Message

From: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)
Sent: 12/1/2016 7:49:07 PM
To: allen.bowen@al.usda.gov; nivory.gordon@al.usda.gov; shashrina.thomas@mail.house.gov; ralph.howard@alhouse.gov; Giattina, James [Giattina.Jim@epa.gov]; McTeerToney, Heather [McTeerToney.Heather@epa.gov]; Ali, Mustafa [Ali.Mustafa@epa.gov]; Dorka, Lilian [Dorka.Lilian@epa.gov]; Mccarthy, Gina [McCarthy.Gina@epa.gov]; Tejada, Matthew [Tejada.Matthew@epa.gov]
CC: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)
Subject: City of Uniontown and Sentell Engineering Announce Public Hearing on Decades-Old Sewage Disaster
Attachments: 11.4_aj_media.JPG; 11.20_kb_media.JPG; BBC_Final_dec5_wwtp_media.docx

Dear Elected Officials and Government Agency Staff,

On Monday December 5th at 5 PM, the City of Uniontown, Alabama and Sentell Engineering will hold a public hearing at the Uniontown City Hall auditorium to update residents on plans to address Uniontown's wastewater treatment system. Following the 5 PM hearing, the City of Uniontown will hold its regularly scheduled City Council meeting at 6 PM.

Can you please attend this important meeting?

Uniontown, a town of about 2,500 people in southern Perry County, has a small wastewater treatment system designed to treat an average of 525,000 gallons per day in its lagoon cells located near Robert C. Hatch High School. The treated sewage is pumped almost 4 miles to a 70 acre sprayfield where it is land-applied by industrial sprinklers. The system has never worked properly, allowing the effluent to run over the land and flow onto private property and eventually into Freetown Creek. The City's wastewater permit allows groundwater discharge only, expressly excluding discharges to surface waters. The permit also does not authorize raw sewage overflows, which have been fouling local creeks for decades along with the sprayfield runoff.

As you know, the Uniontown community and its downstream neighbors along Cottonwood Creek and Big Prairie Creek in the Black Warrior River basin, and along Freetown Creek and Chilatchee Creek in the Alabama River basin, have suffered exposure to partially or improperly treated sewage resulting in serious concerns about property value, public health, government accountability, and water quality.

Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) Uniontown resident and Vice President of Black Belt Citizens Fighting for Health & Justice (BBC), said, "I joined the group because of this issue, I am very concerned about the overflows and sewage problems which can be traced back to 1991 with the opening of Harvest Select and 1992 with the construction of that sprayfield. According to Harvest Select, their maximum flow for 2016 is reported as 468,000 gallons per day, we feel like Harvest Select's waste is influencing the daily sewage overflows into Freetown Creek. We don't want any more sewage overflows, sprayfields or wetlands, we want a treatment plant able to return clean water to our rivers. And we want to be included when the City of Uniontown and Sentell go back to the drawing board. We plan to be there on December 5th and hope we have some good news."

Black Belt Citizens Fighting for Health & Justice wants clean water and working sanitation for Uniontown. Do you? If so, please help us and our City achieve the following:

~a state-of-the-art wastewater treatment system for clean water and a healthy Uniontown

~that responsible industries pay for their fare share of the new treatment system

~no increases to water or sewer rates, no shutoffs to public water or sewer

~an investigation and accounting for the $4.8 Million USDA project

~that the City replace Sentell and hold them responsible for millions of wasted $

~hire a new engineer based on a democratic, town-hall process

~that the City require Harvest Select to limit its contribution of wastewater into Uniontown's system.

We ask you to please hear our cry for clean water, working sanitation, and environmental justice.

3 Attachments

- BBC press release about Dec 5 hearing
- Nov 20 photo by Kimberly Brothers of Freetown Creek fouled by sewage overflows
- Nov 4 photo by Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) of the illegal sprayfield sewage overflow into Freetown Creek

Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

Coordinator, Black Belt Citizens Fighting for Health & Justice
Mailing Address Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) Uniontown, AL 36786
Visit our Website Address for more information.
Find us and follow us on Facebook here.