

WEST JEFFERSON COUNTY COMMUNITY TASK FORCE
MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday November 20,2001

The Nia Center
2900 West Broadway
Third Floor Conference Room

ATTENDEES/MEMBERS

Bill Wetter, Jeff. Co. Health Dept
Isaac Shoulders, Russell
Tom Herman, Zeon Chemicals
Terry Tempel, DuPont
Barbara Crow, Louisville Water Company
Linda Weathers, Commissioner Owens
LeLetta Jenkins, Shawnee
Laura Hackett, Russell
Matt Batcheldor, Courier-Jourier
Norman Robinson, WJCCTF
Bobby Hickey, WJCCTF
Jonathan Miller, DuPont Dow Elastomers
Art Williams, APCD
Pennie DuBarry, U of L Student
Linda Thomas, Hallmark
Peggy J. Bolton, WJCCTF
Dan Hicks, Rohm and Haas
Wade Helm, KCC

How are we protected against Bioterrorism and Industry Catastrophe

Below is the article from the September 21st Courier-Journal article written by Matt Batcheldor, regarding the meeting. It will be quoted as part of the minutes.

In a scene that would have been surreal before September 11, some western Louisville residents heard government, industry and utility representatives tell them last night how they're working to avert terrorism in the city:

Louisville Water Co. has stationed armed guards at its gates, spokeswoman Barbara Crow said.

The Jefferson County Health Department has analyzed 230 samples at last count for anthrax – all negative, said department official Bill Wetter.

The DuPont chemical plant in Rubbertown has notified the FBI after suspicious people asked guards questions about what is made there, said, Terry Tempel, manager of occupational safety, health and security.

These were among the issues presented at a meeting of the West Jefferson County Community Task Force, a citizens' group that has led a program of monitoring toxic chemicals in the area.

If anything positive has come of Sept. 11, it is that the city is becoming more prepared to deal with bioterrorism, said Wetter, director of the Health Departments' Division of Environmental Health and Protection.

The meeting was an opportunity to calm fears about a possible attack on the water supply, Crow said.

Poisoning the water would be difficult because of the sheer volume of the Ohio River, the company's water source, she said. The utility draws 127 million gallons a day from the river, and it has redundant purification processes – meaning if one process doesn't catch a contaminant, another will, she said.

It would take several truckloads of any biological or chemical (debris) to endanger the water, Crow said. "There is nothing that you eat or drink that is monitored more than our water", she said.

Tempel said security has been tightened at DuPont's Rubbertown plant. All trucks going into the plant are checked, employees must carry identification, and visitors must be escorted, he said. When small planes are spotted about the plant, managers make sure the planes are in their proper airspace, Tempel said.

And the plant's risk-management plans, which outline worst-case scenarios for chemical disasters, have been reassessed – and access to them limited by order of the Environmental Protection Agency. Though some civil libertarians have objected to the limited access, Tempel said, the plan could be a blueprint for terrorist. "If this was a perfect world, those people would probably be right", he said. "This is not a perfect world".

Peggy J. Bolton, who heads the group's board of directors, said the meeting was productive. "There's a lot of questions to be answered, and a lot of people might not have the answers, especially after what things have happened"

Monitoring Update – Russ Barnett

Not Presented

Risk Assessment/Risk mgt Update **Aiport Expansion effects – Art Williams**

Due to a time limitation, this will be presented at the December meeting.

No comments from the Board

Inquiries from members of the task force to Mr. Tempel, DuPont representative regarding airport changes:

What, if any, problem does the Rubbertown complex see in the Airport decision to reroute planes over the West end. He did not see it as problem.

The task force members felt this should be an issue of concern for the chemical companies, or at least one to be addressed, since they are also in line with the airport rerouting.

**JEFERSON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT ANTHRAX INFORMATION
LINE
574-8410
Weekdays 8 AM – 7PM**