

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES
CEPA Public Scoping Meeting on the
UConn Main Accumulation Area

UConn Bishop Center, Rm 146
One Bishop Circle, Storrs, CT
May 1, 2013

Members Present: not applicable

UConn Staff Present: Richard Miller, UConn Director of Environmental Policy
Jason Coite, UConn Environmental Compliance Professional

The public scoping meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Richard Miller

Opening Remarks

Mr. Miller introduced Mr. Erik Mas of Fuss & O'Neill, Inc. Mr. Mas presented the University's proposed action; the purpose of the scoping meeting; an overview and background of the main accumulation area; the CEPA process and EIE considerations; the purpose and need for the proposed action; the results of the Siting Advisory Committee work; the alternative sites; the proposed schedule; and contact information for scoping comments.

Public Comments

Four individuals presented comments.

Meg Reich, Mansfield resident

Mrs. Reich stated that the Siting Advisory Committee studied multiple sites, that the EIE is expected to focus on Parcel G as the preferred site, and that the preferred site of a similar EIE started by UConn several years ago had been repurposed before the EIE could be finished. Mrs. Reich also asked, if the preferred Parcel G site evaluated in this EIE were to become unavailable, would the other sites ranked by the Committee be included in the EIE and be considered as potential alternative sites for the MAA?. *[Mr. Mas responded that the other sites ranked by the Committee would be included in the EIE and that the other ranked sites would be considered for the MAA if the preferred Parcel G site were to become unavailable.]*

Patricia Suprenant, Mansfield resident

Ms. Suprenant asked what was the EH&S department to which Mr. Mas referred to in his scoping presentation. *[Mr. Mas responded that EH&S referred to Environmental Health & Safety, the UConn department which oversees the operation of the MAA.]*

Ms. Suprenant stated that she has not been informed as to whether the Tech Park could include BioSafety Level 3 or 4 facilities, and asked if the proposed MAA would be designed to meet all Homeland

Security requirements, if the budget was enough to construct a MAA facility compliant with Homeland Security requirements, and if upgrades had been made to the existing MAA so that it was compliant with Homeland Security requirements. *[Mr. Mas responded that the MAA would be designed and constructed in accordance with all prevailing regulations, including Homeland Security as applicable. Mr. Miller responded that several upgrades had been made to the existing MAA in recent years, though it is uncertain if those upgrades were made in response to any applicable Homeland Security requirements.]*

Ms. Suprenant asked if Fuss & O'Neill's scoping presentation would be available on-line. *[Mr. Coite responded that the presentation would be on OEP's MAA website.]*

□ Ed Smith, Mansfield resident

Mr. Smith provided written comments.

Mr. Smith asked what the cost difference was between the no action alternative versus a new facility. *[Mr. Mas responded that there was essentially no additional cost for the no action alternative, which would be to keep the existing facility at its current location, and that the cost for a new facility, regardless of the site selected, is estimated at \$3-\$5 million.]*

Mr. Smith asked if there were any cost savings for constructing a new facility at the existing location versus relocating the facility elsewhere on campus. *[Mr. Mas responded that there were no significant cost savings for a new building at the existing location versus building new elsewhere.]*

Mr. Smith asked if salt was stored at the existing facility and stated that salt is routinely applied to the ground within water supply watersheds and that salt had been the highest test result for water from the reservoir for Windham Waterworks, for which he had previously been a Commission member. *[Mr. Mas responded that salt could be kept at the MAA.]*

Mr. Smith stated that he had toured the existing MAA several times. Mr. Smith asked if *E. coli* was stored there, and stated that geese are a large source of *E. coli* found in drinking water reservoirs. *[Mr. Mas responded that potential waste source of *E. coli* bacteria, such as biological wastes, could be stored at the MAA.]*

Mr. Smith stated that the public health concerns presented about the existing MAA being located in a drinking water supply are false and insignificant compared to the salt, *E. coli* from geese, and other unmonitored sources of contamination in watersheds.

Mr. Smith stated that the money needed to relocate the MAA would be better spent on things that are more proactive to preserving drinking water quality, such as purchasing lands within a drinking water watershed as done in New York State for the New York City water supplies, annual funding state labs to analyze private drinking water samples, or sponsoring youth groups to patrol watersheds in order to identify actual sources of pollution.

