



GREAT FALLS
CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

Press Release – October 2, 2014

Subject: GFCA Asks for Alternatives to Proposed CleanUp

The Great Falls Citizens Association has requested that the owner of the old Exxon station site, who is the party responsible to clean up gasoline contaminants spilled at the site that are currently spreading underground, reconsider its recently published proposal for further remediation.

GFCA has been monitoring efforts by the Fairfax Petroleum Company and its environmental consultant (Kleinfelder) to remediate groundwater contamination caused by the former Exxon Service Station at Walker Road and Georgetown Pike. The attached map is from the latest Kleinfelder report, and shows the plume of methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE) – a gasoline contaminant – that extends in the southeast direction under the Great Falls Center, and in the southern direction under the Crossroads, Bank of America, and Wells Fargo properties. The contamination has not reached private wells used for drinking and bathing.

Kleinfelder recently presented its plans for cleanup proposing a small, single recovery well on the site, which would pump and treat groundwater at the rate of about 10 gallons per minute over the next several years.

After professional review of the proposal, the GFCA, the GFCA Special Committee on Groundwater Contamination, and their professional environmental consultant do not believe that the small proposed system will be effective at removing the contamination from the entire plume, which Fairfax Petroleum committed to do when it asked last December for a Special Exception from Fairfax County to construct a drive-in bank on the former Exxon Service Station Site.

GFCA has requested that Fairfax Petroleum and Kleinfelder evaluate a more reliable alternative involving three recovery wells with two located near the leading edges of the plume to the south and southeast, in addition to the proposed well location. In GFCA's opinion, this alternative will be more effective at drawing contamination more efficiently from all parts of the contamination plume and remove the contamination more thoroughly in a shorter period of time. GFCA has formally requested that this alternative be evaluated and presented to the citizens of Great Falls, at a Department of Environmental Quality public meeting at the Great Falls Library, currently scheduled for November 11, 2014.

Attached is the GFCA request to Fairfax Petroleum as well as the current estimated map of the contamination plume.

MEDIA INQUIRIES: Contact

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The Great Falls Citizens Association (GFCA) is a 501(c)4 civic organization that acts as the quasi-official town council of Great Falls, VA. Great Falls is unincorporated and, lacking a town government, the GFCA serves to work on issues and advocate the interests of town residents with county, state, and national governments. GFCA works on zoning, development, transportation, parks and environmental issues as well as any other matter concerning the town. No other organization is more respected by government authorities to speak on matters relating to Great Falls, or more sought out by government authorities for involvement in Great Falls issues, than GFCA.