

Detroit River International Crossing Study
Delray Community Drilling Information Meeting
January 31, 2007 – Bus Tour 4-5 PM – Questions/Answer Period Thereafter
Southwestern High School

Purpose: To provide the community an up-close view of the deep drilling operation and 14 bore holes of the Detroit River International Crossing Study.

Attendance: See attachment.

Discussion:

The meeting had two components. First everyone met in the parking lot, boarded buses and toured the bore hole sites. Later, there was a “Question-and-Answer” period in the cafeteria.

Bus Tour

Harvey Santana acted as tour guy and Fritz Klingler and Craig Johnson of NTH answered questions. A number of questions were asked during the course of the tour itself.

Question: How deep will the holes go?

Answer: Usually 1,500 feet.

Question: What if you hit a cavern?

Answer: Our equipment will detect it and we will use sonar to determine the extent of the cavern.

Question: Are the Canadians drilling?

Answer: Yes. (At the first site visited between Lafarge and McCoig Aggregates the Canadian rig was just visible and was pointed out.)

Question: How far back does the plaza extend from the river?

Answer: Different plazas extend back different distances, a number to the railroad, others almost to Fort Street.

Southwest High School Question-and-Answer Session

Mohammed Alghurabi welcomed everyone and introduced team members – U.S. and Canadian. He then explained the purpose of the meeting and asked those with questions to come forward to the microphone.

Question: What pollution will be brought in?

Answer: Mohammed Alghurabi spoke about the drilling-related activity.

Question: The speaker clarified that she was referring to the overall pro

Answer: Mohammed responded that information had been supplied in a December handout that was also on the web site. He promised to get her a copy. Ted Stone added that more information will be generated when the specifics of plaza locations and connections, with traffic are known.

Question: How will the drilling affect nearby houses, especially noise and vibrations?

Answer: Fritz Klingler said that noise and vibration monitors will be in place at each site during drilling. If established criteria are exceeded, the operations will be shut down until corrective measures are in place. Mohammed Alghurabi said the closest house to any hole is about 200 feet and that only about six were within 300 feet. The hole locations had been chosen, in part, to avoid homes. Some holes, especially hole 13 had been moved so that the hole is now farther from homes. Relocation payments are being made to those within the 300-foot boundary. Craig Johnson said that based on measurements of the exact same equipment at a site in northern Michigan, sound and vibration levels were very low. If there were a problem, mufflers can be put on the generators.

Question: Where will the bridge go?

Answer: There are two basic corridors, one south of Ft. Wayne and one north. Study will determine which is preferred, but the studies are not done yet and no conclusions have been reached.

Question: Will a decision be made after drilling is finished?

Answer: No, it will take longer as the drilling is only one part of the data gathering leading to a decision. There will be no answer until the end of the year.

Question: How do you go about drilling on private property?

Answer: We had to get permission from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality and the property owner.

Comment: I am concerned about anyone coming on my property.

Answer: Drillers will only be on property for which permission is given.

Question: I received some paperwork and signed it and sent it back in.

Answer: Ted Stone clarified that other work was being done in addition to the deep boring and that some residents had received right-of-entry requests to do work, other than deep drilling, such as archeological digging.

Question: Are you looking ahead at all the truck traffic coming. Some of the roads can't handle it.

Answer: The project will change traffic patterns and part of the work is to anticipate that traffic and plan for it.

Question: How much hydrogen sulfide will there be? How long will it last? Is it going to smell?

Answer: Craig Johnson responded that hydrogen sulfide (rotten egg odor gas) is in the groundwater and the construction industry has been dealing with it for years. There have been no problems with hydrogen sulfide in the two Canadian holes dug so far. Several protective steps are in place. First, the entire program has been designed to account for

the potential presence of the gas. As a result, there is a Hydrogen Sulfide Contingency Plan in place. Second, if gas comes out of the hole, special drilling mud will be used to slow down/stop the release. If there is a smell, it will not be noticeably different from the other industry smells in the area. Third, if the smell does become a nuisance, compounds can be added to the drilling mud that chemically combine with the hydrogen sulfide to neutralize it. Finally, there is special blowout protection equipment on the drills. It will shut down the drilling operation, if sensors detect excessive hydrogen sulfide levels, even if power to the rig is lost.

Question: How many streets will be closed?

Answer: This exact number is in the document distributed at the December 5th Public Meeting, which is on the web.

Question: Has drilling started at hole 15 yet? I am concerned about vibrations.

Answer: No. In terms of vibration, the drill rigs will generate less vibration than a heavy truck driving down the street.

Question: In what order will the holes be drilled.

Answer: The city of Detroit asked that Hole 10 be drilled first, as it is far from any residences. After Hole 10, it is likely the deep borings will continue in the south corridor, probably starting with Hole 1 and then moving to Holes 2 and 11.

Question: I live near Bassett and see little yellow flags out along the curb. Is that you?

Answer: No, we are far from that area.

With that, the meeting ended at about 6:30 p.m.