Mr. Smith stated that the UConn MAA facility has been operated safely since it was constructed and that it is managed by trained professionals. He indicated that in the event that a gallon of gasoline were spilled at the MAA beyond all of its containment, UConn would respond by quickly removing any impacted soil before it could ever be a problem for the drinking water supply, and this type of oversight

and responsiveness by trained professionals would not necessarily occur for similar spills elsewhere in the watershed.

Mr. Smith asked if waste oil or waste gasoline were kept at the existing MAA and asked who monitors the gas stations and tanker trucks transporting gasoline *[Mr. Mas responded that waste oil or waste gasoline could be kept at the MAA.]*

Mr. Smith stated that radiological and medical facilities have to store similar wastes and that staff at those facilities have less training than the professionals at UConn managing the MAA wastes. Mr. Smith described a situation in which a lead box found at EO Smith High School was identified as a radioactive hazard with the help of trained UConn EH&S staff.

Mr. Smith asked how long the UConn chemical pits had been operated. Mr. Smith stated that to his knowledge only one residential well had tested for a contaminant above a Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL).

□ Alison Hilding, Mansfield resident

Mrs. Hilding stated that the scoping meeting should have been published in the “UConn Community Update,” which has a circulation of approximately 8000 recipients. *[Mr. Miller responded that the MAA Siting Advisory Committee’s findings were reported in a recent issue of the Community Update.]*

Mrs. Hilding stated that a term more specific and descriptive than “MAA” should be used.

Mrs. Hilding asked, in relation to an alternative site at F-lot, if the electrical substation would have to be expanded should UConn’s electrical demand grow.

Mrs. Hilding asked if fire concerns for the MAA had been reviewed.

Mrs. Hilding requested that future MAA maps depict the chemical pits that were associated with the UConn landfill.

Mrs. Hilding asked that Haley & Aldrich, Inc. and Carole Johnson of USGS be consulted on Parcel G’s proximity to the landfill and the potential effects on local groundwater and stated that the UConn Water/Wastewater Advisory Committee did not consult with H&A or USGS when it approved a sewer connection in the vicinity of the landfill. *[Mr. Coite responded that H&A and USGS would be contacted as part of the EIE.]*

Mrs. Hilding stated that neither the portion of North Eagleville Road west of the Hunting Lodge Road intersection nor Bone Mill Road should be used by trucks transporting material from the MAA.

Mrs. Hilding asked when the North Hillside Road extension is completed and when new facilities are constructed in the Tech Park, would that increase the amount of waste accumulated in the MAA and, if so, to what level and how would that increased volume be planned for. *[Mr. Coite responded that the new MAA to be evaluated in the EIE will be based on footprint and layout conceived in 2007, and that should the amount of waste managed by the MAA increase over time, then the amount of bulk pick-ups from the MAA would increase accordingly.]*

Mrs. Hilding asked if the MAA would be accepting waste from the proposed UConn Health Center facility in the Storrs Center development. *[Mr. Coite indicated that since the Storrs Center development is not on UConn property, moving their waste into the UConn MAA would not be possible because it would not be compliant with RCRA regulations requiring contiguity.]*

Mrs. Hilding asked if the UConn Health Center's MAA was subject to an EIE and how the health center's regulated waste was currently being managed.

Mrs. Hilding asked how the Siting Committee differentiated between the Parcel G site and the site that is North of the Transfer Station, which are located in relatively close proximity to each other. *[Mr. Mas responded that the sites were primarily differentiated by their separating distances to wetlands and public areas like the Celeron trail, as well as each site's accessibility.]*

Mrs. Hilding asked if a scenario in which a vehicle transporting waste crashed into the UConn wastewater treatment plant had been considered.

Mrs. Hilding asked if Parcel G's proximity to Motor Pool and trucks transporting fuel to Motor Pool had been considered.

Mrs. Hilding asked if the UConn police station would have to be expanded.

Mrs. Hilding asked if Parcel G's proximity to Eagleville Brook and Cedar Swamp Brook had been considered. *[Mr. Mas responded that the Siting Committee reviewed proximity to wetlands and watercourses. Mr. Coite responded that the EIE would continue that review.]*

Mrs. Hilding asked if there would be restrictions on the type of permissible use for buildings near the MAA.

Action

Not Applicable

The scoping meeting ended at approximately 8:20 PM.