

Date: Fri, 17 Feb 2006 12:41:32 -0500

To: customer@mail.aacounty.org

From: Juliet Page <juliet@julietpage.com>

Subject: "DPW Customer Feedback Form" Questions

Cc: Cathy Vitale , Janet Owens , R.Brockson, Martinez, Heather Millar, Joe Vorgetts, Melissa Wilson, Nicci DeAngelo, PWood@capitalgazette.com, Greg Page, Juliet Page, PWood@capitalgazette.com, "Vince Wheatley" , "Turner, Maureen" , "Strott-Wheatley, Pat" , "Smith, Brain" , "Lee, Ralph" , "Kemp, Dave & Lori" , "Horner, Sally" , "Dent, Thomas" , "Campbell, Margie & Mike" , "Busch, William" , "Bob Bates" , "Hornor, Sally" , Wolfgang Harbauer

To whom it may concern,

I'm submitting these "DPW Customer Feedback Form" questions electronically as instructed by DPW officials at the February 9th Public Meeting about the Mill Creek Sewage Spill. These questions are being submitted both as a local resident of Mill Creek and on behalf of the Divinity Cove Homeowners Association. We wait in anticipation for your detailed reply.

- 1.) How did you calculate the volume of sewage and sediment that entered into Mill Creek as a result of the Dec 17th and Dec 31st sewage spills? Is this based on measured samples of the sewage flow through the Mill Creek pumping station or is it based on some other sort of empirical or theoretical basis?
- 2.) Exactly how far downriver do the theoretical estimates of the sewage / sediment / sand flow extend? Can you show me the estimate of projected depth on a map of Mill Creek? Exactly what sediments are considered (sand, sewage, silt, etc.)?
- 3.) How was the extent of the sediment flow into Mill Creek estimated? Was a computer model used to calculate this? What is the accuracy and tolerance of the estimation? If an analysis was performed what are the technical references, supporting documentation and validation studies for the estimation methodology? If a computer model is used to simulate sewage flow, is it a publically available model? If so how do I obtain it? May I please have the a copy of the input files that were used to run the computer model.
- 4.) Cathy Vitale said at the public meeting 2/9/06 that all submitted Mill Creek questions and DPW responses would be made available to the public. How, where and when may we obtain copies?
- 5.) Who / what agency filed for the sewage emergency cleanup permits?
- 6.) Why were emergency permits only obtained for a few hundred feet of affected land in the immediate vicinity of the pumping station? Who, at which agency, made the decision as to what geographic area (land vs. river bottom vs. wetlands) was given priority and included in the cleanup already performed? How was this decision made? Were any local residents, citizens, public representatives or local environmental groups consulted or given the opportunity to provide input regarding this decision?
- 7.) What timing restrictions or deadlines are there for filing for subsequent sewage cleanup permits (emergency or otherwise) to address the removal of the remaining sewage and sediment in Mill Creek? Can AA County / DPW still file for emergency permits to remove the remaining sewage and sediment from Mill Creek?
- 8.) Why are there large geographic areas in Anne Arundel County in the region of the pipelines that feed into the Mill Creek Pumping Station not on a sewer system and only using septic systems? Does the county have long term plans in place to put these areas onto a sewer system? If so, will the sewage from these areas also go through the Mill Creek pumping station?

9.) DPW stated at the public meeting that the Mill Creek pumping station is the only one with an "overflow." Can the pumping station overflow be relocated so that the sewage overflow doesn't go into Mill Creek but instead stays on land where it can be more easily removed and hauled off to the landfill?

10.) Has DPW examined alternatives to the overflow "feature" at the Mill Creek Pumping Station? If the overflow outlet at Mill Creek is plugged up can overflow be put elsewhere? What alternatives were considered to the overflow at the Mill Creek pumping station at the time the system was designed? Have any new technologies since the system was designed made it possible to eliminate the overflow? Are any alternatives to the overflow that goes into Mill Creek being considered for future action? Has DPW come up with a Mill Creek impact mitigation strategy in the event of a future catastrophic failure of the sewage system which causes an overflow?

11.) A citizen at the meeting asked if the water could be turned off to the homes on the sewer line in the event of an overflow situation. Is this technically possible? Would turning off the water have an immediate enough effect to reduce the flow through the sewer system and lessen sewage going into Mill Creek? Is this a viable impact mitigation strategy in the event of a future catastrophic failure of the sewage system?

12.) What is the current official notification system of AA County to inform local residents of a health hazard and a closure of Mill Creek?

13.) What action is being taken to ensure that homeowners in Divinity Cove receive adequate notice of Creek closures in the future? The Divinity Cove Homeowners Association, adjacent to Mill Creek, received no notice of the December/January Mill Creek closure, either written via our PO Box, via e-mail to any of the DCHOA officers, or via phone. The sole notification was the yellow sign posted at the community entrance on Peninsula Farm Road several DAYS AFTER Mill Creek had already been closed due to contamination. No notification was placed in the Community Mill Creek public access area at the DCHOA Community Pier or in the DCHOA river access area on the other side of Mill Church Road. No signs were placed in the areas near the river.

14.) What are the DPW inspection plans for the entire sewage system? What other areas of the sewage system connected to the Mill Creek Pumping facility have older concrete pipes with steep inclines that are likely to fail next?

15.) What was the cause of the extreme foul sewage smell coming from Mill Creek at 7:50 am on Feb 16, 2006? Was there another sewage spill or overflow situation?

16.) How often, and where will Mill Creek be tested for bacteria and other health hazards in the coming months as temperatures rise? Where will this information be made available that the public can readily access it?

17.) Are there water testing kits available to homeowners on Mill Creek so that we can test the water at our docks whenever we smell sewage or see sludge and slime floating on the surface of the river? What contaminants or biological hazards do the kits test for?

18.) The boating season is nearly upon us. Sediment on the bottom of the river will be stirred up by boat propellers and redistributed throughout the river. When will sediment samples be taken and will they cover the entire creek from bank to bank? Contrary to the official DPW position, as residents we saw sewage (it looked like sewage, it smelled like sewage!) flowing down the entire width of the creek. Future considerations of dredging must encompass the entire creek from bank to bank, not just the narrow navigation channel that was discussed by DPW contractor representatives. It is much more likely for our families to come in contact with the contaminated sediments at the shores edge and

around the docks, since that is where the swim ladder is, than in the navigation channel.

19.) What agency will determine the amount of the fines to be assessed for the water pollution and environmental impacts caused by the sewage spills? Has the amount of the fines been determined at this point or is it still under investigation? Does the DPW have sufficient liability coverage for the fines so that the tax payers do not have to pay for the cleanup? Will the funds from the fines be used to pay for the clean-up of sewage in Mill Creek?

20.) Who drafted the investigation and mitigation plan for the sewage in Mill Creek? How do we obtain a copy of the detailed plan? Were they aware that cleanup (ie dredging) of contaminated sediments must to be completed by the end of February to comply with restrictions on dredging? In our opinion, plans that do not call for the COMPLETION of all studies and cleanup prior to the February dredging deadline represent a gross mismanagement of the cleanup process. Since your plans do not comply with this time period, how do you plan to get a waiver to the dredging restriction schedule to allow that cleanup of contaminated sediments is completed prior to the 2006 boating and water recreation season beginning in March / April?

Sincerely,

Juliet Page
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and Resident living on Mill Creek

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CC: DCHOA Board of Directors
Janet Owens, Anne Arundel County Executive
Cathy Vitale, Anne Arundel County District 5 Councilperson
Capital Gazette, Local Mill Creek Concerned Citizens