

MAX Environmental Technologies, Inc. Yukon, Pennsylvania

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 3
Community Listening Session
October 9, 2024 | 6:30PM-8:00PM

Welcome! The event will begin shortly.

Please email epameetings@lrginc.com for technical assistance with the Zoom platform.



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Disclaimer

Please note that by participating in today's online event, you acknowledge and consent that your name, video, image or phone number may be visible to others in the live online meeting as well as captured in the recording.

Goals of EPA Listening Session

- Listen to community's environmental and health concerns related to MAX Environmental Technologies, Inc. (MAX) operations.
- Information shared with EPA will be used to inform our decision-making processes related to on-going and future compliance monitoring and enforcement activities.
- EPA will not be responding to comments during the Listening Session. However, after the Listening Session, in conjunction with the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), PA Department of Health (PADOH), and PA Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP), EPA will provide the community with a responsiveness summary for the comments provided tonight.

Listening Session Participants

U.S. EPA Region 3 Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division

- Karen Melvin, melvin.karen@epa.gov
- Jeanna R. Henry, henry.jeannar@epa.gov
- Andrew Van Woert, vanwoert.Andrew@epa.gov
- Rebecca Serfass, Serfass.Rebecca@epa.gov
- Andrew Dinsmore, dinsmore.Andrew@epa.gov
- Mark Zolanz, Zolanz.mark@epa.gov
- Edward Simas, simas.edward@epa.gov
- Allison Gieda, Gieda.allison@epa.gov

Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

- Sharon Svitek, ssvitek@pa.gov
- Stacey Greenwald, sgreenwald@pa.gov

Pennsylvania Department of Health

- Dr. Julie Miller, juvmille@pa.gov
- Dr. Remy Babich, rbabich@pa.gov

General Facility Information

Resource Conservation and Recover Act

- MAX Environmental Technologies, Inc. (MAX) is a RCRA permitted treatment, storage, and disposal facility.
- Permitted to store and treat metal-bearing hazardous waste containing:
 - Arsenic
 - Barium
 - Cadmium
 - Chromium
 - Lead
 - Selenium
 - Silver
- Permitted to dispose of treated metal-bearing waste (treated and no longer hazardous waste) in an on-site landfill (Landfill No. 6)

General Facility Information

National Pollution Discharge Elimination System

- Max has an industrial wastewater and stormwater treatment plant (WWTP) that is authorized to discharge treated water to the Sewickley Creek Watershed.
- The facility has 4 outfalls (discharge points):
 - Outfall 007 discharges treated domestic sewage from facility toilets
 - Outfalls 008 and 009 discharge stormwater that is not in contact with waste handling and treatment areas onsite.
 - Outfall 001 is the final discharge point from the WWTP, and discharges wastewater that has been treated to lower the level of metals to meet limits in the facility's NPDES permit.

General Facility Information - NPDES

MAX is required to sample, report, and abide by set limits for the following pollutants:

- pH
- Chemical Oxygen Demand
- Total Suspended Solids
- Ammonia-Nitrogen
- Aluminum
- Arsenic
- Cadmium
- Cyanide
- Iron
- Lead
- Manganese
- Selenium
- Silver
- Total residual chlorine
- Fecal Coliform

EPA Compliance Monitoring & Enforcement

- Compliance Evaluation Inspection March 20-24, 2023
 - Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) – Hazardous Waste Program (HW)
 - Clean Water Act (CWA) National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)
 - Inspection included sampling of treated HW prior to on-site disposal and sampling of waste in landfill (Landfill No. 6)
 - Violations identified for RCRA and NPDES
- Notice of Potential Violations and Opportunity to Confer letter sent to MAX on December 21, 2023

EPA Compliance Monitoring & Enforcement

• RCRA Violations

- Waste not treated to meet land disposal restriction standards
- Containment building in poor condition
 - Did not prevent the entry of precipitation into the building and did not contain the waste
 - Leachate collection system not inspected as required
- Facility not operated to minimize the possibility of a release

• NPDES Violations

- Did not properly operate and maintain WWTP which resulted in certain pollutants (e.g., zinc, cadmium) being discharged at higher levels than allowable into Sewickley Creek.
- Did not report all required pollutant sample results
- Did not provide adequate stormwater pollution prevention and emergency response training to facility staff.

