the following suggestions for the community regarding the study:

- a) Define questions
- b) Know which questions to ask
- c) Examine new data to see if there is something in the environment that could pose a problem
- d) See if health problems exists and what they are
- e) Develop the ability to link chemicals and health problems

ATSDR 's main goal is to assist the community in reducing exposure through education and prevention.

Bob asked, "What does the community want"? Answer: "Clean air, no bad odors" He stated that the community needs to work with industries. Along with air sampling, soil samples and drinking water where people plan and work should be included in the study. These determine exposure paths and level of exposure. Air monitoring is the most difficult to measure because it is time consuming and exposure must be measured over a considerable amount of time. Rubbertown has been in existence for 60 years and it can't be cleaned up overnight.

The task force members verbalized how upset the community was about the odor; "it's abusive". "It is difficult for the community to understand why officials with knowledge and power say they can't do anything because they are not sure of the source".

Bob stated that odor is not regulated. It is difficult to find the source. The description can be very subjective because of different individual sensitivity levels to odors. Environmental Health is a relatively new area – only since the 70's. Jonathan clarified that air monitors aren't monitoring for odor.

Daphne asked if soil and water as well as air are needed for a health assessment. Bob said that they would recommend this for Louisville as well as the importance of

education opportunities for the community. Also, a health assessment is very broad but a health consultation can focus on one part. Bob left a learning manual and guidelines for collecting and evaluating data, for reference. It is available in the information center.

Pat voiced her frustration with the odors in her area (California). The residue on the houses and cars cannot be removed. She was concerned that APCD has not been of any help in this area. Arnita will contact United Catalyst, located in the California neighborhood, to request their presence at the next Task Force meeting for the community to voice concerns. She also stressed the importance for community members to be as thorough and accurate as possible in reporting odors, and to call the information center to get information from the web if they have difficulty finding it on their own.

Other community members voiced frustrations regarding amount of time it may take to get data. Bob spoke of the time, money, and people constraints for his agency and others, (EPA), but stressed how hard they are trying to work with the community in whatever area is needed.

John Trout explained why they often need to wait to have a year of data to compare with benchmarks and get annual averages. Bob clarified that air monitoring is the first step to finding out what is in the air.

Arnita stressed that often we assume “authorities” and/or industry representatives should have all of the facts and answers to every concern, however they are still researching also. The industry employees are vulnerable to the same problems as the community because they work there everyday, so whatever action is taken to lessen emissions, lessens their exposure as well.

Bobby expressed concerns with the Engelhardt Company located in the Portland neighborhood. Arrangements have been made to meet with the company representative on Friday, September 8, at 1:00 p.m.

### **Announcements:**

**The Rubbertown Council (RCAC)** is sponsoring a “Good Neighbor Night” from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Cane Run Elementary. Tables can be set up at 4:00 p.m. WCCTF is invited to participate.

**The Sierra Club** is sponsoring a fundraiser for the Kentucky Resource Center, Tom Fitzgerald. Each environmental group is asked to give at least \$50.00. Tickets will be sold for the event in October. They are also sponsoring a “Voter Education” campaign. Anyone interested in working with either or both of these causes please contact the WCCTF office.

**Special thanks** to Karen Cairns for taking the minutes and Isaac Shoulders for the help in providing the refreshments.