

## QUESTIONS FROM NOTES OF THE OCTOBER 3, 2015 MEETING

WHEN DID TIMEX FIND OUT THERE WAS A PROBLEM? WHAT WAS THE FIRST PROBLEM THEY KNEW ABOUT AND WHEN? WHEN DID THEY KNOW ABOUT THE GROUNDWATER PROBLEM AND HOW?

Timex confirmed the extent of the deep groundwater contamination in the residential area in 2010.

Contamination was first discovered at the site of the former Timex facility on the Airport property during an initial investigation that concluded in August 2003. Upon concluding the initial investigation, Timex and the Airport met with ADEQ to discuss further voluntary actions to investigate the site. The Site Investigation Report was completed in August 2007. Timex suspected then that the deep groundwater contamination might extend under the residential area. Some groundwater contamination was identified in that area in 2008, but Timex did not know the full extent of the plume in the residential area until 2010.

Between 2010 and 2014, Timex worked diligently with the Airport and ADEQ to develop the remedial action to address the contamination, as well as the Consent Order that obligates Timex to perform the remedial action. The remedial action was approved and the Consent Order was signed on February 24, 2014. Timex began notifying the residents the next day, on February 25, 2014.

WHY DID THE NEIGHBORHOOD NOT KNOW UNTIL 2014 THAT THERE WAS A PROBLEM? IF TIMEX KNEW ABOUT THIS FOR 14 YEARS AS STATED WHY WERE THE PEOPLE NOT TOLD?

Very early on, Timex investigated the potential health risks of the contamination, and determined that there are no risks in the residential area, as long as the water is not used. Because no one in the residential area is using the water and there is no health risk, we focused on developing a remediation plan so that we could address any concerns as soon as possible.

Timex has been diligently working to investigate the extent of the contamination and develop a remediation plan that will protect human health and the environment. This work takes time. For example, after meeting with ADEQ to discuss a voluntary investigation in October of 2003, Timex completed a Site Investigation Work Plan, which outlines the steps needed to characterize the site in order to select appropriate options for site investigation. That was in 2004. Timex then developed a Field Sampling Plan and a Health and Safety Plan later that year. After that, Timex conducted a Baseline Human Health Risk Assessment, which evaluated potential health risks (completed in 2007), and finalized a Site Investigation Report, which analyzed information about the site compiled between 2001 and 2007. Timex then developed a Remedial Alternatives Analysis, which it completed in 2010. All of this work was required before ADEQ could develop the Remedial Action Decision Document, which governs the cleanup at the site. Throughout this process, Timex has submitted documents for ADEQ review and worked closely with the Agency to ensure progress toward a remedy that will protect human health and the environment. As noted above, Timex worked diligently with the Airport and ADEQ between 2010 and 2014 to develop the remedial action to address the contamination, as well as the Consent Order that obligates Timex to perform the remedial action. The remedial action was

approved and the Consent Order was signed on February 24, 2014. Timex began notifying the residents the next day, on February 25, 2014.

The proposed ordinance will ensure that there continue to be no risks in the residential area, because it will ensure that no one drills a well to access the contaminated deep groundwater.

THE NEIGHBORS FEEL THEY WERE LEFT OUT OF THE TESTING. PEOPLE CAME TO THEIR NEIGHBORHOOD IN WHITE SUITS WITH MASK AND WOULD NOT TELL THEM WHAT THEY WERE LOOKING FOR. WHY WERE THE NEIGHBORHOOD NOT TOLD ANYTHING BEFORE THAT HAPPENED? WHY WERE THE TEST RESULTS NOT SHARED WITH THE NEIGHBORHOOD?

There were no efforts to leave people out of the water testing process. Wells in the residential area have been tested periodically and the results have been shared with ADEQ. The results are available from ADEQ, but Timex also can post the results to the website at [www.timexlittlerock.com](http://www.timexlittlerock.com), if the residents would find this helpful.

Timex is unsure whether the people in the neighborhood with white suits and masks were doing work related to the Timex site. On occasion, Timex's workers who are working on the groundwater monitoring and injection wells in the residential area will wear white suits, but it is just to keep their cloths clean. No safety suits or masks are required. It is possible that the workers observed by the residents were performing work unrelated to the Timex site, such as performing work for a pest control company.

As noted above, Timex investigated the potential health risks of the contamination very early on, and determined that there are no risks in the residential area, as long as the water is not used. Because no one in the residential area is using the water and there is no health risk, we focused on developing a remediation plan so that we could address any concerns as soon as possible.

The proposed ordinance will not impact ongoing communications between Timex and the residents about the remediation in any way.

WHY WAS THERE NOT A PERSON EMPLOYED TO WORK WITH THE NEIGHBORHOOD FROM THE BEGINNING?

As soon as ADEQ finalized the approved remedial action, Timex informed the residents about the contamination and provided information to address concerns. The remedial action was approved and the Consent Order was signed on February 24, 2014. Timex began notifying the residents the next day, on February 25, 2014.

