

## Cleanup on track, experts say

### Pulvair tests find no major contamination

By Tom Bailey Jr.

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If everything continues to go well, the cleanup of **Millington's Pulvair Superfund site** could be finished by early 2011.

That's the assessment of the globe-trotting Harold Moats, who represents the group of eight companies responsible for cleaning the 50 acres on Big Creek Church Road.

Moats manages environmental cleanups around the world for Syngenta Crop Protection, one of the companies in the Pulvair Site Group.

He, the group's environmental consultants, state regulators and the Pulvair Citizens Advisory Group met this week at the Civic Center for an update on the project.

The consultant, Environmental Resources Management, has collected a vast amount of groundwater and soil samples by sinking 22 wells and making 179 borings.

It's interpreting the data now and will present its findings to the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation.

But Moats and the consultants indicated that so far the samples show no big problems with contamination of drinking water or soil.

"So far we're very optimistic about the way this site is going," consultant Gray Adams told the citizens panel in a power-point presentation.

Citizens committee member Roger Henderson said he appreciated the paid consultants' information but wanted to hear from the state regulators, who oversee the project and approve or reject the companies' work.

The state is happy with the work overall, said Merrie S. Embry, a state environmental protection specialist.

"They are moving faster than a lot of sites we have," Embry added after the meeting.

However, she said that the state has some concerns, including the presence of arsenic in the site's soil.

Millington now owns the Pulvair site, and may turn it into a park after the cleanup is completed.

The state will want to see a risk assessment for using the site for recreational

purposes, she said.

She added, "We will not rubber-stamp" the consultant's conclusions.

Last summer, state regulators expressed concern about the potential hazard of arsenic-laden dust blowing from the site, which has some bare ground.

Since then, the companies have sprayed a soil-stabilizing product on the grounds. Called Soiltac, it looks and feels like a white glue when applied, but becomes clear as it cures, ERM's Gray Adams said. One application will prevent dust for up to two years.

The companies, which were either customers of Pulvair or were involved in Pulvair's pesticide-blending process, have spent an estimated \$14 million since the remediation started four years ago.

Much of that expense resulted from the corporate group's decision to demolish and remove Pulvair's dilapidated buildings and tanks, Moats said.

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## **STAYING OBJECTIVE**

The two state regulators participating in a Pulvair (Superfund) Citizens Advisory Group meeting this week did not partake in the meal provided by companies responsible for cleaning up the toxic site.

As the citizens on the panel ate a catered meal of beef, mashed potatoes and peach cobbler from one of Millington's finest restaurants, Alison Company and Merrie Embry of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation arrived.

The environmental watchdogs bypassed the buffet and tables of citizens who were eating before the business portion of the meeting began.

The Citizens Advisory Group serves as a "communications link" among the community, state regulators and the corporations responsible for the clean-up.

In addition to the meal, the citizens also were invited to take home one of the boxed, holiday gifts stacked on a table. But a number of those were left unclaimed.

