

EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH
ROGERS GROUP

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For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA199

CHICAGO (Dec. 21, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has reached an agreement with Rogers Group on alleged violations of federal and federally enforceable state clean air regulations at the company's specialty products and crushed stone plants, 1100 Oard Road, Bloomington, Ind.

The agreement, which resolves an EPA administrative complaint filed Dec. 27, 2000, includes a \$4,813 penalty and a supplemental environmental project costing at least \$24,595. The complaint alleged Rogers Group failed to comply with the

state limit on opacity, or the amount of light obscured by particulates (dust) from the plants, and to do required performance tests.

As its environmental project, the company has agreed to reduce its particulate emissions by replacing its dryer duct to improve air flow and to increase the efficiency of the baghouse operation in capturing dust particles.

"We are pleased that Rogers Group has volunteered to significantly reduce particulate emissions from its plants," said EPA Region 5 Administrator Thomas V. Skinner. "This will mean cleaner, healthier air for Bloomington residents."

Companies may voluntarily propose supplemental environmental projects to be included in their settlements. EPA may reduce monetary penalties, if its believes a project will cut pollution significantly and goes beyond what is required by EPA regulations.

Inhaling high concentrations of particulates can affect children, the elderly, and people with heart and lung diseases the most.

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EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH TRI-
STAR CABINET & TOP

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For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA198

CHICAGO (Dec. 21, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has reached an agreement with Tri Star Cabinet & Top Co. on alleged violations of federal and federally enforceable state clean air regulations at the company's wood furniture manufacturing plant, 1000 S. Cedar Road, New Lenox, Ill. EPA assessed a \$30,250 penalty.

The agreement resolves an administrative complaint filed Sept. 28, 2001, alleging Tri Star had violated federal and state rules governing the emission of volatile hazardous air pollutants.

Specifically EPA alleged that Tri Star used wood coatings and adhesives that had a higher pollutant content than allowed by the federally approved State Implementation Plan and by federal rules.

"Hazardous air pollutants are a serious threat to public health and the environment," said Bharat Mathur, director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "We will take all necessary steps to ensure that companies comply with EPA's hazardous air pollutant regulations."

Hazardous air pollutants used by the company are formaldehyde and methylene chloride. Breathing formaldehyde can cause eye, nose and throat irritation.

Other effects are coughing, wheezing, chest pains and bronchitis. Formaldehyde is a probable human carcinogen.

Methylene chloride is also a probable human carcinogen. Breathing high levels can irritate the nose and throat. Long term exposure to methylene chloride can cause headaches, dizziness, nausea and memory loss.

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EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH
CONSUMERS CONCRETE

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For Immediate Release

No. 197

CHICAGO (Dec. 21, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has reached an agreement with Consumers Concrete Corp. on alleged violations of federal clean air regulations at the company's plant, 700 Nazareth Road, Kalamazoo, Mich. No penalty was assessed.

The agreement resolves an EPA administrative complaint filed July 20, 2001, alleging that Consumers Concrete failed to submit timely information on the replacement of conveyors. Because the company submitted documentation to EPA showing that no violation had occurred, the parties agreed to settle the matter without a penalty.

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EPA CITES PARENTI & RAFAELLI FOR
AIR POLLUTION

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For Immediate Release

No. 196

CHICAGO (Dec. 20, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has filed an administrative complaint against Parenti & Rafaelli Ltd. for alleged violations of federally enforceable state clean air regulations at the company's furniture manufacturing plant, 215 E. Prospect Ave., Mount Prospect, Ill. EPA proposed a \$127,600 penalty.

The EPA complaint alleges Parenti & Rafaelli failed to comply with state requirements that prohibit wood furniture manufacturers from using non complying coatings. Non complying coatings are those that exceed limits for volatile organic compounds.

Parenti & Rafaelli has 30 days from receipt of the complaint to file an answer and request a hearing. It may request an informal conference to discuss the allegations anytime.

"EPA's mission is to protect public health and the environment," said Bharat Mathur, director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "We will take whatever steps are necessary to ensure compliance with clean air regulations." Volatile organic compounds contribute to the formation of ground level ozone (smog). Smog is formed when a mixture of air pollutants is baked in the hot summer sun. Smog can cause a variety of respiratory problems, including coughing, wheezing, shortness of breath and chest pain. Asthmatics, children and the elderly are especially at risk, but these health effects are of concern to everyone.

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EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH
INTAGLIO VIVI-COLOR ALLIANCE

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For Immediate Release

No. 195

CHICAGO (Dec. 20, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has reached an agreement with Intaglio Vivi Color Alliance Ltd. on alleged violations of federal regulations on chromium, a hazardous air pollutant, at the electroplating operation of the company's plant, 4014 Tytus Ave., Middletown, Ohio. EPA assessed a \$500 penalty.

The agreement resolves an EPA administrative complaint alleging that Intaglio Vivi Color Alliance exceeded the chromium emission limit and did not meet federal deadlines for doing an initial performance test, for beginning to monitor operating limits and for preparing an operation and maintenance plan.

Hexavalent chromium, a highly hazardous cancer causing substance, is found in chromic acid mist released into the air as part of the electroplating process.

Chromic acid is also a respiratory irritant, causing short term effects that include coughing and wheezing. Noncancerous long term effects include bronchitis, as well as ulcerations and perforations of the nasal septum.

About Intaglio Vivi-Color Alliance

Intaglio Vivi Color Alliance owns and operates a small, hard chromium electroplating facility with two chromium electroplating tanks at its Middletown plant. The company uses a composite mesh pad system to control chromium emissions from each of its tanks.

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EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH
HANCOCK

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For Immediate Release

No. 194

CHICAGO (Dec. 20, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has reached an agreement with Hancock Manufacturing Co. Inc. on alleged violations of federal and federally enforceable state clean air regulations at the company's casings manufacturing plant, Cleveland and Fifth Streets, Toronto, Ohio. EPA assessed a \$125,294 penalty.

The agreement resolves an EPA administrative complaint alleging that Hancock failed to comply with the national emission standards for halogenated solvent cleaning by not ensuring that its idle parts degreasers were properly covered. In addition, the complaint alleged Hancock failed to comply with requirements for recordkeeping, reporting and submission of records.

The Hancock plant uses seven in line degreasers to remove grease from metal parts. Six of these degreasers use trichloroethylene as a solvent, and one uses methylene chloride. EPA classifies both chemicals as hazardous air pollutants, and both are volatile organic compounds.

"EPA's goal is to get companies to comply voluntarily with the Clean Air Act," said EPA Region 5 Administrator Thomas V. Skinner. "But for those that don't, we will continue to take enforcement actions like this one."

Breathing small amounts of trichloroethylene for short periods cause headaches, lung irritation, dizziness, poor coordination and difficulty in concentrating.

Breathing it for long periods can cause nerve, lung, kidney and liver damage.

Breathing high levels of methylene chloride can cause dizziness, nausea, and a tingling or numbness in fingers and toes. EPA has determined that methylene chloride is a probable cancer causing agent in humans.

Volatile organic compounds combine in the atmosphere with other chemicals on warm, sunny days to form ground level ozone, which can cause breathing problems, reduced lung function, eye irritation, stuffy nose, and reduced resistance to colds and other infections. Ozone can aggravate asthma and may speed up aging of lung tissue. Children, the elderly and people with chronic respiratory diseases are the most sensitive.

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EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH
LAMINATED PRODUCTS

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For Immediate Release

No. 193

CHICAGO (Dec. 20, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has reached an agreement with Laminated Products Inc. on alleged clean air violations at the company's wood furniture manufacturing plant, 5718 52nd St., Kenosha, Wis.

The agreement, which includes a \$9,625 fine and a supplemental environmental project costing at least \$298,607, resolves an EPA administrative complaint filed March 9, 2001. The complaint alleged that Laminated Products failed to comply with planning, training, recordkeeping and reporting requirements of the Clean Air Act for hazardous air pollutants from the manufacture of wood furniture.

As its environmental project, the company has agreed to modify its production process to allow the use of a water based adhesive to cut volatile organic compound emissions by 17.5 tons a year. Volatile organic compound emissions contribute to the formation of the ozone, a major air pollutant.

"We are pleased that Laminated Products has agreed to significantly cut its volatile organic compound emissions," said EPA Region 5 Administrator Thomas V. Skinner. "Actions like these will help to improve air quality in Kenosha so residents can breathe cleaner, healthier air."

Companies may voluntarily propose supplemental environmental projects to be included in their settlements. EPA may reduce monetary penalties, if it believes a project will cut pollution significantly and the project goes beyond what is required by EPA regulations.

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EPA SETTLES WITH HYDE PARK REALTY
ON LEAD-BASED PAINT

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For Immediate Release

No. 191

CHICAGO (Dec. 14, 2001) U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 recently settled a complaint against Hyde Park Realty Company Inc. for alleged violations of federal regulations on lead-based paint and its hazards.

Hyde Park Realty was assessed a \$20,000 fine based on its ability to pay. The company, which manages more than 1,000 residential units in some 40 buildings in Chicago, will also partner with the Chicago Department of Public Health to hold a workshop for its tenants on the hazards of lead paint, how to remove it and protect children from its harmful effects.

The violations were found in a 1998 inspection by EPA and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Phyllis Reed, chief of EPA Region 5's Pesticides and Toxics Branch said, "By carrying out these enforcement actions, EPA is restating that protecting children's health from lead-based paint exposure is one of our highest priorities.

To this end, we will vigorously pursue compliance with this rule." - more -

On March 6, 1996, EPA and HUD issued new rules to protect families, especially those with children, from hazards of lead-based paint in the home. Real estate companies and property owners must provide buyers and renters with information on lead-based paint including a lead warning statement and a lead pamphlet. They must also disclose if lead-based paint is known to be present before the close of a sale or signing of a rental agreement. This applies to residences built before 1978, the year the sale of residential lead-based paint was banned.

According to the Chicago Department of Public Health, more than 20,000 children under the age of six were diagnosed with lead poisoning in 1998.

Deteriorated lead paint is the most common source of lead exposure to children in the United States. About 75 percent of the nation's housing built before 1978 contains lead-based paint. When properly managed, lead-based paint poses little risk. If not maintained, even low levels of lead exposure can threaten the health of housing occupants, especially children and pregnant women. Adverse impacts include learning disabilities, growth impairment and permanent damage to the brain, nervous system, hearing, vision and kidneys.

About Hyde Park Realty

Hyde Park Realty Company Inc. is a property management company located at 1743« E. 55th St., Chicago.

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PILKINGTON TO INVESTIGATE OTTAWA
TOWNSHIP SITE

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For Immediate Release

No. 190

CHICAGO (Dec. 17, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 signed an administrative order on consent with Pilkington North America that requires the company to complete a comprehensive environmental study of its manufacturing facility in Ottawa Township, LaSalle County, Illinois.

Pilkington North America, based in Toledo, Ohio, acquired the former Libbey-Owens-Ford Co. plant in 1986. The investigation will address former operations which used arsenic in glass manufacturing from about 1908 to 1970. The investigation does not involve current operations.

Under the order, the company will develop a plan to investigate a number of inactive disposal areas, groundwater and contaminated sediment in the Illinois River. A limited number of residential yards in the adjacent Village of Naplate will also be evaluated for potential contamination.

Based on current information, EPA does not believe there is an immediate health risk to area residents or workers at the Pilkington plant. Any required cleanup will be done with an eye toward preventing future arsenic exposure risks to Naplate residents and the Illinois River.

The written plan is now being developed by Pilkington contractors and will soon be submitted to EPA for review. Once the plan is approved, active site assessment work may begin as soon as spring 2002. A community meeting to discuss the investigation will be scheduled after January 1st.

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EPA Reaches Agreement With Russell

Products

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For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA189

CHICAGO (Dec. 7, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has reached an agreement with Russell Products Co. Inc. on alleged violations of federal hazardous air pollutant regulations that apply to degreasing machines at its three coating facilities in Akron, Ohio. EPA assessed a \$21,000 penalty. The agreement resolves an administrative complaint filed at the same time, alleging Russell failed to notify EPA of the degreasing machines and failed to file an initial statement of compliance. The solvent used for degreasing is trichloroethylene.

"EPA's goal is to get companies to comply voluntarily with the Clean Air Act," said EPA Region 5 Administrator Thomas V. Skinner. "But for those that don't, we will continue to take enforcement actions like this one."

Breathing small amounts of trichloroethylene for short periods may cause headaches, lung irritation, dizziness, poor coordination and difficulty in concentrating. Breathing it for long periods may cause nerve, lung, kidney and liver damage. EPA considers trichloroethylene as an intermediate between a probable and a possible cancer causing agent in humans.

About Russell Products Co.

Russell Products, headquartered at 12128 Sprecher Ave., Cleveland, Ohio, owns and operates four batch vapor solvent cleaning machines (degreasers) at its three Akron, Ohio, coating facilities. One degreaser is at 1200 DeValera, one is at 1066 Home Ave., and two are at 275 North Forge St.

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EPA Cites Strong Steel For Clean-Air and
Hazardous -Waste Violations

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For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA188

CHICAGO (Dec. 7, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has filed an administrative complaint against Strong Steel Co. for alleged violations of clean air and hazardous waste regulations at the company's scrap metal processing plant, 6464 Strong St., Detroit, Mich. EPA proposed a \$513,150 penalty.

The complaint alleges that Strong Steel violated the Clean Air Act by failing to adequately verify that ozone depleting refrigerants were recovered from appliances prior to final disposal and by failing to keep records of its efforts to recover or verify refrigerant recovery. The complaint also alleges the company violated the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act by improperly handling and managing used oil and hazardous waste.

Strong Steel has 30 days to file an answer to the complaint and request a hearing. It may request an informal conference to discuss the allegations anytime.

"EPA's goal is to get companies to comply voluntarily with the Clean Air Act," said EPA Region 5 Administrator Thomas V. Skinner. "But for those that don't, we will continue to take enforcement actions like this one."

Chlorofluorocarbon refrigerants deplete the stratospheric or "good" ozone layer, allowing dangerous amounts of cancer causing ultraviolet rays from the sun to strike the earth. Production of some of these chemicals was stopped in 1995, and federal law strictly controls their use and handling.

Soil samples take at the Strong Steel plant showed excessive levels of hazardous wastes, including benzene, chlorobenzene, dichlorobenzene, dichloroethane, tetrachloroethylene, trichloroethylene, lead, arsenic, cadmium, barium and chromium.

