

## MEETING NOTES

DATE: July 25, 2012 (4:00 – 6:00 PM)

SUBJECT: University of Connecticut  
Main Accumulation Area EIE  
Siting Advisory Committee Meeting #3

ATTENDEES: See attached sign-in sheet

Patricia Bresnahan	Mike Makuch
Jason Coite	Erik Mas
David Dagon	Rich Miller
Jean de Smet	Terence Monahan
Fran Gast	Linda Painter
Jay Johnston	Ed Pelletier
Ruth Karl	Meg Reich
Bill Lennon	Bill Wendt

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The University of Connecticut (UConn) Main Accumulation Area (MAA) Siting Advisory Committee Meeting #3 was held on July 25, 2012. The objective of the meeting was to allow the committee members to visit each of the alternative sites under consideration and encourage group discussion of issues (both positive and negative) associated with each site.

The committee members convened outside of the Facilities Building, and representatives of the UConn Office of Environmental Policy (OEP) and Fuss & O'Neill provided a 5-minute overview of the meeting purpose and site visit logistics. The committee members were provided with copies of GIS maps for each site and additional drawings for selected sites prior to the site visits. Copies of the maps and a meeting agenda are attached. The group then proceeded to visit each site, with transportation provided via a UConn bus.

The following notes highlight the major points of discussion for each of the sites visited. The notes do not include a detailed description of each site since the site conditions were described during previous Siting Advisory Committee Meetings.

### 1. F Lot

- Rich Miller of OEP gave a brief overview of the site, which is located in the southeast corner of the F Lot, outside of the limits of the former ash landfill that underlies most of the F Lot. OEP staff also distributed a map showing a proposed underground electrical line that has been re-routed around the perimeter of the parking lot to avoid the area identified for the MAA facility.
- The site has the advantage of being located close to the UConn Public Security complex.
- Eagleville Brook is located 40 to 50 feet from the southern edge of the parking lot, although the parking lot is sloped towards the west and not directly towards Eagleville Brook.

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- The site is located in a mapped Natural Diversity Data Base (NDDDB) area. A committee member asked about the species associated with this particular NDDDB area. Information on the animal or plant species associated with a particular NDDDB area is only available by filing a formal NDDDB Request with the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CTDEEP). UConn OEP/Fuss & O'Neill will check to see if the species information associated with the NDDDB area at the F Lot site is available from a previous NDDDB Request. If not, a NDDDB Request will be submitted as part of the data gathering effort for the Environmental Impact Evaluation (EIE) if the F Lot site is selected as the preferred alternative for the MAA facility.
- A committee member asked about the depth of the existing ash landfill liner. UConn OEP will verify the depth of the liner. (Since the meeting, UConn OEP staff confirmed that the F Lot liner is 18 inches below the existing ground surface, with another 6 inches of compacted fill below the liner and above the ash.
- An existing underground telecommunications line that runs below the F Lot would have to be avoided to accommodate the MAA facility, and there appears to be room for construction of a 5,500 square foot building on either the north or south side of the conduit.
- A committee member indicated that there has been some discussion of a possible expansion of the CL&P electrical substation located west of the F Lot but not the UConn electrical substation located at the southern edge of the F Lot.
- A committee member suggested that the committee consider the area between the UConn electrical substation and the F Lot for the MAA facility.

## 2. North of Transfer Station

- Jason Coite of OEP gave a brief overview of the site (located north of the UConn wastewater treatment facility and transfer station, east of the CL&P right-of-way, and south of the Celeron Trail) and the 2008 design of a hazardous waste storage facility at this site.
- In 2008, this site was eliminated from further consideration due to public safety concerns of UConn Public Safety given the proximity of the site to the Celeron Trail and Lot C and heavy foot traffic in this general area. Spring weekend, which has historically resulted in a lot of foot traffic in this area, has not occurred in the last few years, so the previous public safety/vandalism concerns of UConn Public Safety may not be as significant as in prior years.
- The existing road leading to this site is used for truck access to the UConn transfer station (active) and would provide secondary access to the UConn reclaimed water facility. A MAA facility located at this site would require widening of the access road.
- A committee member asked about the area along the access road east of the proposed site as an alternative location for the MAA facility. UConn OEP staff indicated that the previous siting study had identified wetlands, topography, and possibly bedrock as site constraints for an MAA on this portion of the site.
- A committee member asked about the area west of the CL&P right-of-way as an alternative location for the MAA facility. UConn OEP staff indicated that this area has relatively more

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constraints, including the C Lot landfill (former chemical landfill), the overhead CL&P lines, the buried sewer force main from Celeron and the edge of the UConn property boundary.

