

APPENDIX A: ISSUES, QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS FROM PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Local issues, questions and concerns stated at the public meetings and in subsequent phone calls, letters and emails are included in this appendix.

On January 2, 2014 approximately 1, 523 postcard notifications were sent to residents in the proposed treatment site and on January 3, 2014 approximately 19 letter notifications were sent to public officials informing them of the public meetings. Two public meetings (3:00pm EST and 6:00pm EST) were held in West Lafayette, IN on January 22, 2014. At each meeting, state officials presented alternatives for gypsy moth management. The discussion included identification and biology of gypsy moth, pest impacts, survey methods, and treatment options. The proposed action and alternatives, including no action, were discussed. There was a total attendance of 22 citizens at both meetings. All public comments received by Friday February 21, 2014 by 4:30pm EST were considered in the final decision for the proposed treatments.

Legal notices were published on January 16 and January 21, 2014 in the Journal and Courier News informing the public about the upcoming meetings on the proposed treatment site.

An Indiana Department of Natural Resources New Release was sent out on January 22, 2014 with information on the scheduled public meetings in West Lafayette. Information on the public meetings, proposed treatments and comment period was also posted on the Division website at gypsymoth.IN.gov

After the decision on the proposed treatment is made and if treatment is conducted, residents will be mailed a notification approximately two weeks prior to treatment. DNR News Releases will be sent out to local media and asked to communicate the information to the general public. Phone calls will be made to public officials and other interested individuals. Updates regarding the scheduled day of treatment will continue prior to and through treatments via local media, phone calls, emails and Twitter.

Information gathered from the public and from resource professionals was used to develop issues and concerns related to the project. They are grouped into two categories; 1) issues used to formulate the alternatives, and 2) other issues and concerns.

At each of the public meetings representatives from the Division of Entomology and Plant Pathology presented the proposed gypsy moth project and answered and received questions and comments. A representative from Purdue University also assisted in answering questions and concerns that were presented by the public.

The presentation explained:

- the life cycle, feeding habits and hosts of gypsy moth;
- the identification of gypsy moth;
- survey methods;

- gypsy moth impacts and damage to the trees and forest;
- selection of proposed sites;
- selection of the treatment options;
- the timing and application of treatments;
- boundaries of the treatment sites with maps;
- the public comment period and decision process.

Both during and following the presentation, questions and comments were taken, answered and discussed with the people attending the meetings.

The questions and comments received during and after the public meetings were categorized into three main issues:

- Human health and safety;
- Nontarget effects and environmental effects;
- Likelihood of success of the proposed project, and the treatment options proposed.

ISSUES

Human health and safety

A question was asked if people could be outside during the treatment. It was responded that if a person has respiratory problems they may want to stay inside during Btk treatment as a precaution.

A question was asked if it was a problem to have an open pool during the treatment. It was responded that it was not a problem.

A question was asked about what conditions were needed to treat and when treatments normally occurred. It was responded that treatments normally occur early in the morning and that treatments could be delayed if there was rain or significant winds.

Nontarget effects and environmental effects

A statement was made about Btk affecting butterfly larvae present during the treatment, and it was asked if honey bees would also be affected by the Btk. It was responded that Btk does not affect honey bees.

A concern was stated by a Purdue University researcher who conducted biological research on campus that a Btk treatment could negatively impact some of her experiments and that other researchers on campus may not be aware of the proposed treatments. It was responded that the Division of Entomology and Plant Pathology would work with the Purdue Extension Specialists and other Purdue campus officials to ensure that researchers who may have experiments within the proposed treatment areas were aware, and could take the appropriate actions to protect their experiments.

Likelihood of success of the proposed project and the treatment options proposed

A question was asked if Malathion could be used for homeowner control of caterpillars. It was responded that if caterpillars were listed on the product label, then it would probably work.

A question was asked, at what stage of development does treatment need to occur. It was responded that typical egg hatch is about April 25th in northern Indiana and that the Btk was most effective when larvae are young. The first treatment would normally occur in early May.

A statement was made by one public meeting attendee that they liked the plan presented and that they were familiar with Btk. The attendee made a follow up question asking why we wouldn't directly treat the egg masses at Windsor Hall. It was responded that there was discussion about doing direct treatment, but that there was a high number of egg masses and it wasn't feasible.

Other questions, concerns and comments

A question was asked about what Michigan is doing to control gypsy moth. It was responded that Michigan is no longer doing eradication or Slow The Spread treatments, that they are only doing suppression treatments and the whole state is considered generally infested.

A question was asked from a landowner if their defoliated oak tree might leaf out again. It was responded that if it was due to gypsy moth it would likely leaf again, but that the defoliation could be from something else.

Positive comments were received by the public in support of the proposed treatments.

Several meetings, emails and calls were conducted with Purdue University officials and individual campus personnel and offices to inform them about the proposed gypsy moth treatments to address any special concerns and ensure a good communication process.