

1,4 – DIOXANE RESIDENTIAL BASEMENT SAMPLING MEETING DISCUSSION SUMMARY

Date: September 10, 2020

Time: 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Location: Virtual Meeting

Attendees:

Public Present: 27

Council Members Present: Council Member Ramlawi (Ward 4)

City Staff Present: Brian Steglitz (Water Treatment Services Manager), Kayla Coleman (Community Engagement Specialist), Patti McCall (Associate Hydrogeologist, Tetra Tech)

Meeting Notes

Questions or comments from attendees were submitted both by computer and phone audio (live) which were paraphrased or through Zoom Q&A feature (Chat) which were transcribed and are shown in bold text below. Questions were answered live and are shown in text below. Clarifications or responses provided after the meeting are denoted as “post-meeting notes”.

Overview

An electronic meeting through Zoom was held to provide an overview of the basement sampling program that was authorized by City Council to ensure the safety of the public by sampling flooded basement water in residential homes within the Gelman 1,4-Dioxane plume footprint where there is the potential for shallow groundwater to be present. The Residential Basement Sampling Presentation, a recording of the meeting, and other additional materials are available at www.a2gov.org/BasementSampling.

General:

Q: Since basements are porous, can dioxane enter a basement when there is no flooding (e.g., from a high-water table under or around basement walls)? (Chat)

A: It is possible for 1,4-dioxane to volatilize from the groundwater into the air. However, the volatility of 1,4-dioxane is much lower than other volatile compounds.

Q: Closeup of the red area did not include the monitoring wells from the overall map. The cross sections don't show the recent ppb readings, e.g. several hundred ppb at MW-82s, the shallowest well closest to West Park (Chat)

A: The content in the presentation was designed to give a brief overview and context to the basement sampling program, it was not intended to present the most recent analytical data that has been collected.

The red area did include the monitoring wells in that area from the overall map; there were only three in the area. (post-meeting notes).

Q: How many of the mailed surveys were returned? (Chat)

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A: Approximately fifty responses have been received out of the 270 letters that were sent.

Q: Are the results going to be shared with the public as data points are collected? (Chat)

A: The analytical results and forms will be shared with the Washtenaw County Health Department (WCHD) and the State of Michigan Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) at the end of the program once all the information has been compiled. Analytical data that may indicate that there is a potential health risk present will be shared with the Washtenaw County Health Department immediately.

Q: If the sample results exceed the 29 ppb, what are the next steps that EGLE and WCHD would take? (Live)

A: There are many assumptions that are included in calculating the 29 ppb (for example, it assumes that the concrete floor is 100 percent porous and water covering the entire floor) and we want to make sure we have site specific information for that home. The County, in conjunction with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services will need to complete a site-specific evaluation of the home to evaluate the health risk. We want to make sure the concentration of 1,4-dioxane in the air is below thresholds that would cause illness. Any illness would be chronic and not an immediate health illness so there is time to complete the evaluation with state partners. We would also want to work with the responsible party to see what, if any action they would be willing to do for further water and air analysis.

Q: If the health risk is shown, what options for mitigating it are there? (Chat)

A: Typically, we would want to make sure the water is not entering the home, where vapors would be coming from. Check to make sure there is a good footing drain to remove water from the basement. To contain vapors, we would want to install something similar to a radon mitigation system that is approximately \$1,000 to install. This involves putting something over the sump to depressurize it and install a fan to push those fumes outside of the home.

Q: For testing, do you count only rain events or flood events due to clogged drains? (Chat)

A: Basements that gain water through a flood event because we are talking about groundwater intrusion into the home.

Q: If my basement hasn't flooded, can I still get my basement sampled? (Chat)

A: No, if there isn't water in the basement than there is not an opportunity to sample.

Q: Is the hypothesis that all basement water has 1,4-dioxane? (Live)

A: No, but the program is designed to sample water from homes that are over the mapped plume that have the potential groundwater to enter the home.

Q: Will the responsible party pay for any potential mitigation systems needed? (Live) Do we know if these homes have footing drain systems or operating sump pumps? (Live)

A: We are taking the first step of an investigation. The project was conceived at the direction of Council to evaluate a potential health risk. We need to collect data before determining what the next step is. It is difficult to answer this question until we have the data..

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Q: How do you plan getting homeowners to agree to collect samples of flooded basements if there is no process in place for next steps or remediation strategy? (Live)

A: Thank you for the comment, we will need to see if we get comments back from homeowners expressing this concern and that they do not want to participate because of that reason. Without more information, it is difficult to come up with a remediation strategy.

Q: People deserve to know the levels of 1,4-dioxane that are heading towards their basements and that might increase participation? (Chat)

A: Following Council's direction, this project is to sample the flooded basements for potential groundwater intrusion that may have 1,4-dioxane.

Q: My house is 100 years old. Its does not have a sump. I have only had one flood in 29 years after 4" of rain. Do I need to wait for the next flood or just moisture on walls and floor? (Chat)

A: The sample cannot be collected from the moisture on the wall. We have to collect from the sump in order to compare to the 29 ppb screening level.

Q: My basement has flooded only when the sump pump failed. Can a sample be taken from the sump? (Chat)

A: No, we are only sampling for rainwater flooding/groundwater intrusion.

Q: When will the information from this session be available on the website? (Chat)

A: The recording will be available within one week.

