



Johnny Gaither, Chairman of the CAG



Donna Cooper, President of Pepco Region

Public Meeting Held: Over 80 community residents attended

Pepco, the District Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE), and the Benning Road Community Advisory Group (CAG) held an open house presentation on April 2, 2016 at River Terrace Elementary School to discuss findings of the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) for the Pepco Benning Road facility and adjacent portion of the Anacostia River. This study is being performed with the oversight of DOEE. Phase one RI has been completed.

Pepco and its contractor (AECOM) presented a summary of the phase one RI findings. While some additional field work is needed to complete the investigation, no surprises have been found so far aside from two areas

with an unexpected groundwater contaminant known as PCE; Pepco is working with DOEE to track down the source of PCE which is likely offsite. AECOM has identified some areas of contamination consistent with the historical industrial use of the Benning site, other sites along the river, and the general urban character of the surrounding area.

Pending further investigation of the site, these findings do not present any immediate health risk to people who live, work, or recreate in the area. Consuming fish from the river, however, should still be avoided. Once the additional investigation is completed, cleanup options and other activities will be identified and evaluated to ensure there are no long-term risks to human health or the environment as a result of Pepco's activities at the site. Visit www.benningservicecenter.com/library/documents/BenningRIFSCommunityUpdate.pdf to view the entire presentation.

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Public Comments and the Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS)

Draft Remedial Investigation RI Report Public Comments

DOEE released the draft RI report for public comment on March 1, 2016. The CAG submitted its comments to DOEE on April 18, 2016. [Click here to read the letter.](#) Roughly 121 comments were received in total from the public. The responses have been posted to both the [DOEE website](#) as well as the [Pepco Benning Service Center website](#).

The CAG would like to thank all of the independent volunteer technical advisors for working with our technical services committee to review and evaluate the draft RI report: Dr. Tolessa Deksissa, University of the District of Columbia; Dr. Gerald Poje, George Washington University; Dr. Richard Ezike, Environmental Consultant; Dr. Kenya Goodson, Environmental Science and Engineering Consultant; Natural Resources Defense Council; Chesapeake Legal Alliance.

What is the Benning Road Facility?

The facility is currently home to the Benning Service Center that occupies 77 acres and accommodates approximately 700 Pepco employees. Service Center employees work on construction and maintenance of Pepco's electric transmission and distribution system, system engineering, vehicle fleet maintenance and refueling, and central warehousing for all the materials, supplies and equipment needed to operate the electric transmission and distribution system in The District of Columbia. The Benning Road facility also was the site of an electric generating station for many years, but the power plant and associated structures were shut down in 2012 and completely demolished in May 2015, with the exception of the concrete cooling tower basins which are slated to be removed this winter.

The phase one of the RI field activities consisted of extensive investigation of the Benning Road facility and adjacent segment of the river, which included the collection of hundreds of soil and groundwater samples on the property and surface water and sediment samples from the river that were sent out for laboratory testing. Phase two of the RI is now in the works to address the data gaps identified in phase one of the RI. The feasibility study (FS) is conducted in conjunction with the RI as testing results are evaluated in order to inform all possible options for cleaning up contamination found. General information about these types of studies can be found at <http://nepis.epa.gov/Exe/ZyPDF.cgi/10001VGY.PDF?Dockey=10001VGY.pdf>.

Community Involvement and CAG Members

At the outset of the RI/FS a community involvement plan was developed to guarantee community input into the RI/FS process. The groups consist of neighborhood associations, ANCs, and environmental groups active in the area. The CAG meets every month with Pepco and DOEE officials to discuss the investigation. The CAG worked with Pepco on the design of the April 2, 2016 presentation that was held at River Terrace Elementary School. CAG meetings are open to the public and meeting information can be found on the [CAG Facebook page](#). Current CAG members are as follows:

Chair: Johnny Gaither
River Terrace Community
Organization

Vice Chair: Geraldine Bell
Parkside Civic Association

- **Javier Barker**
Eastland Gardens Civic
Association
- **Dennis Chestnut**
Groundwork Anacostia
River, DC
- **Dorothy Douglas**
Advisory Neighborhood
Commission 7D
- **Kathy Henderson**
Advisory Neighborhood
Commission 5D
- **David Holmes**
Advisory Neighborhood
Commission 6A
- **D.L. Humphrey**
Ward 7 Council of the
District of Columbia
- **Gwendolyn Hunnicutt**
Friends of Kingman Park