About Strong Steel

Strong Steel buys scrap metal products and shreds them to recover metallic content. It receives and processes scrap metal from industrial companies, municipalities, peddlers and private individuals. The company receives cars and equipment that contain, among other things, gasoline, oil, batteries, anti freeze and refrigerants. It began operations at the Strong Street plant in March 1997.

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EPA Reaches Agreement With DMI

Automotive

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For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA187

CHICAGO (Dec. 7, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has reached an agreement with DMI Automotive Inc. on alleged violations of federal regulations for chromium, a hazardous air pollutant, at the company's electroplating facility, 1200 Durant Drive, Howell, Mich. EPA assessed a \$10,000 penalty.

The agreement resolves an administrative complaint filed June 6, 2001, alleging that DMI Automotive failed to do timely performance testing, to timely submit an operation and maintenance plan, and to maintain records.

"EPA's goal is to get companies to comply voluntarily with the Clean Air Act," said EPA Region 5 Administrator Thomas V. Skinner. "But for those that don't, we will continue to take enforcement actions like this one."

Hexavalent chromium, a highly hazardous cancer causing substance, is found in chromic acid mist released into the air as part of the electroplating process.

Chromic acid is also a respiratory irritant, whose short term effects include coughing and wheezing.

Noncancerous long term effects include bronchitis, as well as ulcerations and

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EPA Reaches Agreement With Mastercraft
Industries

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For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA186

CHICAGO (Dec. 7, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has reached an agreement with Mastercraft Industries Inc. on alleged violations of federal hazardous air pollutant regulations at the company's wood furniture factory, 120 W. Allen St., Rice Lake, Wis. EPA assessed a \$90,500 penalty. The agreement resolves an EPA administrative complaint filed Aug. 27, 2001, alleging Mastercraft had failed to limit the volatile hazardous air pollutant content of contact adhesive material used in its manufacturing process. The hazardous air pollutants used are hexane and toluene. In addition, the company failed to have a proper work practice plan and to submit required compliance status reports.

"EPA's goal is to get companies to comply voluntarily with the Clean Air Act," said EPA Region 5 Administrator Thomas V. Skinner. "But for those that don't, we will continue to take enforcement actions like this one."

Short term inhalation exposure of humans to high levels of hexane causes mild central nervous system depression and irritation of the skin and mucous membranes. Nervous system effects include dizziness, giddiness, slight nausea and headache in humans. Long term exposure can cause numbness in the hands and feet, muscular weakness, blurred vision, headache and fatigue. Short term exposure to high levels of toluene results in sleepiness and unconsciousness, and, in some cases, death. Long term exposure to high levels of toluene can cause brain damage with effects such as speech, vision and hearing problems, loss of muscle control, and loss of memory and balance.

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EPA Extends Comment Period on its
Review of Ohio Environmental Programs

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For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA185

CHICAGO (Dec. 3, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has extended the comment period on its review of Ohio environmental programs to January 14, 2002.

EPA reviewed the Ohio programs and prepared its draft report in response to a petition submitted on behalf of Ohio Citizens Action, the Ohio Sierra Club, the Ohio Environmental Council (subsequently replaced by the Ohio Public Interest Research Group) and Rivers Unlimited. The report describes EPA's preliminary conclusions based on reviews that began in January 2000. Specifically, the report looks at the state's administration of the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery, Clean Water and Clean Air Acts. The review also looks at Ohio's legal environmental enforcement offices.

About EPA

Founded in 1970, EPA is responsible for protecting the environment and human health. The Agency enforces air, water, and land laws and ensures that designated health standards are met. EPA Region 5 includes six Great Lakes states: Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin.

The draft report and related documents are available at Ohio public libraries in Cincinnati, Columbus, Cleveland, Dayton, Dover, Ironton, Marietta, Toledo and Youngstown. It is also available at the offices of Senator James E. Carnes and Representative Nancy P. Hollister in Columbus as well as on the Internet at

www.epa.gov/region5/ohioreview/repository.htm. Comments must be postmarked by January 14, 2002, and sent to:

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Midwest Proves Recycling Pays

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For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA183

CHICAGO (Nov. 21, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 states lead the nation in economic impacts of recycling, according to the U.S. Recycling Economic Information Study.

On a national level, the recycling industry supports more than 56,000 recycling establishments that gross more than \$236 billion in annual revenues and employ more than 1.1 million people with a payroll of \$37 billion.

In the Midwest states of Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin, more than 8,000 recycling and reuse businesses employ 275,000 workers with a payroll of almost \$10 billion and gross more than \$62.5 billion in annual sales, according to available data.

"This study proves what we have said for a long time. Recycling is not just good for the environment, it also creates jobs and contributes significantly to our economy," said Region 5 Administrator Thomas Skinner.

According to C. Robert Sawyer, Midwest director of the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration "we recognize the economic importance and job-creating power of the region's recycling and reuse industry and applaud EPA for proving that fact."

The study, commissioned by EPA in cooperation with the states and the National Recycling Coalition, reinforces the well-established environmental benefits of recycling and reuse such as cutting pollution, conserving natural resources, saving energy and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

From the local cities and towns that collect household recyclables to the large scale businesses that manufacture state-of-the-art products from recycled materials, the financial and employment benefits appear to be at an all-time high.

"In order to reach EPA's national target of a 35 percent recycling rate by 2005, we must support markets for recyclables and encourage consumers to seek out and buy recycled products," said Skinner. 1999 data show a 27.8 percent national recycling rate.

###

EPA Settles With Aura-II For Hazardous
Waste Violations

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For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA182

CHICAGO (Nov. 20, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 recently settled a complaint against Aura-II Inc. for alleged violations of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act. A \$100,841 fine will be paid.

Aura-II was cited for failing to have a hazardous waste storage permit, improper record-keeping and various safety infractions. The company has agreed to comply with all applicable hazardous waste recycling standards and hired an environmental consultant to audit its recycling facility and provide compliance training for some employees.

Under RCRA, passed by Congress in 1976, EPA regulates hazardous wastes from their generation to their final disposal.

About Aura-II

Aura-II is a solid waste recycling facility that recovers gold and silver from circuit boards and hazardous plating wastes. It is located at 8035 W. Calumet Road, Milwaukee, Wis. and has done business in Milwaukee since 1982.

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EPA Settles With Indiana Beach Inc.

Includes \$70,000 Fine

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For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA181

CHICAGO (Nov. 27, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 recently settled with Indiana Beach Inc., an amusement park operator in Monticello, Ind., for Clean Water Act violations. The company will pay a \$70,000 penalty due Nov. 23.

EPA alleged that between September and November 1995, the company placed about 12,000 cubic yards of soil and 650 tons of rock into Lake Shafer, the Tippecanoe River and nearby wetlands in White County, Ind., without first obtaining the necessary permits. The company must obtain an after-the-fact permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Wetlands are among the most biologically productive ecosystems in the world, based on the number and diversity of species they support. In addition, they provide flood protection, shoreline erosion control, water quality improvement and opportunities for recreation, education and research.

Under the Clean Water Act, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers must issue a permit before any waters of the United States, including wetlands, are filled. EPA is authorized to order restoration of illegally filled wetlands and to assess administrative penalties of up to \$137,500 for each violation. It may also seek judicially imposed penalties of \$27,500 per day of violation or imprisonment, or both.

About EPA

Founded in 1970, EPA is responsible for protecting the environment and human

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Western Minerals Industrial Site Cleanup

Completed

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For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA180

CHICAGO (Nov. 15, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5

has completed its cleanup of outdoor surface asbestos contamination at the former Western Minerals Products industrial site in Northeast Minneapolis.

The project began in mid-September at the site, which consists of two parcels of land: one owned by Madison Complex Inc., 1720 Madison St., N.E., and the other by Electramatic Inc., 1815 Jefferson St., N.E. The site was contaminated by waste materials from insulation manufacturing left by the Western Minerals Products Co., which operated at the site from the late 1930s to the late 1980s.

A separate EPA cleanup effort of asbestos waste identified at individual residential properties in the surrounding neighborhoods has been conducted over the past two summers and will resume in spring 2002.

The industrial site cleanup included excavation of about 6,000 cubic yards of asbestos-contaminated soil, which was sent to a landfill in Elk River, Minn., followed by backfilling with clean soil or gravel and grass seeding in some spots.

Air monitoring of the work zone perimeter air was performed throughout the project. A public meeting was held October 4 with representatives from EPA, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Minnesota Department of Health and Minneapolis Department of Environmental Management available to answer residents' questions.

The Superfund team in consultation with MPCA and Minneapolis Department of Environmental Management.

About Asbestos

Asbestos has long been useful in industry and construction materials but also is linked to several adverse human health effects. Inhaled, microscopic asbestos fibers lead to lung ailments such as asbestosis, mesothelioma and cancer.

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EPA Will Kick Off Smoke-Free Home
Pledge Campaign in Cleveland Nov. 15

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For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA179

CHICAGO (Nov. 14, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 will kick off its campaign to protect children from second-hand tobacco smoke Thursday, Nov. 15, in Cleveland. The American Lung Association and the American Cancer Society will join EPA in the "Take the Smoke-Free Home Pledge" campaign.

The goal of the campaign is to get parents to commit to making their homes free of second-hand smoke that can contribute to bronchitis, pneumonia, and more frequent and severe asthma attacks. EPA Region 5 Administrator Thomas V. Skinner said, "We need to reduce the number of homes where young children are exposed to second-hand smoke. I would ask every parent to commit to making his or her home smoke free."

The pledge campaign, a component of a larger EPA effort to reduce air toxic exposures in the Cleveland area, will begin on the same day as the "Great American Smoke-out" celebration. Volunteers from EPA's Cleveland air toxics pilot project will be at Sheliga Drugs in the St. Clair/Superior neighborhood and Gillombardo's Giant Eagle in Slavic Village, encouraging people to sign the pledge. Parents and guardians who pledge will receive a smoke-free home kit that includes tips on keeping homes smoke free, a smoke-free home magnet, and a smoke-free home certificate.

About the Cleveland Air Toxics Project

In cooperation with the Cleveland Public Health Department, the Ohio EPA, several industrial partners and community and environmental organizations, EPA has initiated an urban air toxics pilot project in Cleveland. The community, with the advice and support of EPA, will work collaboratively and undertake pilot program activities to achieve early reductions of air toxics releases, to address local air pollution issues in a sustainable way and to ensure the approach can be replicated by other communities.

The project is a non-regulatory, voluntary effort that will address air toxic risk from outdoor and indoor sources such as consumer products, small and mid sized businesses, cars, trucks, buses, and activities in homes and schools. More information about the project is at www.epa.gov/cleveland.

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EPA and DOJ Reach Agreement With

Aristech

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For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA178

CHICAGO (NOV. 7, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 and the U.S. Department of Justice have reached an agreement with Aristech Chemical Corp. on alleged violations of federal and state clean-air regulations at the company's Haverhill Plant, Ironton, Ohio. Aristech will pay a \$450,000 civil penalty under the agreement, filed in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Ohio.

The agreement resolves EPA citations issued in June 1999 and June 2000, alleging that Aristech had failed to comply with federal regulations regarding permitting of major air pollution sources and the control of organic hazardous air pollutants.

EPA alleged Aristech failed to obtain a permit to prevent significant deterioration of air quality prior to a 1986 construction project. Companies must get this kind of permit before they start to build or modify air pollution sources in areas that already meet national health based air quality standards for all air pollutants.

Aristech installed a control device that reduced air pollutant emissions in 1992, and submitted a permit application to the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency in November 2000.

EPA also alleged that Aristech failed to comply with federal regulations for hazardous air pollutants from synthetic organic chemical manufacturing.

Specifically, Aristech allegedly failed to complete required testing of air pollution control equipment, install required monitors, and keep required records. Aristech has certified and EPA has determined that the company is currently in compliance with these regulations.

"We are pleased that Aristech has taken steps to bring its Haverhill Plant into compliance with federal and state clean air regulations," said EPA Regional Administrator Thomas V. Skinner. "Hazardous air pollutants are a serious threat to human health and the environment."

About Aristech's Haverhill Plant

Aristech operates a number of production units at the plant that make hazardous organic chemicals: phenol, acetone, alpha methylstyrene, cumene hydroperoxide, bisphenol A, aniline, and diphenylamine, which are used in a variety of manufacturing processes.

###

NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS: EPA Will
Hold Media Briefing On its Review of Ohio
Environmental Programs

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA177

CHICAGO (NOV. 8, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 will hold a media briefing on its draft review of Ohio environmental programs at 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 13, in the Genoa Room, Holiday Inn Worthington, 175 Hutchinson Ave., Columbus, Ohio.

EPA Region 5 Administrator Thomas V. Skinner will brief the media and take questions until noon. All media representatives must present their credentials and sign in at the door. Only media representatives with credentials will be admitted.

The briefing will precede two identical public meetings at the Holiday Inn Worthington from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. and from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. which EPA will hold to present the draft findings of its review, answer questions, and accept oral and written comments.

EPA Region 5 reviewed the Ohio programs and prepared its draft report in response to a petition submitted on behalf of Ohio Citizen Action, the Ohio Sierra Club, the Ohio Environmental Council (subsequently replaced by the Ohio Public Interest Research Group) and Rivers Unlimited.

###

Cleanup Wraps-Up at National Auto
Wrecking; Site Tour Nov.6, 4 P.M. to 5 P.M.

CONTACT:

(EPA) Bri Bill, (312) 353-6646

(WDNR) Jack Eslien, (715) 839-3738

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA176

CHICAGO (Nov. 1, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has completed an \$800,000 cleanup at the National Auto Wrecking site, Onalaska, Wis.

A public tour along the site fence line, led by representatives from EPA and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, will be held Tuesday, Nov. 6, from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m.

National Auto Wrecking was a salvage yard that operated from about 1952 to 1995. Seasonal work at the 2.5-acre site took place over the past two years.

During the 2000 construction season, the estate of former owner Charles Ablan funded a study to determine the scope of soil contamination. The Ablan estate also installed a chain-link fence to prevent public access and provided cost estimates for completing the cleanup.

During the April 2001 flooding of the area, WDNR built a sand berm on the south end of the site to contain potentially contaminated runoff.

EPA's Superfund paid for and supervised the remaining work this year, in consultation with WDNR. Over the course of the project, about 11,000 tons of contaminated soil and 600 tons of scattered debris, including cracked auto battery casings, transformer insulators, and scrap wire, glass and plastic, were chemically treated and sent to the LaCrosse County landfill. In addition, 16 drums of waste oils were sent to a fuels-blending facility for use as incinerator fuel.