This information was mailed to property owners of record, and was hand-delivered to each property in the affected area by a community representative hired by Timex. Timex held a public meeting soon after distributing this information to answer any questions. Timex also has maintained a website, [www.timexlittlerock.com](http://www.timexlittlerock.com), where key information about the situation is maintained. Timex also has a phone number, 501.218.8995, that the public can call to find out more information.

The proposed ordinance will not impact ongoing communications between Timex and the residents about the remediation in any way.

HOW DID TIMEX DECIDE WHAT TYPES OF PAYMENTS/ OPTIONS AND THAT THEY ALL WERE ABOUT PROPERTY AND DID NOT CONSIDER PEOPLE. WHY DID THEY NOT OFFER REPLACEMENT VALUE LIKE OTHER PROGRAMS IN EAST LR HAS?

The only impacts in the residential area of which Timex is aware are to the deep groundwater. In an effort to make things right with property owners, Timex endeavored to make fair offers to property owners to either purchase their property outright or make a payment in return for a deed restriction prohibiting groundwater use and a release of property damage claims. Timex based its offers to property owners on the appraised value assigned by Pulaski County. Timex explained at the public meeting in March 2014 that, if property owners believe the appraised value is too low, they should contact Timex to discuss the amount of compensation offered. These offers were not meant to prevent residents from voicing concerns about health issues, nor do they cut off any claims related to health concerns.

Timex conducted an extensive evaluation of the health risks associated with the contaminated groundwater, and determined that there are no health risks as long as there is no exposure to the deep groundwater.

The proposed ordinance does not affect the abilities of property owners to negotiate with Timex for the purchase of their properties or for compensation in exchange for a deed restriction. Timex made offers to all property owners to purchase the properties or purchase deed restrictions over a year ago, and those offers remain open. Timex remains open to negotiating with property owners.

TIMEX GAVE THE AIRPORT 2.5 MILLION DOLLARS FOR THEIR PROPERTY AND ARE OFFERING THE PEOPLE A VERY SMALL AMOUNT.

Timex paid the Airport a monetary settlement to resolve claims relating to the soil and groundwater contamination on the Airport property. The amount of this monetary settlement was based on impacts from the contamination that were unique to the Airport property. First, the Airport spent money on an environmental assessment of the scope of the contamination when it was first discovered. Second, the Airport experienced direct impacts from the contamination because the Timex facility was located on Airport property. Unlike in the residential area, the Airport soil was contaminated. As a result, the Airport has not been able to lease the property since the contamination was discovered. Also unlike in the residential area, there is contamination in the shallow groundwater on the Airport property. The size of the Airport area affected by the groundwater contamination is much larger than the residential area. Further, all active remediation work is occurring and ongoing on Airport property, so it will not disturb the residential area.

Finally, the Airport agreed to enter a deed restriction to limit future uses on its property, including the prohibition of groundwater use and strict limitations on the types of businesses that can be operated by future lessees. The area covered by this deed restriction is ten times larger than the 2.5-block residential area (88.5 acres versus 8 acres), which includes an entire block of residential properties already owned by the Airport.

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OUR GARDENS AND TREES ARE NOT PRODUCING LIKE THEY HAVE IN THE PAST. WILL TIMEX PAY TO HAVE OUR GARDEN SOIL TESTED? THE PECAN TREES HAVE ALL DIED CAN THE SOIL AROUND THEM BE TESTED?

There is no reason to believe that any gardens or trees have been impacted by the contamination. Accordingly, there is no reason to perform further soil testing.

There is no contamination in the soil on residential properties. The contamination in the residential area is located more than 30 feet below the surface. There is a clay layer in between that blocks the chemicals from moving upward. Also, water in the shallow groundwater is clean and that layer of clean water also blocks chemicals from moving upward and into the soils on residential properties. The layer of clean groundwater prevents any of the contaminated deep groundwater from coming up to the surface where it could impact trees or gardens. Tree roots do not go deeper than the shallow groundwater, which is clean. Timex has done extensive testing of the soil on the Airport property and has shown that the soil impacts were limited to a small area on the former Timex property and also by the Civil Air Patrol parking lot. The site investigation report determined that there was no potential for soil to migrate to off-site locations. That contaminated soil was fully removed in May of this year.

WHAT ARE THE TREE OPTIONS WE HAVE BESIDES NUMBER 4 WHICH IS TO DO NOTHING? On the lease back what determines the rent/lease?

Timex has made offers to property owners to either purchase their property or make a payment in return for a deed restriction prohibiting groundwater use and a release of property damage claims. For homeowners who wish to take advantage of Timex's purchase offer, but do not wish to move, Timex is offering to lease back the property to the homeowner at fair market rent. In the event that a residential property purchased by Timex is occupied by a tenant, Timex will work with the tenant to see if it is possible to enter into a new lease after the sale closes. These offers are purely optional; property owners are not required to sell their property or relocate.