- A committee member asked if CTDEEP would allow UConn to build the MAA facility on top of the Lot C landfill. UConn OEP staff explained that the Consent Order for the Lot C landfill precludes construction of a building such as the MAA facility on the landfill cap. The committee member suggested that the Consent Order could be modified to allow construction of the MAA facility on the lined landfill. UConn agreed that such a modification could be possible, but the amount of mitigation and remediation that would have to happen at the landfill site in order to make the Consent Order modification acceptable makes this option infeasible and unrealistic compared to the other options being considered. Please refer to the attached email from the consultant for the landfill remediation regarding this issue.
- OEP clarified that surface runoff from the C Lot is not collected by the leachate collection system, but rather runoff is directed to the created wetlands at the base of the lot, and therefore the leachate collection system could not be considered a safeguard against a surface spill.

## 3. North Campus Parcels D and E

- Standing near the terminus of the existing North Hillside Road, Rich Miller gave a brief overview of the North Campus sites identified as Parcels C and D in the 2000 UConn Outlying Parcels Master Plan.
- The two potential sites (Parcels D and E) represent the most likely locations for Phase 1 of the UConn technology park (also known as the Innovation Partnership building), which would be developed by UConn, as opposed to the remainder of the Technology Park, which would be developed by private entities through a long-term land lease with UConn.
- Committee members suggested that the ongoing Technology Park Master Plan identify potential sites for the UConn MAA. Fran Gast indicated that the Technology Park Master Plan will identify potential MAA sites.
- UConn OEP staff indicated that the current concept layout for the Technology Park differs significantly from the concept layout evaluated in the NEPA Environmental Impact Statement for the extension of North Hillside Road and development of the North Campus. As a result, Parcel C may actually be the preferred location for Phase 1 of the Technology Park, with Parcel D potentially as parking for Phase 1. The MAA facility would have to be located somewhere on the Phase 1 parcel, or on parking for the Phase 1 parcel. The final Technology Park Master Plan, which is anticipated to be released in the next 4-6 weeks, will help to refine the potential location(s) of the MAA facility on the North Campus parcels.

## 4. UConn Motor Pool

- The UConn Motor Pool site had been identified in previous committee meetings as a potential alternative location for the MAA facility. However, the site was not included in the Meeting #3

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site visit and will not be evaluated further because relocation of the Motor Pool is highly speculative at this time and is not seen as a viable option in the immediate future.

## 5. Existing MAA Site

- Terence Monahan of UConn EH&S gave a brief overview of the existing MAA facility, which is situated near the southeast corner of Horsebarn Hill Road at the eastern limits of the Storrs campus.
- A committee member asked how often waste shipments are received – daily. A committee member asked about the frequency of waste shipments from the existing MAA facility. Terence reiterated the information on waste shipments that had been provided during previous committee meetings.
- UConn OEP staff explained that the site of the existing MAA facility is located approximately 3,500 west of the Fenton River. The existing MAA facility is separated from the Fenton River by the approximately 400-acre Fenton Tract of the UConn Forest. The Windham Water Work's drinking water reservoir (Willimantic Reservoir) is located approximately 6 miles downstream of the existing MAA facility.
- UConn OEP staff explained that UConn Geology Professor Gary Robbins has a monitoring well on the site of the existing MAA facility, which he uses to train students and CTDEEP staff on groundwater monitoring techniques. UConn EH&S staff indicated that no constituents of concern have been detected in the samples collected. UConn EH&S staff also pointed out that fence and razor wire would not be needed for a newly-constructed MAA, since it would be designed and built as a secure building.
- The existing MAA site is located approximately 400 feet outside of the mapped Level A Aquifer Recharge Area associated with the Fenton Aquifer.
- A committee member asked about the definition of a Level A Aquifer Recharge Area and if a spill outside of the mapped Level A area could reach the Fenton Aquifer. UConn OEP staff explained that the Level A area is the area that ultimately recharges the aquifer; a spill outside of the mapped Level A area would not reach the aquifer.
- A committee member asked if there have been spills/releases from a similar hazardous waste storage facility anywhere else in Connecticut. The committee members were not aware of any.
- A committee member indicated that the access/egress route to the site is congested with parked vehicles and campus traffic, which is a concern for the existing site. A representative of the UConn Fire Department explained that transport of hazardous waste is highly regulated and does not pose a significant risk and that a spill or release during transport is more likely to occur off-campus, which is out of UConn's control.
- A committee member asked if the locations of waste generators on campus are mapped in GIS. Terence Monahan indicated that the waste generators are not currently mapped; there are over 1,000 satellite accumulation areas on campus. The committee member indicated that knowledge of the locations of the waste generators on campus is critical for the MAA siting decision making process and suggested that UConn compile this data from waste manifests. UConn

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OEP staff suggested that the committee not over-state the importance of detailed information on the locations of waste generators since most of the waste generators are concentrated in the central portion of the campus.

- A representative of the UConn Fire Department indicated that, in his experience, handling of chemicals by students and researchers inside academic buildings/labs poses a greater risk of accidental spills, as opposed to the MAA facility, which is secure and operated by trained staff and has never experienced a spill.

