

**NYC DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
BUREAU OF ENGINEERING DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION
CROTON FACILITY MONITORING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 2009 – 7:00PM**

The Croton Facility Monitoring Committee met on Thursday, January 15, 2009 at the DEP Community Office, 3660 Jerome Avenue, Bronx, NY 10467. Attendees included CFMC representatives, elected officials, staff from DEP, its construction manager, design engineer, and members of the public. They are listed on *Attachment 1*. A few individuals provided only partial contact information or did not sign in.

Welcome

Greg Faulkner, Chair of Community Board #7 and of the CFMC, opened the meeting at 7:05 PM; an agenda (*Attachment 2*) was available.

Jobs Report

Mr. Faulkner requested the agencies' updates on jobs and hiring. Nicole Torres, DEP, summarized progress on jobs and purchases since the November CFMC meeting. She characterized the project's impact on local jobs and services as being strong and continuing. See *Attachment #3*. Hector Aponte, Bronx Parks and Recreation Department Commissioner, and Leon Fendley, Parks and Recreation Dept, said its report on jobs and projects as part of the Croton funding, would be provided at the next CFMC meeting. Mr. Faulkner said he'd like to see at least two people hired by the Parks Department from the DEP community outreach list of job applicants.

Parks and Playgrounds Discussion

Mr. Faulkner asked Commissioner Aponte several questions about lead conditions at playgrounds. Mr. Aponte said that 98 recreational fields are being tested. To date, he said that 15 sites that were tested show no lead but at one site in Manhattan lead was found. Parks is monitoring the situation to keep all members of the public safe.

There followed a brief discussion about the design of the Van Cortlandt Park (VCP) golf course parking area being redesigned by Grimshaw Architects. The redesign follows presentations to Community Boards # 7, 8 and 12 and to the Design Commission. City Council Member Oliver Koppell said the community is unhappy with any design that has a footprint larger than was displayed in the EIS. Comments from Saul Scheinbach, Community Board #8, Mark Lanaghan, DEP, and Mr. Aponte followed. Lyn Pyle, community resident, asked if the above ground buildings at VCP will be beyond the alienation legislation, complaining that the designs appear to place buildings close to the playing fields that children use. Mr. Aponte said that a revised design will be presented when it is available, and that public input has been factored into the revised design. Mr. Faulkner said he was disappointed that the earlier design, which was objected to by the community, had gone to the Design Commission. Michael Gary, Amalgamated Houses, asked if the new design will be shared with the community beyond presentations to the Community Boards. Mr. Faulkner recommended that Mr. Gary attend a meeting at the community board.

Anne Marie Garti, Jerome Park Conservancy, asked if there could be a similar process for the pathway at Jerome Park Reservoir (JPR). She recommended presentation at the community boards and at the Croton FMC before the pathway is presented to the Design Commission. She said the agencies need interaction with the community so all parties will have been represented when the item goes to the Design Commission. Mr. Aponte replied that Parks has been listening to public comments and needs time to prepare its revised presentation. Ms. Garti requested that the public pathway at JPR be further discussed at the CFMC meeting. The CFMC agreed.

Additional discussion on the JPR pathway then continued. Ms. Garti said that on January 8, 2009 the Parks Committee of CB #8 asked for improvements and amenities on the other side of the reservoir, in the area of 205th Street near where the DEP facilities will be constructed. Parks explained that it wouldn't make improvements where upcoming DEP construction could impact it. For that reason, Parks has concentrated the pathway on the opposite side of the reservoir. Ms. Garti asked DEP to tell the Design Commission where its construction would take place so the Commission can express its views on the matter. Mr. Aponte replied that the Design Commission has been involved, and that other agencies – including DOT, Lehman College and DEP have been consulted. Mr. Lanaghan said that DEP would continue to be involved as its interests are affected. Mr. Aponte added that the process for the pathway is similar to the process for the golf course parking area: the community board(s) and local officials provide input and the agency of jurisdiction takes public opinion into consideration in advancing the work.

In response to Mr. Aponte's comment about Lehman College's parking lot being "off limits" to the pathway, Rene Rotolo, VP Lehman College, said that Lehman would work with Parks and DEP on a pathway that is reasonable and doesn't compromise public safety.

Messrs. Scheinbach and Faulkner said that Community Boards #7 and #8 want the pathway to be designed for the entire JPR area and not in segments. Laura Stockstill, Bronx Borough President's office, said she would like DEP and Parks to let the CFMC know when and who will present these designs to the Design Commission. Mr. Lanaghan said DEP will notify the CFMC when the Design Commission is scheduled to consider the item and then after the Design Commission meeting, the agencies will explain to the CFMC what transpired.

