

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Notes on Public Meeting

Gila River District 4 Building

Tuesday, December 12 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Acronyms/Definitions

EPA – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Romic – Romic Environmental Technologies, Inc. – Southwest

GRIC – Gila River Indian Community

HHRA – Human Health Risk Assessment

GRACE – Gila River Alliance for a Cleaner Environment

Open House 6:00 PM to 6:35 PM

Meeting 6:35 PM to 9:20 PM

(Head count at the beginning of the meeting ~55)

Moderator/Facilitator

- Want a bulk of the meeting to address community concerns.
- Introductions
- Meeting intended to discuss the HHRA and the permitting process, but recent developments and local concerns are more important.
- Will spend a bulk of the meeting hearing these concerns and panel of EPA representatives will answer questions.

Meeting Attendee Comment

- At Gila River – start all meetings with a prayer performed by one of the Gila River Indian Community Elders

Prayer by GRIC Elder

- Pray for a successful meeting – that all community concerns be heard

EPA Comment

- Further Introductions
- EPA representatives available to answer questions
- Had prepared a short presentation (see agenda)
- More recent events have pre-empted this
- More important to get to comments, concerns, questions

Meeting Attendee Comment

- Request that Cheryl provide a background of the facility to provide context for the ensuing discussion.

EPA Comment

- 1988 – Romic purchased the property from Southwest Solvents
- Southwest Solvents had been operating at the site since 1975
- Since federal laws regulating hazardous waste were passed after Romic began operating, EPA granted Romic an “interim permit.”
- Interim status facilities like Romic must comply with stringent federal regulations
- EPA is currently reviewing their permit application
- In making a permit decision, EPA looks at the facilities compliance history, permit application completeness, etc.
- EPA has not yet made a proposed decision about the permit – this public meeting is part of that process
- Have heard many concerns about:
 - Odor and nuisance
 - Tribal council concerns about a worst case scenario and potential impacts on tribal lands and facilities
 - Community members’ issues of public health (public wanted to see more specific information).
- Due to these concerns, EPA asked Romic to complete a Human Health Risk Assessment (HHRA) (hazardous waste storage and recycling facilities, like Romic, are not required to do this)
- Copies of the HHRA available:
 - By request
 - On the Web
- EPA has made preliminary comments, but have not yet fully examined the HHRA
- EPA plans to complete its review, prepare comments, and package these comments with those heard at the public meetings

Meeting Attendee Comment

- Even though we are doing this meeting, does EPA still have every intention to issue the permit?
- If enough community members speak out about Romic, will EPA deny the permit?

EPA Comment

- In making a permit decision, EPA considers many things/factors
- Must make a decision legally, basing the decision on:
 - Permit application incompleteness
 - Not in compliance and posing an imminent threat to public health and the environment

Meeting Attendee Comment

- In a phone conversation w/ Steve Armann and members of the Gila River Indian Community, Steve told us that Romic is out of compliance and has been since it began operating

EPA Comment

- Not entirely true to say that Romic have been out of compliance since they began operating.
- Facilities like Romic generally go in and out of compliance
- EPA is doing what we can to bring Romic back into compliance

Meeting Attendee Comment

- Question about public health – how is EPA tracking public health?
- Sick w/ respiratory problems
- Work close to Romic (property is adjacent to Romic facility)
- How does EPA get in touch with the public to assess public health issues?
- Dr. has commented that she has been disproportionately sick w/ respiratory problems in the last couple of years

EPA Comment

Experiencing odor nuisance problems in the last few days

EPA is very concerned about these issues

If you wish to get in touch w/ someone at EPA about these issues, contact EPA Comment and/or Pui Man Wong (contact information found on mailers, announcements, fact sheets, etc.)

EPA has asked Romic to shut down 3 process units and VOC units until this issue is resolved

Meeting Attendee Comment

- But how does the community know to contact EPA?
- Must be a better way to communicate w/ the community that they should contact EPA when these issues arise.

EPA Comment

- That's why we're here today
- Get in contact w/ us – Pui Man is the official Community Involvement Coordinator assigned to this issue

Meeting Attendee Comment

- How do facilities surrounding Romic know to contact EPA?
- Suggest that EPA do a walk through of these facilities to let them know what the issues are and provide them with points of contact to use whenever problems and issues arise.

