

Treece Public Meeting 3-8-2010 Picher, OK

*Pre-meeting discussions mainly involved the problems with defining the boundaries of the buyout and whether it includes people outside the city limits. Bob Richards (attorney) feels that we can't include people outside the city limits and Sam Coleman said to change the ESD would be a federal move. This problem is obviously still a major one to address.

The meeting started with a welcome from Sam Coleman Region 6 EPA who explained the purpose of the meeting.

- 1) Dave Drake then talked about the air quality monitoring that is being done around Treece. There are three monitoring sites located in Treece, one at the Dugaan residence, one at the Barr residence, and one at the city hall. They currently have 3 months worth of data with no significant lead hits.
- 2) Gary Baumgarten Region 6 EPA gave his power point presentation on the ESD and how the trust will work. He also touched on the ROD and how it will take about 30 years to sell the chat. He then explained that the EPA will not be purchasing properties for ownership and how the EUC will prevent people from using the land once it is bought out.
- 3) The question and answer portion began by the moderator reading the comment cards filled out previously by residents:
 - a) Robert Toney was concerned about renters being included in the buyout as well as dust from the chat removal. He feels that the EPA is dodging questions about blood lead content. He was also concerned about a timeline for the buyout. He was informed that 73 people were tested, 57 older than 7 years and 16 younger than 7 years. One child had elevated levels between 5-16 micrograms/L and was brought in for more accurate testing. Dave Drake spoke about water being used to control dust during chat removal and the potential timeline for the buyout.
 - b) Charles Mooreland said that his property was located in front of the Duggan's and is worried about flooding from the creek due to the work they have done on the Duggan residence. Dave Drake informed him that it will not be a problem and not to worry because the mining engineers will fix any problems.
 - c) Burton Mains wanted to know if they needed to complete the buyout before moving and what was done if one person owned a property and someone else owned the land. Gary answered by saying it would be a two part buyout on a case to case basis and it wasn't a problem if people wanted to move before the buyout was complete.
 - d) Beverly Box was concerned about what would happen if they didn't agree with the appraisal quotes. She was informed that a mediator won't be involved in the appraisals, they will be fair, and this is a voluntary buyout.
 - e) Judy Blunk wanted to know if new purchased property for mobile homes to be relocated would come with utilities already installed. Gary explained that the price of the buyout must encompass everything needed to move and that no extra money will be available.

- f) Betty Hunt thinks that the money allowed for the buyout isn't "efficient and fair" and that the cleanup is a waste of money because there is \$137 million allotted for it. Sam Coleman explained that cleanup is a lengthy expensive process and that we are doing everything we can to help the residents.
- g) Bill Blunk was wondering about the distance from Treece that one can move. Gary answered by saying he suggests it be within the continental United States (Laughter) and that the appraisal is a set amount of money.
- h) Holly Brainer began with asking if we can get more money in which Sam Coleman answered by saying, "only if it is within the federal budget." She was more concerned about her young son who has acquired asthma and has been coughing badly especially during times when dust is elevated due to chat removal. She was wondering who first priority would go to in the buyout. Dave Drake explained to her about the measures taken to control airborne dust (water) and Gary explained that everyone living there since before March 13, 2006 will have first priority.
- i) Gilbert Bridendolph was concerned about the availability of utilities for residents that didn't take the buyout. It was explained to him that his concerns are being addressed and that this answer is a top priority.
- j) Michael Hart gave a small speech about how he was born in Treece and how no one living there was healthy. This was followed by how he buried his mother 10 years ago. According to him this is due to a variety of pollutants being dumped in tar creek and the mine shafts after hours. He believes that most mining was undocumented and the shafts were full of contaminants including 956 barrels of nitro. He was wondering if the EPA was trying to clean up the area or just hide the contamination. He spoke of the heritage of Treece and the children's memories of where they grew up. He lives in Baxter Springs 50 ft from a chat pile and he feels we are just moving people from one polluted place to another. All of this will be documented in his upcoming book available soon at a bookstore near you.
- k) David Mitchell asked about whether or not the trust could be contacted before major decisions were made. It was explained to him that all concerns by residents will be given to the trust before they meet and that all decisions made by the trust must be approved by the governor.
- l) Terry Kirk had concerns about available acreage for septic systems. Gary explained the EUC would not allow for any bought out property to be used.
- m) Beverly Box brought up the point that we need to talk to the people who put the sewer system in to understand the amount of flow it takes to operate.
- n) Gilbert Bridendolph then explained that the sewer cannot be maintained in only a few people remain.

Overall the meeting went very well. Most people seemed interested and wanted to hurry the process along. It came to our attention that a few people are trying to figure out how to stay but the utility issues will hopefully persuade them to participate in the buyout. Gary did an excellent job getting through to the residents because he came across as concerned and not just throwing facts at them.