MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETINGS OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SODA SPRINGS, CARIBOU COUNTY, IDAHO HELD JANUARY 16, 2025.
MEETING AND AGENDA NOTICES ARE POSTED AT CITY HALL 24 HOURS IN ADVANCE PURSUANT TO THE IDAHO CODE. MEETING WAS HELD AT 5:00 PM.
ROLL CALL SHOWED THE FOLLOWING PRESENT:
Austin W. Robinson, Mayor
Mitch Hart, Pres
Ryan Carpenter
Rod Worthington
Paul Gritton
ABSENT:
ALSO PRESENT:
Andrea Haderlie, Clerk
Alan Skinner, Engineer
Dan Squires, Water/WWTP
Jason Maughan
Chris Leatherman
Brandon Hall
Kaylee Peck
Simon Zulu
Travis Naef
Ethan Waltermire

Mayor Robinson opens the meeting at 5:00 PM, introducing the purpose and participants.

Environmental History and Slag Management

- Jason Maughan introduces himself and his role in the environmental group at Bayer.
- Jason Maughan explains the history of slag management issues, including the identification of TENORM (Technologically Enhanced Naturally Occurring Radioactive Material) in the 1980s.
- The EPA and DEQ's involvement in managing slag, including the 1996 consent order and the formation of the slag work group.
- The role of the Southeast Idaho Health District in managing public outreach and inquiries related to slag.

Slag Work Group and Public Outreach

- Jason Maughan discusses the graded decision guidelines used by the Health District to manage public inquiries.
- The website maintained by the Health District for slag management information.
- The agreement between FMC and Monsanto (now Bayer) on managing and owning slag on either side of Fish Creek.
- The historical use of slag as aggregate, road base, and concrete, and the prohibition on slag sales in the 1980s.
- The 2014 reevaluation of slag in communities and the road survey conducted in 2016.

Slag Management and Future Plans

- Jason Maughan explains the current slag management practices, including the generation and storage of slag.
- The plan to manage slag to the north of the current operation due to the grade restrictions of the current pile.
- The expected life of the current slag pile and the activities to extend its life.
- Discussion on the tons of slag produced annually and the historical context of slag management.
- The results of the road survey in Caribou County and the exposure threshold for attenuation.

Mercury Emissions and Control Technologies

- Jason Maughan introduces the topic of mercury emissions and the historical installation of environmental controls.
- The primary focus on mercury-related emissions projects over the last decade.
- The natural occurrence of mercury in phosphate ore and its emission from kiln operations.
- The 2011 EPA update on mercury rules and the identification of the best available control technology (BACT) for mercury emissions.
- The pilot project uses Gore-Tex fabric impregnated with carbon to absorb mercury from the gas stream.

Mercury Control Implementation and Compliance

- The agreement with DEQ on the use of Gore-Tex filters for mercury control.
- The installation of mercury control equipment on each of the four stacks by 2024.
- The process of mercury absorption on the Gore-Tex fabric and the management of wash water.
- The removal of mercury from the gas stream and its disposal in the S sub-two landfill.
- The operational compliance measurement requirements and the challenges of measuring mercury in the gas stream.

Groundwater Management and Selenium Plume

- Jason Maughan discusses the history of groundwater management at the site, including the installation of plume capture wells in 2017.
- There was a significant reduction in the Selenium plume due to the operation of the plume capture wells.
- The 2021 activation of the Selenium treatment system and its impact on the plume.
- The location of the Selenium treatment system and its role in preventing the migration of the Selenium plume.
- The ongoing efforts to manage groundwater quality and the involvement of EPA and DEQ.

Circle Superfund Process and Remedial Investigation

- Jason Maughan explains the difference between Superfund and CERCLA and the history of the site's cleanup efforts.

- The 1997 Consent Order and the establishment of monitored natural attenuation as the selected remedy.
- The re-engagement with EPA in 2014 and the installation of plume capture wells and the Selenium treatment system.
- The 2021 signing of the consent order initiating the CERCLA process and the current focus on the remedial investigation.
- The expected delivery of the remedial investigation report in the second quarter of 2025.

Feasibility Study and Future Actions

- The anticipated focus areas for the feasibility study include historic solid ponds, the Northwest Pond, and the old hydro clarifier area.
- The potential for a mixture of water treatment and source actions to address groundwater contamination.
- The involvement of third-party contractors and the ongoing communication with EPA and DEQ.
- The importance of public comment periods and the potential for future public meetings.
- The ongoing efforts to manage groundwater quality and the involvement of the Southeast Idaho Health District.

Public Engagement and Community Involvement

- The importance of public engagement and the potential for future public meetings.
- The role of third-party contractors and the ongoing communication with EPA and DEQ.
- The involvement of the Southeast Idaho Health District in managing public outreach and inquiries.
- The potential for future public meetings to provide updates and gather community feedback.
- The importance of community involvement in the cleanup process and the ongoing efforts to address groundwater contamination.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:25 PM.
PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL THIS JANUARY 22, 2025.

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Austin W. Robinson, Mayor

ATTES:

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Andrea Haderlie, Clerk