- **Maria Johnson**
Deanwood Community
- **Justin Lini**
Advisory Neighborhood
Commission 7D
- **Dr. Janet Phoenix**
D.C. Environmental Health
Collaborative
- **Irv Sheffey**
The Sierra Club,
Washington, DC Chapter
- **Trey Sherard**
Anacostia Riverkeeper
- **David Smith**
Deanwood Citizens
Association
- **Chester Speight, Jr.**
MPD 6th District Citizens
Advisory Council
- **Greg Stewart**
Advisory Neighborhood
Commission 7C
- **VACANT**
Advisory Neighborhood
Commission 5C

- **Marc Battle***
Pepco
- **Richard Jackson***
DOEE
- **Fariba Mahvi***
Pepco
- **Chris Taylor***
Pepco

**Facilitation provided by
Kennedy Communications:**

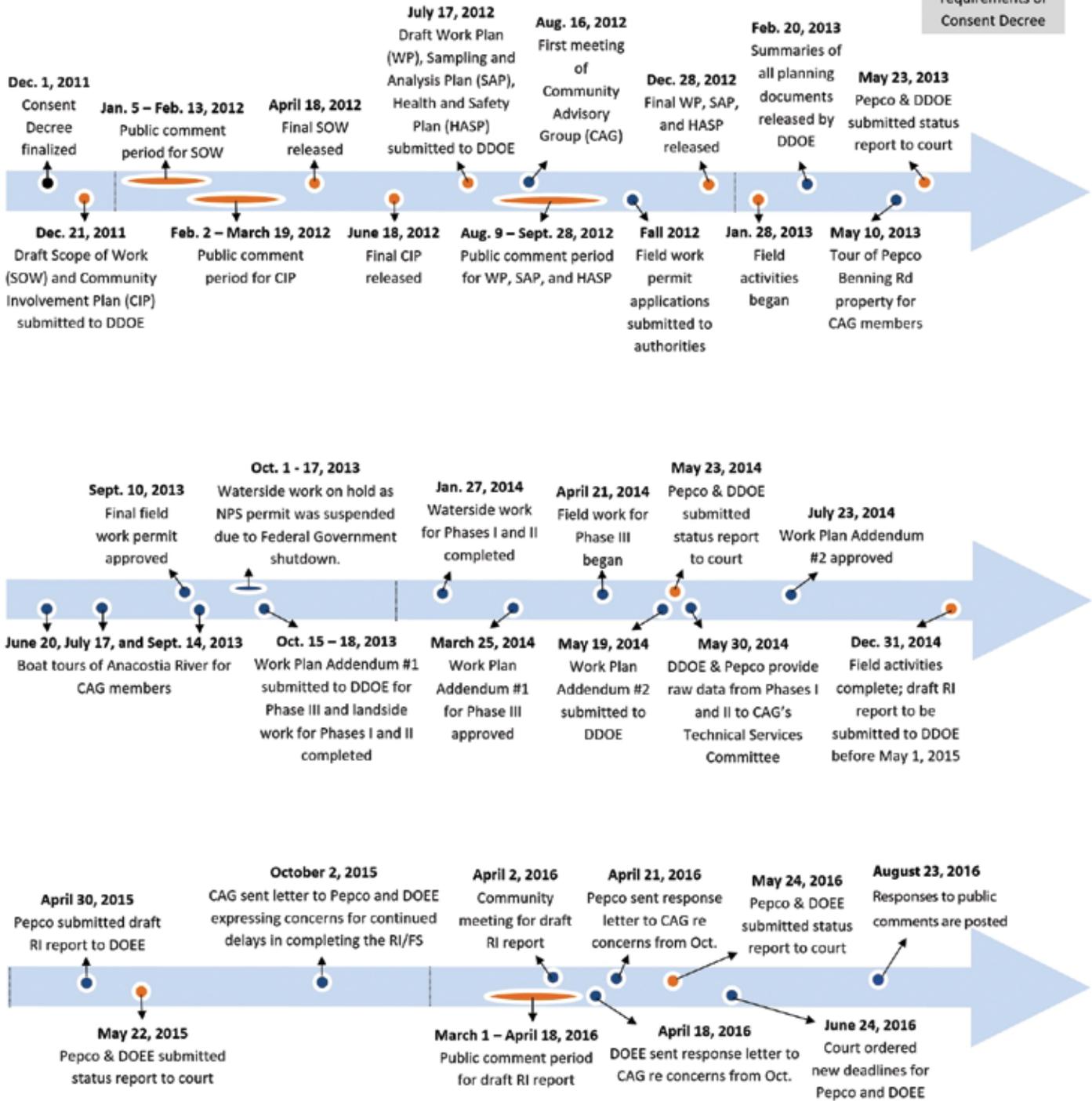
- **Ron Lester**
Facilitator
- **Jessica C. Pinkney**
Assistant Facilitator

