

Viewpoints

A PUBLICATION OF THE MIDDLEPORT
COMMUNITY ADVISORY PANEL

P.O. Box 163

Middleport, New York 14105

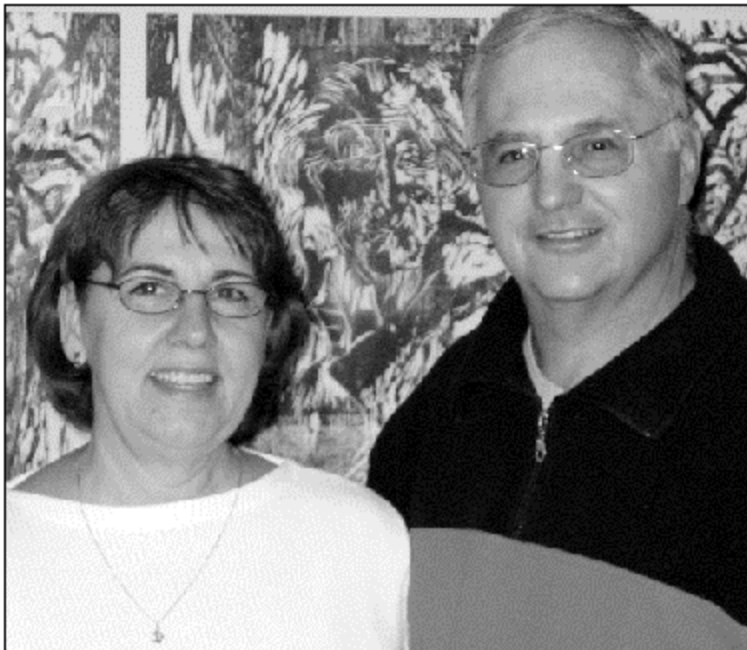
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- * *Featured CAP Members - Christa and Larry Lutz*

CAP Member Profiles : LARRY AND CHRISTA LUTZ



CHRISTA and LARRY LUTZ joined the CAP in October 2004.

CHRISTA retired from the Middleport Elementary School after 37 years as a primary teacher. As a 30+ year resident of Middleport, Christa has always been aware of FMC's role in the community. She likes the idea of an advisory panel that allows citizens to have an active role in addressing questions or concerns regarding the plant. She feels, "Residents like to have neighbors and friends to talk to when questions about FMC come up."

LARRY retired from the Royalton-Hartland High School after 33 years as athletic director and coach. As a property owner in

Middleport, Larry is interested in learning more about the steps FMC is taking to maintain property values in the community. In his words, "Serving on the panel gives me the opportunity to get information first-hand rather than by word of mouth."

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THIS NEWSLETTER IS COMPILED AND PUBLISHED BY THE MIDDLEPORT COMMUNITY ADVISORY PANEL. IT IS THE EXPRESS INTENT OF THE CAP TO PROVIDE RESIDENTS OF MIDDLEPORT CREDIBLE INFORMATION REGARDING COMMUNITY ISSUES, FMC PLANT ACTIVITIES, AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS.

Middleport CAP

- Barb Albone
- Fr. Joe Badding
- Kathleen Casey
- Christa Lutz
- Larry Lutz
- Alyssa Ostrowski
- Marinna Ostrowski
- Rob Richards
- Rebecca Schweigert
- John Shuttleworth
- Davey Smith
- Dick Westcott

Facilitator – Ann Howard

Agency Liaison – Mike Hinton, NYSDEC

FMC Liaisons – Brian Vain, Bob Wojcik, Patt Fagan

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Finding Your Way Through The Terminology



By Rob Richards, Middleport CAP member

Greetings fellow residents. My name is Rob Richards and I am a member of the Middleport Community Advisory Panel, or CAP.

The members of the CAP know how difficult it can be to try to figure out what something means by its abbreviations or its scientific name.

the terms and abbreviations are.

CAP members hope that this “glossary of terms” on the next page will help you better understand what the different roles the Agencies and the regulations play in FMC Middleport’s environmental program.



The CAP decided to provide everyone with a glossary of terms that are commonly heard regarding FMC’s environmental program and remediation projects.

Several meetings and discussions are being planned over the next several months so this “glossary of terms” should help you better understand what

What Laws Are Involved in This Program?

The program is governed by federal and state laws.

Resource Conservation Recovery Act (RCRA) – the federal law that governs the handling of hazardous waste from active sites. Creates responsibilities for generators, transporters, and disposal facilities to ensure safe handling of these materials.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact myself or any fellow CAP member.

