Elmira, Ontario – The Township of Woolwich Remediation Advisory Committee, known as RAC, met on June 15 to continue discussions on the ongoing efforts to remediate the Elmira Aquifer to Ontario Drinking Water Quality Standards. The meeting consisted of members from the Technical Advisory Group (TAG), the Grand River Conservation Authority, the Regional Municipality of Waterloo, LANXESS Canada and the Ontario Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MOECC).

At the meeting, LANXESS, formerly Chemtura Canada, advised RAC that all efforts to obtain access to a neighbouring property for sampling as outlined in an east side Offsite Investigation Work Plan had been unsuccessful. As a result, RAC has requested that the MOECC move forward with a Directors Order to the property owner for access.

Also discussed at the meeting was that the anticipated Conceptual Site Model document will be finalized by June 30, 2017. This document is being developed to establish a baseline of facts. The document will be a living document that is a written and diagrammed representation of sources, receptors and pathways to environmental receptors. The document will be important as the process moves forward.

Perhaps most important was the statement made by LANXESS, based on the work completed to develop the 2015 Model Checkpoint Analysis, a comprehensive computer model of the groundwater cleanup previously made public, that they did not believe that full remediation can be met by 2028. Mr. Ansari of LANXESS stated that even with the expanded system, the groundwater monitoring shows that there will likely be a very small contaminant mass remaining in the aquifer. LANXESS has indicated an ongoing commitment to remediation and to continue to work with the support of the MOECC to evaluate whether technically feasible technologies exist that would allow the deadline to be met.

Information about on-going clean-up efforts and meeting minutes can be found on the Township of Woolwich website at www.woolwich.ca.

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