

Good afternoon.

I just returned from the presentation of the RTN project to the Waterfront Commission.

The majority of the meeting was discussing the concept plan for the two sites: West of Union Street, and East of Union Street, plus the area of land between the new East buildings and the waterfront.

Again I asked about the clean up of the highly carcinogenic matter in the ground. I repeated the information that I received from Meade Anderson, who is responsible for the VRP (Voluntary Remediation Program) that the City entered into. Ms. Anderson stated quite clearly that the property owner decided to wrap up the VRP work and requested closure with limitations and restrictions placed on the property.

These restrictions are: 1) prohibition on groundwater use; 2) no residential use; 3) maintain cover (soil/asphalt/concrete); and 4) subsurface excavation work requires a Health & Safety Plan. DEQ approved the closure on February 16, 2022.

Changes to those restrictions would require "re-enrolling" the property. In addition, the Corps of Army Engineers wrote a letter to the City, requiring ALL toxic materials be barged - NOT trucked.

I asked Ken Wire, Attorney for the managing partner Greg Hoffman, about this at today's Waterfront Commission meeting. He avoided my question, stating that they would be going through an environmental review with the City in the future.

However, City staff apparently told Mr. Wire (and possibly Mr. Hoffman) that the cap on the East side of Union St had already been removed by Alex Renew. **This is false** - Alex Renew had the small area they would be drilling in tested by VDEQ.

Once they were given the green light to drill down in that location for the tunnel, they took great care to make sure that the workers are wearing protective gear during their work. When VDEQ came here to examine the contaminants in the soil several years ago, they took many borings.

Among the toxic materials they found were non-organic, carcinogenic chemicals - benzene being the worst because .1 part/million is all it takes when airborne to become a vicious health hazard to all. Respirators are required, as this is called a volatile organic compound.

We residents are very concerned. Those I have talked with are ok with these two parcels being developed. BUT ONLY AFTER the contaminants/toxins have been removed safely -- which means barging (same cost as trucking), and the health and safety plans, required by the VRP, have been approved.

Please put this in any article you write so that all decision-making personnel are put on notice that protecting residents takes priority.

Thank you for bringing these vital issues to the public.

Sincerely,
Ann Shack
living 1 1/2 blocks West of the proposed projects

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Hal Hardaway** <jameshhardaway@gmail.com>

Date: Tue, Feb 20, 2024 at 11:06 AM

Subject: RTN

To: Wafir Salih <wsalih@alextimes.com>, Denise Dunbar <ddunbar@alextimes.com>

Wafir,

Here's some information on RTN, in case I can't talk with you today on the broke

- After a couple neighbors I learned of the city's trickbook during the RTS hearings, but were unable to affect any changes because we were just learning. we decided to help our friends around RTN when that kicked off in 2015.
- Went to the council hearing November, 2015 to help those residents, and we all pleaded against trucking out underground garage exfil, with no remediation, as required by EPA and VDEQ. Staff told council, "You need to worry about the developer's bottomline", and council approved it unanimously.
- My environmental engineer friend, Randy Randol, engaged VDEQ and they required borings, which proved what we already had from EPA on bad actor chemicals, and even more. Shortly thereafter, the developer canxed the project, ostensibly because the numbers didn't work on sales and rental income to profit. Highly suspect.
- Circa 2019 another development plan was briefed at a Waterfront Commission. Ken Wire briefed it, and in the end I told them not to forget the required remediation since it's a Superfund site.. Then it apparently died. Ken and city staff were deer-in-the-headlights in stunned silence.
- Now a redevelopment plan is resurrected, apparently retaining the cap on the west side of North Union, but taking it up on the east side. I'm told staff told Rooney it was OK to do that because they tested where they're doing the ReNew project, and it was OK. But there could easily be contamination elsewhere on the east side. VDEQ required multiple borings on the west side, even though any one would likely have shown the contamination.

My phone is totally non-functional; think the software is corrupted.

HH