

Remediation Strategy Sounding Board Meeting Summary – Revision 1.0

MEETING DETAILS

Tuesday June 13, 2023 10:00-12:00
Newton Ferrers & Noss Mayo WI Community Hall

MEETING ATTENDEES

Stakeholder	Representative(s)
International Paint Limited	In person: Ralph Slikkerveer, Simon Colvan Virtual: Christian Eschauzier, Wilfred van Noord, Joost Ruempol, Angus Hewitt
Geosyntec	Marcus Ford, Andrew Morgan, Rebecca Solinger
River Yealm Harbour Authority	Jez Spring (Harbour Master)
Newton & Noss Parish Council (NNPC)	Kevin Thomas (Vice Chair)
River Yealm District Association	Drew Stevens (Chair), Alan Lomax (Treasurer)
Yealm Estuary to Moore (YEM)	Peter Brown
Various Affiliations	Rodney Carter
Local Resident	Alan Jukes (on behalf of Helen Wilson)
Akkeron Group	Natasha Brent, Tony Hopwood

MEETING SUMMARY

Questions/Requests for Near-Term Follow-Up

- **Additional stakeholders:** It was suggested to consider reaching out to the following additional stakeholders/interested parties: Nigel Mortimer (South Devon AONB Estuaries Officer), South Hams District Council
 - *We will consider inviting these stakeholders to the wider community consultation*
- **Sounding Board Follow-Up Documents:** It was asked if the following could be provided in follow-up to the Sounding Board meeting:
 - Sounding Board presentation slides
 - *pdf of presentation slides provided with this Sounding Board summary*
 - Sediment sample data
 - NNPC have previously requested the sediment data from the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) and the Environment Agency (EA), but it has not been provided. The local community want to see the TBT/contaminant data for context on the contaminant levels given how the court case was reported
 - *Figure 1 and Supporting Narrative provided with this Sounding Board summary*

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- EA commissioned report
 - *We understand the NNPC already received this document through their FOIA request*
- 1-page summary to provide to the broader community
 - It was suggested that this summary could include 1) a simple plan about where the testing was conducted, 2) a high level overview of sediment results, 3) the basis for how the remediation area was determined, and 4) whether it is currently safe for people to swim in the Yealm (the attendees stated the importance of communicating that TBT does not readily dissolve and that low TBT concentrations were previously measured in a river water sample)
 - *To be provided to the broader community later in Q3*
- **Oyster Farm:** The attendees had questions on the health of pacific oyster farms stemming from the comment on slide 9 'healthy dog whelk and pacific oyster populations'. There is an oyster farm at in the Yealm River (owned or managed by Rodney Bastard) that was closed down by the Plymouth Port Health Authority. It was reported that the farm will be retested next May, and the closure was likely related to E. coli not TBT. The proposal is to farm Pacific oysters. The Harbour Master received this question from Rodney Bastard and would appreciate if we could close the loop with him
 - *We will reach out to Rodney Bastard and directly follow-up with the Harbour Master*
- **Harbour Master:** The Harbour Master had questions on how the sediment contamination may affect two groups he works with: 1) men who work replacing the mooring (they are digging in the mud to replace/service the moorings, seating the mooring in the mud, and 2) quarterly winkle picking.
 - *We will directly follow up with the Harbour Master for more details on these activities*
- **Post Remediation Sampling:** The community asked about plans to re-validate the remediation after it is completed (e.g., 1 to 5 years afterwards)
 - *After considering this point further the project team are concerned that the dynamic nature of the marine setting and the background presence of TBT in the wider estuary environment will pose challenges in collecting comparable representative additional sediment validation samples. The current site setting is relatively well characterised and therefore validation of the remediation works as they are implemented will provide the clearest line of evidence that effective and efficient TBT mass removal has been achieved.*
- **Water Management:** The attendees asked how water will be dealt with during the sediment removal
 - *We will provide additional details on the water management after the remediation contractor has been selected.*

Questions/Requests to Address Closer to Implementation

- **Communication:** Communicating with the Harbour Master will be key during the remediation works. The Harbour Master would appreciate one main point of contact

for the project. The Harbour Master has requested contact details for the contractor, Geosyntec, and IPL to be provided once the plan is approved.

- *Geosyntec confirmed we will co-ordinate all communication with the Harbour Master. We will setup site works meetings to present or remediation contracting team and as works are progressing will routinely meet with the harbour office team to discuss any issues or concerns, allowing them to be addressed in a timely manner.*
- **Schedule:** The Harbour Master requested a weekly schedule outlining the planned movement of barges in and out of the harbour, including the movement of clean and contaminated materials. Some harbour maintenance work may be ongoing in the area over our proposed remediation timeframe. The harbour is less busy from mid-October to mid-April, starting remediation work in October is fine if we have the license by then.
 - *We will follow up with the Harbour Master once these details are available.*
- **Equipment:** The Harbour Master asked what equipment will be used to remove the sediment and how big the barges will be.
 - *We will follow up with the Harbour Master once these details are available.*
- **Site Security:** The Harbour Master requested details on how we will control site access, control material once disturbed, including signage.
 - *We will follow up with the Harbour Master once these details are available.*

Suggestions for Community Communication

- Scheduling the wider community meeting after September 5 is preferred based on school schedules
- 40-60 people may attend
- The attendees recommend that we communicate important information to the community ahead of the townhall meeting, and could even start sharing information now
- There are various methods to communicate with the wider community (email, newsletters, Facebook).
 - *We will consult with local groups on the most effective channels.*

Additional Points that were Discussed During the Sounding Board

- The half-life of TBT adsorbed to aerobic sediments is on the order of months, degradation rates are slower in anaerobic sediment.
- Sediment with TBT concentrations up to 0.1 mg/kg typically receives regulatory approval from the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) for disposal at sea. Sediment with TBT concentrations between 0.1-1.0 mg/kg may be approved for disposal at sea after further investigation, and sediment with TBT concentrations above 1.0 mg/kg is generally considered unsuitable for sea disposal.
- Due to their previous widespread use, legacy contamination associated with antifouling paints remain in sediments within marine and estuary settings in the UK, including the Yealm estuary, Tamar estuary, and Plymouth Sound.
- Adverse effects are not expected from swimming and wading near the site based on the known levels and distribution of contaminants in foreshore sediments.

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- Appropriate precautions should be used when digging or foraging in sediments that may contain TBT.
- TBT and mercury are not very soluble in water and prefer to stick to marine sediments.
- Inorganic mercury is the predominant form of mercury that has been detected in sediment at the site. Inorganic mercury is a relatively low hazardous form of mercury. Methylmercury (a form of organic mercury) has not been detected in sediment near the Site. Bioaccumulation of inorganic mercury in fish and wildlife is relatively low.
- The attendees asked if workers could carpool to the site during remediation activities as parking is limited.
- Remediation equipment and materials will be mobilised to the site via the estuary on barges.