Backfilling and re-grading with clean material and grass seed will be completed next week. A maintenance/garage building has been decontaminated and remains at the site. The City of Onalaska is now evaluating future uses of the site, which may potentially include redevelopment funding from EPA and WDNR.

###

EPA Demands Cleanup Plan From

Lockformer

CONTACT:

(Media) Mike Joyce, (312) 353-5546

(Legal) Tom Krueger, (312) 886-0562

(Illinois EPA) Maggie Carson, (217) 557-8138

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA175

CHICAGO (Oct. 31, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has ordered Lockformer Co. to submit a plan for investigating and cleaning up trichloroethylene (TCE)-contaminated soil and groundwater at its Lisle, Illinois, facility. The order also applies to Met-Coil Systems Corp., Lockformer's parent company.

The unilateral administrative order is expected to become effective by mid-November, following a preliminary meeting with EPA officials. The work plan will be submitted to EPA for review, and once it is approved, cleanup at the 711 Ogden Ave. facility should begin in early 2002.

As a result of the EPA order, and Lockformer's failure to reimburse Illinois EPA for past costs, Illinois EPA has notified Lockformer that it intends to terminate the company's participation in the state's voluntary site remediation program.

Lockformer entered the program in 1994 following a release of TCE at the facility. Since December 2000, Illinois EPA has sampled 268 private wells in the Lisle area with 160 showing detectable levels of TCE. Of those, 16 were above the federal drinking water standard.

About TCE Trichloroethylene is an industrial degreasing solvent. The Lockformer facility

EPA Cites 17 Companies for Clean-Air

Violations

CONTACT:

For more information, call the technical or legal contacts listed below.

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA174

CHICAGO (OCT. 31, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 notified 17 companies in August and September that it believes they violated federal or federally enforceable state clean-air regulations, or both.

These are preliminary findings of violations. To resolve them, EPA may issue compliance orders, assess administrative penalties or bring suit against the companies. The companies have 30 days from receipt of the notices to request meetings with EPA to discuss the allegations and how to resolve them.

"EPA's mission is to protect public health and the environment," said Bharat Mathur, director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "We will take whatever steps are needed to ensure compliance with the Clean Air Act."

[NOTE TO EDITORS: Companies alleged to have violated federal clean-air regulations received a Finding of Violation (FOV), and companies alleged to have violated federally enforceable state regulations received a Notice of Violation (NOV). Three companies received both.]

COMPANIES RECEIVING FOV'S

Ohio Screw Products Inc.

818 Lowell St.

Elyria, Ohio

EPA alleges Ohio Screw Products failed to comply with national emission standards for hazardous air pollutants for halogenated solvent cleaning at the batch vapor degreaser of its screw products plant.

Technical Contact: Julie Monahan, (312) 886-0120

Legal Contact: David Mucha, (312) 886-9032

Kent State University

Terrace Drive

Kent, Ohio

EPA alleges Kent State failed to comply with the terms and conditions in its federally enforceable permit for emissions from the boilers at the university's heat and steam generating plant.

Technical Contact: Greg Chomycia, (312) 353-8217

Legal Contact: Christine Liszewski, (312) 886-4670

C & C Screening/Conklin Aggregates

16446 Oak Hill Drive.

Fenton, Mich.

EPA alleges C & C Screening/Conklin Aggregates failed to comply with federal new source performance standards by not informing the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality of the actual date of construction and startup of its portable concrete crushing plant at Flushing, Mich., and by not conducting performance tests at the plant within 180 days of startup.

Technical Contact: Michelle Farley, (312) 886-6778

Legal Contact: Cynthia King, (312) 886-6831

Safety Kleen Corp.

581 Miliken Drive. S.E.

Newark Industrial Park

Hebron, Ohio

EPA alleges Safety Kleen failed to comply with national emission standards for hazardous air pollutants for off-site waste and recovery operations at the company's organic chemical and solvent recycling facility.

Technical Contact: Rae Trine, (312) 353-9228

Legal Contact: Lillian Pinzon, (312) 886-0664

Philip Services Inc.

421 Lycaste Ave.

Detroit, Mich.

EPA alleges Philip Services failed to comply with national emission standards for hazardous air pollutants at the company's off-site waste material management or recovery operations.

Technical Contact: Farro Assadi, (312) 886-1424

Legal Contact: Jacqueline Kline, (312) 886-7167

Steel Dynamics Inc.

4500 County Road 59

Butler, Ind.

EPA alleges Steel Dynamics violated federal clean-air regulations by failing to comply with emission limits for volatile organic compounds, nitrogen oxide, and particulate matter at its steel mini-mill. In addition, it violated news source performance standards for opacity (the amount of light obscured by particulates) and regulations for prevention of significant deterioration of air quality in an area that meets outdoor air standards for all major air pollutants.

Technical Contact: Lynne Suesse, (312) 886-0250

Legal Contact: Mary McAuliffe, (312) 886-6237

Gerken Materials Inc.

8200 Sylvania Ave.

Sylvania, Ohio

EPA alleges Gerken Materials failed to conduct timely performance testing and to comply with limits on opacity (the amount of light obscured by visual emissions) at the company's hot mix asphalt facility.

Technical Contact: Julie Monahan, (312) 886-0120

Legal Contact: Cynthia King, (312) 886-6831

Skilken Properties Co.

910 E. Broad St.

Columbus, Ohio

EPA alleges Skilken Properties failed to comply with federal regulations on asbestos, a hazardous air pollutant, at a demolition site in Reynoldsburg, Ohio.

Technical Contact: Will Brooke, (312) 886-0258

Legal Contact: Thomas Nash, (312) 886-0552

Darby Creek Excavating Inc.

6790 Brooksmiller Road

Circleville, Ohio

EPA alleges Darby Creek Excavating failed to comply with federal regulations on asbestos, a hazardous air pollutant, at a demolition site in Reynoldsburg, Ohio.

Technical Contact: Will Brooke, (312) 886-0258

Legal Contact: Thomas Nash, (312) 886-0552

C.D. Roberts Co.

2210 Ryan Road SE

Newark, Ohio

EPA alleges C.D. Roberts failed to comply with federal regulations on asbestos, a hazardous air pollutant, at a demolition site in Reynoldsburg, Ohio.

Technical Contact: Will Brooke, (312) 886-0258

Legal Contact: Thomas Nash, (312) 886-0552

Mullet Miller Construction

3689 Garden Court

Grove City, Ohio

EPA alleges Mullet Miller failed to comply with federal regulations on asbestos, a hazardous air pollutant, at a demolition site in Reynoldsburg, Ohio.

Technical Contact: Will Brooke, (312) 886-0258

Legal Contact: Thomas Nash, (312) 886-0552

CVS Corp.

6659 E. Main St.

Reynoldsburg, Ohio

EPA alleges CVS failed to comply with federal regulations on asbestos, a hazardous air pollutant, at a demolition site in Reynoldsburg, Ohio.

Technical Contact: Will Brooke, (312) 886-0258

Legal Contact: Thomas Nash, (312) 886-0552

COMPANIES RECEIVING NOVs

LTV Steel Co.

3001 Dickey Road

East Chicago, Ind.

EPA alleges LTV Steel exceeded limits on opacity, or the amount of light obscured by particulate matter, at its integrated steel mill.

Technical Contact: Kushal Som, (312) 353-5792

Legal Contact: Christine Liszewski, (312) 886-4670

ADM Countrymark Cooperative Inc.

1308 Miami St.

Toledo, Ohio

EPA alleges ADM Countrymark operated, and continues to operate, air pollution sources at its Toledo terminal without a permit to operate.

Technical Contact: Sara Dauk, (312) 886-0243

Legal Contact: Cynthia King, (312) 886-6831

Kent State University

Terrace Drive

Kent, Ohio

EPA alleges Kent State failed to comply with federally enforceable state clean-air regulations at the university's heat and steam generating plant.

Technical Contact: Greg Chomycia, (312) 353-8217

Legal Contact: Christine Liszewski, (312) 886-4670

Aztec Peroxides Inc.

555 Garden St.

Elyria, Ohio

EPA alleges Aztec Peroxides failed to comply with federally enforceable state clean-air regulations by not obtaining proper permits before constructing and operating a new source of volatile organic compounds in an area that, at the time, did not meet the national ambient air quality standards for ozone.

Technical Contact: Erik Hardin, (312) 886-2402

Legal Contact: Ann Coyle, (312) 886-2248

EGS Electric Group

Appleton Foundry

2105 S. 5th Ave.

South Milwaukee, Wis.

EPA alleges EGS Electric Group violated a federally enforceable state opacity limit on visible emissions from its scrap metal preheat furnace. Opacity is the amount of light obscured by visible emissions. The alleged violations were based on reports of visual inspections conducted by state inspectors and company consultants.

Technical Contact: Manojkumar Patel, (312) 353-3565

Legal Contact: Nicole Cantello, (312) 886-2870

Steel Dynamics Inc.

4500 County Road 59

Butler, Ind.

EPA alleges Steel Dynamics failed to comply with state clean-air regulations at its steel mini-mill by emitting excessive amounts of particulate matter and exceeding limits on opacity (the amount of light obscured by particulates). In addition, the company failed to report equipment malfunctions.

Technical Contact: Lynne Suesse, (312) 886-0250

Legal Contact: Mary McAuliffe, (312) 886-6237

Bretford Manufacturing Inc.

11000 Seymour Ave.

Franklin Park, Ill.

EPA alleges Bretford failed to comply with federally enforceable state clean-air regulations. Failure to comply with these regulations led to significant increases in emissions of volatile organic compounds, which contribute to ozone (smog) formation in an area that did not meet national standards for ozone.

Technical Contact: Noel Vargas, (312) 353-3575

Legal Contact: Deborah Carlson, (312) 353-6121

Gerken Materials Inc.

8200 Sylvania Ave.

Sylvania, Ohio

EPA alleges Gerken Materials violated federally enforceable state clean-air regulations by failing to get a permit to install before installing a drum and generator and by failing to get a permit to operate before operating the drum and generator at the company's hot mix asphalt plant.

Technical Contact: Julie Monahan, (312) 886-0120

Legal Contact: Cynthia King, (312) 886-6831

#

EPA: U.S. District Court Rules Rueth
Development Must Pay More Than \$4
Million for Breaking Agreement

CONTACT:

Phillippa Cannon, (312) 353-6218

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA173

CHICAGO (Oct. 29, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 announced that U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Indiana recently ruled that Rueth Development Co. and Harold G. Rueth failed to meet the terms of a 1999 consent decree with EPA and must pay \$4,018,500 in penalties and finish restoring wetlands.

"This award is the largest of its kind and sends the message that companies and individuals must live up to their agreements," said Tom Skinner, EPA Regional Administrator.

In 1996, EPA sued Rueth Development and its general partner Harold G. Rueth, alleging that the company had violated the Clean Water Act by unlawfully dredging and filling wetlands at two parcels at Castlewood Development in Dyer, Ind. In a consent decree approved by federal court in January 1999, the defendants agreed to stop all unlawful discharges from the site, restore the property's wetlands within an agreed upon time and pay a \$23,500 penalty. The court agreed with EPA that the defendants failed to pay the penalty or complete the work in a timely way.

About Rueth Development

Rueth Development Co. is a home builder located in Hammond, Ind.

###

EPA Will Hold Public Meetings in
Columbus on its Review of Ohio
Environmental Programs

CONTACT:

(Media) William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA172

CHICAGO (OCT. 25, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 will hold two identical public meetings Tuesday, Nov. 13, at the Holiday Inn Worthington, 175 Hutchinson Ave., Columbus, Ohio, to present the draft findings of its review of Ohio environmental programs, answer questions, and accept oral and written comments. The first meeting will be from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. and the second will be from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Oral comments will be limited to three minutes because of the large number of persons expected to attend.

EPA Region 5 reviewed the Ohio programs and prepared its draft report in response to a petition submitted on behalf of Ohio Citizen Action, the Ohio Sierra Club, the Ohio Environmental Council (subsequently replaced by the Ohio Public Interest Research Group) and Rivers Unlimited.

EPA released the draft report on its review to the public Tuesday, Sept. 4, and announced that a public meeting would be held in Columbus at least 30 days after release of the report. The report describes EPA's preliminary conclusions based on reviews that began in January 2000. Specifically, the report looks at the state's administration of the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery, Clean Water and Clean Air Acts. The review also looks at Ohio's legal environmental enforcement offices and criminal enforcement program.

The public meetings will be followed by a 30 day comment period, after which the report will be finalized. The draft report and related documents are available at Ohio public libraries in Cincinnati, Columbus, Cleveland, Dayton, Dover, Marietta, Toledo and Youngstown. It is also available at the offices of Senator James E. Carnes and Representative Nancy P. Hollister in Columbus, Ohio, as well as on the Internet at www.epa.gov/region5/ohioreview/repository.htm. EPA will post an errata sheet at this Web site to address any clear factual errors in its draft report that might elicit unnecessary comments.

###

New Children's Environmental Health
Centers Announced by EPA and NIEHS

CONTACT:

(EPA) Martha Casey 202-564-7842

(NIEHS) Bill Grigg 301-402-3378

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA171

CHICAGO (Oct. 25, 2001) -- EPA Administrator Christie Whitman and National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences' Director, Dr. Kenneth Olden, today announced four new children's environmental health research centers that will focus on childhood autism and such behavioral problems as attention deficit disorder. Whitman and Olden made the announcement during a visit to Children's Hospital in Cincinnati, Ohio.

"These new centers -- and the eight already in existence across the country -- will continue to perform and apply research that can help shed light on the links between the environment and the health of our children," said EPA Administrator Whitman. "They can help us take children's health protection to a new level, and I am proud to be working with NIEHS and everyone at UC-Davis, University of Illinois, Robert Wood Johnson, and this wonderful Children's Hospital to make it happen."

The new centers will receive \$5 million, or about \$1 million per year for five years. EPA and NIEHS, part of the federal National Institutes of Health and the Department of Health and Human Services, already fund eight children's environmental health research centers.

Children's Hospital Medical Center of Cincinnati will work with community participants to assess the impact of reducing pollutants in the home and neighborhood on children's hearing, behavior and test scores. A center at the University of Illinois at Champaign/Urbana will assess the impact of exposure to mercury and PCBs among two groups of Asian-Americans in Wisconsin, whose diets are heavy in fish from the Great Lakes. At the University of California at Davis and the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, researchers will study environmental factors that may be related to autism.

