Questions from Dallas City Council Member Atkins Community Meeting on Lane Plating 3-7-19

1. ATSDR- Can they come to meetings? What is their timeline? Can you give us contact info? **(Answer from ATSDR)** The state health authority in Texas, the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) Health Assessment and Toxicology program, works closely with ATSDR to respond to communities where people might be exposed to hazardous substances in the environment. DSHS is available to address health concerns at public meetings and by phone/email. DSHS has been in ongoing communication with the US EPA and will review available environmental data to determine if any public health concerns exist. For questions or information, you can contact Jessica Kessinger at DSHS at Jessica.Kessinger@dshs.texas.gov or 512/776-3714.

2. How long for long term clean-up? The amount of time it takes to clean up a Superfund site depends upon the risk the contamination poses to human health and the environment. The volume, extent, type, and location of the contamination will need to be determined. The cleanup alternative that is selected will also need to be considered, as some alternatives take longer than others. The long-term cleanup of a site may take many years, but we will do additional emergency response cleanups if we find contamination that is a serious risk to human health or that requires immediate action.

3. What are the details of long-term clean-up? We plan on collecting samples for phase one of the remedial investigation (RI) this May. A data report will be available and posted on the website as soon as lab results are available. We will use this data to plan phase two sampling. We will conduct a human health risk assessment and an ecological risk assessment using data from phase one and phase two sampling. There will be a Remedial Investigation report. This data will be used to do a Feasibility Study (FS) where we will evaluate options for cleaning the Site. We will write a Proposed Plan and a Record of Decision (ROD) to document the clean-up decision based on information in the FS. At this point we will seek community input on the ROD. When the ROD is signed we will create a plan for the cleanup in the Remedial Design (RD), and we will implement this plan in the Remedial Action (RA). We will monitor the site after the RA and eventually we will de-list the site. This is the general plan for long term cleanup of superfund sites, but things can change based on what we find when we collect samples.

4. Are there plans to gather historical data? A review of historical sampling data, and the history of the Site, has been conducted. Existing data that meets our data quality standards will be incorporated into the remedial investigation. The Conceptual Site Model Technical Memo (CSMTM) has a summary of the historical information, the existing sampling results, and it describes how this information was used to plan for additional sampling. The CSMTM will be placed on the EPA website for Lane Plating.

5. Hexavalent Chrome is airborne- Why wasn't air quality tested when discovered before Lane Plating was closed? **(Answer from TCEQ)** The U.S. Department of Labor Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) inspected the facility when it was still active in 2014, and some limited air monitoring was conducted in conjunction with that investigation. For more details on this inspection, you may contact the Dallas area OSHA office located in Richardson, Texas (https://www.osha.gov/oshdir/tx.html).

6. If money is the issue, why can't you use funds from the so called Comprehensive Environmental & Climate action Plan for Dallas? The Antideficiency Act prohibits EPA from spending money that is not appropriated by Congress.

7. Can we create a training system for people to review technical documents? EPA offers technical assistance in the form of a Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) or the Technical Assistance Service for Communities (TASC) program. Once a Community Advisory Group is formed, these options can be selected by the group.

8. What agency first discovered the issue with lane Plating? What alerted them to test for toxic chemicals? **(Answer from TCEQ)** In 2010, TCEQ was conducting an initiative to evaluate all known electroplating operations to determine if additional, more detailed follow-up investigations were warranted based on site conditions. On February 22, 2010, an onsite investigation was conducted at Lane Plating. Visual observations made during the investigation determined there were unauthorized discharges on the ground and a more comprehensive onsite investigation with sampling was conducted.

9. Did the EPA engage in enforcement action and express concern about soil contamination in 1997? If so what happened between then and 2015? A document that appears to show an EPA RCRA inspection in 1997 was provided to EPA. A violation of RCRA regulations would result in a fine or a corrective action plan. It would not have resulted in a referral to the Superfund program. Please see the answer to number 27.

10. Do you know who owns Lane Plating? If so who are they? The land underneath the Lane Plating facility is owned by Stag Management Inc., while the facility itself is owned by Lane Plating, Inc. Both Lane Plating and Stag Management filed for bankruptcy in 2015. In 2016, the bankruptcy court determined that Stag Management had no assets and dismissed its bankruptcy case. EPA filed a claim in the bankruptcy against Lane Plating Inc. in August of 2016. The Lane Plating bankruptcy case is still ongoing in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Texas.

