



Re: Fw: Minutes from meeting with ACAT 

Felicia Wright to: Felicia Wright

06/18/2010 12:06 PM

Cc: Andrew Baca, Dianna Young, John Reeder, Marsha Minter, Matt Wilkening, Robert Myers, Suzanne Wells, Sylvia Kawabata

History: This message has been forwarded.



Final Meeting Summary ACAT St. Lawrence Island 061610 & FGW notes 061810 meeting.doc

It helps when I attach the notes.

thanks,
Felicia

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Felicia Wright

FYI-- My draft notes from today's meeting. I add...

06/18/2010 02:59:04 PM

From: Felicia Wright/DC/USEPA/US
To: John Reeder/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, Sylvia Kawabata/R10/USEPA/US@EPA
Cc: Dianna Young/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, Robert Myers/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, Andrew Baca/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, Matt Wilkening/R10/USEPA/US@EPA, Suzanne Wells/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, Marsha Minter/DC/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 06/18/2010 02:59 PM
Subject: Fw: Minutes from meeting with ACAT

FYI--

My draft notes from today's meeting. I added these onto the June 16, 2010 meeting notes for ACAT's meeting with OSRTI and Region 10.
Please feel free to comment/correct.

Thanks,
Felicia

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----- Forwarded by Felicia Wright/DC/USEPA/US on 06/18/2010 02:48 PM -----

From: Robert Myers/DC/USEPA/US



To: Felicia Wright <Wright.Felicia@epamail.epa.gov>
Date: 06/18/2010 01:00 PM
Subject: Fw: Minutes from meeting with ACAT

----- Forwarded by Robert Myers/DC/USEPA/US on 06/18/2010 12:59 PM -----

From: Suzanne Wells/DC/USEPA/US
To: Dianna Young/DC/USEPA/US@EPA
Cc: Matt Wilkening/R10/USEPA/US@EPA, Robert Myers/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, Sylvia Kawabata/R10/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 06/17/2010 12:09 PM
Subject: Re: Minutes from meeting with ACAT

I thought Sylvia had some excellent additions to the minutes. Here is a final version of the minutes, unless anyone else has changes.

[attachment "Final Meeting Summary ACAT St. Lawrence Island 061610.doc" deleted by Felicia Wright/DC/USEPA/US]

Suzanne Wells

Chief

Superfund Community Involvement and Program Initiatives Branch

(703) 603-8863

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Dianna Young	Sylvia's edits look good to me. I made one more...	06/17/2010 11:42:13 AM
Sylvia Kawabata	Hello Suzanne - thanks for sharing your meeting...	06/17/2010 11:29:09 AM
Suzanne Wells	Attached is a DRAFT summary of the meeting w...	06/16/2010 01:51:00 PM

Meeting Summary

June 16, 2010

Meeting with representatives from Alaska Community Action on Toxics (ACAT)

Attendees:

Pamela Miller, Executive Director, ACAT, pkmiller@akaction.org

Vi Waghiyi, Environmental Health and Justice Program Director, ACAT, vi@akaction.org

Ellie Collinson, Director, The Raben Group, ecollinson@rabengroup.com

Kelly Williams, The Raben Group, kwilliams@rabengroup.com

Robert Myers, USEPA, Office of Superfund Remediation and Technology Innovation, myers.robert@epa.gov

Dianna Young, USEPA, Federal Facility Restoration and Reuse Office, young.dianna@epa.gov

Suzanne Wells, USEPA, Office of Superfund Remediation and Technology Innovation, wells.suzanne@epa.gov

Sylvia Kawabata, USEPA, Region 10, kawabata.sylvia@epa.gov

Matt Wilkening, USEPA, Region 10, wilkening.matt@epa.gov

Meeting Discussion:

The Raben Group is a public relations firm that is working on a pro-bono basis with the ACAT. The goal of the meeting was to understand how the various offices at EPA are working together to address concerns being raised about the cleanup of formerly used defense sites on the St. Lawrence Island in Alaska.

Vi Waghiyi reviewed the history of the military installations on St. Lawrence Island. Two bases were established during the Cold War at Gambell and Northeast Cape. When the bases were evacuated, it was reported that barrels on site were punctured to release materials, and anything that had originally been brought onto the site was buried.

