

Minutes: Alexandria Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) meeting on Sept. 24

Call to Order

Attendance:

- Alyia Gaskins, Council – absent
- Kirk McPike – absent
- Law enforcement: Vacant
- Fire Department: Russell Furr, chief deputy fire marshall - Substitute present
- Special Operation Chief: Dave Plunkett (transferred, replacement inbound)
- Community Members: Elizabeth Chimento (Citizen) - absent
- Community Members: Robert Dube (Representing Towngate North HoA) - Present
- Operators of Facilities: Lucas Dushac - plant manager at Covanta, now Reworld - Present
- Media: Michael Lee Pope, Chair - Present
- Media: Vernon Miles - Present

Reports:

LEPC reviewed draft bylaws to be voted on at the next meeting.

Consideration of our annual report. Substantial changes needed to be made to adhere to the template, following the template distributed by staff. Report will be voted on for the next session.

Gavin Pellitteri, Transportation and Environmental Services, reported that there was a non-PCB mineral oil release reported on July 29. Fire at Pepco substation where an insulator had exploded and released 50-100 gallons of non-PCB mineral oil. Contained in station, no product entered stormdrain. Pepco representatives were on-site making sure product was reclaimed before any precipitation event happened.

Notified regulators with DEQ regional office to ensure material was covered.

Fish kill in Holmes Run as a product of community pool discharge on the north side of I-395. Unfortunately, did not find a specific source. Suspected it came from one of two community pools winterizing earlier that day. When winterized, emptied out to substantial degree. Obvious the way this pool was discharged was not what we would recommend. Amount of chlorine in the pool was enough to cause fish kill in 300 yards of Holmes Run.

Estimated 75-120 fish deaths, an animal control officer was first on scene.

Did a strip test: confirmed chlorine, likely from a pool winterized that day, could not confirm they were absolutely responsible party.

Sept. 28 there was a release of petroleum into Lucky Run. Could not find a source for it, but quick to respond with pollutant absorbent booms. Boomed Lucky Run and associated pond, no introduction of petroleum to downstream sources. Lack of precipitation means it did not present a problem downstream. Booms removed on Sept. 24.

Seminary Hill area of Lucky Run investigated. No obvious source. When no source found, T&ES returns three times to check.

Question from Dushac about proper winterizing. Pellitteri recommended pools not treated with chlorine before winterizing.

Jasmin Johnson from the Health Department said Blue Point of Dispensing (POD) will be hosted on Oct. 26.

Partner Agencies:

Reworld representative Dushac said nothing significantly new to report. Fire department representative in the audience said an older car battery was responsible for a fire in Old Town, though it was not a lithium battery.

Paul Carden, American Red Cross, said planning is beginning for inauguration period, working with consequent management activities – particularly the DC walkout plan.

Chair Michael Lee Pope discussed upcoming Agenda Alexandria meeting. The event on March 15 discussed public safety. Co-host is Steve Davidson. Pope said it is an opportunity to collaborate with another city committee, meeting one of the LEPC goals. Red Cross command truck and Alexandria Radio Club listed as other possible collaborations. Dube asked if LEPC was asked to participate, but Pope said the event was more of a “notification”.