

Community Meeting – InSite Wireless

April 25, 2018

6:30 pm – 8:00 pm

Queen Anne Masonic Lodge

- Kay Morrison, EPA Community Involvement Coordinator, opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and thanking them for taking the time to gather that evening. EPA Project Manager Mike Sibley and EPA contractor Valeriy Bizyayev were also present.

Presentation:

- Christian Carmody, InSite VP of Tower Operations, also thanked the group and explained that his team was prepared to share both updates on the cleanup progress as well as share next steps for resuming tower remediation and structural repairs. Tony Flores with InSite was also present.
- Mike Arnold, Project Lead with Ramboll, said that all but a couple of neighbors have signed the access agreement form and are at a stage within the cleanup process. He then explained the sequential procedures that encompass paint chip discovery, analysis, cleanup and follow-on/monitoring:
 - Assessments are scheduled with the residents, assessment teams will include representatives from the company, contractors, and EPA.
 - From there, if few or no chips are found, the property is cleaned and the next step will be a final post cleanup report. If chips are found, then a work plan is developed, reviewed and shared with the property owner for approval.
 - Once a work plan is approved, a cleanup is scheduled with property owners. The cleanup itself typically takes between one and two days.
 - Following the clean-up, property owners, EPA representatives and Ramboll perform a walk-through to assess the property and ensure cleanup is satisfactory.
 - Soil testing of the property takes place within 3 days of cleanup.
 - Once all properties are cleaned and all soil testing is completed, Ramboll and the EPA will prepare, revise and ultimately finalize a post cleanup report on the entire body of the cleanup work.
 - If no need for soil cleanup related to the tower paint chip is indicated, individual property reports and the final post cleanup report are anticipated to be finalized in the coming weeks.
- Mike also discussed evaluating different paint chip removal methods
 - Vacuuming
 - Cleaning roof areas
 - Use water to wash chips
 - Removing vegetation
 - Paint chips are easy to find and remove
- Soil removal, if identified as necessary, will proceed at parcels in a similar manner as the paint chip removal:
 - Development of a work plan addendum
 - Work plan review and approval by the EPA and property owner

- Completion of the work
- EPA and property owner verification of work completed
- Development of a report summarizing the removal action
- Mike Arnold and Rosalind Schoof, another Ramboll expert, said that soil sampling results have just begun to arrive, and they will work alongside the EPA to review the results and next steps.
- Christian Carmody then described the need to resume the tower work that began in early February and paused to prioritize neighbor cleanup. InSite Wireless has contracted with the company that had previously worked on the Space Needle. This two-step work includes:
 - Paint remediation and repair, where expert small crews will shroud 50-foot segments of the tower using “eagle mesh,” starting at the top, and use specialized tools with HEPA filters to remove paint. Then, the crews will repaint the tower.
 - Next, a second expert structural crew, following a plan designed by tower structural engineers, will repair and strengthen various portions of the tower, as needed, to ensure its longevity and safety. The tower will then be inspected following this work.
 - This tower remediation and repair work is anticipated to begin in early May, and will take 60-70 business days.
- Christian then thanked the group and suggested that during the tower remediation and repair InSite will be available through a website (QueenAnneTowerUpdate.com), via email (QATower@insitewireless.com or directly with any of the team members), and on an as-needed basis.

Questions:

A neighborhood resident commented she finds grinding noise annoying, and asked if that noise and other tower work would happen over the weekend, or just during the week?

Another resident asked how many days of the work window will that be happening?

Tony Flores answered:

- A lot of the racket will last for about 2 weeks
- We can't use pressure washers, so we have to rely on needle guns
- That's where all the noise is coming from
- Noise is Monday-Friday between 7:30 and 4:30

A resident asked: will you replace part of the tower?

Tony answered:

- The FCC has mandated changes for its TV station, so we need to redo that
- There are 2 ways to modify a tower; replacing structural members and/ or adding more steel to existing members
- In this case, there will be a little of both, we're adding on to structural members where necessary to strengthen them and replacing some
- Have to remediate corrosion
- We estimate 60-70 days for the work however, we are uncertain on the exact time because of potential weather delays

Resident: will you start from the top down?

- Tony: Yes

Resident: when will you start?

- Tony: Probably early next week or so

Resident: what about the dust?

- Tony: Dust will go in the containment areas, it will get trapped in the mesh

Resident: is it oil-based paint? Will it smell?

- Tony: It is a latex, water based paint. There is **no** lead in the paint

Resident: what is the timeline? When will it need to be repainted?

- Tony: 7-10 years, sort of like your house.

