

Dewey-Humboldt Town Council Meeting  
 Discussion with Interim Town Manager, Lee Elliot  
 EPA Presentation on the Iron King Mine/Humboldt Smelter Superfund Site  
 August 15, 2017 | Dewey-Humboldt, Arizona

Attachments:

- 1) Dewey-Humboldt Town Council Meeting Agenda
- 2) List of Dewey-Humboldt Council Members
- 3) Dewey-Humboldt Newsletter August 2017
- 4) August 2017 Iron King/Humboldt Smelter Superfund site Fact Sheet "EPA Completes Soil Cleanup in Residential Yards"
- 5) Template letters to property owners

**Overview**

EPA strives to keep the Dewey-Humboldt Town Council and Town Manager updated on site activities. On August 15, 2017, EPA meet with the interim Town Manager, Lee Elliot, and presented at the Town Council meeting. In addition, EPA staff meet informally with the Technical Advisory Grant (TAG) grantee, the TAG technical advisor, and a few community members after the Town Council meeting.

At the Town Council meeting, Jeff Dhont, the remedial project manager, delivered a 35-minute presentation. He answered questions from the Town Council for another 25 minutes. Some members of the public made statements, and Jeff answered some follow-up questions from the Town Council. There were about 16 audience members in the Town Council meeting, one member of the press (Prescott Valley Tribune), one staff from Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ), and six council members. All Town Council members received a copy of the August 2017 Fact Sheet, audience members were provided a copy, if requested. The interim Town Manger was provided a copy of the fact sheet along with a copy of the template letters to property owners.

EPA's upcoming presentation was included in the Town Council agenda published online and in the Dewey-Humboldt Newsletter (August 2017).

**Questions raised from the Town Council**

- **Mr. Doug Treadway (Vice Mayor) asked why the Clarkesdale cleanup (performed by the Freeport Corporation) is excavating to 3 feet when EPA's residential removal only excavated to 12 or 18 inches.**
- **Mr. Treadway (Vice Mayor) asked what inadvertent things happen when people dig up "hot spots." Does the Town have liability in this situation?**
- **Mr. Treadway (Vice Mayor) asked for the timeline regarding the feasibility study.**
- **Mr. John Hughes (Council Member) asked how many cubic yards were removed.**

- Mrs. Amy Timmons (Council Member) asked how many of the 13 properties with snow fence do not have houses. She was concerned that when houses would be built on that vacant property, the remaining contaminated soils would need to be dealt with. How will the Town deal with that situation?
- Mrs. Timmons (Council Member) asked about the lifespan of the snow fence.
- Mrs. Timmons (Council Member) how vegetation is growing on the tailings near Globe or Yuma (if tailings piles are too contaminated for vegetation to grow, as stated in the presentation).
- Mrs. Victoria Wendt (Council Member) asked how the Town ensures that future property owners are aware of the warning markers and EPA's recommendations.
- Mrs. Wendt (Council Member) asked about the stability of the dam.

#### Questions or statements raised from the audience

- Mr. Brian Beck introduced himself as the technical assistant for the community TAG. He stated that EPA has done a great service to the Town by removing contaminated soil in residential properties. He emphasized the Town should have access to site documents, as this information is very important for the Town to make decisions on (regarding remaining contaminated soils).
- Mr. Beck stated that contamination under the streets is still an issue. He suggested the city should enroll in the "Blue Stake" program, using the information from EPA regarding contamination. (Blue Stake will mark all utilities, if requested.)
- Mr. Beck also stated that Clarkesdale was an open pit mine with less contamination and less sulfides compared to the Iron King Mine.
- Mrs. Sandy Geiger stated that the non-residential properties of public use could still be contaminated (specifically roads and road easements). She asked whether these areas were tested.

#### Follow-up questions from the Town Council

- Mrs. Amy Timmons (Council Member) asked whether the Butte Street Park was sampled. She expressed concern on lead levels where the children play in the park.

#### Follow-up questions or statements from informal gathering with EPA staff after meeting

- Mr. Beck stated that APS had a 2-year ownership of a part of the Humboldt Smelter (before AZ Smelting). He suggested they operated a coal gasification plant during that time and the

remnants would be buried under the dross. He also suggested that APS would have the documentation of this operation in Warehouse #4 in Phoenix.