

Detroit River International Crossing Study
Local Advisory Council/Local Agency Group Joint Meeting
January 31, 2007 – 7:00 PM
Southwestern High School

Purpose: To review the progress of the Detroit River International Crossing Study.

Attendance: See attachment.

Discussion:

Introductions

Mohammed Alghurabi began the meeting by asking everyone in attendance to introduce themselves. Following introductions, he indicated that the meeting was to be conducted so that the observers could comment at the beginning and end of the meeting. The Local Advisory Council and Local Agency Group members would conduct their business uninterrupted in the core of the agenda.

Agenda Review

Mohammed Alghurabi asked if there were any comments or revisions to the agenda. There were none.

Public Comments

Mohammed Alghurabi asked if any member of the general public wished to speak. There were no public comments.

November LAC/LAG Meeting Notes

Mohammed Alghurabi indicated that Mrs. Delores Leonard has asked for some changes to the November meeting notes, and these will be made. There were no further comments, corrections, additions or deletions.

Status of the Deep Drilling Program – U.S.

Harvey Santana explained that a meeting had been held January 11, 2007 to explain details of the deep drilling program to the public. The bus tour held earlier in the day had been the next effort to ensure the public was fully aware of the drilling. There will be additional meetings monthly as the deep drilling program advances.

Guy Corradino explained how contacts had been made for the temporary relocation program associated with the deep drilling. As explained at the January 11 meeting, there were Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) permits that had to be obtained before drilling could occur. The MDOT team has complied with all applicable laws/regulations. Contacts have been made with all those residents within 300 feet of Holes 14 and 15, the only holes where there are such residences, and preliminary relocation payments have been made. Approximately 7 to 10 days before the deep drilling commences at these locations, the balance of the relocation payment will be made.

Harvey Santana next showed oblique aerial photographs of the deep boring holes. Bore Hole 10, near the river, will be the first. Then the south set of holes will likely be drilled.

At Hole 15, three nearby residences are affected. Hole 13 had residences nearby, but the hole had to be moved when right-of-entry to drill the hole could not be obtained at the original site. So, several dwellings that were initially expected to be within the 300-foot zone are no longer in the zone.

Status of the Deep Drilling Program -Canada

Tim Sorochinsky explained the status of the Canadian deep drilling program. Of the 12 holes to be drilled, two are completed to full depth. Most other holes have been predrilled to 100 feet. It is hoped the program will be completed by the first week in April.

LAC/LAG Comments/Questions

Question: How were the hole locations chosen?

Answer: Craig Johnson of NTH explained that, first the history of brine wells was researched. That pointed to the lack of specific knowledge on the U.S. side, but underscored the fact that salt mine operations had occurred. Next, based on the limited knowledge of where salt operations may have occurred, and the proposed bridge crossing locations, a pattern of holes was developed. The hole spacings were optimized for the data collection that will be done. Mohammed Alghurabi added that the reason the bore hole numbering system left out two numbers was that two holes were dropped from the program for strategic reasons. So there are no holes 8 or 9. Also, the entire program was designed to minimize impacts to homes.

Question: How were people contacted and why was one home contacted and another one not?

Answer: MDEQ requires that contact be made with those residential owners/occupants within 300 feet of a hole. This was done. Guy Corradino said he began by trying to make phone contact with residents, then went knocking on doors to try to find people. Owners were contacted first, then renters.

Comment: I live on Morrell and have been a resident since 1957 and no one contacted me.

Answer: After the meeting we will determine where you live and whether you are within 300 feet. (This was done and the home owner was not within the 300-foot radius.

Question: I wanted to ask the Canadian gentleman if there have been any complaints in Canada?

Answer: Tim Sorochinsky responded, “no.” We have meetings in Canada like the ones you have been having here in the U.S. We have people on-site as you do. We handed out flyers to local residents. Mohammed Alghurabi added that in the U.S. there will be two big white passenger vans circulating throughout Delray during the drilling period. Anyone who has a question should call Harvey Santana, 313.580.1411, the ombudsman for the project. He will answer his phone 24/7.

Question: Do we have pamphlets?

Answer: Yes, they are available in the vans, and at the Delray Center. It was agreed that Harvey would delivery project materials to Representative Stabenow's office.

Question: How many attempts were made to contact the persons within 300 feet?

Answer: All the people were contacted, as they had to sign an agreement. Where needed, Harvey Santana provided Spanish language translation, as needed.

Question: Do you pay people for drilling?

Answer: There is a relocation payment for those living within 300 feet (the MDEQ distance) of a bore hole, based on the number of expected days of drilling.

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.

Schedule of Public Meetings

To follow up on today's pubic deep drilling meeting, future meetings are planned for the last Wednesday of each month through June, prior to the joint LAC/LAG meeting. The public meetings will begin at 5:30 PM at Southwestern High School.

In mid-March another update meeting will be held on general project impacts. And, there will be another meeting on Context Sensitive Solutions related to the plaza-interstate interface in April.

Harvey Santana invited anyone who wished to call him to set up an outreach meeting. Meetings were planned with several area churches and the team would meet with any group that so desired.

Other LAC/LAG Business

Mohammed Alghurabi asked if there were any other matters that the group wished to discuss. There were none.

Public Comments

Mohammed Alghurabi asked if there were any further public (observer) questions.

Question: How long after the drilling is complete will it take to gather data from the holes and reach conclusions?

Answer: As the holes are completed the geophysical analysis between holes will commence. That program should take 4-6 months. Mohammed Alghurabi said the information would be transmitted to the Geotechnical Advisory Group, who would examine and validate it by the end of September.

Question: Please explain about the van again. What will it look like?

Answer: These are big, white passenger vans. “DRIC” is lettered on the side of each. For the first three days of drilling, the vans will be present 24/7. Then they will continue to circulate for a good part of the day after that. The vans will be stopping in the neighborhood to provide information to people. When the two holes are drilled in the residential areas, the vans will be circulating 24/7. At that time, security guards will be around the homes, 24/7.

With that, the meeting concluded at about 8:00 p.m.