11. Will the city commit to not placing low income housing on the site in the future? The EPA intends to restore the Site so that it can be reused. At some Superfund Sites, the EPA will put a deed restriction on the property that limits future use to commercial or Industrial uses. The EPA cannot comment on any plans the city of Dallas may have for the Site.

12. What about biomedical monitoring for the community? **(Answer from TX DSHS)** Before making any recommendations regarding biomedical monitoring, the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) needs to determine if people could be coming into contact with site-related hazardous substances, and if they could, how much, how often, and to which substances. Without this information, there is no way to know if or what kind of biomonitoring if any might be appropriate. Currently, there is not enough environmental data to draw definite conclusions about exposures. If exposures that could pose a public health risk are identified, DSHS will make recommendations to protect public health. If individuals are concerned about their health, they should talk with their health care provider.

13. What about the creek behind the Barack Obama boys' school? We will collect samples in this location during phase one sampling.

14. There is a link on Facebook for people to have water tested. Do you have any knowledge about 3rd party testing of water? **(Answer from City of Dallas)** The drinking water provided by the City of Dallas Water Utilities (DWU) meets all Federal, State and DWU standards, and it is safe to drink. The City of Dallas cannot make specific recommendations regarding entities that provide water testing services. However, we can suggest that you search for an environmental laboratory that performs drinking water analysis and that is accredited by the TCEQ, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, to perform the specific test of interest.

15. The community needs to understand more about EPAs Superfund process & technical information about site contamination. EPA is working with the City of Dallas to establish a Community Advisory Group. An EPA Community Advisory Group, or CAG, is an agency recognized group of local area citizens affected by Superfund sites. A community and local government can choose or elect several representatives to serve on a public committee that interacts directly with EPA to discuss community needs and EPA decision-making. The committee will work with EPA to determine the best ways to clean up a site. Establishing a CAG helps communities get technical assistance resources (TAG/TASC) more efficiently and quickly. After meeting with city officials, EPA will hold a community meeting to elect members and go over the process.

16. Can EPA invite community members to a workshop on Technical Assistance Grants (TAGs)? Yes, EPA plans to hold a TAG workshop after a Community Advisory Group is established. The CAG will better be able to determine technical assistance options for the public.

17. How soon can EPA hold a workshop for TAGS in Dallas? Please see the answer above.

18. Who are the current owners of Lane plating? Was it included in the bankruptcy? Will your organization take ownership? The land underneath the Lane Plating facility is owned by Stag Management Inc., while the facility itself is owned by Lane Plating, Inc. Both Lane Plating and Stag Management filed for bankruptcy in 2015. In 2016, the bankruptcy court determined that Stag Management had no assets and dismissed its bankruptcy case. EPA filed a claim in the bankruptcy against Lane Plating Inc. in August of 2016. The Lane Plating bankruptcy case is still ongoing in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Texas. EPA does not have authority to own property, so EPA will not be able to take ownership of the Lane Plating property. The property is currently being administered by the bankruptcy estate.

19. As Lane Plating has obviously not followed proper procedures, is there the probability that any person who worked at Lane Plating may have brought home contamination? Is there any testing of homes of former workers.? It is possible that some contamination could have been brought to a home, but it is unlikely. If you know of any former employees, we could interview them to see if sampling of their residence is needed.

20. You mention "drinking water". What about using water for laundry or baths? **(Answer from City of Dallas)** The drinking water provided by the City of Dallas Water Utilities meets all Federal, State and DWU standards, and it is safe to drink, bathe, cook, use for laundering, etc.

21. You mention funding to start process, what about funding beyond initial start to completion of process? This will be a year-to-year decision based on the amount of money allocated by congress for cleaning up Superfund sites.

22. How would rain affect the contaminated groundwater and soil? Rain water can seep into the soil carrying contamination into deeper soil and groundwater. Rain can also runoff the Site and carry contamination to off-site areas. This would most likely go toward the creeks to the south and east of the site. This could impact the nearby forest and wetlands. An ecological risk assessment will be conducted to evaluate this risk.

