

WEST CORNWALL TOWNSHIP
73 South Zinns Mill Road
Lebanon, PA 17042
Phone: 717 272-9841
E-MAIL ADDRESS: wctwp@comcast.net
November 13, 2020

By Certified Mail and Email: mdliebhardt@evergreenmgt.com

Mr. Martin Liebhardt
Evergreen Resources Management Operations
2 Righter Parkway, Suite 120
Wilmington, DE 19803

RE: “Draft Remedial Investigation Report (RIR), Cornwall Pump Station, 370 Horseshoe Pike Lebanon, PA 17042,” Dated August 31, 2020 (“Draft RIR”)

Dear Mr. Liebhardt:

As the representative for the Public Involvement Committee (“PIC”) for West Cornwall Township, Lebanon County, PA, I am submitting PIC’s comments on the Draft RIR prepared by Aquaterra Technologies, Inc. (“Aquaterra”).

As agreed at our PIC October 7, 2019 meeting with you and others from Evergreen Resources Management Operations (“Evergreen”), PADEP representatives and Aquaterra, PIC was afforded the opportunity to review and comment on Aquaterra’s Draft RIR prior to it being submitted to PADEP for review. To assist us in our review, West Cornwall Township retained the services of Penn Environmental and Remediation (“Penn E&R”) located at 2755 Bergey Road, Hatfield, PA 19440, an environmental consulting firm with expertise in the hydrogeology and remediation of sites with contaminated soils and groundwater. Representing Penn E&R on this review is Mr. Jeffery Walsh, P.G. and Vice President. Penn E&R has completed its review of the Draft RIR and prepared a review and comment letter that is attached to this letter.

The Draft RIR is a lengthy report that describes in detail: the field activities completed by Aquaterra at the site, the investigative work completed by others at the site since 1991 and the results of many chemical analyses of the groundwater, surface water and soils at the site. The Draft RIR also contains an abundance of tables, figures and appendices analyzing the sampling data. Surprisingly, however, nothing new has been added in the Draft RIR to the basic understanding of the site hydrogeology that was developed prior to Aquaterra’s remedial investigation. After reading the Draft RIR it suggests that Aquaterra’s remedial investigation

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was steered towards providing justification for Sunoco discharging its remedial obligation by simply providing a POET System to treat the groundwater sourced for use in two chicken house wells and two residential wells located on the site. As noted in Penn E&R's comments, and ours below, the Draft RIR fails to adequately address the need for a more comprehensive remedy that goes beyond a mere POET system.

In addition to the comments presented in Penn E&R's letter (attached), which we adopt and endorse, we offer the following comments:

1. The existence of a deeper groundwater flow system has not been adequately characterized. Aquaterra proposed to install five (5) additional deep wells, greater than 250 ft. bgs, but only two (2) were completed. Contamination was found in some of the deep wells such as at the Chicken House well, MW-16 and the 22 Spangler Road well. Additional deep wells need to be installed to determine the source of the contamination found at greater depths.
2. Because the wells from the former groundwater recovery and treatment system continue to show high levels of contamination, Sunoco is obligated to restart the former groundwater pump and treat system.
3. Contamination is flowing into Beck Creek in the area where the pipeline right-of-way crosses the Creek. A remediation system to capture this contamination must be installed to protect the health of this eco-system.
4. The question of how contamination is working its way under Beck Creek into the drinking water well at 22 Spangler Road remains unanswered. The Creek is a gaining stream and acts as a groundwater divide as groundwater flows toward the Creek from the east and west hillsides at fairly steep gradients. Sunoco cannot simply ignore this unanswered question in the hope it will go away.
5. In fairness to the residents surrounding this site who have been drinking contaminated groundwater for many years, an Environmental and Human Health Risk Assessment should be completed to determine whether these residents are at greater risk of developing cancer stemming from their past exposure to contaminated drinking water, and if so, a medical monitoring protocol should be developed for the benefit of those residents.
6. A comprehensive remediation plan should be developed for this site that includes the collection and treatment of groundwater across the site for the protection of Beck Creek and to minimize the impacts to at risk off-site supply wells.

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7. We understand certain local property owners have entered into confidential settlement agreements with Sunoco respecting groundwater impacts at their properties. Regardless of whether local property owners support the need for additional groundwater characterization and remediation across the site, we submit PADEP has an obligation under the Clean Streams Law to direct Sunoco to proceed with a comprehensive study of continuing groundwater impacts in the area. The effect of local residents settling with Sunoco does not cut-off the right of the Commonwealth under the Clean Streams Law to insist upon further characterization and corrective action of a resource, namely groundwater, that is not the property of local landowners but which common law recognizes as the property of the Commonwealth. Groundwater continues to be impacted by hydrocarbon releases across the site and continues to migrate off-site and to pose a threat to ecological and human health throughout the community. Given the elevated groundwater sampling results presented in the Draft RIR, we submit that the Clean Streams Law compels Sunoco to proceed with a comprehensive groundwater study to fully characterize the risk posed by those elevated sampling results.

The study of contamination at this site started in the late 1980s and remains active to this day. The groundwater and soils continue to be impacted by gasoline and oil contamination releases that migrate off-site ever expanding the contamination both aerially and at depth. The cleanup of this site must be pursued in earnest.

Penn E&R has provided very detailed comments and recommendations that we anticipate will make a real difference in the conduct of the cleanup of this site. Should you have any questions, please feel free to call or write.

Sincerely:

Douglas Lorenzen

Douglas Lorenzen, Chairperson
West Cornwall Township Public Involvement Committee

Cc: Marco Droese, Aquaterra
Patrick McDonnell, PADEP Secretary
Troy Conrad, PADEP Bureau of Environmental Cleanup and Brownfields
Ben Thonus, PADEP Southcentral Regional Office
James Rea, PADEP Southcentral Regional Office
West Cornwall Township Board of Supervisors
PIC Members
Jeff Walsh, Penn E&R