

Midlothian Community Meeting
Meeting Notes
February 22, 2010

Introductions –

Robin Scott, Facilitator, Open Circle Consulting

Guidelines –

Index cards were left in each row of chair so that citizens could submit their questions in writing. We wanted to see if this would help the meeting run smoother and allow more people to have the opportunity to ask questions. We ask that you please take all side conversations outside so they will not distract others, and please set cell phones, pagers, etc, on vibrate or turn them off.

Review of the last community meeting held on January 21, 2010 – Jennifer Lyke

Jennifer quickly went over the presentation that was given during the January meeting.

Purpose of tonight's meeting – Jennifer Lyke

We will review ATSDR's plan for addressing the community's questions and concerns as well as provide additional information about our planned activities. The public health response plan is currently in the public comment phase. We will continue to accept public comments on the document until March 19, 2010. Public comments to the plan can be submitted to Jennifer Lyke at ATSDR-6, 1445 Ross Avenue (6SF-T), Dallas, Texas 75202, jlyke@cdc.gov or to Nancy Ingram at epitox@dshs.state.tx.us.

ATSDR's planned activities are to gather community input on the Public Health Response Plan. The plan is considered a living document which means that it can change and evolve as needed. Any comments received on the plan will be addressed in writing. The plan will encourage the agency to remain accountable for the work we do in the Midlothian community. It will also allow the community to know what steps ATSDR will take and where we are in the process.

Environmental Data Evaluation – Michelle Colledge, PhD, MPH

The environmental sub-team is responsible for completing 4 different projects. Project one will look at whether the data we currently have is sufficient to address the concerns of the community. Our determinations will vary based on the pollutant in question, the location of the monitor, and the time period that the data was collected. It will look at which pollutants were selected for monitoring, what the monitoring schedules were, how often samples were collected, how long individual samples were collected, methods and data quality. Project one will use the following emissions data sources: Toxics Release Inventory (TRI), National Emissions Inventory, State of Texas Air Reporting System, stack tests, and continuous emissions monitors. Project one will do a quantitative review of meteorological data collected from the Midlothian OFW site and the Midlothian tower site. These two monitors will be used because they have the longest period of monitoring records. There will also be a qualitative review of data collected by other stations. We will look at all of the data that was evaluated in the previous health consultation as well as additional data. We plan to have this document ready for public comment by Spring 2010.

Projects 2 and 4 will look at actual air contaminants such as VOCs, metals, and criteria pollutants in ambient air. We have received almost all of the data that is available at this time. We will conduct a statistical analysis of all existing data we have available. There will be a correlation analysis of meteorological and ambient air concentrations done. We will use the most current health based comparison values when determining the risk of each pollutant. The process will also include a toxicological analysis, identification of any limitations we discover, and we will provide recommendations (additional sampling, new monitor sites, etc). We are hoping to complete the public comment draft of this document in the Fall of 2010.

Project 3 will look at medias other than air such as ground water, surface water, soil, and food sources. We have collected all of the data that we know is currently available. If there are other sources of data that the community members are aware of please let us know so that we can utilize it as well. A statistical analysis of existing data for medias other than air will be done during this project. Spatial and temporal relationships of the data will be evaluated. We will identify and use the most current health based comparison values during the analysis. The process will also include a toxicological analysis, identification of any limitations we discover, and we will provide recommendations. We plan to have a public comment draft of this document in the Fall of 2010.

Health Outcome Data – Michelle Watters, MD, PhD, MPH

The purpose of the health outcome data analysis is to determine whether or not there is a relationship between acute or chronic health outcomes of interest, and short-term and long-term exposures to emissions from the facilities and ambient air in Midlothian. This project will look at birth defects, cancer risk, asthma, and other health concerns heard from the community. We will be using the available state registries such as the Texas Cancer Registry and the Texas Birth Defect Registry to gather needed health information. We will be looking at health assessment surveys, questionnaires, and anecdotal information gathered from Midlothian citizens. Unfortunately, when looking at health outcomes there are some limitations such as: availability of data, the purpose in which data was collected, and the strength of the registry. Other limitations are mobile populations, lack of a population to compare the findings to, the latency of a particular disease, and statistical power of the available data.

Animal Health Concerns – Jennifer Lyke

ATSDR and DSHS have gathered concerns from community members regarding animal health issues. There have been reports of problems with reproduction such as: infertility or small litter sizes, cystic ovaries, stillbirths and/or failure to thrive, malformations, neural tube defects, and body wall closure defects. There have been reports of numerous cases of cancer (multiple types), and skin abnormalities. The concerns cover a range of species including: cattle, horses, sheep, goats, ostriches, and household pets. ATSDR does not routinely deal with animal issues so we are faced with several challenges or limitations when looking at this issue. There is no incidence and/or prevalence data related to animal health problems. We have no systematic way to collect data for animals. There is limited access to veterinary and animal production records. There is incomplete information on existing diagnoses and laboratory findings for animals because there is no state or national animal health statistics routinely collected that can be used as comparison values. ATSDR staff have met with many experts in the field of veterinary medicine which include: the Texas Animal Health Commission, Texas State Veterinary Diagnostic Lab, Texas A&M college of Veterinary Medicine (specialist include – toxicologist, oncologist, reproductive health, theriogenologist, immunologist, clinical pathologist, epidemiologist, and laboratory services), and local veterinarians. Next steps for this project will include: determining if environmental data is sufficient and can be used to estimate doses for routes of exposure (companion animals and livestock), and a review of veterinary and scientific literature of toxicological information

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on contaminants of concern with respect to animal health. We will consider to developing Provisional Animal Health Guidance Values for specific routes of exposure (air, soil, water, etc). If developed we will utilize the guidance values to determine if adverse health outcomes are expected in the animals. We will incorporate our findings into a public health consultation.

Questions and Answers – *Questions submitted and discussed during this meeting will be published along with the responses to the PHRP.”*

Communication Strategies – Robin Scott

What could have made the meeting run better?

Changes:

- At the next meeting I want real information and not just plans, bring more data
- More effort in advertising (advertise in a larger publication, and at libraries, radio, email, flyer, if we get one we will make copies and pass it along to others).
- Include EPA

What went well:

- the time, date, and location
- evening is good
- meeting was encouraging
- integrity and openness
- good information

Conclusion of meeting