

Public Comments/Questions from the Gastown PRAP Public Meeting
Tonawanda City Hall, 200 Niagara St., Tonawanda
February 27, 2007
6:30 PM

- How much coal tar has already been collected?
- We are concerned about the health of local teenagers who swim in that area of the canal. Are they at risk?
- How many houses was indoor air sampled in?
- What caused the unanticipated movement of the coal tar?
- How this sub-slab depressurization system work in homes that don't have basements? Will we be overlooked?
- Who will pay for the SVI systems? Will there be a cost to homeowners?
- Who will pay for the entire cleanup?
- How far down was coal tar or vapor found in the contaminated area that you designated?
- What will the excavated area be backfilled with?
- How do you clean up the soil that you excavate? Will that soil be treated on-site?
- My house on Carney Street has sunk 3 inches in recent years. I think it is due to your coal tar removal system. If you are removing a significant amount of substance from the ground, you will damage existing structures, such as my house.
- What would stop the coal tar from moving past the area that it is in now?
- What will stop the coal tar that isn't excavated as part of the remedy from moving in the future? We live just across the street. Couldn't it easily move over to us?
- How does the coal tar collection system work?
- How do the SVI systems that you are talking about putting in homes work? What do they look like and are how disruptive will they be to my home?

- What will happen to affected groundwater? Will contamination always remain in the groundwater? Will it always exist along the edges of the removal area?
- What will happen to the value of our homes? How does this contamination and associated cleanup project affect our property values?
- What will be the location of the pumping station that you are proposing as part of the remedy?
- What will the pumping station look like? How large will it be?
- What will the treatment system do with contaminants that are collected through the pumping station?
- What is the schedule for this project? Duration of cleanup? Anticipated start date? How long will the entire project take?
- How often do you monitor the wells that are installed currently? Have you monitored them since you created the map that you are referring to? What if contaminants have moved since then? Has there been any contaminant movement that you have recorded? How do you know that the green spots on your map that represent clean test sites are still clean?
- Will you recheck wells if there is a long time before cleanup construction occurs?
- We (Sportsmen Club) reviewed the PRAP. It says in the PRAP that there will be 2 vents installed in the Sportsmen's building. Is that true?
- Will air quality in the Sportsmen's Club be monitored as cleanup proceeds, especially during excavation, to address our inhalation concerns?
- What, if any, buildings will be demolished for excavation work?
- Niagara Mohawk installed something in this area in the past few years – could that work have caused the movement of the coal tar?
- Please explain Item #7 in the PRAP. What does the site management plan and institutional controls involve and which sites do they affect?
- How far out will the trenching extend? What will the trenches look like? Do you have a construction plan for the trenches that we can see?
- There are a lot of kids in this area. What happens if those kids come in contact with coal tar from digging in their yard or playing on these properties? How much at risk are they for exposure to the contaminants?

- What are the long-term health effects of contact with coal tar?
- Could the severe October storm that we recently experienced have affected the movement of contamination?
- The remediation plan that you propose – will there be air odors as a result during cleanup?
- My husband has severe respiratory issues. Will he be impacted by air odors during cleanup? Should we be concerned? How can we protect him from harmful inhalations?
- Are there any other MGP sites in Gastown?
- What is the range of elevations within the contaminated area?
- How can you predict where the coal tar will migrate?
- Do you have any evidence of multiple releases of coal tar, or is there just that one instance?
- The ground shakes significantly when the railroad cars pass. I know this because my house is nearby to the tracks and it shakes each time a train passes. Could the train's force affect the movement of the coal tar plume?
- Will there be sheet pile put up against the railroad tracks permanently to ensure that contamination doesn't migrate again due to soil movement possibly caused by the passing of trains?
- Will the railroad let DEC install sheet pile around the tracks?
- Is there a design available for the remedy?
- Does the PRP have a right to modify the remedy design?
- Does DEC have any requirements about public notification for real estate transactions?
- Which chemical that you have found poses the greatest health risks?
- The Department of Health recently changed their guidelines. Will you have to retest this entire area once those new guidelines are established?

- Please make sure that the Sportsmen's Club is notified of all activity and included on all mailing lists for this site.
- I appreciate DEC's diligence at this site. It appears that you did a thorough job of delineation and are taking a serious look at the best cleanup options possible. Thank you.
- Will there be dump trucks during cleanup? Which way will they go and will they affect our traffic? Will we be blocked in?
- Will this be a seven day a week project? I ask because this area has a lot of traffic on Sundays due to the local football games.
- Dump trucks will only be able to go one way, because the railroad bridge is too low for them to pass under.
- Will you have to re-route school buses during cleanup?
- So during cleanup, everything involved in the cleanup will be contained on site? There won't be anything blocking the road?
- So basically our neighborhood will be dusty and smell during the entire cleanup?
- Will you be coming out to meet with the public again before cleanup?