"These centers will help us understand whether environmental factors play a role in the progress of autism and other childhood disorders and illnesses," HHS Secretary Tommy G. Thompson said. "Ultimately the research conducted at these centers will allow us to better target our health and prevention efforts in order to do the most to improve the lives of America's children."

In jointly announcing the new center grants, NIEHS Director Olden said, "We all witness the miraculous development of newborns and young children as they undergo great physical and mental changes in just a few years. But sometimes a child tragically loses, or never attains, his or her ability to speak or interact socially. Other times, a child's development or concentration is impaired. We know that in some cases, lead exposure has been the culprit, so we as a nation have removed lead from paint and gasoline -- and taken other steps so that kids today are testing smarter than youngsters a generation ago. But lead is not the only potential development toxin. We want to see what other environmental substances might trigger developmental problems -- so that we can reduce the exposures and prevent the damage."

The four new centers join eight already established (in 1998) at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles, the University of California at Berkeley, the University of Washington, the University of Iowa, the University of Michigan, at Ann Arbor, the Johns Hopkins University Hospital in Baltimore, Columbia University in New York City, and the Mount Sinai Medical Center, also in New York City, in partnership with community groups in East Harlem.

The following describes the research programs planned at the University of Illinois and at Children's Hospital:

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT CHAMPAIGN/URBANA - Under Susan Schantz of the Friend's Children's Environmental Health Center, scientists will work with nearby Hmong and Laotian communities v both of which migrated from Laos to the United States in numbers after the Vietnam War. Because they have a traditional diet heavy in fish and now live along the Great Lakes in Wisconsin, they have consumed PCBs and mercury in lake fish. The center research will study the impact of the contaminants on the motor, sensory and mental development of their children. Researchers will also study, in laboratory rodents, the mechanisms by which these pollutant cause neurological harm. The work will expand a longstanding research partnership with the communities.

CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL MEDICAL CENTER OF CINCINNATI, Ohio - Bruce Lanphear will head a research program in which cooperating community participants will attempt to lower lead levels in their homes so that their children accumulate only traces of lead (2.7 ug/dL or lower). The program will test the idea that keeping children's lead levels very low will permit them to score higher on IQ and other tests, and will result in less hearing loss and fewer behavioral problems at age 3. A second research program will test whether children's developmental problems can be linked to their exposures, while unborn and newborn babies, to pesticides, environmental tobacco smoke and lead.

For press interviews:

Susan Schantz, University of Illinois (217) 333-6230

Bruce Lanphear, Children's Hospital of Cincinnati, (513) 636-3778

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NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS: EPA
Administrator Whitman and NIEHS
Director Olden to Announce New
Children's Environmental Health Centers

CONTACT:

Patricia Schultz, (513) 569-7966

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA170

CINCINNATI, OHIO (Oct. 24, 2001) — U.S. EPA Administrator Christie Whitman and National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences' Director Dr. Kenneth Olden on Thursday will jointly announce four new children's environmental health research centers to be located around the nation.

Whitman and Olden will be joined by the four new Children's Health Research Center directors - George Lambert, Center for Childhood Neurotoxicology and Assessment (University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey); Bruce Lanphear, Children's Environmental Health Center (Children's Hospital of Cincinnati); Issac Pessah, Center for the Study of Environmental Factors in the Etiology of Autism (University of California at Davis); and Susan Schantz, Friend's Children's Environmental Health Center (University of Illinois at Champaign.)

The four new center directors will be available for interviews immediately following the event.

WHEN: Thursday, October 25, 2001, 12 p.m.

WHERE: Children's Hospital Health Center (Albert B. Sabin Education Center)
3333 Burnet Avenue
Cincinnati, Ohio

Parking is available for TV vans along the drive in front of the Sabin Center. To get there, please enter Cincinnati Children's Medical Center's main entrance and turn left at the drive in front of the Albert B. Sabin Education Center. Additional parking is available in the visitor parking garage.

###

EPA Cites Chicago Park District for PCB

Violations

CONTACT:

(Media) Karen Thompson, (312) 353-8547

(Technical) Ken Zolnierczyk, (312) 353-9687

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA169

CHICAGO (Oct. 17, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has filed a complaint against the Chicago Park District for violating federal rules on PCBs. A \$33,550 penalty has been proposed.

The violation occurred in 1998 when a transformer was knocked over releasing PCBs in the maintenance yard of Garfield Park Conservatory. EPA worked with the Illinois EPA and the Chicago Park District to clean up that spill.

The complaint also cites the park district for failing to maintain proper records and regularly inspect and properly store PCB transformers. The park district has since completed an inventory of all transformers in its parks network.

PCBs are a group of toxic chemicals, once used widely in industry as coolants and lubricants. EPA banned the manufacture of PCB's in 1979 because of evidence that they accumulate in the environment and present health hazards for people.

EPA regulates the proper cleanup, disposal, marking, record keeping, storage and limited use of PCBs to protect the public from these potentially dangerous chemicals.

About EPA

Founded in 1970, EPA is responsible for protecting the environment and human health. The Agency enforces air, water, and land laws and ensures that designated health standards are met. EPA Region 5 includes six Great Lakes states: Illinois,

Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin.

###

EPA Cites Petsmart for Pesticide

Violations

CONTACT:

(Media) Karen Thompson, (312) 353-8547

(Technical) Joseph Lukascyk, (312) 886-6233

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA168

CHICAGO (Oct. 26, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has filed a complaint against PETsMART Inc. for selling and distributing several unregistered products with pesticide-type claims and failing to provide shipping records. A \$44,550 fine is proposed.

According to EPA inspectors PETsMART stores located at 2665 Elston Ave., Chicago and 6655 W. Grand Ave., Elmwood Park, Ill., illegally sold or distributed: Pet Organics No Stay! Furniture Spray for Dogs, Pet Organics No Dig! Lawn and Yard Spray, Pet Organics Stopper Spray for Plants and Shrubbery and Pet Organics No Scratch for Cats. The labels imply that the products repel dogs and cats from objects on which it is applied.

Under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act, pesticides are defined as substances intended to prevent, destroy, repel or stop any pest and must be registered and given a registration number by EPA before they can be sold or distributed in the United States. This process insures that the pesticide does not pose an unreasonable risk to human health or the environment.

About PETsMART

PETsMART is a national chain of pet stores based in Phoenix, Ariz.

About EPA

Founded in 1970, EPA is responsible for protecting the environment and human health. The Agency enforces air, water, and land laws and ensures that designated health standards are met. EPA Region 5 includes six Great Lakes states: Illinois,

Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin.

###

EPA Settles With Evanston Technologies
on Hazardous Waste Violations

CONTACT:

(Media) Karen Thompson, (312) 353-8547

(Technical) Diane Sharrow, (312) 886-6199

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA167

CHICAGO (Oct. 17, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has reached agreement with Evanston Technologies LLC, formerly known as LOMAC, for alleged violations of the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act. Evanston Technologies will pay a \$75,000 fine.

Michigan Department of Environmental Quality and EPA inspections in 1999 and 2000 found that Evanston Technologies stored toxic chemicals without a permit and committed reporting and record-keeping violations. The company is now in compliance and agreed to pay the fine in lieu of litigation.

Under RCRA, passed by Congress in 1976, EPA regulates hazardous wastes from their production to their final disposal.

About Evanston Technologies

Evanston Technologies is a specialty chemical manufacturer located at 5025 Evanston Ave., Muskegon, Mich.

About EPA

Founded in 1970, EPA is responsible for protecting the environment and human health. The Agency enforces air, water, and land laws and ensures that designated health standards are met. EPA Region 5 includes six Great Lakes states: Illinois,

Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin.

###

EPA Approves Ozone Air Quality Plans for
Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin, Means
Healthier Air for Millions

CONTACT:

(Media) William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

(Technical Wisconsin) Randall Robinson, (312) 353-6713

(Technical Illinois) Edward Doty, (312) 886-6057

(Technical Indiana) Patricia Morris, (312) 353-8656

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA166

CHICAGO (Oct. 16, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has approved major plans submitted by Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin to attain the health based 1 hour outdoor air quality standard for ozone (smog) in the Milwaukee Chicago Northwest Indiana area by 2007. The three states, all members of the Lake Michigan Air Directors Consortium, worked together to develop the areawide plans. The plans will be published soon in the Federal Register.

"This is a major step forward in improving air quality for millions of residents of this area and in achieving one of the fundamental public health objectives of the Clean Air Act," said Deputy Regional Administrator David A. Ullrich. "All of these air pollution control plans are well developed and recognize the contributions from measures already implemented as well as contributions from new controls."

Many of the hydrocarbon controls in the three plans, such as the vehicle inspection and maintenance program, cleaner gasoline, transportation control measures, retail gasoline refueling and more stringent control technology on industrial sources, have been implemented for several years. These controls have resulted in significant and progressive improvement of air quality over the past two decades and will continue contributing to improved air quality in the future. The most significant new control is the reduction of oxides of nitrogen from sources such as power plants, industrial boilers and cement kilns.

Nitrogen oxides combine in the atmosphere with hydrocarbons on warm, sunny days to form ground level ozone, which can cause breathing problems, reduced lung functions, eye irritation, stuffy nose and reduced resistance to colds and other infections. Ozone can aggravate asthma and may speed up aging of lung tissue. Children, the elderly and people with chronic respiratory diseases are the most sensitive.

#

EPA Cites Dearborn Refining for
Hazardous Waste Violations

CONTACT:

(Media) Karen Thompson, (312) 353-8547

(Technical) Michael Valentino, (312) 886-4582

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA165

CHICAGO (Oct. 12, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has issued a complaint against Dearborn Refining Co., Dearborn, Mich., for violations of the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act.

●EPA inspections found that Dearborn Refining violated used oil treatment, storage and disposal regulations at its facility. A compliance order, filed at the same time requires that Dearborn Refining:

●submit a closure plan to EPA and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality;

●construct a secondary containment system;

●label all tanks and containers with the words "used oil";

●use only storage tanks and containers that are in good condition;

●have an adequate internal communications system available to employees;

●maintain emergency equipment; and

●submit emergency and waste analysis plans.

Under RCRA, passed by Congress in 1976, EPA regulates hazardous wastes from their production to their final disposal.

About Dearborn Refining

Dearborn Refining Co. blends and markets used and virgin oil into lubricating and metal-working products at its 8.5-acre facility at 3901 Wyoming Ave., Dearborn, Mich.

###

EPA Will Kick Off Indianapolis Energy Star
Home Show and Tour

CONTACT:

(Media) William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

(Technical) Audrie Washington, (312) 886-0669

(Technical) Julie Magee, (312) 886-6063

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA164

CHICAGO (OCT. 4, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and its Energy Star partners in Indianapolis will kick off a month long Indianapolis Energy Star Home Show and Tour at 10 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 6, at 4161 E. 96th St., Indianapolis, Ind. The Saturday show will end at 4 p.m. The Home Show will continue Sunday from 12 noon until 4 p.m. at the same location. Energy Star is a voluntary program developed and maintained by EPA and the U.S. Department of Energy to cut pollution by promoting energy efficiency.

Free seminars will be given by Energy Star representatives and area energy professionals. Visitors will also be able to browse through more than 30 booths sponsored by Energy Star and its partners, including homebuilders, manufacturers, utilities and other vendors. In addition, a free bus ride will be offered to take visitors to an Energy Star labeled home that is under construction and where a home energy rater will demonstrate and explain testing methods used to determine how efficiently a home uses energy.

"Energy Star homes use 30 percent less energy and generate less air pollution than their counterparts. This saves the Energy Star homeowner money and protects public health and the environment," said EPA Region 5 Deputy Administrator David A. Ullrich.

Peter Dreyfuss, director of the U.S. Department of Energy's Chicago Regional Office said, "The Energy Star program will help builders throughout Indiana to voluntarily improve the energy efficiency of new homes. Energy Star labeled new homes provide financial savings for homeowners, reduce demands on the state's electricity grid, and lead to better air quality."

From Oct. 6 through Oct. 31, 16 Indianapolis area Energy Star builder partners are inviting the public to tour their Energy Star communities to learn about ways to save energy and money when building a home. Visitors will be able to tour Energy Star homes, both completed and in progress, to learn about the latest technologies in home energy efficiency.

Most energy used to power homes comes from the burning of fossil fuels, which contributes to urban smog, acid rain and global climate change. In addition, the average home now produces twice as much air pollution as the average car.

EPA expects the annual pollution prevention from Energy Star labeled homes built over the next 20 years to equal the elimination of emissions from half a million cars.

Almost 30 Energy Star product categories are available to consumers, including heating and cooling equipment, appliances, consumer electronics, computers, office equipment, and home lamps and lighting fixtures.

More details on the home show and tour can be found online at www.energystarhomesmidwest.com.

For more information on Energy Star, visit www.energystar.gov.

###

EPA: Louisville Area Meets Ozone

Standard

CONTACT:

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For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA163

CHICAGO (OCT. 4, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced today that the Louisville, Ky., area is meeting the health based 1 hour outdoor air standard for ozone (smog) and has approved requests by Indiana and Kentucky to redesignate the area to attainment of the national air quality standard.

EPA's action is based on three years of complete, quality assured, outdoor air monitoring data for 1998, 1999 and 2000. Preliminary data for 2001 show that the Louisville area is continuing to attain the ozone standard. The action will soon be published in the Federal Register.

The Louisville ozone nonattainment area consisted of Clark and Floyd counties in Indiana, and Jefferson County and parts of Bullitt and Oldham counties in Kentucky.

EPA also approved state plans to maintain the 1 hour health based ozone standard for at least the next 10 years and approved regional motor vehicle emissions budgets.

EPA regional administrators in Chicago and Atlanta have signed documents approving the state requests.

Thomas V. Skinner, administrator of EPA Region 5 in Chicago, said, "A major milestone has been reached in the Louisville area, including Clark and Floyd counties in Indiana, due to the perseverance of the citizens and state officials to take steps to curb pollution from stationary and mobile sources. We congratulate the community on this important public health achievement."

Stan Meiburg, acting administrator of EPA Region 4 in Atlanta said, "The citizens and officials of the commonwealth are to be congratulated on their considerable efforts to accomplish the goal of cleaner air for the Louisville area. This final action is the result of numerous measures to reduce ozone emissions from stationary and mobile sources. Kentucky can take pride in its continued commitment to maintain emissions at levels that will ensure continued lower ozone levels in the Louisville area."