EPA Compliance Monitoring & Enforcement

- RCRA Administrative Order on Consent (AOC) filed April 19, 2024
- RCRA AOC requires MAX to:
 - Temporarily cease on-site disposal of waste
 - Meet with EPA routinely and provide monthly progress reports to evaluate work being performed under the AOC
 - Retain an EPA accepted 3rd party environmental consultant to:
 - Sample and analyze treated waste to ensure waste meets RCRA land disposal restriction requirements before being shipped off-site for disposal.
 - Conduct an audit of MAX's waste sampling practices and on-site laboratory
 - Conduct a groundwater investigation
 - Repair containment building and waste storage pads

EPA Compliance Monitoring & Enforcement

- NPDES Administrative Order on Consent (AOC) filed September 26, 2024
- NPDES AOC requires MAX to:
 - Retain a Professional Engineer to evaluate WWTP processes, infrastructure, and causes of effluent limit exceedances
 - Retain an EPA accepted 3rd party environmental consultant to perform compliance sampling at all NPDES outfalls and internal monitoring points
 - Notify EPA in writing if sampling data indicates an effluent limit exceedance
 - Develop a plan and schedule to implement corrective actions to address NPDES violations
 - Develop a standard operating procedure and Preventative Maintenance Plan
 - Meet routinely with EPA to evaluate work being performed under the AOC.

