

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

 **TO:** AIRPORT CIRCLE FILE
FROM: LYNN CHAMBERS
SUBJECT: AUGUST 23, 2016 ATTENDANCE AT AIRPORT CIRCLE
COMMUNITY MEETING
DATE: MARCH 30, 2017

The Airport Community Fighting Contamination in Grenada, MS invited MDEQ to participate during one of the community group meetings to hear concerns the community had about environmental issues that were raised when the EPA RCRA Brownfields group conducted interviews in April 2016 and May 2016 throughout the Airport Circle Community.

The meeting occurred on August 23, 2016 in the Grenada Community Center. Attendees during the meeting that did not include Airport Circle Community members included:

MDEQ Representatives:

- Willie McKercher, GARD Branch Director
- Lynn Chambers, GARD Division Director
- Melissa Collier, Office of Community Engagement (OCE) Director
- Cassandra Johnson, OCE Coordinator

Mississippi Department of Health – Karen Walters

Grenada Water Department – Dale Ratcliff

City Alderman – Lewis Johnson

After brief introductions, the community group's president, Marvin Perry, opened the floor for questions, comments, and concerns. The following concerns were voiced at the meeting:

1. 3 people indicated they never received the annual consumers confidence report from the city regarding their drinking water. The Health

Department indicated the report is available on the MDH website under the “Drinking Water Watch” section.

2. Questions were raised about where the drinking water samples are collected. The City responded the samples are collected at the wellhead. Community indicated that the sample location did not take into account what may happen to their water from the wellhead to their homes in the piping between the two locations.
3. Questions on why some of the hydrants in Airport Circle have been left running. The city responded to address fresh water concerns and complaints about a rotten egg smell in the water.
4. Asked why the water looked like hot chocolate? City discussed that sometimes the piping needs to be flushed and it could be the homeowner’s piping from the meter to their home may need to be flushed. The city indicated if anyone had that issue, to coordinate with him and he could flush their water lines.
5. Questions about where the water comes from? Drinking water wells in a groundwater aquifer.
6. Citizen showed water to group with clean water in the top portion of a bottle and cloudy/yellow water in the bottom portion of the bottle. Resident indicated that was his tap water.
7. Complaints about skin issues and open sores. Doctors have been unable to identify the source of these issues.
8. Questions about sulfur in the drinking water and what does it mean when someone is allergic to it. Health department suggested the person’s doctor get in contact with the epidemiologist in Jackson to discuss problems.
9. Questions about why everything on the annual report is not sampled every year. Conducted based on Health Department schedule of sampling. However, VOC sampling is conducted every quarter due to concerns noted in the past at one of the wells.
10. Questions about who conducts the sampling? City personnel and Health Department staff.
11. Concerns about illegal dumping. Not known what was illegally dumped. MDEQ explained more information is needed to identify what was dumped in order to conduct appropriate sampling.

12. Concerns about cumulative impacts due to industries, former military base, former use of military base, and what goes into the sewer. MDEQ provided the contact for FUDS issues so they could receive information on the work the government has conducted in sampling the old military base.
13. Residents indicated in 1950's and 1960's a lot of household garbage was dumped throughout the area – no specific area was mentioned.
14. Concerns regarding old historic sewer lines. Some of the old sewer lines were filled in, some are caving in, and some have air coming out of the lines. Creating problems on their property. The old sewer lines were part of the military base and they are not the responsibility of the city.
15. Concerns that they were unaware of the water contact advisory that was issued since October 2015 for the creek near their home. MDEQ provided link to the information and requested them to fill out a contact card so we could provide either a hard copy of any advisory or e-mail notification. MDEQ OCE also indicated they would create a webpage for the Airport Community Fighting Contamination to provide an area where residents could receive current and future advisories.
16. Another resident was concerned that he had been hand grabbing in the creek and he usually had punctures/burns on his hands. How would this affect him. Advised him to contact his doctor for examination.
17. Reference made to TCE contamination in the soil and how creek flooding effected the TCE soil contamination. MDEQ indicated no TCE contamination in the soil near Airport Circle or directly adjacent to the creek has been identified to MDEQ knowledge.
18. Concerns about bad odors in the neighborhood at night. What type of air quality issues existed? MDEQ would review our records to determine if any regional air sampling stations are located in the area. The Bowater facility has not had air issues according to our records.
19. Additional concerns about the location of their water lines, how they tied in with the industry water lines. City explained about backflow preventers and how backwash was not an issue.

MDEQ requested members of the audience to sign-in for the meeting and complete a contact card so we could provide further information to them as we found information about their concerns. Willie offered to stay after the meeting and meet individually with home owners to identify areas of illegal dumping. He met with numerous people after the meeting, provided them with his business

card and asked them to contact him about setting up a site visit to inspect the areas of concern.

No one completed a contact card or signed in for the meeting. Willie never received a follow-up call or e-mail regarding the illegal dumping.

The MDEQ Office of Community Engagement created a website named "Airport Community Fighting Contamination" and provided copies of the fact sheets regarding Grenada Manufacturing, the water contact advisory, and the Consumer Confidence Report for Airport Circle.