Ground level ozone is commonly referred to as smog. Smog is formed when a mixture of air pollutants is baked in the hot summer sun. These pollutants are released from cars and factories. Smog can cause a variety of respiratory problems, including coughing, wheezing, shortness of breath and chest pain. Asthmatics, children and the elderly are especially at risk. However, these health effects are of concern to everyone.

###

U.S. Settles Cases Against Chicago
Landlords for Lead-based Paint Violations

CONTACT:

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(Technical) Scott Cooper, (312) 886-1332

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For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA162

CHICAGO (Oct. 2, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5, the Department of Justice, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, Illinois, Chicago and Cook County health officials today announced settlements in cases against three Chicago landlords for failure to warn their tenants that their homes may contain lead-based paint hazards.

Settlements in the joint initiative involve violations of the disclosure requirements of the Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act by multi-family apartment owners and management companies.

Wolin Levin Inc., East Lake Management and Development, and Oak Park Real Estate Inc. agreed to test for and clean up any lead-based paint found in their nearly 10,000 apartments in Chicago and Cincinnati and will pay \$90,000 in penalties. In addition, Wolin Levin agreed to pay \$100,000 to fund a child health improvement project of Chicago's Health Department. East Lake Management and Development will give \$77,000 to a community-based health center to provide free blood lead testing for children in Chicago and South Chicago.

"By carrying out these enforcement actions, EPA is sending a clear message to landlords and home sellers that protecting children's health from lead-based paint exposure is one of our highest priorities," said Region 5 Waste Pesticides and Toxics division director Robert Springer. "Working with these companies to clean up lead-based paint will ensure the health and safety of our children."

Separately EPA has filed a complaint alleging 2,600 counts of violations of federal regulations on lead-based paint and its hazards against Hyde Park Realty, a company that manages more than 1,000 residential units in Chicago.

About the Health Effects of Lead-Based Paint

Deteriorated lead paint is the most common source of lead exposure to children in the United States. About 75 percent of the nation's housing built before 1978 contains lead-based paint. Nearly 1 million of the nation's 22 million children under the age of six have blood lead levels high enough to impair their ability to think, concentrate and learn. Lead exposure causes reduced IQ, learning disabilities, development delays, reduced height, poor hearing and a host of other health problems in young children. Many of these effects are thought to be irreversible. At high levels, lead can damage a child's kidneys and central nervous system and cause anemia, coma, convulsions and even death.

According to the Chicago Department of Public Health, an estimated 15,000 children under the age of six were diagnosed with elevated blood-lead levels in 2000.

About the Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act of 1972

The Lead-Based Paint Disclosure Rule requires that landlords and sellers of housing constructed prior to 1978 provide each purchaser or tenant with a lead hazard information pamphlet, any information and reports concerning lead-based paint in the property, and a lead warning statement to be signed by the parties. Sellers are required to provide purchasers with an opportunity to conduct a lead-based paint evaluation.

#

EPA Seeks Comments on Proposed
Changes to Indiana Drinking-water
Program

CONTACT:

Media Contact: Phillippa Cannon, (312) 353-6218

Technical Contact: David S. Horak, (312) 353-4306

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA161

CHICAGO (Oct. 4, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 seeks comments on its tentative decision to approve two changes to Indiana's drinking-water program. The 1996 Safe Drinking Water Act amendments required Indiana to adopt the Consumer Confidence Rule and change the definition of a public water supply.

Under the Consumer Confidence Rule, each community drinking water system must provide its customers with a brief annual report on the quality of its drinking water, as well as information on the system's compliance with drinking water regulations.

In 1996, the definition of a public water supply was expanded to include systems that provide water for human consumption not only through pipes but also through other constructed conveyances such as flumes, canals or waterways.

As EPA adopts new drinking-water regulations, states that administer their own drinking-water programs must adopt regulations at least as stringent.

If there is sufficient public interest, EPA will hold a public hearing on the proposed changes. Comments and requests for a hearing must be postmarked by Oct. 29 and should be sent to: U.S. EPA Region 5, Ground Water and Drinking Water Branch (WG-15J), 77 W. Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL 60604-3590. Background documents on the proposed changes are available for review at the Indiana Department of Environmental Management, Drinking Water Branch, 100 N. Senate Ave., Indianapolis, IN, and at EPA offices in Chicago.

###

EPA Cites Union Electric Company for
Chemical Release Violations; Proposes
\$35,065 Fine

CONTACT:

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(Technical) James Entzminger, (312) 886-4062

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA160

CHICAGO (Oct. 2, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 filed an administrative complaint against Union Electric Company, also known as AmerenUE, in Venice, Ill., (near East St. Louis), for violation of federal laws on the reporting of a hazardous chemical release. EPA proposed a \$35,065 fine. EPA alleges that on December 27, 2000, at 10:00 a.m., the facility at 701 Main St. failed to promptly report a 5,973-pound release of ferric sulfate when a plastic pipe that was connected to a storage tank developed a stress crack and the contents of the tank emptied onto the ground. The release did not leave the facility boundaries.

Federal laws require facilities to immediately notify the National Response Center about any ferric sulfate release above 1,000 pounds. The incident was reported to the NRC at 2:15 p.m., more than four hours after the release. An earlier EPA

administrative complaint stemming from an incident on March 2, 1995, which involved a 73,400-pound sulfuric acid release, was settled for a \$5,000 penalty and a \$24,033 environmental project in November 1997.

"Releases of hazardous materials can pose a serious threat to public health and the environment," said regional Superfund Director William Munro. "Notifications of releases must happen in a timely manner so emergency responders know what they are confronting when they arrive at the scene of an incident."

Under federal emergency response laws, facilities cited must answer the complaint within 30 days. They may also request a meeting with EPA during the 30-day period to discuss or contest a proposed penalty.

About Ferric Sulfate

Ferric sulfate solution can be an irritant to the mucous membranes, respiratory tract and lung tissue, and can cause burns to the skin or the inner eyelids. If ingested, it can cause burns to the digestive tract.

###

EPA Approves Indiana's NOx Emissions

Rules

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(Technical) Ryan Bahr, (312) 353-4366

(IDEM Media) Timothy Coulom, (317) 232-8500

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA159

CHICAGO (Oct. 2, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has approved the state of Indiana's rules to reduce emissions of the air pollutants known as nitrogen oxides that contribute to the smog problem. The approval will soon be published in the Federal Register.

Indiana is one of 19 states and the District of Columbia required to adopt rules in an EPA program designed to cut nitrogen oxide emissions throughout the eastern United States. The program will protect the health of more than 100 million Americans living in Indiana and the eastern United States from harmful levels of ozone.

Regional Administrator Thomas V. Skinner commended Indiana for its effort to adopt statewide regulations to control NOx emissions from power plants, industrial boilers, turbines and cement kilns. "Indiana's rule will make a significant contribution toward cleaner air for Indiana's citizens. This is an important accomplishment."

Power plants and other large combustion sources must reduce their nitrogen oxide emissions under these rules. A regional emissions trading program for which EPA has determined the overall quantity of emission reductions to be achieved will provide sources with flexibility in making those reductions.

"We are pleased that the U.S. EPA has approved Indiana's NOx rule as part of our overall state plan for clean air. This step helps pave the way for cleaner, healthier air in the years to come, not only for Hoosiers, but also for our neighbors to the east," said Lori F. Kaplan, commissioner of the Indiana Department of Environmental Management.

Nitrogen oxides combine in the air with volatile organic compounds and other chemicals on warm, sunny days to form ground level ozone, which can cause breathing problems, reduced lung function, eye irritation, stuffy nose and reduced resistance to colds and other infections. Ozone can aggravate asthma and speed up the aging of lung tissue.

###

Report Grades Great Lakes: Good for
Drinking Water, Poor for Spread of
Invasive Species

CONTACT:

Kären Thompson, (312) 353-8547

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA156

CHICAGO (Oct. 2, 2001) -- According to the State of the Great Lakes 2001 report, recently released by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Environment Canada, the condition of the Great Lakes ranges from "good" for drinking water quality to "poor" for the impacts of invasive species.

The latest review of the health of the Great Lakes shows that drinking water quality, the health of walleye and the reduction of contaminants in nesting water birds were good signs. However, urban sprawl, airborne pollution and invasive species have taken their toll. Due to sprawl, more than two-thirds of wetlands in the Great Lakes basin have been lost during the past 200 years and those that remain are seriously threatened.

The report assesses 33 ecosystem health indicators. About 25 percent of the indicators were good or improving, 25 percent were poor or deteriorating and the rest demonstrated mixed results. The indicators were used to develop ratings for the Great Lakes as a whole and for each of the five Lakes, the St. Lawrence River, the St. Clair River and the Detroit River corridor. This report is the fourth bi-national assessment since 1996 and is based on information presented at the 2000 State of the Great Lakes conference.

"Levels of toxic chemical contamination have dropped in many fish species," said Thomas Skinner, Region 5 administrator and U.S. Great Lakes Program manager. "However, many fish are still unsafe to eat. Contaminant levels will need to continue to decline for many years before advisories can be lifted or modified."

The 33 indicators in the report are part of a set of 80 indicators that were chosen in a bi-national program in the late 1990s to assess the health of the lakes and to help make better management decisions. The remaining 47 indicators are being developed or are in the information collection stage.

"Indicators allow scientists and managers to examine air, land, water and living organisms, as well as economic and human health issues, to paint a big picture of the state of the lakes," said Paul Horvatin, U.S. conference chair.

Here are some of the findings of the 2001 State of the Great Lakes report.

*The effort to reduce the amount of phosphorous in the lakes has paid off by reducing the number of algae blooms;

*Surface waters are still among the best sources of drinking water in the world;

*Progress has been made both in cleaning up contaminants and in rehabilitating some fish and wildlife species;

*Steadily increasing number of people living in the basin will result in more phosphorous entering the lakes, this will require additional control measures;

*Invasive species, such as zebra mussels, round gobys and purple loosestrife, continue to be a significant threat to Great Lakes biological communities;

*Air deposition of contaminants from sources outside the basin make it virtually impossible to eliminate toxic substances;

*Urban sprawl threatens high-quality natural areas, rare species, farmland and open space;

*Development, drainage and pollution are shrinking coastal wetlands; and

*Swimming advisories caused by high levels of bacteria are becoming more frequent.

For more information on SOLEC and the Great Lakes, visit <http://binational.net/>.

###

EPA Approves Illinois' NOx Emissions
Rules

CONTACT:

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For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA158

CHICAGO (Sept. 28, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has approved the state of Illinois' rules to reduce emissions of the air pollutants known as nitrogen oxides, which contribute to the smog problem. The approval will soon be published in the Federal Register.

Illinois is one of 19 states and the District of Columbia required to adopt rules in an EPA regional program designed to cut nitrogen oxide emissions throughout the eastern United States. The program will protect the health of more than 100 million Americans living in Illinois and the eastern United States from harmful levels of ozone.

Illinois played an important role in the development of this program. The state chaired a group consisting of state, industry and environmental group representatives that studied ozone transport. EPA relied on this group's findings in establishing requirements for the 19 states and the District of Columbia.

Deputy Regional Administrator David A. Ullrich commended Illinois for its efforts and in adopting the necessary emission control regulations: "We appreciate Illinois' contribution to help solving this difficult air pollution problem. Illinois' leadership was instrumental in the significant regional progress that has been made to address the ozone transport problem."

Power plants and other large combustion sources must reduce their nitrogen oxide emissions under these rules. A regional emissions trading program for which EPA has determined the overall quantity of emission reductions to be achieved will give sources flexibility to redistribute mandated emission reductions.

Nitrogen oxides combine in the air with volatile organic compounds and other chemicals on warm, sunny days to form ground level ozone, which can cause breathing problems, reduced lung function, eye irritation, stuffy nose and reduced resistance to colds and other infections. Ozone can aggravate asthma and speed up the aging of lung tissue.

###

EPA Names Three Indiana Wastewater
Treatment Plants among Best-Operated in
Region

CONTACT:

Phillippa Cannon, (312) 353-6218

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA157

CHICAGO (Sept. 27, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 named three Indiana wastewater treatment plants among the best-operated in the region for 2001. They are among 12 treatment plants to receive EPA Regional Operation and Maintenance Awards this year.

The Bremen Wastewater Treatment Plant (second place, Medium Advanced category) received the award for: excellent pollutant removal; an extensive in-house monitoring program, which has resulted in the elimination of three combined sewer overflows and considerable cost savings; a pretreatment program for industrial dischargers to the plant that has reduced the amount of toxic chemicals reaching the treatment plant; and cost saving financial practices.

The Connersville Wastewater Treatment Plant (first place, Large Advanced category) received the award for: outstanding pollutant removal; installing new equipment that has improved the performance of the plant; placing controls on industrial sources of waste that reduced the amount of metal in wastewater by 60 to 90 percent; and establishing an internship program with the local high school to provide work experience to students.

The Western Wayne Regional Sewage District, Cambridge City (first place, Small Advanced category), which serves the communities of Cambridge City, Dublin and Mt. Auburn, received the award for: excellent pollutant removal; an exemplary compliance record; providing cross-training to employees; servicing and maintaining 346 septic tanks in the communities of Dublin and Mt. Auburn and treating waste from the tanks at the plant; reusing wastewater for nonpotable purposes such as yard hydrants; and refinancing original bonds, thus allowing a rate reduction of 20 percent.

###

EPA Reaches Agreement with Ritchie
Engineering

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For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA155

CHICAGO (SEPT. 27, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has reached an agreement with Ritchie Engineering Co. Inc. on alleged violations of federal clean air regulations at the company's plant, 1120 Fuller Drive, Garrett, Ind. A \$20,000 penalty was assessed.

The agreement resolves an administrative complaint filed in September 2000 alleging Ritchie made and distributed its model R60 refrigerant recovery unit without proper labeling. The company also failed to comply with an EPA administrative order issued Jan. 13, 2000, telling it to comply with labeling requirements.

The improper labeling and selling of refrigerant recovery equipment was discovered during a May 10, 2000, inspection conducted by the Indiana Department of Environmental Health, requested by EPA.

Chlorofluorocarbon refrigerants deplete the stratospheric ("good") ozone layer, allowing dangerous amounts of cancer causing ultraviolet rays from the sun to strike the Earth's surface. Production of some of these chemicals was stopped in 1995, and federal law strictly controls their use and handling.

