

Local brownfield projects progress at three locations

BY BARBARA SUMMERS

Telegram Staff Writer

Keramida Environmental, Inc. Senior Manager Terry Hair met with the Jackson County Commissioners on October 2 with an update on three different projects.

Work is just underway in the investigative stage at the former Oak Hill Firebrick site on State Route 93 across from and south of the Library. Some preliminary subsurface work was done electronically to determine where utility lines are located and to avoid any underground problems, such as buried tanks.

Now 25 borings are being made. A drill brings up core samples from as much as 20 feet into the ground. Those will be taken to an Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA)-approved laboratory in the Dayton area for analysis. The results will let the Keramida team better understand if there are cleanup issues and where they are located. These results should be ready by the end of October, Hair estimated.

Based on what is learned in this first test, sites will be determined for wells to be dug. The first set of wells will test the groundwater. If there contamination is confirmed, then additional deep testing will be done to determine the extent of contamination.

Jisco Site On Hold

The former Jisco site, Hair said, is basically on hold depending on what action is taken by US Rail. A meeting has been scheduled for October 11 with Economic Development, US Rail, and the Commissioners.

Hair is prepared to conduct soil testing to pinpoint potential contamination left at the site. If soils are declared hazardous, then the disposal process is quite costly, perhaps as much as \$1 million. If not, then the remaining work will cost a good deal less.

Frick-Gallagher Update

The former Frick-Gallagher building between Broadway and Second Streets in Wellston was Hair's last item. He noted that about six weeks ago, the Ohio Department of Development and OEPA received a grant to do sampling. Nothing but trace materials has been found, Hair reported.

The building, Hair noted, is reported to be going into receivership with the City of Wellston as the intended recipient. Permission has been granted by both parties for work to be conducted at the site. Hair understands, and Commissioner Tom Walton agreed, that the building would best be destroyed.

Walton speculated that there might be sufficient salvageable steel in the building to make the cost of demolition quite low. Hair noted that an end user is needed to make the Frick project viable.