

Memorandum

To: Buncombe County Board of Commissioners
CC: Wanda Greene, Mandy Stone, Michael Frue, Kathy Hughes
From: Gibbie Harris, Health Director
Re: April 2011 CTS Report
Date: May 2, 2011

The following provides an update on activity in April regarding the CTS/Mills Gap property in Buncombe County.

Community Update

- Tate McQueen contacted Gibbie Harris to report that there were several samples taken from the water flowing from the spring on the Rice's property in this calendar year that indicated increasing and alarming levels of TCE. No information was provided to indicate who requested or tested the samples. Contact was made with EPA. There has been no new sampling of that spring by EPA. Awaiting specific information from Mr. McQueen.

EPA Activity

- EPA held a community meeting on 4/14/11 at Skyland VFD from 6:30 – 9:30 pm. The purpose of the meeting was to give a brief presentation regarding Technical Assistance Grants and Community Advisory Groups, to provide a status of removal and remedial activities, and to listen to the community's concerns.

Definitions of acronyms:

- ✓ TAG: A Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) provides money for activities that help your community participate in decision making at eligible Superfund sites. An initial grant up to \$50,000 is available to qualified community groups so they can contract with independent technical advisors to interpret and help the community understand technical information about their site.
- ✓ CAG: A Superfund Community Advisory Group (CAG) is made up of members of the community and is designed to serve as the focal point for the exchange of information among the local community and EPA, the State regulatory agency, and other pertinent Federal agencies involved in cleanup of the Superfund site.
- ✓ TASC: TASC is a program that provides independent educational and technical assistance to communities. TASC primarily supports the Superfund program. In addition, support may also be provided to communities impacted by the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act or federal facilities or dealing with air or water environmental problems. This EPA program offers technical assistance to help communities better understand and become involved in the cleanup process for hazardous waste sites.

The TASC Web site provides information about the program's services, ongoing and completed projects, and contact information for communities interested in TASC program services. The Web site also provides a list of resources and answers to frequently asked questions.



- ✓ RPL: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) established the Regional Public Liaison (RPL) program in 2003 to assist citizens and other stakeholders in resolving issues related to its hazardous and solid waste, and emergency response programs.

Meeting issues and points:

- ✓ Barry Durand pointed out that a CAG already exists for CTS. Members of the current CAG do not want to pursue TAG because they want the efforts of the current CAG to remain independent and see federal grant funds as an obstacle to independence.
 - ✓ What is the purpose of studying the SVE system and its performance again?
 - ✓ Next quarterly sampling effort will take place in June.
 - ✓ Has the EPA worked with Buncombe County to supply everyone in the immediate area city water? Remedial Investigation Study may address some water supply issues.
 - ✓ What about moving the bus stop?
 - ✓ EPA reassessment of Rice property springs may be in order.
- VOC and SVOC data reports from the March sampling event were reported. The EPA will be working on preparing letters to the home owners very soon. There were no VOCs or SVOCs that exceeded action levels. There were a few samples with lead detections above MCLs, but they don't believe these are site-related. EPA re-sampled 8 Forest Run on Tuesday based on a comment at the public meeting in April. The next quarterly sampling event is scheduled to begin June 6th.

NC DENR/DPH Activity

- No activity.

NC Division of Public Health

- No activity.

County Support

- At a community meeting held in late 2010 concern was voiced about the potential of exposure for children who attend Christ School and who play in Robinson Creek near the school.
- Jim Bateson and Harry Zinn of NC DENR, Division of Waste Management, accompanied Buncombe County Health Department (BCHD) personnel on February 22, 2011 to observe the collection of surface water samples from Robinson Creek. Sample locations were selected by BCHD, and BCHD personnel recorded geographic coordinates of the sample locations using Global Positioning System (GPS) equipment. Harry Zinn assisted in the collection of the surface water samples to ensure compliance with the US EPA Region 4 Science and Ecosystem Support Division Operating Procedure for Surface Water Sampling (SESDPROC-201-R1, dated November 1, 2007): <http://www.epa.gov/region4/sesd/fbqstp/index.html>.
- These samples were taken from Robinson Creek above and below the Christ School property. All samples were non-detect.

If you require more specific information on any of these activities, please let me know.

Attachments: EPA Community Advisory Group Handout

