Message

From: Fife, Greg [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=1EBD5B1EB9104F3E93818DB928C8A313-FIFE, GREG]
Sent: 7/10/2019 4:28:43 PM
To: Durant, Jennah [Durant.Jennah@epa.gov]
CC: Hubbard, Joseph [Hubbard.Joseph@epa.gov]; Coats, Janetta [coats.janetta@epa.gov]
Subject: Re: Gert Town

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 10, 2019, at 11:44 AM, Durant, Jennah <Durant.Jennah@epa.gov> wrote:

> The reporter had some follow-up questions:
>
> Can you let me know what the levels of radiation were before the remediation?

This is a little more complicated than what was the level. Since Radiation exposure is a function of time, distance and shielding. It takes more parameters to answer that.

Let me come back to that.

> Was this considered a reopening of a superfund site?

In no way was this a reopening. Somehow, there is an effort in the media to relate this to Thompson-Hayward. The only thing is that it's nearby.

> If so, how was the community informed of the plan of action?

> Janetta can better fill in this information but EPA, LDEQ, and the City of New Orleans went door to door, went to and talked to the church adjacent, flyers were sent to residents. New Orleans sent news releases/desk statements to media outlets prior to the action and during the action. And a repository was established at the Xavier library that has the Action Memo and and other documents that support the decision to take action. Jo Horner can fill in details of where it is.
>
> There were 6 total containers, right? How large were they?

Six containers were brought to the site. One was never loaded. I don't have the specs with me but they are approximately 20 cubic yards. The boxes are large so that they can hold other materials that are not as heavy. Weight limits for highways limits the loading to about 10 cubic yards.

See separate email for a picture, etc.

Where is Waste Control Specialists located?

WCS is located in Andrews , Texas

Can I see the plan of remediation and the removal action memo?

The action memo is a public document. And like I said, it is available at the repository. Or there are ways to transmit it.

From: Fife, Greg
Sent: Tuesday, July 09, 2019 3:36 PM
To: Durant, Jennah <Durant.Jennah@epa.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Gert Town

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** "Fife, Greg" <fife.greg@epa.gov>
> **Date:** July 9, 2019 at 4:34:50 PM EDT
> **To:** "Bokun, Lisa" <Bokun.Lisa@epa.gov>
> **Cc:** "Coats, Janetta" <coats.janetta@epa.gov>
> **Subject: Fwd: Gert Town**
>
> This is why I would say:
>
> Sent from my iPhone
>
> Begin forwarded message:
>
> > **From:** "Woodruff, Emily" <ewoodruff@theadvocate.com>
> > **Date:** July 9, 2019 at 2:55:20 PM EDT
> > **To:** "fife.greg@epa.gov" <fife.greg@epa.gov>
> > **Cc:** "coats.janetta@epa.gov" <coats.janetta@epa.gov>
> > **Subject: Gert Town**
> >
> > Hi Greg,
> >
> > I'm a reporter for The Times Picayune | New Orleans Advocate. I am writing a story on Gert Town and the recent removal of radioactive materials in the neighborhood. Are you able to answer the following?
> >
> > 1. Where were the containers moved?

The material was disposed of at a proper facility, Waste Control Specialist. They are licensed to accept and dispose of the low level radioactive waste.

2.
3. How much soil was put into the containers

Each of the five containers had between 9 and 11 cubic yards of road base, pavement, and the contaminated soil layer. One container was never used.

4. Was there groundwater also removed?

No groundwater was impacted.

5.
6. I understand the area of concern was bigger than anticipated – about two and a half blocks, correct?

The original area was believed to be limited to be a 3 feet by 3 feet area. The City tried to address that but the follow up investigation found additional contamination. All limited to about the middle third of the 3400 block of Lowerline. There were a few discreet areas excavated, approximately 5'x5', 10'x20', and 20'x40' with some modifications during excavation.

It is not correct that the contamination went beyond that block of Lowerline.

7. Is the remediation over, or will it be monitored?

The cleanup is believed to be complete. EPA will return to conduct a scan on Lowerline to verify the cleanup is effective.

The readings showed that the contamination was removed. Since the boxes were removed, it allows the meters to read down to background.

8.
9. What are the radon levels now?

I'm assuming that this means Radium, not Radon. The Radiation has been reduced to near background levels.

10.
11. What did the test results of the material show?

The results showed radium and associated decay products such as lead and bismuth. The amount of the total radioactive material is not inconsistent with several possible tools or mechanisms used in the past.

12.
13. What are the theories on the source of contamination?

It is all theory and speculation. It appears that the contamination dates to the late 1940s or early 1950s.

14.

Thanks so much,

Emily Woodruff

Health Reporter
ewoodruff@theadvocate.com
504-233-8154 cell
@emily_woodruff_