Timex will work with sellers to determine the amount of rent for a lease-back. Rent will be based on fair market rent for the neighborhood.

DO YOU HAVE A LIST OF THE HEALTH PROBLEMS THAT CAN BE CAUSED BY TRICHLOROETHYLENE AS WELL AS THE OTHER CHEMICALS IN THE GROUNDWATER?

Timex conducted an extensive evaluation of the health risks associated with the contaminated groundwater, and determined that there are no health risks as long as there is no exposure to the deep groundwater. The proposed ordinance will ensure that there continue to be no risks in the residential area, because it will ensure that no one drills a well to access the contaminated deep groundwater.

TCE is an industrial solvent that was commonly used to clean metal parts. It also can be found in households throughout the United States in consumer products and building materials (e.g., paints, spot removers, dry cleaning). At one time, it was used as an anesthetic. TCE and PCE have been found in levels above drinking water standards in the deep groundwater in the residential area. More information about the health effects that can be caused by TCE and PCE can be found on the Agency for Toxic Substances & Disease Registry, <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxprofiles/index.asp>.

HOW DOES THIS OFFER COMPARE WITH THE ONE THAT PEOPLE IN DIXIE ADDITION IN NORTH LITTLE ROCK RECEIVED AND WAS IT A SIMILAR PROBLEM?

Timex is unfamiliar with the situation in Dixie Addition.

THE RUN OFF FROM TIMEX PROPERTY FOR 40 YEARS HOW WAS IT CONTAINED ON THAT PROPERTY AND NOT TO CAUSE RUN OFF INTO THE DITCHES IN THE AREA? CHILDREN PLAYED IN THEM AND IN THE FLOODED AREA IN THAT COMMUNITY. WOULD THIS HAVE CAUSED HEALTH PROBLEMS AND WERE THOSE LOW AREAS AND DITCHES CHECKED?

Runoff from the former Timex plant was collected in catch basins and flowed to the west where it discharged into a ditch along the side of Bond Street. Timex collected water and sediment (mud) samples from all the ditches in the area (including the one along Bond Street) but did not find any contamination there.

HAS ANYTHING BEEN DONE TO LOOK AT THE HEALTH PROBLEMS OF PEOPLE WHO WORKED AT THE AIRPORT SITE FOR TIMEX?

Timex is not aware of any health issues concerning former Timex Little Rock workers as a group.

THE AIRPORT HAS CLEARED THEIR LAND AND IN DOING SO DUG UP TREES THAT WERE DEEPER THEN THE 32 FEET SO HAVE THEY NOW CAUSED MORE PROBLEMS FOR THE AREA?

Tree roots are limited to the depth of the shallow groundwater, which, in the vicinity of the former Timex property, is about 5 feet below the ground surface. So, any tree roots on the Airport property cannot reach the deep groundwater contamination. But even if they did, removal of the trees would not have any impact on the contamination.

WOULD SOMEONE MEET WITH THE PEOPLE AND HELP TO DEVELOP A PLAN ON HOW THIS IS GOING TO MOVE FORWARD WITH THE PEOPLE INVOLVED AND THEY RECEIVE TEST RESULTS AND ANY OTHER NEW INFORMATION?

Timex endeavors to keep the community informed of developments related to the progress on the remediation work. All updates and relevant information is posted to the website, [www.timexlittlerock.com](http://www.timexlittlerock.com). Timex welcomes people to call 501.218.8995 with any questions or concerns. Timex also will hold another public meeting to ensure that residents, and all other interested parties, have the opportunity to get their questions answered.

WHAT PROMISE DO WE HAVE FROM THE CITY ON WHAT THE USE OF THE LAND WILL BE? WE ARE TOLD IT WILL NOT BECOME PART OF THE AIRPORT BUT WE NEED SOMETHING IN WRITING. WE ARE TOLD

THAT TIMEX WILL TURN ALL OF THE LAND THEY PURCHASE OVER TO THE CITY. WE DO NOT WANT THEN TO BECOME ROWS OF WEED LOTS.

Timex has no plans to turn over the properties it has purchased to the City of Little Rock. Where purchased homes were occupied by tenants, Timex has worked with the tenants to establish a new lease. If a home is vacant and in good condition, Timex may try to rent it out. If a home is vacant and in poor condition, Timex may demolish it so that it does not become a health hazard for the neighborhood.

Timex has hired a local property management company to ensure that the vacant lots purchased by Timex are well maintained.

WHAT WILL TIMEX AND THE CITY DO TO HELP THE PEOPLE WITH THEIR FEARS AND CONCERNS.

Timex wants to address all concerns, and hopes that the information provided in response to these questions accomplishes this goal. In addition, all key information is available at [www.timexlittlerock.com](http://www.timexlittlerock.com). The website is updated when new developments occur. Timex also welcomes people to call 501.218.8995 with any questions or concerns.