Council Member Koppell said there is also community concern about the dog run, a separate issue. His constituents say the dog run will be too big. Mr. Aponte said that Parks has reduced the dog run size as a result of public input. Sentiment runs both ways, he said. Ms. Garti said that historically DEP gave Parks the dog run land to be used for children's recreation, where one can see the reservoir. Now dog owners have appropriated the area and children won't use it. She complained that Parks will place three paths for joggers/walkers in the Fort Independence Park area, leaving no financial resources for the community on the other side of the reservoir. Mr. Aponte said that

Parks will take a new look at the plan and probably will not go to the Design Commission until the public has seen a new presentation. There was CFMC support for this scenario.

Richard Barr, Bronx High School of Science Parents Association, said it's sad that the pathway on the Bronx High School Science side of JPR is three years away due to DEP's ongoing construction. Mr. Faulkner said he'd like Parks to prepare a single, comprehensive plan for the pathway. Mr. Aponte said that Harris Park will have a jogging track and he believes that Bronx High School of Science will be pleased with it. Anthony Riveccio, Community District #7, said he's a long time jogger at JPR and that less than \$5 million was allocated for the project. If all funds are committed for the west side of the JPR, where will funds come from for improving the east side of the JPR? Mr. Aponte said that all \$3.2 million will be needed for the pathway that has been under design. If efficiencies in design and construction can be found, the Parks Department may be able to provide more amenities. Ms. Rotolo reiterated that Lehman College and CUNY will work with Parks to see if there is safe compatibility of uses along its parking area; Mr. Scheinbach said that the south end of the JPR is not accounted for in the plan but should be. Mr. Aponte said that DOT Commissioner Constance Moran toured the JPR area with him, and agreed to allow the continued use off the sidewalk for the public.

Emergency Procedures

Mr. Lanaghan said he came prepared to discuss emergency procedures for DEP. Mr. Faulkner said he wanted an outside representative from NYPD, FDNY or OEM, as well as a person from the operating part of DEP familiar with its emergency response plan at JPR, to comment on what happens in an emergency. He asked Lehman College's safety officer if he wished to speak. The Lehman College safety officer declined, saying he'd come to listen.

Mr. Scheinbach said he doesn't want the CFMC or the press to create a panic regarding this issue among the schools along the JPR. It was pointed out that at present there is no chlorine at JPR. Council Member Koppell said he wants to know what happens after OEM, NYPD and FDNY are notified by DEP about a problem. Mr. Faulkner said the public should know that procedures are in place in case of an emergency to give a secure sense to the public regarding safety. Mr. Lanaghan said that this is a very broad area for the CFMC to be involved in and is not generally within the CFMC's mandate for the Croton Filter Project. Carla Borsotti, Community Board #12, said the emergency procedures issue merits further discussion and that the OEM has been encouraging communities to get more residents into the CERT program. There followed a spirited discussion among Council Member Koppell, Messrs. Scheinbach, Aponte, Lanaghan, Ms. Stockstill, and Mr. Faulkner. It was suggested that the CFMC follow up to describe the areas of interest to the CFMC concerning emergency procedures. Mr. Lanaghan was asked about chlorine monitors at JPR. He said that there are chlorine monitors at both Gate House 5 and 7. Ms. Pyle said that when the Croton Filter Plant is completed, chlorine will be added at VCP. She asked that this be discussed at the next CFMC meeting. Bernard Daly, DEP, and Mr. Lanaghan responded that the Croton Filter Plant will use liquid chlorine and not chlorine gas. Mr. Gary suggested instituting additional safety procedures.

Mr. Faulkner said additional questions and comments would be reserved for the next meeting.

Construction Update

Mr. Daly gave a project update regarding construction at VCP and JPR.

The Contract CRO 312 contractors are continuing to work at the VCP site. Work includes placement of concrete, installation of large diameter piping, installation of pipe sleeves, embedments, and electrical conduit and electrical service duct tanks. Approximately 40% of the concrete has been placed for the Croton Filter Plant at VCP.

On Contract CRO 313, excavation of the Raw Water Tunnel is complete and concrete lining of this tunnel is ongoing. The New Croton Aqueduct (NCA) is out of service and, as previously mentioned, no chlorine gas is currently being stored at JPR. A 30' excavation is underway below JPR that will tie one of the Treated Water Tunnels into the NCA. Within two weeks, all underground mining is expected to be completed for the Treatment Plant. Contract CRO 313 Shaft and Meter Chamber surface construction work has not progressed due to the nature of the soils that were encountered. Additional soil testing is underway. To date, the soil has been classified as Non-Hazardous Regulated Waste which must be disposed of at an approved facility. No soil removal work has begun, pending DEP approval of a proposed disposal site and trucking company.