"EPA's mission is to protect public health and the environment," said Bharat Mathur, director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "We will take whatever steps are needed to ensure compliance with the Clean Air Act."

Information on compliance with the refrigerant recycling rule can be found at www.epa.gov/ozone under the heading "Product Labeling."

###

EPA Cites Technisand for Air Pollution

CONTACT:

(Media) William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

(Technical) Farro Assadi, (312) 886-1424

(Legal) John Stekettee, (312) 886-0558

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA154

CHICAGO (SEPT. 27, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has filed an administrative complaint against TechniSand Inc. for alleged violations of federally enforceable state clean-air regulations at the company's sand processing plant, 3840 Livingston Road, Bridgman, Mich. A \$214,003 penalty was proposed.

The EPA complaint alleges that tests done by the company in October and November 1998, and in January 1999, show that TechniSand failed to comply with state particulate (smoke, dust, ash) emission limits.

TechniSand has 30 days from receipt of the complaint to file an answer and request a hearing. EPA has already had two informal meetings with the company to discuss the allegations and how to resolve them.

"EPA's mission is to protect public health and the environment," said Bharat Mathur, director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "We will take whatever steps are necessary to ensure compliance with clean air regulations." Inhaling high concentrations of particulates can affect children, the elderly and people with heart and lung diseases the most.

About EPA

Founded in 1970, EPA is responsible for protecting the environment and human health. The Agency enforces air, water, and land laws and ensures that designated health standards are met. EPA Region 5 includes six Great Lakes states: Illinois,

Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin.

#

EPA Approves Reilly Hazardous Waste Permit

CONTACT:

(Media) Karen Thompson, (312) 353-8547

(Technical) Jae Lee, (312) 886-3781

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA153

CHICAGO (Sep. 28, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has issued a new permit for burning hazardous waste fuels to Reilly Industries Inc. in Indianapolis, Ind.

The permit, issued under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, allows Reilly to burn hazardous waste in three boiler units. The heat in the boilers makes steam that powers the facility's manufacturing processes. Reilly must also install an automatic cut-off system to control waste entering the boilers.

EPA is satisfied that the permit conditions will protect human health and the environment. The permit is good for five years.

Copies of the approval and EPA's response to public comments are available for review at the Marion County Public Library, 40 E. St. Claire Street, Indianapolis, Ind., or contact Jae Lee at EPA Region 5, 77 W. Jackson Blvd., DP-8J, Chicago, IL 60604, (800) 621-8431, Ext. 63781

About Reilly Industries

Reilly Industries Inc. owns and operates a 120-acre chemical manufacturing plant at 1500 S. Tibbs Ave., Indianapolis, Ind.

About EPA

Founded in 1970, EPA is responsible for protecting the environment and human health. The Agency enforces air, water, and land laws and ensures that designated health standards are met. EPA Region 5 includes six Great Lakes states: Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin.

###

MEDIA ADVISORY: EPA Administrator in
Chicago for Two Events Sept. 24

CONTACT:

Phillippa Cannon, (312) 353-6218

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA152

CHICAGO (Sept. 21, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Administrator Christie Whitman will participate in two events in Chicago on Sept.
24.

The first will be at 12:30 p.m. at Sandoval Elementary School, 5534 S. St. Louis
Ave., where she will present an award for the best environmental science project
in the school's science fair. EPA's Chicago office has been working with the
school since 1999 as part of an ongoing effort to increase environmental
awareness among minority communities. Sandoval serves the predominantly
Hispanic Gage Park neighborhood and 90 percent of the school's enrollment is
Hispanic.

At 2:15 p.m., Whitman will speak at the opening session of Brownfields 2001,
the sixth annual national conference on brownfields policy, cleanup and
redevelopment, at the McCormick Place Convention Center, 2301 S. Lake
Shore Drive.

EPA Administrator's Schedule for Sept. 24:

12:30 p.m. Science Fair Awards Ceremony, Sandoval Elementary School, 5534
S. Saint Louis Ave.

2:15 p.m. Opening Session, Brownfields 2001, McCormick Place Convention
Center, Hall A, Level 3, South Building, 2301 S. Lake Shore Drive.

###

EPA Regional Administrator Meets with
Michigan Residents October 4

CONTACT:

Phillippa Cannon, (312) 353-6218

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA151

CHICAGO (Sept. 21, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 Administrator Tom Skinner will meet with Michigan residents of the towns of Romulus and Taylor and Wayne County on October 4, to listen to concerns about proposed plans by Sun Pipe Line and Environmental Disposal Systems to dispose of fluids in deep wells.

The meeting will be held from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Detroit Marriott-Romulus, 30559 Flynn Road, Romulus. It will begin and end promptly.

For more information, call Dave Novak, EPA community involvement coordinator, at (312) 886-7478.

###

EPA Proposes Sauget Sites for Superfund
National Priorities List; Comment Period
Begins

CONTACT:

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Leo Rosales, (312) 353-6198
Mike Ribordy, (312) 886-4592
For Immediate Release
No. 01-OPA150

CHICAGO (Sept. 20, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency proposes adding the Sauget Area 1 and Sauget Area 2 sites, in the Village of Sauget and Cahokia, Ill., to the Superfund National Priorities List of hazardous waste sites. Sites on the list are eligible for further investigation and cleanup under the federal Superfund program.

A total of 17 sites were proposed for the list on Sept. 13, 2001, including the two Sauget sites. The Sauget sites are the only new sites proposed in EPA Region 5. EPA also announced 11 final sites were added to the NPL, none of which are in EPA Region 5. Currently, there are 1,238 final sites on the NPL and 72 proposed sites. A total of 773 sites have attained construction completion status. The complete NPL announcement was published in the Federal Register Sept. 13,

2001, with a 60-day public comment period ending November 13, 2001. More Superfund information is online at www.epa.gov/superfund/.

About the Sites

The Sauget Area 1 and Sauget Area 2 sites were used for disposal of industrial, commercial and municipal solid and liquid waste materials starting in the 1930s. EPA concerns at the two sites include contamination of soils, sediments, ground water and surface water by PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls), dioxins, metals and a number of other industrial chemicals.

Sauget Area 1 encompasses three closed landfills, two fill areas and portions of Dead Creek. The site was originally proposed for the NPL in June 1996 based on its impact on Dead Creek. As a result of comments received, EPA then investigated the site further before reproposing it with Sauget Area 2. Sauget Area 2 consists of five known disposal areas near the Mississippi River.

Since 1988, a number of limited scope cleanup actions and investigations have been performed at the two sites by EPA or the responsible parties under the direction of EPA and Illinois EPA.

###

EPA Co-Sponsors Brownfields Conference
in Chicago Sept. 24-26, Including Tours,
Special Events

CONTACT:

Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050
Ginny Narsete, (312) 886-4359
For Immediate Release
No. 01-OPA149

MEDIA ADVISORY: September 19, 2001

WHO:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and more than 20 co-sponsors,
including Illinois EPA, the International City/County Management
Association and the Engineers' Society of Western Pennsylvania

WHAT:

Brownfields 2001, the sixth annual national conference to showcase
research relating to brownfields policy, cleanup and redevelopment issues

WHEN:

Monday, Sept. 24, through Wednesday, Sept. 26, 2001

WHERE:

Chicago's McCormick Place Convention Center

WHY:

News media who cover Brownfields 2001 will have the opportunity to be
briefed by scores of technical experts who have worked on creative
approaches to the cleanup and redevelopment of abandoned or
underutilized properties, commonly known as brownfields. In addition,
five "mobile workshops" or field trips to innovative Chicago projects are
being hosted by the International City/County Management Association,
Chicago Department of the Environment and the National Brownfields
Association (see Conference Highlights). **CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS:**

●Interviews/Photo Opportunities

Sunday, Sept. 23, 3:00-5:00 p.m.

●Set-up of more than 300 exhibitors (South Building, Level 3, main
concourse)

Monday, Sept 24, 2:30-4:30 p.m.

●Opening session featuring EPA Administrator Christine Todd Whitman
and Region 5 Administrator Tom Skinner, Chicago Department of
Environment Commissioner William Abolt and other state and federal
officials.

Tuesday, Sept. 25, 1:00-2:30 p.m.

●Town meeting hosted by Ray Suarez of PBS' "The Newshour with Jim
Lehrer," sponsored by the International City/County Management
Association

Wednesday, Sept 26, 9:00-10:30 a.m.

●Phoenix Awards presentation hosted by EPA Deputy Administrator
Linda Fisher.

● Mobile Workshops (field trips)*

Gateway Park (63-acre industrial park project at 76th Street and Albany
Avenue)

Lake Calumet Area (new open space and development co-existing in a
heavily industrialized area)

Midwest Center for Green Technology (innovative center built on a
former illegal dumping site)Chicago Brownfields Redevelopment Initiative
Successes (overview of completed projects and work in progress)

National Brownfields Association Site (unique challenges of a former
industrial site in downtown Chicago)

* For schedule information or to reserve a spot, call Jessica Rio, Chicago DOE,
at (312) 744-5716.

###

EPA Cancels Sept. 19 Open House in
Onalaska

CONTACT:

Bri Bill, (312) 353-6646

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA148

CHICAGO (Sept. 17, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5
has cancelled the open house scheduled for Wednesday, Sept. 19 at the
Onalaska Town Hall, W 7052 2nd Street.

To discuss or receive a fact sheet on EPA's plan to shut down the extraction and
water treatment system at the Onalaska Municipal Landfill, call Bri Bill, EPA
community involvement coordinator, at (800) 621-8431 Ext. 36646, or Tim
Prendiville, EPA Remedial Project Manager, at (800) 621-8431 Ext. 65122.

EPA will continue to accept written comments on the plan until Oct. 10, 2001.

They should be sent to Bri Bill, U.S. EPA (P-19J), 77 W. Jackson Blvd., Chicago,
IL 60604.

About EPA

Founded in 1970, EPA is responsible for protecting the environment and human
health. The Agency enforces air, water, and land laws and ensures that
designated health standards are met. EPA Region 5 includes six Great Lakes
states: Illinois,

Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin.

###

EPA Will Shut down and Study Ground
Water System at Onalaska Landfill Site;
Open House Sept. 19

CONTACT:

(EPA) Bri Bill, (312) 353-6646

(WDNR) Dave Weitz, (715) 839-3715

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA147

CHICAGO (Sept. 10, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 plans to temporarily shut down and study the ground water extraction and treatment system at the Onalaska Municipal Landfill Superfund site, in Onalaska, Wis.

An informal open house to discuss the project with representatives from EPA and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources will be held Sept. 19 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Onalaska Town Hall, W 7052 2nd Street. A public comment period on the plan ends Oct. 10. Written comments will be accepted at the open house.

Under the plan, to be outlined in a document called an explanation of significant differences, EPA will study the effectiveness of continuing to operate the ground water system and determine whether natural processes at the site might be used to address the remaining contamination. Steps will be taken prior to the shut down to ensure that any potential movement of contamination is detected. The current system was selected in 1990 with installation completed in 1993. A five-year review of the site cleanup was completed in 1998, with preliminary data at that time contributing to the current decision to study the ground water system's effectiveness.

A fact sheet with more information has been sent to EPA's site mailing list. It will also be available at the open house and can be requested by calling community involvement coordinator Bri Bill, (800) 621-8431, ext. 36646, e-mail: bill.briana@epa.gov. Site documents are located at the following information repositories: LaCrosse County Public Library, Onalaska Branch, 741 Oak Avenue South, Onalaska, and Holmen Branch, 103 State Street, Holmen, and the Onalaska Town Hall.

About the site

The 11-acre Superfund site was a sand and gravel quarry during the 1960s and a municipal landfill from 1969 to 1980. It is located 10 miles north of LaCrosse in Onalaska Township, bordered by County Highway Z, the Black River and Sportsman Club Road.

###

EPA Approves Illinois' Emissions Trading
Program for Chicago

CONTACT:

(Media) William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

(Technical) John Summerhays, (312) 886-6067

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA146

CHICAGO (Sept. 7, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has approved the state of Illinois' innovative cap and trade program to reduce emissions of volatile organic compounds ozone precursors in the Metro Chicago area.

The Illinois program is the first volatile organic compound cap and trade program in the country, and it is one of the first state trading programs of any type to be approved by EPA.

Under this program, Illinois issues allowances to volatile organic compound sources that require each source to emit 12 percent less than its 1994 to 1996 emissions, its upper limit threshold or "cap". The source then has a choice: cut emissions by 12 percent or buy emission allowances from another source that will cut its emissions by that amount, in addition to achieving its own 12 percent reduction.

The result is a 12 percent emission reduction in the Metro Chicago area, and companies get to cut emissions at places that are easiest and cheapest to control.

The approval, signed Thursday by Deputy Regional Administrator David Ullrich, will be published soon in the Federal Register.

"We congratulate Illinois for making this ground breaking effort to reduce emissions that cause ozone," Ullrich said. "This approach will help reduce emissions more efficiently than under traditional means."

According to Ullrich, emissions control is not one size fits all. "This program will allow each company to find its own best means of achieving environmental improvement."

Metro Chicago is classified by EPA as a severe nonattainment area for ozone. The Metro Chicago ozone nonattainment area includes Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry, and Will counties, Oswego Township in Kendall County, and Aux Sable and Goose Lake townships in Grundy County.

#

Region 5 Draft Review of Ohio Programs

Released to Public

CONTACT:

Elissa Speizman, (312) 353-2073

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA145

CHICAGO (Sep. 4, 2001) -- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 today released to the public a draft report of its review of Ohio environmental programs, in response to a petition dating back to 1997. More specifically the review deals with administration and implementation of the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery, Clean Water, and Clean Air Acts. It also reviews Ohio's legal enforcement offices and criminal enforcement program.

EPA's preliminary conclusions in the draft report indicate that grounds do not exist to begin proceedings to withdraw or revoke either the Resource Conservation and Recovery or Clean Water programs. In addition, the draft makes recommendations for solutions to current weaknesses in the Clean Air programs that, if implemented, would eliminate any possible need to withdraw the program. The draft report also recognizes that the state's legal environmental enforcement is strong and the criminal environmental enforcement program is considered "among the best in the nation."

"This draft report, which reflects extensive study and review, will serve as an important tool in making sure that Ohio's programs operate in a manner that ensures that Ohio and its citizens continue to experience significant environmental improvements," said EPA Administrator Christie Whitman.

