

Partial Summary of FOAA documents received by FOPB on 7/17/14 from
MDEP EMRO director Susanne Miller

Chronology

2012 August 8, 2012 , August 20, 2012

2013 10/18/13

2014 June 9-10 2014, June 23, 2014, June 24 2014, July 1, 2014

SUMMARY OF THE LISTED DOCUMENTS

Read documents at

http://penbay.org/gac/gac_foaa/gac_072214_foaa/

2012

August 8, 2012

David Wright received complaint from Ron Huber – August 8, 2012

2013

October 18, 2013 Email from Karen Knuuti –

Wilkes Harper, Susanne Miller, and Karen Knuuti visited site on Oct. 11 for walk over, accompanied by John Pond from CES, party met with David Coulter before and after walkover

Karen lists her assessments of the property from this visit, a note is made about ceramic debris being from the old sulfuric acid plant. Concrete, bricks, and ceramic are considered inert. [SHE'S WRONG]

Discolouration is noted, but she did not see a “seep,” recognizes that the walkover may have been too early as tide is going out still.

Inquired about an old drain, David Colter later said that it was previously used for unloading ammonia but had “since been sealed and capped”. More statements regarding slumps in the shoreline and an area that had been stabilized with “unusual wood cribwork”

June 9, 2014, Susanne Miller sent an email to Timothy Balunis containing attachments about the Searsport/Stockton Harbor investigation by MDEP in October. She states the following: **“While it does not explicitly say so in these reports, it was determined by MDEP that no further action was necessary at the time based on our observations.”** (When was that and by

whom?) Also decided no action was further needed due to an MDEP investigation from 1998 as the conclusion was that the area would “self heal” with time, despite distress to shellfish, provided the erosion was halted. Also decided that no action was needed since Sears Island is open to clamming per MDMR'S guidance.

June 10, 2014, Email from Timothy Balunis to Susanne Miller and Peter states that after their discussion, and after going through provided literature, the DEP was “incredibly thorough” in their investigation.

Balunis mentioned he spoke with **Marcus Holmes of the EPA**, determined that they did not plan to investigate further and would instead defer to DEP's investigation, though this was not plainly stated. Had little desire to do a thorough investigation, as he did not want to “reinvent the wheel or duplicate DEP's efforts to date,” and stated that the goal was “at the conclusion of this is to speak in a unified voice with DEP.”

In another email to Susanne, Balunis stated that Ron Huber reached out to the Coast Guard. He thinks that DEP has been very thorough in investigating the site, but per CG Policy, will still perform an assessment. He stated he would also contact the EPA for their interests/concerns. Asked Susanne to go back out for an assessment. She agreed.

June 23, Scott Leighton sends Suzanne Miller reports from 1984 on Groundwater Quality Assessment see folder 6)

DEP BUREAUS SEND DEP HQ THEIR HISTORIES WITH GAC

June 24, Communications Director Jessamine Logan requests dates of last GAC visit from various staff members, Susanne replies with Jana Wood having visited on Feb. 27 with an attached letter (dated March 3rd) addressed to David Colter. Letter states that the [active] chemical production/processing is completely protected from exposure to stormwater and protected by a storm resistant shelter. Secondary containment for chemical storage containers was also noted. Properly sealed, clean drums also noted. All in all nothing was supposedly out of order. Full report contained in folder 7.

DEP Bureau of Land & Water quality enforcement official Jim Beyer was on site on the **15th of May** for permitting questions about potential erosion control.

DEP Hazardous Waste Enforcement Unit supervisor Michael Hudson reported a US EPA hazardous waste inspection conducted on **Sept. 8, 2011**, results not reported to RCRAInfo database.

Hudson also mentioned an MDEP hazardous waste enforcement and compliance visit with Hazwaste licensing staff that **occurred on Aug. 25, 2009** to review licensing status from 2007 inspection, no violations cited. A previous inspection from Sept. 20, 2007 also had no violations cited.

DEP Oil & Haz Materials Spill official Thomas Smith reported the following:

Nov. 16, 2012 – MDEP Response Services participated in plant tour, tour originally for hazmat responders from Orono.

Sept. 26, 2012 – MDEP participated/provided evaluators for large scale drill at GAC. Drill included Fire Dept, GAC staff, Maine Emergency and Waldo County EMA.

Nov. 5, 2013 – provided tractor trailer for statewide emergency management exercise, that did not involve GAC.

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DEP Landfill Closure & Remediation Program official David Wright reported that Brownfields and VRAP official Wilkes Harper investigated complaint of possible Hazardous Substance release at GAC in fall of 2013. Attached to this was a PowerPoint containing images from this visit, though listed for internal use only.

Former DEP wastewater compliance inspector Stacy Beyer, reported conducting 4 inspections, one on **Aug. 22, 2013**, which was routine; **May 31, 2012** for Data QA/QC Eval; Sept. 20, 2011: routine; June 4, 2010: routine.

July 1, 2014. DEP Haz Waste Enforcement Inspector Scott Leighton sends/forwards email to EMR0 director Suzanne containing an “updated list of Chemicals at GAC” including added chemical warehousing and “just in time delivery services” from March 17, 2014 (Have paper document, not scanned yet).

End of summarized packets