



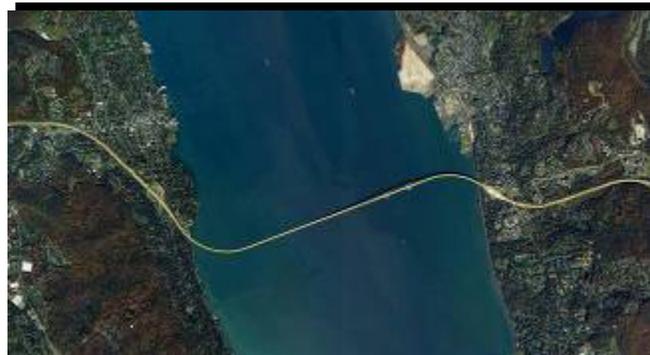
TAPPAN ZEE BRIDGE/I-287
ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

**New York State Department of Transportation
Metropolitan Transportation Authority Metro-North Railroad
New York State Thruway Authority**

Meeting Minutes

***Stakeholders' Advisory Working Groups (SAWGs)
Environmental SAWG Meeting #10***

***Tappan Zee Bridge/I-287 Corridor
Environmental Review***



March 26, 2009

Meeting Title: Stakeholders’ Advisory Working Groups (SAWGs)
Environmental SAWG Meeting #10 – Geology, Contaminated Materials and Sediment Sampling Results

Meeting Purpose: Exchange of information

Location Date: NYSDOT I-287 Project Office
660 White Plains Road, Tarrytown, NY
March 26, 2009

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Item 2. Technical Presentation (Page 2)
Item 3: Questions and Comments (Page 2)

Attendees: **SAWG Members**
Hon. Thomas J. Abinanti (represented by Chris Crane)
Philip Bosco
Joan Connors (Traffic & Transit)
Gregory Price
Irene Ross
Joan Schroeder
Kathleen Sullivan
Rebecca Troutman

Project Team Members
Rita Campon, Parsons
Robert Forstner, Earth Tech
Yvette Hinds, NYSDOT
Robert Laravie, NYSDOT
Angel Medina, NYSTA
Joe Pasanello, MNR/MTA
George Paschalis, HSH
Paul Plotczyk, WSA
Mark Roche, Arup
John Szeligowski, Earth Tech

Agenda Item 1

Introduction

The meeting started at 6:15 PM. Mr. Paul Plotczyk of WSA provided a brief introduction to the SAWG and encouraged active dialogue throughout.

Agenda Item 2

Technical Presentation

Mr. John Szeligowski of Earth Tech started with an introduction of the topics to be presented, which included geology, contaminated materials and the results of Hudson River sediment sampling. Mr. Szeligowski also provided background and introductory information related to regulatory requirements, and emphasized the relationship among topics to be presented.

Mr. Robert Forstner of Earth Tech provided details on the geology of the project area, and the screening process for identifying potentially contaminated materials. The presentation of the geology of the project area included a summary of the types of geologic materials and phenomena found in the area (such as types of bedrock and soil, the seismic properties of the area, and groundwater resources). Mr. Forstner also provided information on the contaminated materials screening process, including a description of the means employed to identify contaminated or potentially contaminated sites that could affect project alternatives, and methods of avoiding or mitigating impacts from contamination, if found. Finally, Mr. Szeligowski presented the results of the second Hudson River sediment sampling program, and discussed potential methods of removing and disposing of river sediments should removal be required by a project alternative.

The presentation is attached.

Agenda Item 3

Questions and Comments

Comment: SAWG member Philip Bosco inquired about quarrying activities in the project study area.

Answer: As noted during the presentation, the types of shales and sandstones prevalent across Rockland County were frequently quarried for use in construction of 'brownstone' buildings. In addition, the diabase that forms the Palisades Ridge, often called 'traprock,' is desired for use as aggregate because of its relative hardness. Quarries at both the north and southern end of Lake Deforest are currently actively quarrying this formation.

Comment: SAWG member Irene Ross noted the discussion of groundwater use as drinking water in Rockland County, and inquired as to use of groundwater in Westchester County.

- Answer: Unlike Rockland County, which uses local ground and surface waters for its potable water supply, the majority of lower Westchester County municipal water supplies are derived from the New York City water supply system. Other water sources are employed but, generally speaking, groundwater is not actively pumped for use as potable water within the project study area in Westchester County.
- Question: SAWG member Chris Crane inquired as to the availability of well data, to see which aquifers are being used.
- Answer: Commercial records search services can be used to identify the locations of permitted wells in any area.
- Question: Project team member Joe Pasanello inquired as to the area for which environmental records are searched in the course of a Phase I ESA.
- Answer: When conducting a Phase I ESA, records are searched for the site being researched (typically referred to as the 'subject site'), as well all sites within a certain distance of the subject site. The search distances are defined in the standard that governs Phase I ESAs that has been established by the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM). This search radius varies depending on the data source being considered. For example, the ASTM standard specifies that superfund records should be searched for the subject site and any site within 1 mile, while some spills listings may be searched only for the subject site.
- Question: SAWG member Philip Bosco inquired about a specific former industrial site in Nyack.
- Answer: The specific site in question was nearby, but not on a historic fire insurance map displayed as part of the presentation. However, maps are available for nearly all of Nyack within the project study area, and are being reviewed as part of the screening process to identify as many former industrial sites as possible.
- Question: Project team member Mark Roche asked if the contaminated materials screening process had identified any areas in particular where there are concentrations of potentially contaminating site uses.
- Answer: The screening process has identified clusters of long-standing industrial activity which are of concern. In particular, such clusters of sites were identified in Hillburn, portions of White Plains and Port Chester. Multiple current or former landfill sites have also been identified, including a cluster of landfills at and surrounding the current site of the Palisades Center Mall.
- Question: SAWG member Joan Schroeder identified the industrial park in Airmont adjacent to I-287, and the recycling facility behind her housing development as specific areas that should be investigated as part of the screening process.
- Answer: Comment noted.
- Comment: SAWG member Chris Crane inquired about manufactured gas plants (MGPs), and in particular a former MGP site in downtown White Plains.

Answer: We are aware of several MGP plants throughout the study area, including the plant specifically identified on New Street in White Plains. MGP site cleanup is a priority for NYSDEC since the plants were a ubiquitous presence in developed areas in the 1800s and early 1900s, the types of contamination from these operations are well known, and cleanup methods for these contaminants are widely available.

Comment: SAWG member Sister Kathleen Sullivan asked how one would characterize the quality of the Hudson River sediments near the bridge.

Answer: As was mentioned during the slide show, results of the in-river sampling and analysis program conducted for the Tappan Zee Bridge project reveal that the sediments are not a hazardous material based on test methods specified by USEPA. However, our laboratory analysis shows low levels of metals and organics in some of the sediment samples analyzed. As would be expected, the levels of contaminants in sediments near the bridge are comparable to those found throughout this reach of the river.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 PM.