## 6. W Lot

- Bill Wendt of UConn Transportation Services gave a brief overview of the site, which is located in the northwest corner of the W Lot, and the current usage of the W Lot (fully utilized).
- Siting the MAA facility at this location would result in the loss of parking spaces and would require access from Route 195 since there is no direct connection between W Lot and North Hillside Road.
- A concern with this site is the access and egress from Route 195. Numerous accidents have occurred involving vehicles turning left onto Route 195 exiting the W Lot. The W Lot entrance and exit drives are configured to control traffic entering and exiting W Lot. A traffic light exists at the intersection of the W Lot driveway and Horsebarn Hill Road.
- A committee member asked about siting the MAA facility off of the paved areas adjacent to W Lot (e.g., between W Lot and W Lot pond or behind the barn between Route 195 and W Lot. UConn OEP staff indicated that these areas are constrained by wetlands and areas preserved for use as farmland, as reflected in the farmland preservation commitments in the North Hillside Road EIS.

## 7. Science Quad (Old Central Warehouse)

- The group viewed the previously-evaluated Science Quad site (Old Central Warehouse) from the bus. UConn OEP staff explained that the Old Central Warehouse is being demolished and replaced with a new building next summer and therefore is no longer a viable alternative. The Science Quad and surrounding areas are generally not considered to be a favorable location for the MAA facility due to the significant public safety issues associated with a potential release in this portion of the campus that is occupied by numerous academic and residential buildings. These concerns were reflected in the 2004 siting study, which rated the Science Quad significantly lower than other sites.
- Mike Makuch of the UConn Fire Department indicated that a hazard assessment report has been prepared for this portion of the campus. The report includes information such as evacuation routes and distances that may be helpful to the committee in the current siting evaluation. Mike will bring a copy of the hazard assessment report to the next advisory committee meeting.

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## 8. Wrap-Up (at Facilities Building)

- UConn OEP and Fuss & O'Neill led a group discussion of the sites upon returning to the Facilities Building. Aside from the Motor Pool and Science Quad, none of the other sites visited was eliminated from further consideration, and none was a consensus favorite based on the site visits. Committee members offered the following comments:
  - One committee member had concerns with the F Lot and North Campus sites due to the proximity of these sites to and their location upwind (assuming a prevailing wind direction of west to east<sup>1</sup>) of population centers in the event of a fire or other vapor release. In his opinion, W Lot was more promising due to its farther distance and downwind location relative to population centers.
  - One committee member asked about the area near the Farmer Brown Lot and X Lot. Another committee member suggested areas along Alumni Road near existing athletic facilities. Concerns were raised about these areas being high traffic areas, particularly Hillside Road, North Eagleville Road, around Gampel Pavilion, and Fairfield Road.
  - Linda Painter reminded the committee that the siting process should consider consistency with local land use planning. For example, Mansfield planning for the King Hill Road area may include commercial and high density residential uses, which could be incompatible with a MAA facility. UConn OEP staff indicated that the existing UConn "Industrial Quad" (Water Pollution Control Facility, future Reclaimed Water Facility, Facility Operations, electrical substation, etc.) may already conflict with future land use plans for the King Hill Road area. The committee needs to consider long-term land use compatibility.
  - A committee member indicated that Lot 9 is rumored to be slated for a relocated UConn infirmary.
  - The MAA siting process and decision matrix will consider many factors.
  - A committee member indicated that siting the MAA facility in populated areas may actually deter vandalism by making the facility more visible to others.

## 9. Next Steps

- The next MAA Siting Advisory Committee meeting (Meeting #4) will be held in approximately 8 weeks. Meeting #4 is being delayed until publication of a draft Technology Park Master Plan or a decision on the location of the first Technology Park building site, which will help refine the North Campus location(s) and allow the committee to better evaluate the North Campus location(s) using the proposed decision matrix

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<sup>1</sup> Prevailing winds in north-central Connecticut are generally from the north and northwest from November through March (late fall and winter) and from the south during late spring and summer. April and September/October are transition months when the prevailing wind direction is more variable. Source: published wind rose data for Bradley International Airport, Windsor Locks, CT (1961 – 1990, National Resources Conservation Service).

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- Committee members who are interested in visiting any additional potential MAA sites prior to the next meeting should contact UConn OEP. UConn OEP staff is very familiar with areas on-campus and could discuss site issues and/or arrange for individual site walks. UConn OEP is open to considering additional suggested sites.
- UConn and Fuss & O'Neill are refining the draft decision matrix to incorporate feedback from various UConn departments. UConn will distribute a revised draft decision matrix (in Microsoft Excel spreadsheet format) to the committee in the coming weeks prior to the next meeting. The committee members are encouraged to review the draft decision matrix and provide UConn with comments and feedback before the next meeting. UConn and Fuss & O'Neill will review the comments and revise the draft matrix accordingly, with an explanation of the changes.
- During Meeting #4, UConn and Fuss & O'Neill will review the decision matrix and lead a group exercise with the committee to score one of the sites that was previously eliminated from consideration.
- Following Meeting #4, committee members will individually score each of the alternative sites using the decision matrix.
- During the final advisory committee meeting (Meeting #5), UConn and Fuss & O'Neill will review the site scoring with the advisory committee and present summary recommendations.