Involved Government Agencies Are:

United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) – the federal Agency responsible for implementing and enforcing the provisions of RCRA.

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC) – the state agency responsible for implementing the state responsibilities under RCRA. DEC is also responsible for implementing and enforcing the NYS Superfund law.

New York State Department of Health (NYS DOH) – the state agency responsible for addressing any public health problems associated with the management of hazardous waste.

The following terms are used under the RCRA laws and regulations. You will be hearing about these studies and activities in conjunction with FMC's ongoing environmental program in the coming months.

RFI – RCRA Facility Investigation – the study phase of a project to determine the extent of contamination. Includes, when appropriate, sampling of soil, air and groundwater.

CMS – Corrective Measures Study – Uses information from the RFI to develop a cleanup plan. Evaluates options to determine the best course of action.

CMI – Corrective Measures Implementation – Implementation of a cleanup plan selected during the CMS phase.

How You Can Be Involved All of the events and methods for informing and involving the community will be announced. They are:

Availability Session – A scheduled gathering of staff from the DEC, DOH and EPA and members of the public in a casual setting, without a formal presentation or agenda but usually focusing on a specific aspect of the remedial process.

Comment Period – A time period for the public to review and comment about various documents and actions associated with management or cleanup of the environmental program.

Document Repository – A file of documents pertaining to FMC's remedial and participation programs made available for public review. The document repository for FMC is in the Middleport Free Library.

Public Meeting – A scheduled gathering of agency representatives with the affected/interested public to give and receive information, ask questions and discuss concerns. Staff and consultants for FMC attend these meetings which usually feature a formal presentation and an agenda.

CAP MEETING NOTES AND INFORMATION AVAILABLE ONLINE

Who is on the CAP?
Why does the CAP meet?
What guidelines are followed?



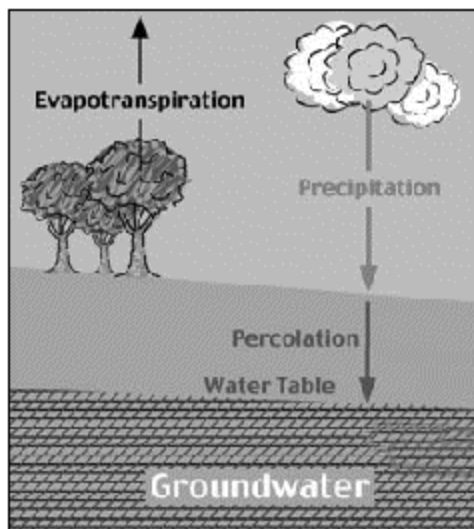
Learn more at
www.teapothollow.com

Clearing Up Groundwater Misconceptions

By Dick Westcott, Middletown CAP Member

At the agencies' August 2 Public Meeting, some new terms were introduced. The following are brief descriptions of some of these terms.

GROUNDWATER – the subsurface water found underneath the water table. It is found in porous rocks and soil sediments and geologic formations that are fully saturated. Groundwater is a natural resource.



WATER TABLE – the level below ground which soil and rock are saturated with water and form a geological formation able to store and yield water.

RUNOFF – any natural or manmade occurrence of water or liquid above ground in excess of the amount that can be absorbed by the ground, causing the ground to be over-saturated. Runoff should not be confused with groundwater.

VOLATILE ORGANIC COMPOUND (VOC) – compound which readily evaporates at room temperature.

WHERE ARE VOCs FOUND?
Any carbon-based materials such as every-

day products found within your home. Examples: gasoline, automotive products, solvents, paint, paint thinner, craft materials, glue, personal care products, aerosol sprays, moth repellents, dry cleaned clothes, tobacco smoke, benzene.

WHAT'S NOT A VOC?
Metals (eg. arsenic, lead, pesticides, herbicides).

SOIL VAPOR INTRUSION – refers to the potential for vaporization of volatile chemicals from the soil and groundwater, along with subsequent migration into buildings.

Vapor intrusion can ONLY occur if three (3) conditions are met:

1. There is transport of VOCs in groundwater from a source. Examples: leaks in underground storage tanks, careless use of household chemicals, runoff from fertilized fields, and salt from roads.

AND

2. Vaporization of VOCs from groundwater into the unsaturated zone. This zone is above the water table.

AND

3. Entry of VOCs from soil vapor into a building.

Residents are encouraged to get involved and attend upcoming public meetings. After all, first-hand knowledge is best and avoids hearsay.