

PUBLIC MEETING 1 – TUESDAY, AUGUST 6TH, 2019

RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS ASKED

The purpose of this document is to provide responses to the pertinent questions raised by members of the public during the comment period of the first public meeting of the City of Philadelphia’s Refinery Advisory Group. This document does not represent a verbatim transcript of all comments raised during the meeting.

Q: What specifically will happen to the Hydrogen Fluoride (HF) on site now that the refinery has announced its intent to close?

A: The Hydrogen Fluoride (HF) remaining on site is being neutralized. Once neutralized, the byproduct will be safely processed through the existing water treatment system on site. The HF neutralization process began in early August and has been constantly monitored by emergency responders on a 24x7 basis to ensure that it is performed safely. As of August 19, 2019, more than half of the HF has been neutralized.

Q: Can additional community representatives be added to the Advisory Group?

A: In response to the comments raised during the August 6th public meeting, the City has doubled the number of community representatives on the Advisory Group. There are now 8 members who represent nearby neighborhoods and communities on the Advisory Group, making community representatives the largest represented external constituency on the Advisory Group.

Q: How will recommendations made by residents inform the decisions that the City is making?

A: The Refinery Advisory Group will not be making policy decisions. Rather, its mission is to gather feedback from a wide array of stakeholders and use that information to inform City leaders as the future of the PES site becomes clearer. At the end of this process, the recommendations and feedback made by residents and other stakeholder groups will be combined into a public report.

Q: If there are any areas that the City does not control, what are those areas and who does have the power?

A: The refinery site is privately owned by a private company, which is in a bankruptcy proceeding. The site's long history pre-dates modern zoning requirements. As a result, the City's direct authority over what occurs at the PES site is limited. However, the City has some influence over what occurs in the future if any future uses require condemnation through eminent domain or public assistance, such as infrastructure improvements. The City also has regulatory authority through issuing permits and enforcing Building, Fire, and Air Management Codes. Authority and jurisdiction for most issues related to contamination of soils and ground water on the site resides with the PA Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The final report of the Advisory Committee will address this topic in more detail.

Q: How does the work of the Advisory Group fit into the Phila 2035 plan?

A: The Advisory Group will take into consideration the recommendations outlined in the Phila2035 plan, as well as the Lower Schuylkill Master Plan, along with all other feedback received from stakeholders through this process. The Department of Planning and Development and staff of the City Planning Commission, as well as staff from the Philadelphia Industrial Development Corporation (the two organizations that developed the respective plans), are participating on the Advisory Group.

Q: Was anybody from the Governor's Office invited?

A: Yes, the Governor's Office is engaged in this process and Advisory Group staff have been in communication with them. Staff from the Wolf Administration attended the August 6th meeting.

Q: Who will pay for the Act 2 site-specific remediation efforts?

A: Sunoco retains responsibility for cleaning up legacy contamination on the site that occurred prior to 2012. Evergreen Resource Management Operations, a Sunoco subsidiary, is coordinating and funding the Act 2 remediation efforts under the regulatory authority of the PA Department of Environmental Protection. Sunoco/Evergreen must also comply with certain related EPA requirements.

Q: Is there a time frame for when a decision is going to be made about the site? How will the decision be made and by who? What power does the Advisory Group have in influencing the decision? Is it a single person? Or committee, by vote?

A: The Advisory Group will not be making any decisions about the site. Rather, the Advisory Group will be gathering feedback from a wide array of stakeholders and summarizing that feedback into a report that will be issued in Fall 2019. The City intends to use the information gathered through this process to help guide how the City approaches the future of the site and responds to any proposals that emerge for it.