EPA Comment

- Discussed this issue during meeting w/ Lumber Products earlier today
- Suggestion that one of the best ways to report issues is to call 911 – they will take care of notifying DEQ and EPA

EPA Comment

- Good suggestion because it also brings immediate local response
- Can also facilitate efforts to get the word out to other tenants and locals

Meeting Attendee Comment

- Seems like the overall response has been reactive rather than proactive
- What guidelines are in place to prevent something from happening?
- Is there some way that we can try to control these issues before they occur (in essence, be proactive rather than reactive to arising issues)

EPA Comment

- Romic is operating under an interim status permit
- All info contained in this permit is available on the web site
- When issues are brought to the attention of local agencies and authorities, the response can be more immediate
- EPA has also asked Romic to put together a Communication Plan
- Know who to call when issues arise and provide pertinent information about what's happening
- Will share this Communication Plan with the local community when it's ready
- Facilities also belong to a organization called C-Turk (sp?)

Meeting Attendee Comment

- C-turk – make up of facilities & community members to discuss issues related to industrial and commercial activities
- Meetings held at DEQ in Sacaton
- Council meetings are open to the public – no reason why C-turk mtgs. should be closed

Meeting Attendee Comment

- Why didn't people from the community know about the public meeting? Why didn't people from the industrial park know about the public meeting?

EPA Comment

- Oversight by EPA
- Need to develop a better list of people to contact about issues related to Romic
- Will work with management at Lone Butte Industrial Park to improve and update the contact list
- Also post notices of public meetings on EPA's Romic web site
- Web site is available on the fact sheet

Meeting Attendee Comment

- Why didn't anyone I know get a mailer?
- Many people who have been on the contact list for years did not receive a mailer notifying them of the public meeting.

EPA Comment

- Apologize for this oversight
- Will look at our mailing list to clear up the issue and will make extra effort in the future to ensure that everyone on the list including all attendees at this public meeting will receive all notices and information in the future

Meeting Attendee Comment

- Does the Gila River Indian Community and Tribal Council have the right not to lease property to Romic?

Lone Butte Board Member Comment

- The original lease between Romic and Lone Butte was approved by BIA and the Gila River Tribal Council
- Romic is currently abiding by all requirements that were written into this original lease (original lease stipulates that Romic must abide by all ordinances)
- Lone Butte does not issue permits – no say one way or the other about the permit
- Lone Butte – says they will operate under all regulations
- Also subject to zoning regulations
- Want GRIC to update these ordinances and revisit requirements written into the original agreement (times have changed)
- The permit is just one part of a bundle of rights by GRIC, Lone Butte, and Romic

Meeting Attendee Comment

- Has Romic been operating all this time without a permit?

EPA Comment

- Before regulations were passed, Southwest Solvents operated at the site that now houses Romic
- Romic purchased Southwest Solvents in 1988
- Since Romic moved onto the site, they have been operating under an interim permit
- Lease says that Romic “can operate here as long as they have a permit” – currently operating under an interim permit

Meeting Attendee Comment

- How long is the current lease?

Meeting Attendee Comment

- Currently leases goes to 2020

Meeting Attendee Comment

- Will it take that long for EPA to come to a permit decision?

EPA Comment

- Prior to coming here today, EPA wanted to make a permit decision by the end of the next fiscal year (end of Sept. 2007)

- However, will take as much time as is necessary to make the appropriate decision with input from the community and collecting all comments and necessary information

Meeting Attendee Comment

- Is Romic being fined for not being in compliance?

EPA Comment

- Absolutely – penalty actions whenever Romic is out of compliance
- Penalty action usually means that Romic is fined
- Other penalties also require Romic to pay for non-compliance by making monetary contributions to the community (supplemental penalty)

Meeting Attendee Comment

- How many enforcement actions before Romic gets shut down?

EPA Comment

- Romic will be shut down if the facility poses an imminent and potential danger?

Meeting Attendee Comment

- What is imminent mean? Someone dying?

EPA Comment

- No. Base this determination on the HHRA.
- This is why EPA requested that Romic prepare this document.

Meeting Attendee Comment

- HHRA prepared by a company located in Emeryville, CA.
- Company's name – Environ

Meeting Attendee Comment

- Did EPA look at the health of the community?

EPA Comment

- Want to let people know that this public meeting is not the only opportunity to provide comments.
- Will collect comments on through February

EPA Comment

- Yes, an analysis of health risks to the community was performed for the HHRA
- The responsibility for preparing the report lies with the facility
- EPA itself does not do the analysis or prepare the HHRA
- EPA does help prepare methods and guidelines for the HHRA
- The analysis asks: what will be the health impacts to various facilities (i.e. health care facilities) and populations, especially sensitive populations?