"Overall, Ohio continues to make progress in protecting the environment. Nonetheless, there is work to be done, together. Concerning Clean Water programs, Ohio has committed to actions that will allow its continued administration of these programs. For the Clean Air programs the report clearly identifies steps that must be taken by Ohio to prevent any future proceedings that could revoke the state's delegation of those programs. The EPA will work closely with Ohio to implement these changes," said Whitman.

EPA has been reviewing certain Ohio environmental programs since January of 2000, in response to a petition submitted on behalf of Ohio Citizen Action, the Ohio Sierra Club, the Ohio Environmental Council (subsequently replaced by the Ohio Public Interest Research Group), and Rivers Unlimited. That petition (as later amended and supplemented) asks EPA to withdraw and/or revoke its authorization, delegation and/or approval of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency's Resource Conservation and Recovery Act hazardous waste program and Solid Waste Management Plan; Clean Water Act National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System program; and Clean Air Act Standards of Performance for New Stationary Sources, New Source Review, Prevention of Significant Deterioration, Noncompliance Penalty, and Title V programs.

EPA has asked the state to review the draft document and provide comments within 30 days. After providing the public at least 30 days to review the report, EPA will hold a public meeting in Columbus, Ohio. That will be followed by a 30-day comment period, after which the report will be finalized. Details about the meeting will be forthcoming.

The report is available at www.epa.gov/region5/ohioreview/ and at the following repositories:

Toledo-Lucas County

Public Library

325 Michigan Street

Toledo, OH 43624-1624

Dayton & Montgomery County

Public Library

215 East Third Street

Dayton, OH 45402-2103

Public Library of Cincinnati and

Hamilton County

800 Vine Street

Cincinnati, OH 45202-2071

Briggs Lawrence County

Public Library

321 South Fourth Street

Ironton, OH 45638-1613

Washington County Public Library

615 Fifth Street

Marietta, OH 45750-1973

Public Library of Youngstown and
Mahoning County
305 Wick Avenue
Youngstown, OH 44503-1079
Cleveland Public Library
325 Superior Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44114-1271
Dover Public Library
525 North Walnut Street
Dover, OH 44622-2851
Columbus Metropolitan Library
96 South Grant Avenue
Columbus, OH 43215-4781
#

EPA Cites GM Delphi on Permit Violations

CONTACT:

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(Technical) Michael Valentino, (312) 886-4582

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA143

CHICAGO (Sep. 4, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 recently filed a complaint against General Motors Corporation-Delphi Energy and Engine Management Systems for alleged violation of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act. A \$194,876 fine is proposed.

GM Delphi failed to reapply for a permit to correct soil and ground water contamination at its complex. The company may request a meeting to discuss the violation.

Under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, passed by Congress in 1976, EPA regulates hazardous wastes from their production to their final disposal.

About GM Delphi

GM Delphi, a manufacturer of components for cars and trucks , operating several plants at 2401 Columbus Ave., Anderson, Ind. GM began operating the large complex of plants in 1937. Most of the facility is now closed or demolished.

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Draft of U.S. EPA Review of Ohio
Enforcement Program Sent to State

CONTACT:

Jeff Kelley, (312) 353-1159

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA144

CHICAGO (Aug. 31, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 today sent to the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and the Ohio Attorney General a draft of its review of Ohio environmental programs. The draft report was prepared in response to a petition submitted on behalf of Ohio Citizen Action, the Ohio Sierra Club, the Ohio Environmental Council (subsequently replaced by the Ohio Public Interest Research Group) and Rivers Unlimited. The report describes U.S. EPA's preliminary conclusions based on investigations which began in January 2000. Specifically, the report looks at the state's administration of the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery, Clean Water and Clean Air Acts. The review also looks at Ohio's legal environmental enforcement offices and criminal enforcement program. U.S. EPA has asked the state to review the draft document and provide comments within 30 days.

Public release of the draft report will take place Tuesday afternoon, September 4. After providing the public at least 30 days to review the report, the U.S. EPA will hold an availability session in Columbus, Ohio. That will be followed by a 30-day comment period, after which the report will be finalized. Details about the session will be forthcoming.

Attached is the letter that accompanied the draft report sent to Ohio.(PDF, 145K)

#

EPA Reaches Agreement with Muskegon
Development Co.

CONTACT:

Phillippa Cannon, (312) 353-6218

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA142

CHICAGO (Aug. 30, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 signed a consent agreement and final order with Muskegon Development Co., Mt. Pleasant, Mich., resolving alleged violations of the underground injection control regulations of the Safe Drinking Water Act. The company has agreed to pay a penalty of \$105,200 and certified that its wells in Clare County, Mich., are in compliance with their injection permits.

The wells are used to inject fresh water for enhanced production of oil and gas. Muskegon Development Co. acquired the wells from Kaiser-Francis Oil Co. in October 1999. EPA alleged that the company violated its permits by exceeding the maximum injection pressure of the wells, failing to submit timely monthly monitoring reports, failing to monitor and record weekly injection pressures, and failing to submit accurate monthly monitoring reports.

"Underground injection control regulations are designed to protect underground sources of drinking water from contamination," said Jo-Lynn Traub, director of the regional Water Division.

#

EPA approves Wayne Disposal expansion permit

CONTACT:

(Media) Karen Thompson, (312) 353-8547

(Technical) Steve Johnson, (312) 886-1330

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA141

CHICAGO (Aug. 30, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has approved a permit to modify operations at the Wayne Disposal Inc. hazardous-waste landfill in Belleville, Mich.

The permit, issued under the federal Toxic Substances Control Act, allows for expansion of an existing hazardous waste cell, located just south of Willow Run Airport. The modifications will give Wayne Disposal 2.9 million cubic yards more space for additional waste.

Copies of the approval and EPA's response to public comments are available for review at the Fred C. Fischer Library, 167 Fourth St., or Van Buren Township, 46425 Tyler Road, both in Belleville, or contact Cheryl Allen at EPA Region 5, 77 W. Jackson Blvd., P-19J, Chicago, IL 60604, (800) 621-8431, Ext. 36196.

Wayne Disposal Inc., located at 49350 N. Service Drive, Belleville, is a hazardous-waste and PCB-waste landfill.

###

EPA revises plan for new contamination at
Fields Brook site

CONTACT:

(Media) Mick Hans (312) 353-5050

(Technical) Terese VanDonsel, (312) 353-6564

(Legal) Peter Felitti, (312) 886-5114

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA140

CHICAGO (August 28, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 revised its cleanup plan to address an additional layer of contamination found last fall at the Fields Brook Superfund site in Ashtabula, Ohio.

The revised plan, called an explanation of significant differences document, was discussed at a meeting held May 10 at the Ashtabula Chamber of Commerce. Under the plan, contractors hired by the potentially responsible parties will use an on-site treatment method called low-temperature thermal desorption to address about 15,000 cubic yards of highly contaminated soil and sediment. The new layer of contamination was found below Fields Brook during the ongoing site cleanup last fall.

The desorption system, which must meet EPA's regulatory requirements for an incinerator, first heats the soil and sediment, vaporizing the contaminants into the air within the treatment unit, then thermally destroys the contaminants. Before full-scale operation of the system, EPA will test it thoroughly to ensure compliance with all safety and health requirements.

Other Site News

Within the next two weeks, excavation is expected to be completed for all sediment and floodplain areas of the site, except for the area near State Road where the contaminated soil must be thermally treated after it is excavated.

EPA News Release 01-OPA140: EPA revises plan for new contamination at Fields Brook site

Plans for this last phase of the project are now being finalized. Once finished, these excavated areas will be restored, with new grasses, trees, and shrubs planted along the brook.

The soil cleanup at the RMI Metals facility is now complete. About 9,000 cubic yards of PCB-contaminated soil were excavated and sent to the Fields Brook landfill for disposal. Work will continue later in 2001 on the last remaining source control area, where Detrex Corporation will install extraction wells to pump out contaminated groundwater from below its property.

Cleanups are already completed at the other four Fields Brook source control areas: Acme Scrap, Millenium TiCl4 Plant, the North Sewers and Conrail.

###

EPA Cites Illinois-American Water
Company for Chemical Release Violations;
Proposes \$168,488 Fine

CONTACT:

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(Technical) James Entzminger, (312) 886-4062

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA139

CHICAGO (August 23, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 filed an administrative complaint against Illinois-American Water Company in Peoria, Ill., for violation of federal laws on the reporting of a hazardous chemical release. EPA proposed a \$168,488 fine.

EPA alleges that on July 12, 1998, at 11:20 a.m., the facility at 6414 N. Galena failed to promptly report a 350-pound release of chlorine when a pipe developed a leak and chlorine vapors escaped from the building. One firefighter was taken to a hospital and released.

Federal laws require facilities to immediately notify the National Response Center, as well as the state emergency response commission and the local emergency planning committee, about any chlorine release larger than 10 pounds. A written follow-up report to the state and local authorities is required as soon as practicable after the release.

The incident was reported to the state emergency response commission July 13, 1998, at 8:45 a.m., more than 20 hours after the release. The facility notified the National Response Center on Aug. 4, 1998. In addition, a written follow-up report wasn't filed with the state until Aug. 6, 1998, and the local authority was never notified.

"Releases of hazardous materials can pose a serious threat to public health and the environment," said regional Superfund Director William Muno. "Notifications of releases must happen in a timely manner so emergency responders know what they are confronting when they arrive at the scene of an incident."

Under federal emergency response laws, facilities cited may request a meeting with EPA within 30 days to discuss or contest a proposed penalty.

About Chlorine

Chlorine is a compressed gas that may be fatal if inhaled for long periods of time. It causes burns to the eyes, nose and mouth, and may react explosively with common substances such as ammonia, turpentine and hydrogen.

###

Community Outreach Meetings Focus on

Lead Issues

CONTACT:

Noemi Emeric, (312) 886-0995

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA138

CHICAGO (August 22, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5, St. Clair County, East St. Louis CDBG Operations, St. Mary's Hospital of East St. Louis and many other local groups will hold two meetings on lead issues from 2 to 4 p.m. and 5 to 7 p.m., Wednesday, Aug. 28, at the Jackie Joyner-Kersey Youth Center, 1201 N. 25th St., East St. Louis.

A recent blood screening in East St. Louis School District 189 elementary schools by St. Mary's Hospital, revealed that 12 percent of children tested had blood-lead levels that exceeded the Center for Disease Control' and Prevention's safe limit of 10 parts of lead per million parts of blood.

The meetings will feature the following presentations: Ongoing Lead Soil Sampling by EPA, Lead Paint and Housing Rehab Initiative by St. Clair County and the East St. Louis CDBG Operations, and Blood-Lead Screening and Education Campaigns by St. Mary's Hospital. In addition, There will be free blood-lead screening for children up to 14 years old accompanied by an adult guardian. Snacks will be served.

Lead poisoning continues to be a major health issue among children in East St. Louis and nearby areas, despite a push in the past two decades to alert parents of the dangers of lead-based household paint, which continues to be the most common source of childhood lead poisoning.

Researchers are also seeing a relationship between lead poisoning and the dozens of abandoned metal smelters, paint factories and other sources of EPA News Release 01-OPA138: Community Outreach Meetings Focus on Lead Issues dangerous lead levels in the East St. Louis area. EPA is paying some \$500,000 for testing the soil for lead in five targeted neighborhoods.

Lead poisoning has been linked to low IQ scores, behavior problems, hyperactivity and other developmental problems in young children.

Also participating in the event are the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Illinois EPA, Illinois Department of Public Health, city of East St. Louis, East Side Health District, Southwestern Illinois Resource Conservation and Development, and NEIGHBORS.

For more details contact Noemi Emeric, EPA, at (312) 886-0995.

###

EPA Seeks Public Comment on Minnesota
Underground Storage Tank Management
Plan

CONTACT:

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(Technical) Andrew Tschampa, (312) 886-6136

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA137

CHICAGO (August 22, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has scheduled a public comment period required for approval of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's application to take over management of the underground storage tank program.

Under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, EPA regulates underground tanks and piping that store either petroleum or certain hazardous substances. EPA can approve state plans to regulate underground storage tanks if they are "no less stringent" and provide adequate enforcement of standards set by the federal program. The MPCA application, submitted in May 2000, has been reviewed by EPA and meets all requirements.

The public can read and make written comments on the plan from now until Sept. 28. To review documents, visit MPCA, Regular Facilities Section, Metro District, 520 Lafayette Road North, St. Paul, Minn., between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. If sufficient public interest is expressed, a hearing will be held at 9 a.m., Sept. 28, MPCA Board Room, same address as above. To request a public hearing contact Andy Tschampa, chief of the UST section, U.S. EPA Region 5, DU-7J, 77 W. Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL 60604, (312) 886-6159 by Aug. 27.

About Underground Storage Tanks

USTs, mostly made of steel, are likely to corrode over time and allow the contents to leak into the environment. The greatest potential hazard is that petroleum or other hazardous substances can seep into the soil and contaminate ground water. A leaking UST can cause other health and environmental risks, including fire and explosion.

#

EPA Names Pickaway Correctional
Institution among Best-operated
Wastewater Treatment Plants in Region

CONTACT:

Phillippa Cannon, (312) 353-6218

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA136

CHICAGO (AUGUST 20, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has named Pickaway Correctional Institution in Orient, Ohio, among the best-operated wastewater treatment plants in the region for 2001. It was one of 12 treatment plants to receive EPA Regional Operation and Maintenance Awards this year.

The prison received a First Place award in the Most Improved Category for excellent pollutant removal and reducing solids being discharged to Big Darby Creek by 132 tons per year. Prior to working with Ohio EPA training staff to make improvements to its operations, the facility had received an estimate from a consulting engineer that it would be necessary to spend about \$6 million to bring the plant into compliance with Clean Water Act regulations. Instead, the facility achieved compliance 30 days after beginning work with the trainers and spending just \$100,000.

EPA will present the award Friday, Aug. 24 at 10:30 a. m. at the facility, 11781 State Route 762. A tour of the wastewater treatment plant will follow the ceremony.

###

Intergovernmental Partners Sign \$40
Million Agreement with API and NCR for
Interim Fox River Projects

CONTACT:

Fox River Intergovernmental Partnership
(EPA) Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050
(WDNR) Bruce Baker, (608) 266-9352
(FWS) Charlie Wooley, (612) 713-5178
(U.S. DOJ) Cristine Romano, (202) 514-2008
For Immediate Release
No. 01-OPA134

CHICAGO (August 14, 2001) -- The Fox River Intergovernmental Partners (IGP) today lodged in Federal court a \$40 million interim agreement with Appleton Papers Inc. (API) and NCR Corporation to provide funding for interim site cleanup and natural resource restoration projects on Wisconsin's Lower Fox River and Green Bay.

