

Sunday February 19th 2007

Meetings with the CDC and the Principal Consultant (Ravidya Burrowes from emc²).

The main points of the discussion along tour led by the CDC members (Mr. Ambleton Ray and Mr. Moncreiffe Leslie) included the general concerns with sinkholes in the area:

1. The playfield next to the Shettlewood Baptist Church was part of a sinkhole (a borehole was done in this area by Basil Young). The sink hole (which continues to the area across from the proposed cemetery site) reportedly fills up with water periodically.
2. The connection between the pond on the cemetery site was shown to the consultants. There is a culvert under the main road which takes overflow from the pond to the sink hole. Water flows in from a culvert located on the Copse Road into the pond. This pond also overflows to the adjacent property.
3. It is believed that the pond on the cemetery site is in direct connection with the Shettlewood Spring either directly by the above mentioned surface connection or through underground conduits. For this reason, the CDC indicated they would like to have information about the depth of the pond and its base. It was reported that the former owner of the site placed marl in the pond, which turned up (allegedly) within a week in the spring water. They requested a tracer study be done in the pond.
4. The fear that the NWC does not test spring water for enough parameters that will cover cemetery effects.
5. Another cemetery (proposed by Chuck and Sons) at 18.32487N 77.99677W was rejected because of proximity to another sinkhole.
6. Mrs. Woon Ministry of Agriculture has advised the communities in the region not do burials there even animals
7. They would like clarification on the hydrological relationship between Newmarket Basin and Chigwell Basin (in which they believe the site is situated). The Chigwell catchment and the spring are the main source of water for the communities located in the area. The consultant was shown Tobey Hole in Haddo, where massive flooding occurs.
8. The JDF micro dam built in 1976 the Shettlewood Orange estate at Montpellier for irrigation purposes was reported never to be dry.

Due to equipment failure on the day of the meeting, the meeting was not recorded, and Verbatim Report is therefore not available. However, the following notes were taken by the consultant at the meeting.

Meeting chaired by Mr. Ambleton Ray (CDC President). Debbie Rowe-Lewis opened the meeting with a review of the sequence of events leading up to the EIA. She alluded to the following:

1. Various futile appeals to government agencies prior to the involvement of Mr. D.K. Duncan.
2. Notice of construction was posted on a tree on the side road (to Copse) and not on the main road in plain view of the community.
3. April 2005 – land cleared.
4. When PC approved the buildings in the front (one of which is believed to be the possible storage for urns) the community protested.
5. Concern about the fact that the approvals were done outside of session and not ratified in a Council Meeting.
6. 10th June 2006 – Meeting with Basil Fernandez, Peter Knight and the Minister.
7. 29th June 2006 meeting with the Minister with reports from Land Agency, WRA, Public Health.
8. The developer was offered land in lieu of the cemetery and compensation for money already spent. Developer turned down the offer.
9. August 2006 – CDC met with NEPA, Public Defender (Gifford) and Dr Duncan. No answers from communications to Member of Parliament and Mayor. Basil Young and DK Duncan got the evidence together to demand an EIA.
10. NEPA asked the CDC for input the Terms of Reference for the EIA at meeting at Knockalva. Ramble CDC's requested the following inclusions in the EIA:
 - Seismic information to estimate the risk of vaults losing integrity and leaking to the groundwater system. WRA report says there should be no leakage from the vaults to the ground water system.
 - Impacts of a crematorium (if part of the proposal)
 - Impact of embalming, as well as sewage (from the facilities) and other body fluids both in terms of groundwater and overflow (surface run-offs)
 - Detailed specification of the vaults construction. (CDC had been allegedly told these were trade secrets)

A second presenter, Mrs. Clarke, discussed the effects of flooding in the region. She alluded to:

1. Ponds fill up during April – June and October to November. Rains constantly for 3-4 days. Ponds overflow the roadway across the road, enters the sinkhole near the Baptist Church and flows towards the orange fields, and then to the spring. This is what is pumped directly into the 12” pipe.
2. There is a belief that NWC does not treat the water. When it rains heavily water is too muddy to be supplied. In the dry season the community reports finding worms in the water.

Debbie Rome Lewis presented on Earthquake Risk in the Area.

1. Newmarket-Montpelier Belt is prone to earthquakes.
2. Mt Ward Church and school were damaged by an earthquake and school completely rebuilt in 1957

Mr Leslie on Recent and June 1979 Floods.

1. July 28 2006 floods
2. Three years ago there was a flood on the property – they had to use rafts on the main road.
3. Chigwell Pond is on a 7 year cycle – 2 miles of water.
4. When WRA and NWA were instructed to find an alternative site at Anchovy to the proposed one, they responded that it would contaminate the Reading springs.

Ravidya Burrowes then made her presentation (appended). She stressed that

1. *emc*² was impartial and would not formulate an opinion until all data was in.
2. The Terms of Reference were a minimum requirement, and if needs be the study would address concerns not explicitly stated there in.

Question and Answer Session

1. EIA is being done in the dry season which is major constraint to the validity of the study. Dr. Burrowes indicated that it was so far a “rainy dry season” and that emc2 had done sampling after the recent rains. The consultants agreed to access NWC wet season data.
2. Dr. Duncan:
 - explained that they could not wait for the April- May rains because of legal schedule
 - asked for a definition of “environment” to which Dr. Burrowes explained that it included physical, pollutants baseline, biological and the human environment.
 - explained to the crowd that they should not worry about the cost of the project, because they could not afford not to do this study.
 - requested a copy of the presentation to be made available.
3. Surveyors doing the social impact study asked: “what do you think about the proposed cemetery”, and when they indicated their opposition, the surveyor replied that “there were cemeteries all over the place”. Dr. Burrowes accepted that this was inappropriate and indicated that she would ask them to discontinue the practice of commenting on responses.
4. Request made for the study to include the impacts caused by the farming practices on the spring – chemical usage. Dr. Burrowes indicated that this was outside of the scope, but mention would be made of it.
5. Basil Young indicated that formaldehyde destroys an enzyme in the lower intestine, and this could result in cancer. He said that formaldehyde could be tested at the Pesticides lab at UWI (Dr. Das Gupta or Dr Pinnock). He indicated the belief that 6 gallons of formaldehyde are pumped into the body to replace the blood and this is what will be done by Mr. Delapenha.
6. Comment: The EIA needs to extend to Great River system and Hopewell as they will be impacted. The orange company used aerial spray which killed all shrimp and bees in the area. The Report was withheld by the NWC. Spring was contaminated by pesticides.
7. Comment: Double standard about development and environmental permitting: Chucks cemetery and chicken farm did not get approval because of risk to spring.

Consultant follow-up report (28th February 2007)

Task	Status
Copy of minutes and the presentation need to be made available to all stakeholders.	Done.
Investigate the pond depth and culvert connections.	Done.
Discuss with hydrogeology consultant the cost-benefit of doing a tracer study.	Done.
Include in baseline wider regional hydrological information.	Done.
Request borehole reports from Basil Young.	Done. Awaiting response.
Acquire wet season data for the Shettlewood Spring from NWC.	Requested. Awaiting quotation.
Acquire rainfall data for all stations in Hanover and western St. James for more in depth rainfall review.	Requested.
Instruct social impact interviewers to desist from commentary to respondents.	Done
Investigate the embalming practices (and quantity of formaldehyde normally used) obtaining in Jamaica for inclusion in the EIA.	Being done.