

Meeting Minutes MRC Oversight Committee – Risk Assessment

 **Date:** 5/18/2023

 **Start:** 2:00 PM

 **End:** 3:08 PM

Information about the Oversight Committee including agendas, meeting minutes, recordings, etc., can be found at <https://cchealth.org/hazmat/mrc/>

I. CALL TO ORDER

Called to order by Nicole Heath at 2:04 PM

Attendance

Community Members: Cheryll Grover, Benjamin Therriault, Pedro Babiak (absent), Tony Semenza, Deirdre Castillo, Kent Hull, Thomas Lang
City of Martinez: Absent
City of Benicia: Josh Chadwick
Contra Costa Hazmat: Nicole Heath, Michael Dossey, Sam Calvert, Adam Springer
MRC: Ken Axe
MRC USW Rep: Nick Plurkowski

II. COMMUNICATIONS

Members of the public can now sign up to receive updates when new information is released related to the work of the oversight committee. The website can be found at the beginning of this document.

III. OPEN ISSUES

a. Review of work done to date

During previous meeting, Oversight Committee voted on location of soil sampling locations and approved a plan for the sampling. Two additional soil sampling locations were added in the area of Martinez as a result of the discussion (go to [Sampling Data & Reports :: Hazardous Materials Programs :: Contra Costa Health \(cchealth.org\)](#)). The measure being voted on and the results were the following:

Based on the feedback from public comment and the committee the following options were given to members for voting: (Option A) Approve the sampling plan with additional locations in the MRC-1 area or (Option B) Approve the sampling plan with additional locations in the area between MRC-1 and MRC-5 area.

Committee Member	Voting Result
Cheryll Grover	Option B
Pedro Babiak	Keep plan as is
Ben Therriault	Option B
Kent Hull	Option B
Deirdre Castillo	Absent
Tony Semenza	Wants more locations in Martinez
Thomas Lang	Option B
Ken Axe (MRC)	Option A
Nick Plurkowski (MRC. Emp. Rep.)	Absent
Josh Chadwick (City of Benicia)	Option A
Lauren Sugayan (City of Martinez)	Option B
Nicole Heath (CC Health)	Abstain

The majority vote (6/10 present) determined that the Oversight Committee will move forward with adding in sampling locations in the area between MRC-1 and MRC-5. CCH Hazmat will work with TRC to obtain a revised sampling plan. The Chair clarified that no sampling locations from the original plan would be taken away, there would be additional sampling points added.

TRC performed the soil sampling on May 4th and May 5th. Adam Springer (Contra Costa Health Hazardous Materials Assistant Director) accompanied TRC during the soil sampling. During the sampling period some locations were slightly altered from the proposed location on the map to ensure that they represented an unobstructed area where maximal deposition of spent catalyst may have occurred. The sampling team also avoided sampling near roadways to minimize collection of materials that were not related to the release. Each of the samples was taken and transported according to accepted protocols for soil sampling. This included taking a sample of 6 inches in depth.

Regarding the depth of the soil sampling, TRC stated that vertical transport of the spent catalyst beyond 6 inches depth was determined to be very unlikely.

After soil sampling, the samples were taken to the lab who was directed to expedite the analysis. TRC has received the initial results back from the lab and is currently reviewing that information to ensure that the samples are determined to be credible representations of the spent catalyst fallout. As TRC completes risk assessment, they can determine potential health and environmental impacts.

Members of the Oversight Committee requested that one of the samples taken be from an area of Martinez outside of the plume model generated by the Air District. This request was driven by their understanding that the MRC Claims process was restricted only to people who were within the plume model boundaries. Contra Costa Health requested that MRC provide an update at a future meeting to describe the claims process in greater detail.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

a. Status of Soil Sampling – Update

Matt Kaufmann (Deputy Director of the Contra Costa Health) stated that the validation of the samples is currently occurring. After, TRC will use the sample results in a risk assessment model to determine the health impacts that may happen as a result of the release. Currently on target for late May/early June for release of the initial assessment being complete.

TRC stated that the labs that are being used are state-accredited and are fully equipped to provide accurate data. Currently, TRC is comparing amounts of the materials present in the soil with threshold values. TRC will analyze the quantities present and look at the potential effects of the materials through the different pathways that could result in impacts to community health.

Kent Hull (community member) asked about the degradation of hexavalent chromium. TRC stated that they included the sampling of hexavalent chromium in order to be conservative. TRC stated that as part of their analysis they are looking not just acute effects of the exposure, but also at long term exposure to the soil.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

Members of the public given 2-minute comment period. 4 public comments were received. 1 comment was related to concern about not having testing at each of the schools in the area around the facility. 1 comment was a request to add an additional member to the oversight committee from the school board. 1 comment was related to concern that the Mt. View Neighborhood in Martinez did not have a sample taken. 1 comment was related to concern about the increased impacts on areas where people congregate, specifically schools and parks.

Responses to comments:

Matt Kaufmann will coordinate with Supervisor Glover to determine if there is a need or advantage to adding an additional member to the oversight committee.

In terms of sampling location, the chosen approach enabled TRC to efficiently conduct the risk assessment and promptly deliver results to the community. Should a particular sample indicate a significant impact, TRC may opt to collect additional soil samples from more locations.

TRC stated that since the assessment assumes someone will live in the sampled area for 26 years (350 days/yr) and will evaluate the impact to any individual in that area, the congregation of people in an area will not impact the result of the analysis. The pathways of impact from the fallout include ingestion, dermal contact, inhalation, impact to ground water, impact to produce grown in the affected area, as well as ecological effects.

VI. ROUND TABLE

Reminder that members of the public can now sign up for updates on the website regarding additional information from the oversight committee (posted at the beginning of this document)

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The tentative date for the next MRC Oversight Committee Risk Assessment meeting is June 8th at 2:00 PM. Meeting adjourned at 3:08 PM.

For the full discussion, please see the recording of this meeting at <https://cchealth.org/hazmat/mrc/>