Public Health

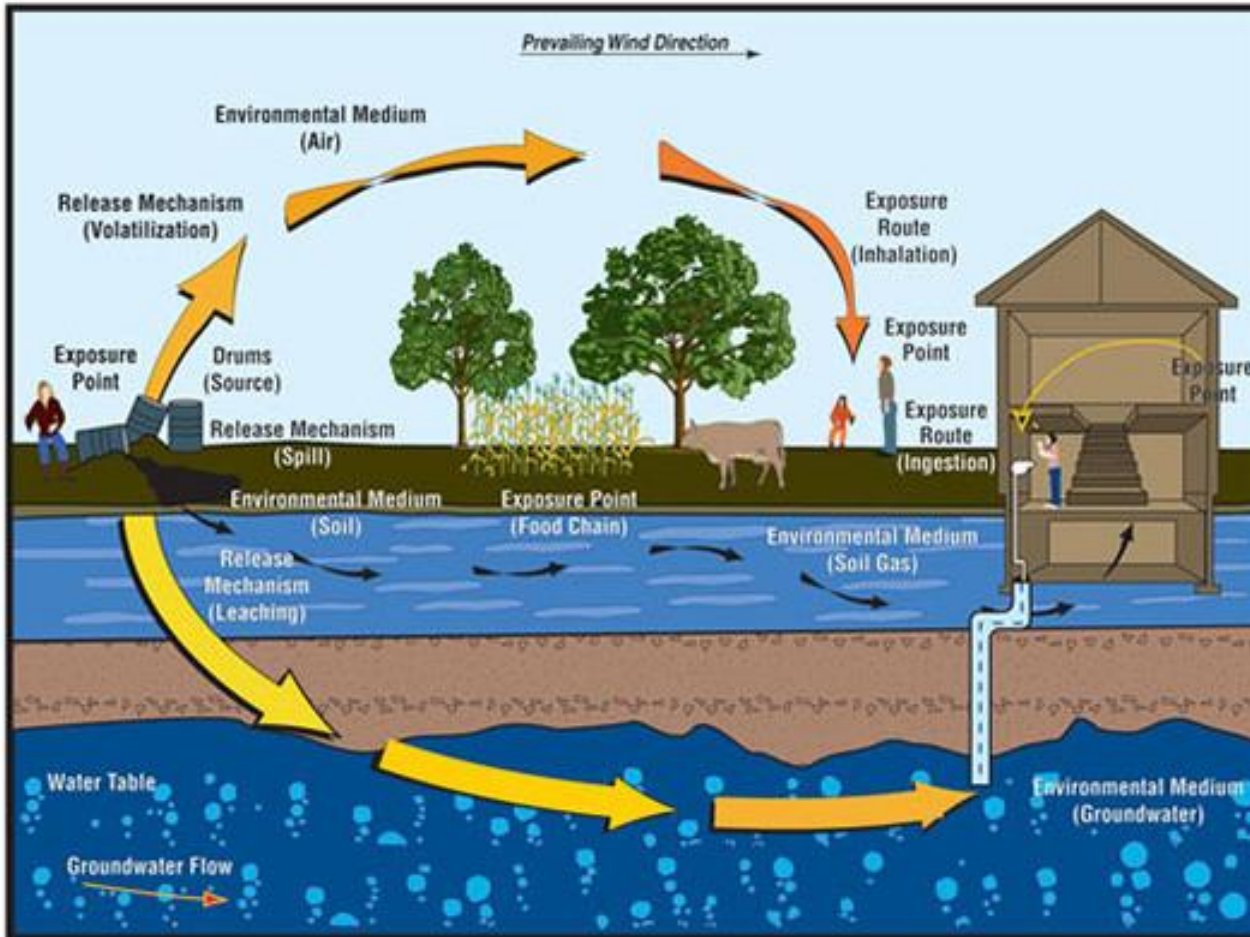
- **Who we are**

- Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR)
- PA Department of Health is a cooperative agreement partner of ATSDR
 - Receive funding through ATSDR's Partnership to Promote Local efforts to Reduce Environmental Exposure (APPLETREE) cooperative agreement program
 - Non-regulatory

- **What we do**

- Evaluate and respond to environmental public health issues
- For site-specific hazardous substances
 - Identify exposure pathways
 - Educate affected communities and local health professionals
 - Review health outcome data

Health Assessment



Conceptual Site Model.

Source: ATSDR PHA Guidance Manual.

https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pha-guidance/conducting_scientific_evaluations/exposure_pathways/site_conceptual_model_schematic.html

Health Concerns?

- **If you are worried about an environmental issue and have health concerns about this environmental issue in your community, you can petition ATSDR to look into it.**
- **Submitting a petition to ATSDR**
 - Any person or organization can submit a petition.
 - Email your petition to ATSDRPetitions@cdc.gov.
 - Include the following information:
 - Your name
 - The name of your community organization (if part of one)
 - A description of the issue you are concerned about
 - Your contact information (email address, phone number, and/or mailing address)

More information



<https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/petition-process.html>

Health Concern Examples

- I live near XYZ industrial plant. On certain days or certain times of day it smells and gives me watery eyes. I have asthma and I feel like I need to use my inhaler more than I normally would. Also, there is a school near the plant. It seems like a lot of children have asthma around here.
- I live near ACME airport. My home uses a private well. I have noticed a change in my water quality and am concerned it is related to the nearby airport.
- I live near an abandoned landfill. I see children playing in the area where they shouldn't because the fence is broken. It has been that way for many years. People also use it as a short cut to get to the nearby river to play or fish. I am concerned about the health of people walking through there or any runoff going into the river.

More information



<https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/petition-process.html>

Contact Us

ATSDR

- Emily Adler
 - Regional Representative, Region 3
 - qgk3@cdc.gov

PA DOH

- Complete the [environmental health concern form](#)
 - Phone: 717-787-3350
 - Email: env.health.concern@pa.gov

Listening Session

- Please limit your feedback to 3 minutes.
- If you signed up for public feedback via the online form, our technicians will send you a prompt in Zoom to give you speaking permissions.
- Please make sure your name on Zoom matches the name provided when you signed up.
- Start speaking once your name is called.




Please limit feedback
to 3 minutes

Listening Session: Additional Feedback

Via Computer (Zoom Platform):

- Click the “raise hand” button and you will be put in the queue to speak.
- Please unmute when your name/number is called.
- You may share your webcam video if you choose.

Via Telephone:

- Callers should press *9 on the phone to confirm they wish to share comments. Participants will be called upon by telephone number.
 - Please unmute when your name is called. Press *6 to mute/unmute.
- 

Closing Remarks

- You may continue to share input for one hour after the event by scanning the QR code on this slide.



Scan this QR code to
provide written feedback

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