*AD HOC member

Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS) Timeline

Pepco Benning Road Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS) Timeline (December 2011 – July 2016)

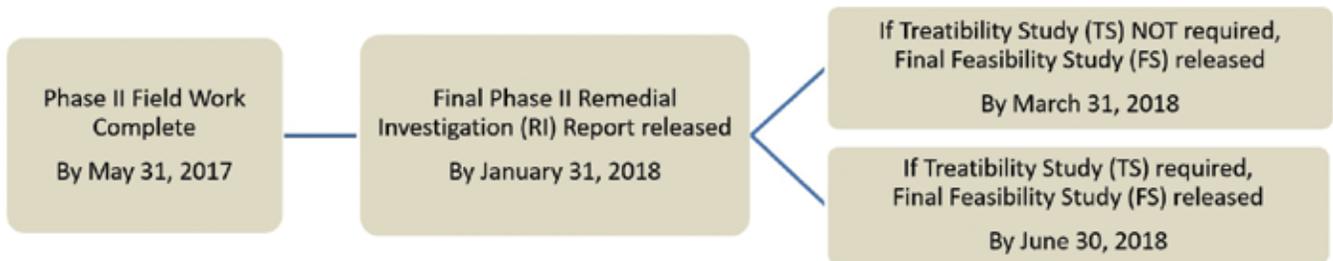
● Symbols highlighted in orange are specific requirements of Consent Decree



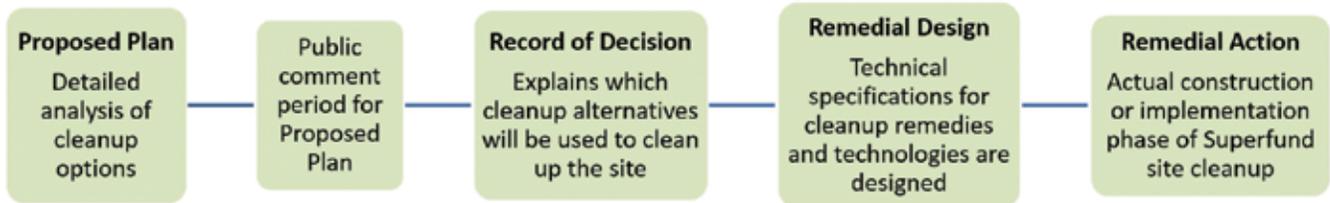
Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS) Next Steps

Next Steps

Required by Consent Decree



After the RI/FS



Did You Know?



Stream Restoration Success

Earlier this summer the District Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE) announced completion of a stream restoration project in Nash Run, a stream that connects directly to Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens and the Anacostia River just north of the Eastland Gardens community. Funds from the District's plastic bag fee, the Environmental Protection Agency, and National Fish and Wildlife Federation contributed to the restoration which has helped improve water quality, reduce trash through a trap (pictured to the left), provide better habitat for wildlife, and beautify the area for local residents to enjoy.