23. Will additional testing be done to assess groundwater and runoff? The Phase One RI Sampling and Analysis Plan calls for 20 sediment and surface water samples. This may be adequate to evaluate sediment and surface water, but we will collect additional samples in Phase 2 if needed. The phase one sampling plan includes installing three groundwater monitoring wells. This is probably not enough to characterize groundwater at the Site, but it will provide information so that groundwater sampling in phase 2 will be in the best locations.

24. How far down stream will testing go from the contaminated site? We will continue to sample the creek until we find risk levels are acceptable or equal to background samples upstream of the site. Phase one sediment sampling extends east down the creek to the other side of the school parking lot.

25. Are there any pipes that lead from the site to the creek beside Lane Plating? We are not aware of any pipes discharging into the creeks, but we will look for things like this when doing fieldwork.

26. The first soil sample didn't go out far enough to find the limits of contamination. Why can't we test further away in the direction of the stream to find limits of contamination with next test, so we can start cleanup soon? The Phase one sampling plan has 10 additional soil sample locations to further define the extent of soil contamination. Five of the new sample locations are on the southeast side of the Site in the direction of the creeks. If additional soil samples are needed, we will collect them in phase 2 sampling.

27. Did EPA know about elevated risk of soil or water contamination affecting the community prior to 2015? If no, then why did EPA not engage in enforcement action against Lane Plating works or express concern about soil contamination prior to 2015? The EPA has many programs such as RCRA that monitors the transport, storage, and disposal of hazardous waste or NPDES Permitting that regulates wastewater discharges. It is likely that one or more of these programs interacted with Lane Plating at some time in the past, but this would not have resulted in the site being referred to Superfund for cleanup. The laws establishing the Superfund program specify the conditions needed to list a site as a Superfund site or for the site to require an emergency removal action. This site was referred to the EPA Superfund program in January 2016.

28. What is the process for forming a community action group? Can we begin that now? EPA is meeting with the City of Dallas to begin forming the Community Advisory Group, or CAG. After meeting with city officials, EPA will hold a community meeting to elect members and go over the process.

29. You said no health issues for humans but what about wildlife? Is wildlife a concern? Have they addressed the issues in the wooded area?

    An ecological risk assessment will be conducted as part of the remedial investigation. This will evaluate the risk to forest, creeks, and wetlands near the site. It will also evaluate risk to ecological receptors known to use similar habitat. The mission of the EPA is to protect human health and the environment. We will evaluate the possible risk to both at this site.

30. Has EPA reached out to ATSDR in order to develop a public health assessment? If not, why?

    (Answer from ATSDR) Yes, a Public Health Assessment will be developed. Under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA), ATSDR is charged to assess the presence and nature of health hazards at Superfund sites. As ATSDR's Cooperative Agreement partner, DSHS develops public health assessments or health consultations for Superfund sites in Texas (https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/states/background.html). ATSDR will provide support to DSHS during this process. DSHS will continue to work with the US EPA to review available environmental data to determine if public health concerns exist.

31. Can the EPA site coordinator schedule regular (monthly) meeting with members of the community in the library? EPA typically holds community meetings when there is new information regarding the site. Once a Community Advisory Group is established, the frequency of community updates will be determined by the group.

32. How close does' water from Lane get to the Trinity River? The Site is approximately 2.5 miles from the Trinity River. Water from the site travels to the Trinity River, but it is not clear how far contamination from the Lane plating Site has traveled in the creeks. EPA will determine the extent of contamination during the remedial investigation.

33. At the November 2018 community meeting, EPA was given a list of over 200 names, emails, and phone numbers to contact about Lane Plating. EPA does not seem to be using (or growing) this list to communicate with concerned residents. How can we get better communication with concerned residents instead of relying on community groups to work for EPA? EPA has added the group of names to the site mailing list. Since November 2018, EPA has not sent out any official updates. Official EPA updates include public notices, fact sheets or mailers.

34. How soon will the community find where the water goes? Surface water runoff from the site travels through small creeks to the Trinity River 2.5 miles east of the site. The extent of contamination in the creeks will need to be determined. We will have some data this Summer when results from phase one sampling are published.

35. **Will another meeting be held to inform the community?** We will plan on having at least one community meeting each year and we try to meet with smaller neighborhood groups between community meetings when possible. Once a Community Advisory Group is formed, EPA will hold public update meetings determined by the group.