- Acknowledge that impacts may be felt at the casino – many elderly people visit the casino, so must also take them into account as sensitive populations

Meeting Attendee Comment

- Was the HHRA prepared based on paperwork or did they visit the facility?
- The report itself says that it was based on the permit application.
- Indicates that it was therefore based on paperwork rather than a physical site visit.

Romic Comment

- While the company that prepared the HHRA is located in Emeryville, there is a branch office for Environ located in Phoenix
- Sarah – from the branch office + resident of Phoenix – did come to the facility to collect information to consider in preparing the HHRA

EPA Comment

- Analysis is considerate of both human health and the ecosystem
- No question that the consultant went to Romic

Meeting Attendee Comment

- HHRA based on healthy 35-year-old.
- Not based on tribal elder w/ diabetes who is also on dialysis

EPA Comment

- Not able to test toxic chemicals on humans
- Therefore, in reality, the data isn't that good – we must make judgments based on experimental animals

Meeting Attendee Comment

- The Gila River Indian Community continues to be tested as guinea pigs
- Been exposed to DDT and immune systems have already been impacted
- Chemical exposures from Romic are only compounding the issue and making the situation worse

Meeting Attendee Comment

- Believe that GRIC and community members have the right to make an informed decision
- EPA has continually mislead GRIC – if EPA shared all of the information that it truly has w/ GRIC, the permit would have already been declined
- Steve Armann – at past meetings and in past conversations has described Romic as “a well-run facility” with no emissions
- However, after requesting information through FOIA, found decades of inspection reports that demonstrate that Romic has continually been out of compliance
- Romic is under stringent regulations? This is boldly false.
- Information that Greenaction collected shows that Romic has been fined once

- What's really troubling is that EPA doesn't share this info with its own employees – one EPA employee had to come to Greenaction to look at their files to learn the truth
- Year after year, EPA documents the same gross violations – not being corrected, and if they are, these problems are only temporarily corrected
- According to EPA press release (dated August 15), EPA just settled several years of violations due to pressure from community members (finally cracked down a little)
- HHRA is a joke – based on fantasy world that doesn't reflect reality
- i.e. indicates that the only exposure pathway is through air emissions, but we know that it's possible to be exposed to these chemicals in other ways (gave the example of skin contact w/ chemicals)
- Romic accepts materials that contain mercury, yet Hg is not included in Romic's waste streams
- Use the word “typically” a lot throughout the HHRA
 - What happens un-typically?
- Facility estimates that it receives 400 gallons of haz. waste/day – HHRA calculates the monthly intake to be about 4,125 gallons/month
- The math doesn't add up – 400 gallons/day x 30 days = 12,000 gallons/month
- HHRA gives an evaluation of non-routine releases, considering recent history
- But shouldn't the HHRA consider Romic's whole history, and history of releases at both facilities since compliance track records at Romic Southwest and Romic E. Palo Alto seem to show the same problems and issues?
- HHRA indicates that Romic does not store any explosive materials, so an explosion is unlikely to occur
- But compliance history and EPA inspections show that Romic has stored incompatible waste next to each other in the past (means that an explosion can occur if these wastes come into contact)
- HHRA also discusses past fires, indicating that these incidents did not result in “measurable harm”
- But who measured this harm? Who made this determination?
- EPA should send the settlement agreement to everyone on the mailing list
- This is the exact same thing that EPA does in other tribal communities
- EPA has a trust responsibility to GRIC
- Should put together inspection reports and share these with the tribal council
- Navajo – draft permit for unwanted coal-fired power plant
- Tohono – ignored EJ issues related to a proposed toxic waste dump on tribal land
- Parker – CO River dioxin emissions issue

EPA Comment

- Every inspection report is public information
- This information can be found in the public repository at DEQ
- Also available at the Lone Butte Industrial Park
- EPA happy to send out and provide these reports by request
- Regulations change over time

Meeting Attendee Comment

- These are not old violations
- They are happening year after year

EPA Comment

- HHRA deserves a more balanced treatment
- HHRA focused on volatile chemicals because this was the most likely way that residential populations and nearby workers would come into contact w/ these substances
- EPA has not finished commenting on the HHRA
- Romic – deals day to day w/ antifreeze
- Only way it can really harm you is if you ingest the chemical, but unlikely that anyone will ingest unless it gets into groundwater and contaminates water that people use for drinking water

Meeting Attendee Comment

- How do we know that antifreeze is not in the groundwater?
- Know that Romic's secondary containment is supposed to protect against groundwater contamination, but how do we know that it is working?
- How do we know that contamination isn't happening en route?
- Casino – the biggest source of income for the area
- What if the worst-case scenario happens? What will happen to the community and to the casino?

