

# Residents feel alienated

## Raytheon not doing enough to notify them of hearings

**By Melissa Beecher**  
STAFF WRITER

Some citizens are angry that Raytheon did not adequately address their comments and concerns regarding data gaps in its Phase II and III reports. As part of Public Involvement Plan (PIP) guidelines, the company must respond to public questions.

Although those closest to the case agree that the responses were poor, they say positive steps have been taken by the defense contractor and the state Department of Environmental Protection to ensure additional testing and oversight. They are quick to point out that they were not notified about several key meetings between Raytheon and state agencies that may lead to an update in PIP guidelines.

The former property at 430 Boston Post Road is the site of a massive cleanup effort that Raytheon has been conducting under the supervision of government agencies, the town's Licensed-site Professional (LSP) and the public.

Raytheon, in a five-phase effort, must not only identify toxins, but must also identify the scope of the pollution, the nature and dimensions of the polluted area. It must also propose remediation, complete implementation and continue monitoring the area to prove remediation was successful.

At a public meeting Oct. 24 Raytheon's engineers explained Phase II and III to the public. According to officials and environmental specialists, the highly technical

presentation alienated the average citizen, whom the meeting was supposed to inform. Written comments regarding Raytheon's work and presentation were submitted by the end of November.

Annette Lewis, a road commissioner who was acting as a private citizen, sent Raytheon detailed questions regarding its complex site.

"I feel that Raytheon was non-responsive. My comments were pointed and clear. They simply referred me back to documents that I already studied and I found that to be quite offensive," said Lewis.

"This is a site with four Release Tracking Numbers (RTN), a very complex site. The point that I made was that a PIP site's purpose is to

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make it easy for the public to understand. It is incumbent that they present the information so that a lay person can understand. That did not happen here," said Lewis.

The site is characterized and the various permits obtained have been geared to a Tier 1B site. Residents and town experts feel that because of the close proximity to drinking water, specifically the Baldwin Pond Well Field, runoff to surrounding property, environmental impacts on the surrounding Zone II wetland area and the Sudbury River, and the four RTNs, or pollutant "hotspots," the site should be classified as a Tier 1A site, a more comprehensive DEP-overseen cleanup effort.

Selectmen Linda Segal, who also submitted a comment as a private citizen, said people need to be satisfied with Raytheon's research in order to facilitate a meaningful PIP process.

"There are some answers and Raytheon will be installing additional groundwater wells that were lacking hopefully to address some of the data gaps, but there are still issues out there," said Segal. "The positive thing that came out of all this was because of the public comment and the town's concerns, the DEP has someone looking into the groundwater issues."

There have been traces of metals, such as copper, lead and chromium, and other compounds such as TCE (trichloroethylene) on the site.

"At least in my experience, I have found the DEP to be responsive and responsible in maintaining a level playing field. Public involvement gives the cleanup process a new set of eyes," Segal said.

"The response by Raytheon to comments submitted by the public

repeated the position that site contamination has already been adequately characterized. However, Raytheon committed in the response that additional testing would be conducted to address public concerns raised regarding protection of our drinking water supply wells," said Conservation Commission member Andy Irwin.

"We did find technical inaccuracies within the responses that are disturbing and reinforce the need for independent technical oversight of the work being performed."

"The scope of Phase IV testing Raytheon will propose needs to be worked out in the next few months so that the results can be used in planning the remedy implementation plan that Raytheon must submit to DEP before the end of May," Irwin continued.

"We will be requesting that the PIP document be revised to provide access to information about the proposed remedy that is being discussed with various agencies but not being shared with the PIP group. For example, a meeting was held by Raytheon with the US Army Corps of Engineers during November and there was neither notice nor invitation to town officials or the PIP group to attend the meeting nor a distribution of minutes to share what was discussed."

There have been some positive steps toward improved communication, although adequate notice is still an issue. In a meeting attended by Irwin, Brian Monahan, conservation administrator, Raytheon and the DEP, the permitting process was outlined, but the Wayland representatives were not given Raytheon's proposed cleanup goals.

"I found the meeting to be informa-

tive. There is a mountain of work ahead of us and the commission needs to be involved at all stages of the permitting process," said Monahan.

"In that meeting there were draft documents that had been provided in advance to DEP containing proposed clean up goals for the remedy that were not shared with us. The public needs to have confidence in the remediation goals as being protective and that the remedy will be implemented so as to achieve those goals," Irwin said.

Raytheon has also contacted the Wayland Board of Selectmen saying it is willing to conduct a meeting. In a document sent by Robert Moore, director of corporate services, the company stated it was willing to discuss possible technical assistance to the town.

Looking for financial assistance the Conservation Commission, working with the Board of Health and the Water Department, submitted a Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) to the DEP on Tuesday. Approximately 27 other applicants have submitted applications for consideration for the limited state assistance.

"The competition is stiff for a small amount of money," said Monahan.

According to Irwin there will be opportunity for comment through PIP meetings and through public comment periods that are part of the permit approvals Raytheon will have to obtain to perform the wetlands clean up.

Raytheon has indicated that it will be coming before the Wayland Conservation Commission for an informal pre-application project review Jan. 31. People should check with the conservation office early that week to confirm the date and time.