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FROM: Melissa Mednick

DATE: January 18, 2000

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RE: 1/27/00 meeting of the Sherwin-Williams Site Consultative Work Group
and meeting notes for the 10/99 and 12/99 CWG meetings

The next meeting of the Consultative Work Group for the Sherwin-Williams Site will be held Thursday, January 27, 2000 at 9:00 a.m. Please note that the meeting will be held at the Emeryville Holiday Inn (1800 Powell Street, west of Highway 80), not at the Sherwin-Williams Plant. We will meet in the Holiday Inn's Platinum Room, located on the second floor.

In addition, please find attached the meeting notes for the October '99 and December '99 CWG meetings. If you have questions or comments on the notes, please feel free to contact me at (510) 653-7848. Thanks.

Draft Working Paper:
Notes from Meeting of the Consultative Work Group
Sherwin-Williams Site, Emeryville CA
October 21, 1999

The meeting was held at the Sherwin-Williams plant in Emeryville. A copy of the meeting agenda is attached. The first agenda item related to the status of the access agreement between Union Pacific and Sherwin Williams. Larry Mencin commented that the railroad is in the process of streamlining its procedure for handling access requests, but that no progress had been made yet in negotiating access to the railroad property. Jody Sparks asked whether regulatory agencies have any kind of "hammer" they can use to obtain access since this type of issue must come up frequently. Mark Johnson commented that he could contact the railroad and tell them that their refusal to grant access constitutes allowing the further migration of pollutants and could be grounds for the Water Board issuing a cleanup order to the railroad. Discussion of this issue concluded with Larry's comment that he will contact Mark for additional help if access has not been granted within a week of the meeting. Similarly, Larry commented that getting access to the South BGR property was moving along and that Sherwin-Williams expected to be granted access soon. Jay Grover requested that the property be referred to as the "Wareham property" since Wareham is the current owner.

Mike Marsden spoke briefly about the status of the extraction and treatment system expansion. Mike commented that additional testing was being required because of the low flow rates discovered in the sandy shallow zone. He stated that Levine-Fricke-Recon expects to complete the testing by the end of October, analyze the data, and then put together a plan for a new configuration of the extraction wells. Larry commented that the objective of the modified extraction system is to keep contaminants in the shallow zone from moving north. He commented that ultimately Sherwin-Williams will probably have to abandon three wells and add some additional wells where needed.

Mike Marsden gave an update on the status of the Interim Remedial Measures at the Site. Mike reported that the asphalt cap, covering a portion of the site, is being repaired and resealed and that this is routine maintenance, required every 3-5 years. Mike commented that the work will not involve any unusual equipment that might alarm community members.

Mike also reported that the storm water system has been cleaned, flushed and tested and is ready to go if it is needed this winter. Mike explained that the purpose of the system is to ensure that water at the site stays below the level of the storm drains. Although the storm water system was originally planned as a short term measure, it remains in place to ensure that rainwater at the site goes directly to the creek without coming into contact with contaminated soil or groundwater. Essentially, the system acts as a bypass system. Mike commented that the technical team is hoping that this will be the last year the storm drain system is needed at the site since it is quite expensive to maintain. He stated that if water levels within the slurry wall remain low during the rainy season this year, the system can probably be dismantled. Mike added that the treatment system is also running well and has operated thus far without any NPDES violations. He commented that there has been a

huge increase in the amount of water pumped this year compared to last, largely because the system is on-line more consistently.

During Agenda Item 4, Reber Brown and Marilyn Underwood of the Department of Health Services (DHS) described how the Co-op units are being tested (vacuum and wipe samples), how DHS proposes to evaluate the data from the units sampled and what type of recommendations for further action the department will make to residents. During the discussion on this agenda item, CWG members, as well as Jim Lawrence from Sherwin-Williams, asked various questions about technical aspects of the sampling and of the data analysis/evaluation. Wini Curley, Reber and Marilyn also discussed ways in which to make the analysis of the sampling data more quantitative. The decision was made to contact Steve DeZio of DTSC to get additional input from him on this issue.