Resident: right now, the chipped paint is coming off the tower onto my yard. Is it possible to put that netting there now to prevent that?

- Tony: We can't, we have to put the mesh in intervals. Shrouding the whole tower is not recommended by the structural engineers.

Resident: I live right behind the tower. After the cleanup I'm STILL finding lead paint chips on my property. I think we should all be wary of that. What about re-contamination? I think we need to look at paperwork very carefully. If the cleanup needs to be redone, that's something to note.

- Tony: yes, we are taking those steps to look at the potential of re-contamination

Resident: It's not potential, it IS happening

- Tony: We're going to work as quickly as we can

Resident: My child hasn't been able to play in the yard since February 9...this is not funny.

- Tony: I don't think it's funny either, we are taking this very seriously

Resident: I appreciate the company's efforts and I think it has to do with the upper leadership. I am becoming more and more concerned with the consequences of this contamination

- Christian: Yes, we take this very seriously too. We have the right folks to do this for us. The contractors are local, they understand the situation at hand

Resident: There should be more forth-rightness, I had to tell my neighbors that there is still paint coming off.

- Tony: Actually, I did bring that up at the first meeting...

Resident: Not everyone was at that meeting though

- Kay: That's a good point, we'd like to roll out a communication plan where we can add updates like that to the website

Resident: I want the EPA to have a finger in the pot and hold InSite accountable. We need a mutual advocate; someone to advocate for the community.

- Kay: Mike, EPA doesn't have authority on the tower, what about EPA's authority on the ground?
- Mike Sibley: We can certainly be on the ground

Resident: I have contacted an environmental law firm and spoken to the lawyer. I think it's best to have someone from a neutral party review the paperwork. I had a blood level test done on my child and it wasn't accurate...I want to make sure there is an avenue in the paperwork that helps us...if anyone wants the number for the lawyer I can give you that.

- Christian: We've retained as a toxicologist and he can answer questions if you want his number

Resident: But he's a Ph.D. toxicologist...you need to speak with a medical doctor instead.

- Kay: I have contact info for King County public health, plus pediatrician (editor's note: NW Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit, University of Washington pediatrician, Elizabeth Friedman, is the contact for this project. 206-685-1058, or efhealth@uw.edu)

Christian: I sincerely appreciate everyone's help and your cooperation. We apologize for the inconvenience sincerely.

Kay: Do we have a response team for people who are still finding chips?

- Christian: Yes, we do have a response team that can come and pick up paint chips at any point

Resident: What about impact on pets? Can we have an expert vet speak to the harmful effects?

- Kay said she would try to find a veterinarian who might be able to address that

Christian: We are committed to seeing this through, we encourage you to reach out to us anytime.

Resident: Christian, are you local?

- Christian: No.

Resident: Is there anyone local when this starts up again?

- Tony: It will be someone local, like Larry (Larry Lee, Industrial Hygienist). That person can participate in daily inspections to make sure cleanup is going as it's supposed to.

Resident: When will it be safe for us to let our kids go out again?

- Kay: That's a difficult question, we can never say "safe..."
- Tony: once the tower work and any subsequent cleanup is complete
- Resident: So all of summer...
- Kay: It is definitely an important question to address...there are still questions that need to be answered.

Resident: are there any parks that were affected?

- Multiple people: No.

Resident: what about the results? How are we going to be able to understand the results? I don't understand what's being said...numbers don't make sense

- Kay: We will be putting together packets for each of the properties that have had soil sampling...we will also interpret the data...numbers don't mean anything without context
- Resident: Was the sampling done before the cleanup and after?
- Kay: No, just after
- Resident: I was told that some soil was tested
- Tony: We had some random samples of soil conditions on public areas, but we didn't get permission for the other properties that are private
- Resident: Do you expect higher levels of contamination for neighborhoods with older residences?
- Mike Sibley: We need to do that analysis, we just got the data...
- Kay: But since he (asking the question) already got a call about the sampling is there someone he can talk to?
- Roz: I'm a toxicologist, I have experience with lead testing. There is a test for how much lead might come out of soil...the data suggests that lead from the paint chips is not seeping out into the soil.
- Kay (to resident): We can find someone who you can talk to
- Mike Arnold: Data from single properties alone makes the entire site hard to understand, the overall data is how we understand the situation the best...we don't have the general picture yet since we're still getting data in

Resident: Do we know the average soil level for the area?

- Roz: There have been studies in urban areas that show they are above EPA's national lead levels. EPA had meeting a few years ago to talk about this.
- Resident: What are the lead levels now?
- Roz: They're literally coming in as we speak so we don't know.