This is one of many DOEE habitat improvement projects. More information can be found here:

<http://doee.dc.gov/service/habitat-restoration>

Trash Reduction in River Terrace

Installed at the opening of a combined storm and sewer overflow outfall located in the Anacostia River neighboring the River Terrace community, a trash trap has been in place for almost two years to reduce trash and litter entering the Anacostia River. Anacostia Watershed Society constructed and currently maintains the trap funded by the District Department of Energy and Environment. Volunteers help collect hundreds of pounds of trash and recyclable material from the trap each year. Bottles and cans make up more than 50% of this by volume.



Nesting Bald Eagles

Two years ago the U.S. National Arboretum witnessed a nesting pair of bald eagles for the first time in over sixty years. Last year the pair (named 'Mr. President' and 'First Lady') successfully raised one eaglet and earlier this year they successfully raised two eaglets (named 'Freedom' and 'Liberty') that left the nest in June. Check out the Bald Eagle Cam website: <http://www.dceaglecam.org>



Underwater Plants Make a Comeback!

Underwater plants, also known as submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV), provide important habitat and food for animals, improve water clarity, stabilize sediment, and absorb nutrients. For approximately a decade, SAV was not present at all in the Anacostia River. Over the past few years SAV has been slowly growing in the lower most portion of the Anacostia River near the Washington Channel. Environmental groups are working to help these plants survive and expand areas inhabited. Find out more here:

<http://www.anacostiaaws.org/news/blog/return-sav>

Kingman Island Docks

The National Park Service, Living Classrooms Foundation, District Department of Energy and Environment, and Anacostia Watershed Society coordinated permits and the installation of floating docks off of Kingman Island last fall. These docks add to the number of public access points along the Anacostia River allowing people to launch their kayaks, canoes, and other small watercrafts to enjoy the river's unique charm and tranquility.

Key Acronyms and Terms with Definitions

CAG – Community Advisory Group

The Pepco Benning Road Community Advisory Group was formed as a result of a court ordered agreement between Pepco and the District in 2011. The CAG consists of representatives of civic associations, advisory neighborhood commissions, and environmental groups working in the vicinity of the Benning facility. The CAG provides feedback, insight, and guidance during the RI/FS process to help Pepco and the District Department of Energy and Environment make decisions about cleaning up the site and nearby Anacostia River.

CERCLA – Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act

Federal law giving authority to respond to releases of hazardous materials that may pose a danger to human or environmental health. The Pepco Benning Road site is being investigated in accordance with this law.

DOEE – Department of Energy and Environment

The leading authority on energy and environmental issues affecting the District of Columbia, formerly known as the District Department of the Environment.

EPA – Environmental Protection Agency

A federal agency created for the purpose of protecting human health and the environment by writing and enforcing regulations based on laws passed by Congress.

ERA – Ecological Risk Assessment

The process for evaluating how likely it is that the environment may be impacted as a result of exposure to one or more factors such as chemicals, land change, disease, invasive species and climate change.

FS – Feasibility Study

Evaluatory potential remediation alternatives with the goal of finding the most effective option using the information gathered and analyzed during the remedial investigation phase.

HHRA – Human Health Risk Assessment

The process to estimate the nature and probability of adverse health effects in humans who may be exposed.

PAHs – Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons

Chemical compounds that occur in oil, coal, and tar deposits, and are produced as byproducts of burning of coal, oil, and gas, as well as garbage, or other organic substances like tobacco or charbroiled meat. PAHs are also found in coal tar, crude oil, creosote, and roofing tar. Some PAHs are also naturally occurring.

PCBs – Polychlorinated Biphenyls

A group of human-made organic chemicals manufactured in the U.S. starting in 1929 used in many industrial and commercial settings for applications such as insulating electrical equipment and in paint and plastic products. Manufacturing was banned in 1979, but PCBs are still present in materials produced before the ban took effect.

PCE – Perchloroethylene

Also known as tetrachloroethylene. A human-made chemical used commercially as industrial degreasers, spot removers, and in dry cleaning. Find out more about the effects of this chemical [here](#).

Pepco – Potomac Electric Power Company

A public utility owned by Exelon that supplies electric power to D.C. and surrounding communities in Maryland.

PSL – Project Screening Level

Values used when a site is initially investigated to determine if potentially significant levels of contamination are present to warrant further investigation.

RI – Remedial Investigation

The collection of data to characterize site conditions, determine the nature of the contamination, assess risk to human health and the environment.