Several meeting participants also asked questions about what further action DHS will recommend for residents living in units with elevated lead and/or arsenic levels. Marilyn responded that the purpose of the department's study is to determine whether or not dust in the units poses a health threat and that the test will not determine the source of the contamination. She stated that DHS is not a "cleanup agency", and can only influence agencies that do cleanups. Once DHS understands where elevated levels of contaminants are found in a particular unit, further evaluation will be done to develop a plan for remediating the contamination. For example, elevated levels of lead are sometimes found in caulking, so in these cases, remediation consists of replacing the caulking. Reber explained that often times, remediating elevated levels of arsenic or lead involves hiring trained workers to vacuum the units with a high efficiency vacuum and then follow up with a wet-wipe procedure. Larry hypothesized that the lead will probably be a more widespread problem than the arsenic, but that the treatment for lead would address arsenic contamination as well. Jody asked whether any financial assistance will be available for remediating elevated lead or arsenic levels. Marilyn responded that this cost is normally the homeowner's responsibility.

With regards to the schedule for the project, Reber commented that all of the units should be sampled by the end of October and that a draft version of the letter to Co-op residents will first go to the CWG for a quick review, probably after Thanksgiving. Several CWG members commented that the remedial work will be more difficult during the winter and that if there is an imminent health threat, residents should be notified as quickly as possible to lessen their exposure. Marilyn responded that the department is not happy with the length of time it has taken to do the study.

A brief discussion was held as to what the community involvement needs will be over the next few months. Melissa Mednick commented that her sense was that community members are most eager to hear the results from the dust sampling, and that a one-page update about the status of the RI/FS process would probably be sufficient until a community meeting is held sometime later in the year or early next year.

The next meeting date of the CWG was set for December 16 at 9:30 a.m. at the Sherwin Williams plant in Emeryville.

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October 19, 1999

Mark Johnson
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San Francisco Bay Region
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**Re: Draft Agenda for Consultative Work Group Meeting for
Sherwin-Williams Facility, 1450 Sherwin Drive, 1:30 PM October 21, 1999**

Dear Mr. Johnson:

The purpose of this letter is to propose an agenda for the Consultative Work Group (CWG) meeting next week regarding the Sherwin-Williams facility located at 1450 Sherwin Drive, Emeryville, California. The proposed meeting details are as follows:

Date: Thursday October 21, 1999
Time: 1:30 PM
Location: Sherwin-Williams Facility
1450 Sherwin Drive, Emeryville, California

The following topics are proposed for discussion:

1. Status of access agreement with Union Pacific to complete RI Field Program
2. Update on extraction system expansion and related monitoring program at the former Rifkin property.
3. Status of current maintenance of IRMs
4. DHS dust sampling program - description of the process to be used to evaluate data and how decisions will be made regarding the safety of the tested units, and notification of residents.

We would appreciate any comments or recommendations in regard to this draft agenda. Please feel free to call Larry Mencin (216-566-2000) or Wini Curley (925-988-1220).

Very truly yours,


Winifred H. Curley, Ph.D.
Senior Consultant

cc: Distribution list

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Asherwin Williams Consultative Work Workgroup

10/21/99

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**WORKING PAPER FROM THE DECEMBER 16, 1999
MEETING OF THE CONSULTATIVE WORK GROUP:
SHERWIN-WILLIAMS SITE, EMERYVILLE, CALIFORNIA**

Larry Menoin reported that Sherwin-Williams has still not obtained access permission from the railroad, but he is hopeful it will be obtained soon. Same for the BGR property. The parties involved are currently working with their respective legal departments to negotiate the access agreements.