EPA Comment

- Again, EPA has not completed its review and comments on the HHRA

Meeting Attendee Comment

- Sounds like Romic is policing itself
- Romic was permitted to prepare its own HHRA?
- Romic conducts own inspections?

EPA Comment

- EPA does not require Romic to produce an HHRA
- HHRA looks at various scenarios and asks questions like, "is this event likely to happen?"
- In the past, EPA has determined that Romic was potentially not protective enough of human health, so required them to add four additional drums

Meeting Attendee Comment

- Sounds like we're asking the fox to watch the henhouse
- 75% of hazardous waste are dumped on indigenous land
- This is a big concern – need to do a better job of watching this
- EPA does not live here and does not understand/know long-term impacts
- Elders – work and live in Lone Butte
- Tribal Council has the right to say no to Romic

- Need to do this – need to shut down Romic
- Native people must stand up and enforce sovereignty
- Losing precious land – land is being violated
- While Romic may generate revenue, but need to reevaluate what's important

Meeting Attendee Comment

- EPA is committing genocide
- Too expensive to call war on Native people, so the government has found other ways to commit genocide through the system
- The U.S. EPA has its hand in business w/ Mexico
- Have tried to locate hazardous waste dumps on sacred ceremony grounds
- You are immigrants in this country – you don't understand what the land means to us – every rock, tree, and blade of grass
- Should bring a lawsuit on U.S. EPA for committing genocide
- You have corralled us to live here near facilities like Romic – you have corralled us into concentration camps

Meeting Attendee Comment

- Worked at Romic 15 years ago
- Husband currently works at Romic – clean bill of health, very healthy
- In AZ, antifreeze is not regulated (antifreeze is regulated in CA)
- Need to worry about Mom & Pop places that dump antifreeze down the drain – don't need to worry so much about businesses like Romic

Meeting Attendee Comment

- 2 weeks ago, first experienced a dead fish odor at Lumber Products
- Romic said that there wouldn't be an odor by next Thurs. – blatantly lied
- People are feeling sick – still reporting symptoms, still visiting the doctor

EPA Comment

- The chemical causing the odor is not a regulated chemical
- Looking at interim measures to address current and future odor complaints

Meeting Attendee Comment

- Does Romic know when EPA is coming to conduct an inspection?

EPA Comment

- Required to inspect Romic once every two year, but typically do an inspection at this facility more often
- Call DEQ before inspections b/c EPA recognizes tribes sovereign rights
- Asks DEQ if they would like to participate in the inspections, which they frequently do
- All inspections are unannounced
- Romic not speaking at the public meeting b/c EPA asked them not to speak
- Wanted the meeting to be about voicing and hearing community concerns

Meeting Attendee Comment

- Even if EPA does not contact Romic, they know when EPA is coming
- Likely that DEQ calls Romic to tell them that EPA is coming

Meeting Attendee Comment

- Romic said that they had taken the chemical off the premises
- Fire Department called in and found that the chemical was still there
- Romic lied to our faces

EPA Comment

- Aware that there have been problems with miscommunication

Meeting Attendee Comment

- No, it was not a miscommunication – bold-faced lie

Romic Comment

- Romic told Lumber Products that they would stop processing the chemical, not that they would remove it from the premises
- Had been looking into recycling the chemical rather than incinerating it off-site
- Tried but failed to recycle, so chemical will eventually be transported off-site to another facility where it will be incinerated for beneficial use

EPA Comment

- Based on community concerns and odor complaints, Romic shut down 3 process units

Meeting Attendee Comment

- How many people got sick from the odors?

EPA Comment

- Based on meetings with Lumber Products HR, likely about 6-9 individuals
- None of these symptoms are irreversible

Meeting Attendee Comment

- Cannot say at this time that they're not irreversible
- Where did you hear that from?

EPA Comment

- Based on earlier meetings and conversations w/ people from Lumber Products

Meeting Attendee Comment

- Does EPA evaluate epidemiological data and vital statistics?

EPA Comment

- No, largely because this information can be misleading

- Cannot generally assign this data to one particular cause or one particular site

Meeting Attendee Comment

- Does Romic conduct its own inspections?