The Contract CRO 315 work continues at JPR. The 315G contractor has submitted to the Dept of Buildings an application for a permit to demolish the Demonstration Plant. Once the permit is approved, it will take six weeks to complete the demolition.

Mr. Barr asked how soon hoe ramming would begin. Mr. Daly said it is one to two months away. Council Member Koppell asked if all excavation is complete at VCP. Mr. Daly said excavation was completed in 2007 under Contract CRO 311 except for some minor utility work. Ms. Garti asked about plans for a shaft on the JPR dividing wall. Mr. Daly said two options are being studied for separation of the raw and treated water in the NCA below JPR. One option would require the construction of a new Shaft 21A on the dividing wall while the second option would not require this shaft.

CFMC Discussion

The CFMC scheduled its next meeting on February 19th. Ms. Stockstill asked how soon the minor modification to the EIS will be available. Mr. Lanaghan said it may be available for presentation at the February meeting. Ms. Stockstill asked whether a presentation on the VCP Pedestrian Bridge will also be ready in February. Mr. Aponte said that Parks and DEP have been working on the technical analyses but the costs feasibility has not been determined. Ms. Stockstill asked whether the watershed protection information requested from Assistant Commissioner Dave Warne was available. Martha Holstein agreed to find out.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Organization / Company</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Fax</u>	<u>E-Mail</u>
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Leon Fendley	NYC Dept of Parks & Recreation	1 Bronx River Parkway Bronx NY	(718) 231-8470	(718) 231-8857	leon.fendley@parks.nyc.gov
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Laura Stockstill	Office of Bronx Borough President Carrion	198 East 161st Street Bronx, NY 10451	(718) 590-3881	(718) 590-2698	lstockstill@bronxbp.nyc.gov
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Anne Marie Garti	Jerome Park Conservancy	3967 Sedgwick Avenue Bronx NY	(718) 601-1322; (718) 884-7864		annemarie@att.net
Greg Niyri	Lehman College- CUNY	250 Bedford Park Blvd W. Bronx NY	(718) 960-8593		
Carla Borsotti	Community Board #12		(646) 284 4973		

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Agenda
Croton Facility Monitoring Committee Meeting
Thursday, January 15, 2009 – 7:00 PM
DEP Community Office, 3660 Jerome Avenue, Bronx NY 10467
(718) 231-8470

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| I. Welcome | | Greg Faulkner |
| II. Consider & Adopt Minutes of
November 2008 CFMC Meeting <i>(5 minutes)</i> | | CFMC Principals |
| III. DEP Report on Jobs, Minority
Hiring & Subcontracting <i>(10 minutes)</i> | | Nicole Torres, DEP |
| IV. Parks Report on Jobs <i>(10 minutes)</i> | | Faisal Choudhury, Dept of Parks &
Recreation |
| Comments, Questions <i>(10 minutes)</i> | | |
| V. Golf Course Parking – Van Cortlandt Park
<i>(5 minutes)</i> | | Karen Argenti, Lynn Schwarz |
| VI. Emergency Response Procedures <i>(10 minutes)</i> | | Mark Lanaghan, DEP |
| Comments, Questions <i>(10 minutes)</i> | | |
| VII. Brief Update on Construction <i>(5 minutes)</i> | | Bernard Daly, DEP |
| Comments, Questions <i>(5 minutes)</i> | | |
| VIII. Discussion & Set Next Meeting <i>(5 minutes)</i> | | |
| IX. Adjourn | | |

**Croton Filtration Plant
Update on Bronx-based Hiring and Purchasing
Presented to the Croton Facility Monitoring Committee
January 15, 2009**

Last FMC Meeting held in November (October 2008 Report)

- Bronx Labor – 113 employees or 23% on site
- Bronx Purchasing - \$77.5 million or 42% of Bronx & Non-Bronx contracts
- Croton community Outreach Office Applicants – 1,700 (540 union, 1,160 non-union)

January FMC Meeting 2009 (December 2008 Report)

- Bronx Labor – 116 employees or 23% on site
- Bronx Purchasing - \$77.9 million or 42% of Bronx & Non-Bronx contracts
- Croton Community Outreach Office Applicants – 1,470 (565 union, 905 non-union)
- Please note: There are 255 inactive applicants that are not included in 1,470