According to Vi Waghiyi, natives of the island have experienced higher cancer rates than normally observed in Alaska, and low birth weights. ACAT is participating in a community-based participatory health project.

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ACAT is concerned there has not been proper site characterization done by the Army Corps of Engineers which is currently cleaning up the site, and not proper oversight of the Army Corps' work. The community has identified contaminants such as Mirex, a contaminant that has not been tested for by the Army Corps of Engineers. There is concern by ACAT that the tribes are not party to decision documents prepared by the Army Corps.

A delegation from St. Lawrence Island came to Washington, DC in September 2009. Members of the delegation testified at a hearing Congressman Bobby Rush held on persistent, bio-accumulative, and toxic chemicals. Once back on St. Lawrence Island, Vi Waghiyi felt she was patronized by staff with the Army Corps of Engineers for taking the trip to DC.

There is a Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) for the site. Representatives from ACAT are members of the RAB. There is a technical advisor to the RAB who has commented critically of the investigative work the Army Corps has done at St. Lawrence Island.

In 2002 EPA reviewed the Army Corps existing reports and plans for NE Cape site as well as interviews with the Army Corps and ADEC. The purpose of the review was to determine whether the Corps' work was consistent with EPA requirements. This 2002 review concluded that the Corps' work was proceeding in a manner consistent with EPA's expectation. EPA also concluded that it was not planning to propose the site to the NPL at this time.. Recently, Matt Wilkening was assigned to relook at the cleanup work being performed by the Corps, and additional information that has been gathered since 2002. Pam Miller and Vi Waghiyi recommended that interviews be conducted with residents of St. Lawrence Island to hear first-hand accounts about the contamination as part of the review of the investigative work.

Pam Miller and Vi Waghiyi raised concerns that they have not been able to review the information EPA used in 2002 when making a decision not to place the site on the NPL. Bob Myers explained that the Hazard Ranking System scoring package is considered pre-decisional, and not released, but the underlying sampling data and other information may be made available.

There was some discussion that the Army Corps has recently closed some monitoring wells. It is not clear why these monitoring wells were closed. Suzanne Wells suggested that we learn why the Army Corps has closed the wells, and that the Army Corps be requested not to close monitoring wells while the investigation is ongoing.

It was determined toward the end of the meeting that ACAT had not received Region 10's March 23, 2010 letter responding to ACAT's November 11, 2009 letter. A hard copy of that letter was provided to Pam Miller at this meeting.

Next Steps:

1. Matt Wilkening may attend the next quarterly RAB meeting, and if possible, will arrange to discuss the site with tribal residents.
2. ACAT will provide the comments they have developed on the Corps investigative and cleanup work. They will also provide comments the RAB's technical advisor has prepared.
3. Matt Wilkening will ask the Army Corps for the reasons the monitoring wells have been taken out of service. ACAT will identify the monitoring wells they believe have been taken out of service. EPA headquarters may raise this as an issue to the Army Corps, if it is believed there is usefulness in keeping the monitoring wells.
4. Sylvia Kawabata will identify the data that served as the basis of the HRS score, and provide it to ACAT.
5. Matt Wilkening and Sylvia Kawabata will review and update the schedule for reviewing the Corps ongoing cleanup work.

Summary Notes of June 18, 2010 Meeting with ACAT

Attendees:

ACAT: Viola Waghiyi, Pam Miller, Ellie Collinson (DC-based RABEN group providing pro-bono work: www.rabengroup.com)

EPA: Lisa Garcia (OA), Mike Stahl (OITA) Charles Lee (OEJ), John Reeder (OSWER), Felicia Wright (OSWER), Sylvia Kawabata (R10), Running Grass (R10)

Areas discussed on St. Lawrence IS: Gamble and NE Cape

Issues raised by ACAT:

Military Site:

- Human Health effects biggest concern: increasing cancer rates in the communities by families using resources around the site.
- Believe that the USCOE needs to conduct more adequate site characterization; believe that COE is trying to prematurely close the site.
- Landfills at the site need to be addressed, esp. considering shoreline erosion.
- COE is not properly consulting with the tribes
- RAB—COE doesn't really listen to the "advisory" board.
- Concerned that the drinking water is not safe, despite what the COE says.
- Request that COE provide a new drinking water well upgradient from the site; would serve up to 800 people.
- ACAT continues to seek a multi-agency approach.
- ACAT wants to be clear on next steps at the site.
- ACAT met with COE yesterday, and they committed to have their HQ folks visit the site with District staff. ACAT would like EPA to participate in this site visit.
- ACAT shopes that EPA's oversight can improve the investigation and cleanup processes by ADEC and COE.
- ACAT would like dredging of PCB contamination in the river downstream from Site 7 (indicate they have sediment core data that they will make available to EPA).
- ACAT is developing a letter, to share with Sylvia/Region 10, on their concerns that COE did not correctly implement a chemical oxidation cleanup technology at the site as recommended by their technical advisor, and as a result the COE has determined that this technology does not work at the site.

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Broader Contaminant Issues:

- ACAT wants certain provisions addressed under TOSCA Reform effort:
 - Cumulative effects from military contamination and legacy chemicals, and international transport of persistent organic pollutants.
 - Would like to address the issue of long range chemical transport under TOSCA.

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John Reeder and Sylvia Kawabata discussed:

- John is meeting with COE next week (Buloky), and can discuss these concerns.
- OSWER happy to talk with ADEC on these issues

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- OSWER continue to look over COE's shoulder to encourage continued action and appropriate response at the site.
- EPA would like to receive ACAT's additional data to re-score the site in the Superfund program.
- Region 10 is hoping to finish review of the COE letter in July by Matt Wilening. ACAT agreed with the timeline saying they want a thorough review process and recognize that takes time.

Discussion on Environmental Justice

- Running Grass (R10) described EJ-related strengthening of infrastructure in Region 10:
 - EJ small grants: ACAT has received two grants
 - Continued tightening of coordination between ACAT and R10
 - Growing R10 EJ program with two new people; provides deeper coverage across the Region. Running Grass will focus primarily on Alaska now in coordinating EJ issues.
 - ADEC has one of 5 national state EJ cooperative agreements with EPA. Provides more opportunity for coordination with tribes on state decisions/permitting, etc.
 - Region 10 trained 80 ADEC staff on EJ
 - Katherine Weyman is contact person in R10 from Communication Director's Office.
 - Strengthening integration of EPA's Alaska Operations Office with R10 EJ Team with participation of Tammi Fordham (Tribal and Mining Industries Coordinator in the AK OP office)
 - Coordinating ACAT contact information with Robin Collins (National EJ scholar and law professor in the State of OR, who is talking with communities on how to work with states more effectively.
- Charles Lee (OEJ) discussed:
 - National program added 10 FTE to Regions on EJ
 - Engaging all Regions to host multi-media EJ Showcase Communities.
 - Building EJ into larger cross-media approaches—e.g., Urban Waters Initiative
 - Focus on "science activities" versus research activities with ORD—and seeking partnerships with CDC, NIEHS, STAR grants, etc.
 - Looking to establish a multi federal agency approach.
 - Existing training on Environmental Laws and Dispute Resolution—want ACAT input on how to take to next step.
- ACAT asked two questions:
 - OEJ is exercising how to prioritize topics in EJ; How can ACAT engage in this prioritization. Answer: Engaging NEJAC in this effort; Finalizing the EJ guidance for Rulemaking in about a month; figuring out future dialogues. Region 10 is conducting an EJ strategic planning process that is aligned with the Regional strategic plan. This plan has five broad goals and currently are identifying objectives for these goals. Releasing for comment by community groups soon through the EJ web page in Region 10.
 - How can OEJ assist St Lawrence Island issues, specifically? Answer: many issues are not in the jurisdiction of OEJ, but require the attention of the entire

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agency (and multi agencies). Our role is to build linkages between parties, make sure our priorities fit these types of issues, where appropriate, and seek resources.

- Action item: Sylvia and Running Grass will brainstorm ideas on how EJ can specifically address St. Lawrence Is. Issues and keep ACAT up to date with opportunities under new initiatives coming forward.