EPA Comment

- EPA conducts unannounced inspections at Romic – these inspections are required once every two years, but are usually conducted more frequently
- GRIC also does its own inspections at Romic

Meeting Attendee Comment

- Is it standard operating procedure for EPA to do unannounced inspections?
- Used to work at another facility, and always knew when EPA was coming to inspect

EPA Comment

- Yes, inspections are unannounced

Meeting Attendee Comment

- Saw them placing drums/barrels in holes dug in the ground
- No DEQ yet
- 33 kids in my neighborhood died
- Can't call 911 – have called in the past and did not receive a response
- Was on the list and has been for some time, but was not notified for this meeting
- Wrong address on the mailer – probably to ensure that no one would come to the meeting
- How long does interim status last?
- DEQ – in the past, just blended polluted water with unpolluted water and said it was safe to drink
- Polluters just keep on polluting
- We also witness kids that have problems with asthma
- Been sending info to authorities for years
- Daughter died in 1988 – still investigating her death
- Never seen a denied permit
- Don't know how EPA sleeps at night
- Seems like EPA is pimping with the company
- Don't you have kids? Someday it will be in your backyard
- Don't trust EPA
- Still studying why kids are dying in Maryville
- Kids still dying to this day because it's contaminated

Meeting Attendee Comment

- Often see ambiguous information and models
- Example of superfund site – attended a conference where they showed 29 different models to describe the water – seems very ambiguous
- Scottsdale – Billion dollar lawsuit against along Pima Blvd. (?)

- EPA won't be cited for violations – must move together and work together to address the issue

Meeting Attendee Comment

- Will EPA deny the permit based on impacts to human health?
- Hard time understanding what you will be basing this decision on if you're not considering epidemiological data and vital statistics

EPA Comment

- AZ has a tumor registry
- Look at expected and unexpected cancer cases
- Vital statistics – really not that informative due to nuts and bolts of the science

Meeting Attendee Comment

- Witnessing increased cancer rates due to increased industrial chemical use

EPA Comment

- This is a common belief, but in reality, it is difficult to correlate these
- While we can identify cancer clusters, we've never been able to identify definitive causes to these cancer clusters

Meeting Attendee Comment

- Makes sense to me that if you identify a cancer cluster, you should reduce chemical use and exposure

Meeting Attendee Comment

- EPA is known for raising the standard so that, when a chemical shows up, it will fall within a safe range

Meeting Attendee Comment

- We have the highest rate of diabetes in Gila River
- More and more kids need inhalers
- Cancer rates are increasing
- More and more kidney function problems – 2 dialysis centers for 18,000 people
- Romic is not helping our community
- Elders and community people are dying
- Daughter developed asthma at age 14 (wasn't born with it)
- Other people are going on dialysis in their 20s and 30s
- People are not living to age 65, so recently lowered the retirement age
- Not accusing Romic of dumping chemicals
- See the community decaying, need to take control of our own lives
- Romic – not worth it for the desecration of land and people
- Do not need industrial activity anymore

Meeting Attendee Comment

- Issues with Romic's air emissions control devices
- EPA's own press release – "failed to properly monitor these devices"
- Romic accepts much more than antifreeze
- Give the wrong impression when share examples about antifreeze
- We're talking about real hazardous waste – federally regulated
- If EPA's regulations are protective of human health and the environment, then why are people getting sick?
- Isn't it true that this Romic facility has the same track record as Romic East Palo Alto?

EPA Comment

- Difference between two Romic facilities is that, in CA, the regulatory jurisdiction goes to the state
- The on-scene coordinator for the incident at E. Palo Alto was EPA, but that doesn't change the responsibility for regulatory jurisdiction

Meeting Attendee Comment

- Isn't it true that Romic in E. Palo Alto also seeks to expand?

EPA Comment

- Romic E. Palo Alto has a permit but are seeking a renewal

Meeting Attendee Comment

- How do we know that there aren't things going on that are more subtle and dangerous?
- Does EPA/DEQ monitor health issues?
- There may be a combination of things

EPA Comment

- Probably are a combination of things – cumulative impacts
- More things you take into account to assess impact and harm
- Fair to hold individual facilities responsible for cumulative impacts?

Meeting Attendee Comment

- 16 years ago – public hearing in April/May 1990
- Media and TV stations attended – because of media enthusiasm and coverage, the facility was shut down
- Community used to rely on media for public discourse
- How do people have an impact today?