Entrix reported that all field data have been through the QA/QC process. Now the data are being tabulated and figures are being drafted. Sandra showed some of the sample working drawings that Entrix has prepared, and reported that there have been no big "surprises" in the data. Arsenic in groundwater was found to be below the cleanup level, except at one sampling point outside the northwest corner of Building 35. Some data still outstanding for BGR and railroad properties, but Entrix will proceed with analysis using existing data, and will add the other data later.

Larry said they have not sampled at the west side of the railroad tracks for the last two quarters because of the access problems and worker safety, but Sherwin may get access through city-owned property near the tracks in future.

Mike Marsden reported that the surface sealing of the cap on the S-W property was completed yesterday. The stormwater system has been cleaned, checked and upgraded (some PVC pipe has been replaced with galvanized), so it is ready if needed. This system won't be removed until LFR is sure there are no rainy-season problems. The groundwater treatment system on site is pumping 2-3 gallons per minute now. A lot of de-watering has taken place inside the slurry wall, and the slurry wall now has an inward gradient everywhere. LFR hopes to get the Rifkin wells on-line next month. They plan to shut down the groundwater treatment system on 12/30/99 and restart it on 01/03/00.

Annual reports for NPDES and groundwater sampling will be out in January. Currently more than 60 wells are being sampled—may propose to sample fewer in the future, if sampling results are consistent.

Reber gave an update on the status of the DHS dust sampling at the Artists' Co-op. He said that all of the data has finally arrived, but he has not had the time to analyze all of it yet. He circulated preliminary draft letters that might be used to communicate sampling results to residents. These included a cover letter, explanation of sampling methods, information about the contaminants of concern, a summary table displaying sampling results for the unit, and text explaining the table. There was considerable discussion of this information package. The CWG group thought the information was too lengthy and should be made more concise, with the results for the particular unit brought to the front of the letter. CWG members stated that Co-op residents will basically want to know two things: 1) do we have a problem or not, and 2) if so, what needs to be done about it. It was suggested that the background information about sampling methods, as well as the results from sampling in the common areas, be sent to the Co-op office, where residents can access this information if they are interested.

DHS was also cautioned about reporting numbers (or using them to derive averages) without considering where the samples were taken from—e.g. in some instances there might be elevated levels of arsenic or lead found behind access panels or on the tops of inaccessible beams. Concern was expressed that the DHS analysis is an "academic exercise" that does not follow any accepted protocol or standard methods, since none exist for this type of study—yet people will draw conclusions from the numbers the DHS report ultimately contains. The group urged DHS staff to be well prepared before presenting the information to residents at a community meeting, as the results potentially could cause anxiety about many issues, including health effects, exposure of visitors to contaminants, disclosure requirements, reproductive issues, etc. Reber said that he will work with Jane Riggan to prepare for the meeting. She has left DHS, but is still available to work as a consultant. Reber said that Alameda County Health staff are willing to review the sampling results and make recommendations as to how to respond to

the lead issues. Also, someone from County Health could attend the meeting DHS plans to hold at the Co-op to explain sampling results sometime early in the new year.

Any further comments on the draft material should be sent to Reber no later than January 5, 2000. He will begin redrafting his explanatory letter based on comments made at the CWG meeting, and will have new material to circulate in early January. Next CWG meeting date was tentatively set for: Tuesday, January 11, 2000 at 9:30 am.

(Note: The 1/11/00 meeting has been postponed until 1/27/00 at 9:00 a.m. Please contact Mara Feeney & Associates for meeting location information, since the 1/27/00 meeting will NOT be held in the usual place.)

**SHERWIN-WILLIAMS
CONSULTATIVE WORKING GROUP
MEETING AGENDA
EMERYVILLE, CA
DECEMBER 16, 1999**

- 1.0 Introductions
- 2.0 Status of Field Program
- 3.0 Operation & Maintenance of IRMs
- 4.0 Status of DIIS Dust Sampling

The Sherwin-Williams Site
1450 Sherwin, Emeryville CA
Consultative Work Group

Dec 16, 1999

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