Q: Is there public information on the depth of groundwater at more specific locations within the neighborhoods? (Chat)

A: Washtenaw County Health Department has information; EGLE has a repository of information for Gelman and Scio Residents for Safe Water (SRSW) has information.

Q: If levels come in at right at 29 ppb, does that trigger an investigation? (Live)

A: At 29 ppb, we would send the information to Washtenaw County Health Department and they would evaluate the risk.

Q: How many of the basements flood occasionally enough to meet the requirements that the basement is entirely flooded due to rain events? (Live)

A: Residents are providing information about the frequency of the flooding to help us understand where basement sampling is necessary.

Q: How long will the program run (i.e., 12 Months) Or is the program going to run for a shorter duration (i.e., 3 Months) (Live)?

A: We don't have a firm end date established; we need to see who participates and what this looks like over the next few months. We can be flexible on the end date based on participants and the rain events. The funding is available through this fiscal year (ending June 30, 2021).

Q: Is there going to be another public forum to discuss the findings of the program? (Live)

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A: We had not planned on another public forum, but if Council directs us we can share the information in a public forum.

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Attendee Report

Topic	1,4-dioxane Residential Basement Sampling Information Meeting
Webinar ID	918 5957 9179
Actual Duration (min)	122

Attendee Details

Phil Klintworth
elizabeth collins
Ali Ramlawi
Brenda Anderson
Peter Joftis
John Reiser
JARED.WALBERT
Kristen Schweighoefer
Shana Milkie
Gregory Bowlby
Sharon Kruse
Cecile Frogh
kzasa
Katie Jesaitis
Lisa Gonzalez-Gronauer
Katie
Bridget Kiser
Richard Weise
Patricia Stepp
Cathy Antonakos
Charles Compton
Jenni Conn
naveet
Roger Rayle
Oleg Y Gnedin
1517****846
1248****532

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Poll Results

How did you hear about this meeting?	
10	Invitation/letter mailed to me
1	Councilmember notification
6	Other

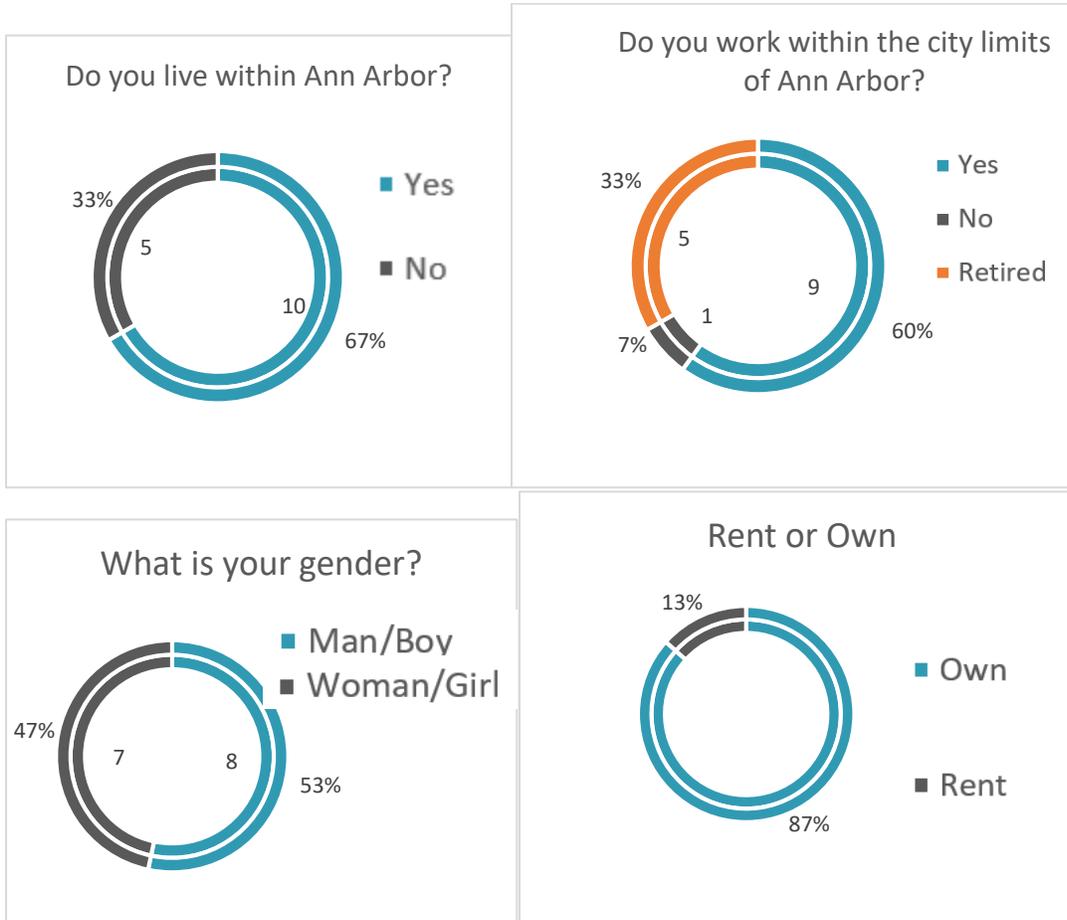
Do you anticipate that you will participate in the basement sampling program?	
3	Yes
1	I need more time to think about my decision
4	I need more information before making a decision
2	No

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Demographic Summary

1,4-dioxane Residential Basement Sampling Information Meeting
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The city is trying to gain a better understanding of who we are reaching to find ways we can continuously improve public engagement efforts and support inclusivity.



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