Meeting Attendee Comment

- Problem with the lack of effectiveness in informing people
- Public meeting was not in the newspapers
- Many people don't have access to the internet, so not fair to ask them to go to computers or the internet to get information about these meetings

- Seems very intentional
- EPA – don't even try to apologize for this – you can't apologize for killing off people

EPA Comment

- Understand that you received misinformation
- Still really apologize for this

Meeting Attendee Comment

- Is the media here? Why aren't they here?

Meeting Attendee Comment

- Media usually don't come out unless there's a killing
- Or must be invited by the tribe
- With all of EPA's resources, more people should have been notified

Meeting Attendee Comment

- Should also be noted that these chemicals are not only cancer-causing, but they also cause birth defects and developmental delays
- Also cause asthma and respiratory afflictions

Meeting Attendee Comment

- What has to happen for a permit not to go through?

Meeting Attendee Comment

- The people must do this, EPA will not do it
- EPA will give them the permit

EPA Comment

- Factors outside EPA (not in our control) often affect our work
- EPA has not made a permit decision on the Romic facility
- EPA wants to get this process moving forward
- This meeting is one of the first steps to energize this process

Meeting Attendee Comment

- EPA is still moving really slow – we've been hearing the same thing year after year
- Additionally, the same violations are happening year after year
- Seems like you're thumb twiddling over this

EPA Comment

- This meeting is part of the process
- Will come back in 2007 at the appropriate time to solicit comments on the proposed permit decision

EPA Comment

- When we make a permit decision, consider # of factors

- 1) Current compliance
- 2) Past compliance
- 3) Potential for future compliance

Meeting Attendee Comment

- How many strikes until Romic is out?
- What are the guidelines for violations?

Meeting Attendee Comment

- Why didn't you shut down Romic faster due to odor complaints?

Meeting Attendee Comment

- Lumber Products – strong safety concerns
- Many employees were not aware of this meeting – glad we're here today
- More will be here tomorrow

Meeting Attendee Comment

- Keep going back to the original point – should be more proactive than reactive
- Most recent problem started when Romic decided to “try recycling” a certain chemical
- Guidance/precedents to check in with EPA before they try new things
- A couple of test runs aren't good enough
- Biggest problem is that we don't really know what is really going on at Romic
- Are you looking at what happens w/ mixing chemicals
- How can they decide to try a new procedure before checking in with people first

Meeting Attendee Comment

- Too expensive to test for the right thing
- Not funding the right tests
- Must remember that this is not our future, it's the future of our kids
- Examples – when they've recycled water in the past, didn't test for pharmaceuticals
- Who has this info? How do we get this info?
- FOIA
- All money and nothing else
- Give the power back to the people

Meeting Attendee Comment

- Tribal council has the last word about whether or not the facility can remain

EPA Comment

- GRIC asked EPA to put together a report (process in tribe for how to do this)
- In mid-to-late Jan./Feb. to start process to communicate results of the meeting and the HHRA

Meeting Attendee Comment

- Tribe is the landowner
- Tribal council should get the bulk of these comments
- Lone Butte must first determine if Romic should have the permit, then goes to the Tribal Council
- If the tribe says no, then EPA will say no

Meeting Attendee Comment

- Is this the 2nd time Romic has applied for a permit?

EPA Comment

- Been applying for this permit since 1988

Meeting Attendee Comment

- The tribe refused to sign off on the permit before

Meeting Attendee Comment

- Did not sign off on the permit in the past due to issues with the language
- Tribal info is receiving the same information that we're receiving here today

Meeting Attendee Comment

- Fact sheets are misleading and wrong
- EPA has also said in past meetings that EPA was a "well-run facility"

Meeting Attendee Comment

- General manager at Lumber Products
- Should have stood up earlier to describe details behind what's been happening since Nov. 29
- Contrary to voices – we've been impressed with EPA's response
- Romic started a new process of recycling
- While the units have been shut down, we still have an odor problem even today
- Also good response from Lone Butte
- 100 people work there – many have been complaining of headaches, nausea, sore throat, etc.
- Since November 29 – people have been getting sick from the odor
- But it doesn't just stop at the workplace – residue gets into the ventilation, gets into cars, this residue comes from Romic
- Made contact with Romic, they don't know what's going on – have continually asked for explanations
- Since Nov. 29 – Romic has been telling Lumber Products day after day, "tomorrow you won't have a problem"
- Concerned for health and well-being of employees
- Ask tribal members to place make this facility go away
- Physical and emotional ailments
- These are serious issues that need to be addressed

Meeting Attendee Comment

- 1 bad seed, concerned whether it's appropriate to address that seed
- Stay in touch with GRACE and others
- Appropriate for white relatives to speak to the Tribal Council