

From: [Joe Prager](#)
To: jackson.lisa@epa.gov
Cc: Spencer.LaTonya@epamail.epa.gov; "scott_miller"; hill.franklin@epa.gov; meiburg.stan@epa.gov; ta@protectgainesville.org; "Robert Pearce"; "Kevin Kennedy"; "bob palmer"; bmcpeek@cox.net; "MamaLion"; marinel1928@earthlink.net; "Bill Begweather"; alowry10@cox.net; "Cheryl Krauth"; cindyaharrington@gmail.com; ginarecycles@bellsouth.net; gvlcoopers@aol.com; kayla@treecityproperties.net; "k ideker"; John Mousa; citycomm@cityofgainesville.org
Subject: FW: Cabot/Koppers Community Involvement Fiasco - Is the EPA Deliberately Circumventing Pubic Input?
Date: Tuesday, November 30, 2010 1:25:06 PM
Attachments: [Koppers Final CIP November 2010.pdf](#)
Importance: High

Dear Ms. Jackson:

Please take some time to review how community involvement has been mishandled by Region 4 staff with regard to the Koppers Superfund Site and Cabot Superfund Site here in Gainesville, FL. It appears that both EPA guidelines or Federal law are not being followed with regard to community involvement. More importantly, the community members who are active and regular participants in this process are dismayed that their input appears to have been intentionally circumvented by both Ms. Spencer and Mr. Miller.

We understand that Ms. LaTonya Spencer has a complete email notification list for Gainesville containing the email addresses of dozens and dozens of interested community members, as we got test emails from her office after the October 6th meeting notification fiasco (more about that under Item 3 below). So, there is no reasonable explanation for why we have been left out of the process this time around.

Here are the specifics of the recent problems we have encountered regarding mishandling of community input that need your immediate attention:

1. Interested stakeholders in the Gainesville community found out last week that the Cabot Site Five Year Review was nearly complete, with a Dec. 3rd deadline for comments, and yet almost no one in the community was contacted about this, or made aware of it, or given an opportunity to provide input into this vital process, which occurs only once every 5 years.

There are several community groups, including the real Stephen Foster

Neighborhood Association, (the actual homeowners association group for the local residents), which were not contacted at all, nor was there any public meeting held by the EPA or E2, your subcontractor.

Apparently, there was also a site visit to the Cabot site on Nov. 3rd, but since no one in the community was alerted to this event, only local agency officials had the opportunity to attend. I personally received ZERO notification about either the on site visit (which I would have liked to attend), or the 5 Year Review process.

I had a lengthy conversation with Ryan Burdge of E2 today about this issue, and learned that Ryan was told by Ms. LaTonya Spencer, Public Affairs Coordinator, and Scott Miller to contact only 3 members of the community for the Cabot 5 year review. Ms. Spencer provided a contact list to Ryan. As a result, the input of many individuals, myself included, has been excluded from the process. This is simply UNACCEPTABLE.

2. Today, several of us were forwarded a copy of the Koppers Community Involvement plan, (see email attached below from Ms. Spencer), which was sent to only 4 members of our community! That's right just four community members!

Why did Ms. Spencer send the plan out to only 4 email addresses when she has an entire list of probably 100 or more email addresses that she has collected, and tested for validity?? Such action leaves the clear impression that the EPA is deliberately trying to leave out the majority of the community from the process. *This is the opposite of "community involvement" by anyone's definition.*

3. There was a fiasco involving the public notification for the October 6th EPA Pubic Meeting held in Gainesville. Ms. Spencer blamed the EPA email system for the problem, which may be a factor, but in any case, the citizens had to overcome this obstacle and alert their fellow interested citizens via email, flyers, phone calls and so on, to make sure that the residents were aware about this meeting, which turned out to be heavily attended, thanks primarily to the efforts of the community, and not the EPA.

Ms Spencer received a lot of email and in-person criticism at that

meeting about this notification problem, after which she ran tests of her email notification system, so there should have been no further communication issues. However, this is clearly not the case. A quick review of her most recent email indicates that Ms. Spencer feels it is only necessary to notify 4 people in Gainesville, two of whom work for the same group: Protect Gainesville's Citizens.

Ms. Jackson, I am sure you can agree that sending an email to just 4 people about a Superfund site that affects 175,000 local citizens is clearly insufficient. If the problem is not with Ms. Spencer and Mr. Scott, then there is still a problem nonetheless within the EPA itself, and this problem gives your agency a black eye with our community. I understood that the EPA wants to foster openness and transparency, yet we have gotten anything but that so far.

With that in mind, I would like to suggest that the EPA do the following:

1. Extend the deadline on public comments for the Cabot Site 5 Year Review for 3 weeks
2. Hold a public meeting here in Gainesville in the next two weeks to seek public input.

This would help to reduce the appearance that the EPA is deliberately circumventing the community's input in this process.

I look forward to a reply from you on this issue.

Best regards,

Best Joe Prager, President
BANCCA.ORG, LLC
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-----Original Message-----

From: Spencer.LaTonya@epamail.epa.gov
[mailto:Spencer.LaTonya@epamail.epa.gov]
Sent: Monday, November 29, 2010 5:04 PM
To: Cheryl Krauth; Pat Cline, Tech Advisor;
skmkennedy@yahoo.com;
drmichaelparsons@yahoo.com
Subject: Koppers Community Involvement Plan

Hello Everyone,

Attached is the Community Involvement Plan (CIP) for the Koppers Site.
Thanks for your efforts and input into the document. As noted in the CIP, six months from November 2010, which will be May 2011, significant activities, comments, suggestions, etc. will be added as an addendum or the CIP revised. The document has been added to the Administrative Record and a copy has been to the Alachua County Library.

(See attached file: Koppers Final CIP November 2010.pdf)

Thanks-A-Bunch :0):0):0)
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