The agreement is contained in a consent decree lodged with the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Wisconsin. A public comment period will begin after formal notice of the agreement is published in the Federal Register. API and NCR are parties that have been identified as potentially responsible for the discharge of PCBs to the Fox River system.

The agreement provides payments of up to \$10 million a year for four years following the effective date of the agreement. The payments will be used to fund cleanup and natural resources restoration projects. In addition, payments will go to the U.S. Department of Interior to pay for a portion of the expenses incurred in developing its Natural Resource Damage Assessment.

EPA News Release 01-OPA134: Intergovernmental Partners Sign \$40 Million Agreement with API and NCR for Interim Fox River Projects
Under the agreement, the IGP agrees not to sue API or NCR for the four years covered by the consent decree. In turn, the companies have agreed not to sue the IGP partners over that period. The agreement does not resolve the overall liability of either company for Fox River system contamination.

"This agreement is the result of tremendous cooperation among federal, state and tribal agencies," said John Cruden, Acting Assistant Attorney General for the U.S. Department of Justice's Environment Division. "It represents an important step for API and NCR toward resolving their ultimate responsibility for cleaning up and restoring the Fox River and Green Bay."

"The IGP is very pleased with this interim agreement," said Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) Secretary Darrell Bazzell. "API and NCR deserve credit for stepping up to help maintain momentum for the larger cleanup of the Fox River system."

"U.S. EPA is very pleased that the cleanup and restoration work can proceed under this agreement while a long term solution is being developed," said Regional Administrator Tom Skinner.

"With today's agreement, and consistent with principles we stated previously, the public will soon start to see the beginning of significant progress toward the restoration of the Green Bay and Fox River environment," said U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) Region 3 Director Bill Hartwig. "We look forward to continuing work with the IGP and the two companies on this important initiative."

A fact sheet about the agreement has been sent to those on EPA's Fox River mailing list. It is also available at www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/wm/lowerfox.

About the IGP

The IGP operates under a memorandum of agreement signed in July 1997 by the following members: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the WDNR, the U.S. Department of Interior as represented by FWS, the U.S. Department of Commerce as represented by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin and the Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin.

###

EPA Will Unveil New Energy Star Label at
National Hardware Show and Building
Products Exposition

CONTACT:

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(Technical) Julie Magee, (312) 886-6063

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA133

CHICAGO (AUGUST 10, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will join with the ceiling fan industry's leading manufacturers and retailers to unveil a new Energy Star label for ceiling fans Monday, Aug. 13, at the National Hardware Show

and Building Products Exposition, which will be held Aug. 12-14 at McCormick Place, Chicago.

EPA Energy Star officials will be at booth No. 14958 at the show to discuss with the public the ceiling fan program and other Energy Star programs.

The first Energy Star labeled ceiling fans are not scheduled to reach stores until next January, but some manufacturers will be exhibiting their fans at the show.

Charter partners in the ceiling fan labeling program represent more than 80 percent of U.S. ceiling fan sales. The manufacturing partners include: Air Cool, Hunter Fan Co., Angelo Brothers Co., King of Fans, Casablanca Fans, The Modern Fan Co., Concord Fans, Minka Aire, CraftMade, Regency Ceiling Fans, Ellington/Litex, SMC Marketing Corp. and Emerson Electric. Retail partners include: The Home Depot and Lowe's Home Improvement Warehouse.

Ceiling fans help consumers cut their air conditioning bills, but some fans do the job more efficiently than others. EPA research has shown that the best ceiling fans are three to nine times more efficient at moving air than the least efficient models.

"We developed the Energy Star label to recognize superior performance. It will help consumers find the fans that provide maximum comfort and energy savings," said Andrew Fanara, EPA product development manager for Energy Star.

As a result of Energy Star, consumers, for the first time, will be able to compare the amount of air a fan moves with the power it uses. Energy Star labeled models will move air at least 15 to 20 percent more efficiently than a typical ceiling fan.

Many new models will offer the built-in convenience and efficiency of compact fluorescent lighting as well. This reduces the heat output and energy consumption for fan lighting by 60 to 80 percent, saving money and improving comfort.

Energy savings from Energy Star labeled ceiling fans will vary by region, depending on electricity rates and fan usage. Average savings will be \$10 to \$15 a fan per year, but consumers in the hottest climates will save significantly more. Some 16 million new fans are sold annually.

Additional information about Energy Star labeled ceiling fans is available at the Energy Star web site www.energystar.gov, by e-mail (lewis.katef@epa.gov), or by calling the Energy Star Hotline at 1-888-STAR-YES (1-888-782-7937).

###

EPA Cites Petco Petroleum for Clean
Water Act Violations; Proposes \$136,912
Fine

CONTACT:

(Media) Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050

(Technical) Karen Vendl, (312) 886-7194

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA132

CHICAGO (August 10, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 filed an administrative complaint against Petco Petroleum Corporation, Bergman Oil & Gas Corporation, and Jay Douglas Bergman, all of Hinsdale, Illinois, for violation of the Oil Pollution Act provisions of the Clean Water Act. EPA has proposed a \$136,912 fine.

In its complaint, EPA alleges the companies and Bergman, president of both companies, are jointly responsible for discharging about 175 to 195 barrels of crude oil into a tributary of Snow Creek, near Dix, Ill., on or about July 15 or 16 in 1999. Snow Creek flows into Rend Lake, which in turn flows into the Big Muddy River, which empties into the Mississippi River.

The release violated Clean Water Act Section 311 (b), which prohibits the discharge of oil in harmful quantities to navigable waters of the U.S., or adjoining shorelines.

Illinois Department of Natural Resources has rated Snow Creek as high-quality habitat for aquatic organisms.

The respondents operate a saltwater injection facility near Dix, Ill., where crude oil from nearby production wells is separated from saltwater and the remaining saltwater is disposed of by pumping into injection wells. EPA believes the release occurred when a separator pump failed to operate correctly and oil overflowed from the separator pit, ultimately spilling about 100 feet away into the Snow Creek tributary. The separator pit did not contain an automatic shut-off valve nor an alarm system to warn of pumping-system failures.

Under the Oil Pollution Act provisions of the Clean Water Act, EPA can assess penalties of up to \$137,500 for administrative actions. Under the law, the cited facility must answer the complaint or request a meeting with EPA to discuss the charges within 30 days.

#

Final Cleanup Set for National Auto
Wrecking Site; Site Tour Aug. 16, 4 P.M. to
6 P.M.

CONTACT:

(EPA) Bri Bill, (312) 353-6646

(WDNR) Dave Weitz (715) 839-3715

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA131

NOTE: Media briefing August 16, 3:00 p.m. (See below)

CHICAGO (August 7, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 announces the final phase of cleanup will begin the week of August 13-17 at the National Auto Wrecking site, in Onalaska, Wisc. Residents near the site, at 1001-1005 2nd Avenue (immediately north of the Nutbush City Limits Restaurant) may see construction equipment, increased traffic and workers in required protective clothing through late November.

A public tour along the fence line, led by representatives from EPA and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, will be held Thursday, Aug. 16, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

This is the second summer of activity at the 2.5-acre site, an abandoned auto salvage yard that operated from about 1952 to 1995. During the 2000 construction season, the estate of former site owner Charles Ablan funded a study to determine the scope of soil contamination. The Ablan estate also installed a chain-link fence to prevent public access and provided cost estimates to complete the cleanup.

In the interim, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) built a sand berm on the south end of the site to contain potentially contaminated runoff during the April 2001 flooding of the area.

Now EPA's Superfund will pay for the remaining work, which is expected to cost about \$700,000. A Chicago-based Superfund team will oversee the project, in consultation with WDNR. Excavation will focus on four areas containing PCB- and lead-contaminated soil. In addition, hazardous debris scattered around the property, including cracked auto battery casings, transformer insulators, and scrap wire, glass and plastic, will be consolidated in a cement mixture. Then the mixture will be

sent to an EPA-approved disposal facility.

Media Briefing

When: Thursday, Aug. 16, 3 p.m.

Where: Site entrance, 1001 - 1005 2nd Avenue, Onalaska, WI

Who: EPA and WDNR representatives.

Photo Op: Construction equipment, workers in protective clothing and hazardous debris will be visible from the fence line.

###

EPA Cites Dynachem for Clean Air Act

Violations

CONTACT:

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(Technical) Linda Hamsing, (312) 886-6810

(Legal) Kathleen Schnieders, (312) 353-8912

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA130

CHICAGO (AUGUST 1, 2001) - U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has filed an administrative complaint against Dynachem Inc. for alleged violations of federal hazardous air pollutant regulations at the company's chemical manufacturing plant, Maple Grove Road, Georgetown, Ill. EPA proposed an \$8,296 penalty.

The EPA complaint alleges that Dynachem violated the national emission standards for hazardous organic air pollutants from the synthetic organic chemical manufacturing industry by failing to comply with instrument calibration and leak

detection requirements. EPA discovered the alleged violations during a July 17-20, 2000, plant inspection.

Dynachem has 30 days from receipt of the complaint to file an answer and request a hearing. The company may request an informal conference with EPA at any time to discuss the allegations.

"Hazardous air pollutants are a serious threat to human health and the environment," said Cheryl Newton, acting director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "We will take all necessary steps to ensure that companies comply with the regulations."

About Dynachem Inc.

Dynachem owns and operates a chemical manufacturing process unit (acid plant) in Georgetown, Ill., that makes phenol sulfonic acid, toluene sulfonic acid, xylene sulfonic acid and benzene sulfonic acid. The acid plant uses phenol, toluene, xylene and benzene as reactants, all of which are classified by EPA as hazardous air pollutants.

###

EPA Reaches Agreement with Quanex's
Macsteel; Includes \$137,500 Penalty

CONTACT:

(Media) Phillipa Cannon, (312) 353-6218

(Legal) Jeffrey Trevino, (312) 886-6729

(Technical) Purita Angeles, (312) 353-5112

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA129

CHICAGO (August 10, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 recently signed a consent agreement and final order with Quanex Corporation's MacSteel division (Jackson, MI) for alleged violations of the Clean Water Act.

The company will pay a \$137,500 penalty.

In September 2000, EPA alleged that the company had violated its wastewater discharge permit between June 1995 and April 2000 by discharging excess amounts of zinc, suspended solids, oil and grease, and chlorine to a marsh that drains into Ackerson Lake and eventually the Grand River.

About Quanex's MacSteel

Quanex Corporation's MacSteel division produces hot and cold steel bars and employs 270 people.

###

EPA Co-Sponsors Brownfields 2001
Conference in Chicago Sept. 24-26;
Registration Deadline Approaches

CONTACT:

Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050
Ginny Narsete, (312) 886-4359
For Immediate Release
No. 01-OPA122

CHICAGO (August 2, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5, Illinois EPA, the International City/County Management Association and the Engineers' Society of Western Pennsylvania are among 22 organizations co-sponsoring "Brownfields 2001," a national conference to showcase research relating to brownfields policy, cleanup and redevelopment issues, Sept. 24-26, 2001, at Chicago's McCormick Place Convention Center.

The sixth annual conference is expected to draw more than 4,000 government officials, bankers, developers, planners, attorneys and community groups with a shared interest in the cleanup and redevelopment of abandoned or underutilized properties, commonly known as brownfields. About 300 exhibitors are expected. The conference schedule features about 50 technical sessions on four separate tracks. Sample topics include "State and Local Governments and Institutional Controls: Working Together to Ensure Protectiveness in Perpetuity," "Wind Power and Solar: Renewing Sites with Renewable Energy," "How to Make Your Banker

Comfortable . . . Lending on Environmentally Challenged Properties" and "Brownfields, Market Efficiencies and Metropolitan Sprawl."

Other Brownfields 2001 highlights: Plenary sessions featuring prominent elected officials, EPA Administrator Christine Todd Whitman (invited) and National Public Radio "Talk of the Nation" host Ray Suarez, and presentation of the Phoenix

Awards, which recognize excellence and innovation in brownfields redevelopment.

The conference web site at www.brownfields2001.org provides more information about the program, free advance registration, and special rates at certain airlines and downtown Chicago hotels. Pre-conference hotel rates expire Aug. 24, 2001, and

rooms after that time are not guaranteed.

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Note to Editors: The conference program will include guided tours of innovative brownfields sites in the Chicago area along with opportunities to meet key officials involved in these projects. Sponsored by non-EPA agencies and organizations,

details and logistics of these tours will be announced at a later date. For assistance in developing story ideas relevant to local publications or broadcast areas, please contact Mick Hans, EPA Region 5 press office, (312) 353-5050 or e-mail: hans.mick@epa.gov.

###

EPA, Ohio EPA Sign Brownfields Agreement Today; Ceremony at 10:30 A.M.

CONTACT:

(EPA) Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050

(Ohio EPA) Linda Oros, (614) 644-2160

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA128

CHICAGO (JULY 31, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 and Ohio EPA today will sign a Memorandum of Agreement outlining a new alternative approach for parties entering into the Ohio Voluntary Action Program (VAP) to receive assurance that EPA will not ask for additional cleanup at brownfields in Ohio.

Brownfields are properties where real or perceived environmental contamination has prevented reuse, redevelopment or both.

The signing ceremony will be held at 10:30 a.m. with EPA Deputy Regional Administrator David Ullrich and Ohio EPA Director Chris Jones, at the Smith Brothers Hardware site, 580 N. 4th St., Columbus. Smith Brothers has recently completed a \$2 million redevelopment effort under the program.

The Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) establishes a new second tier for Ohio EPA-reviewed brownfield cleanups called the MOA Track. The primary differences between the existing VAP and the MOA Track are that investigation and cleanup activities of MOA Track projects will be overseen directly by Ohio EPA personnel

and include opportunities for public review and comment on site documents as they are produced by the cleanup volunteer. There is no difference in the cleanup standards between the two tracks.

The MOA describes the process volunteers must use and the details of the agreement between U.S. EPA and Ohio EPA.

"This agreement is a very important milestone in getting more Ohio brownfield sites cleaned up and put back into productive use," said Jones. "We expect more developers and property owners to clean up sites knowing U.S. EPA is satisfied with the Ohio cleanup standards and MOA process."

"The MOA Track is a terrific example of state and federal agencies working together to ease bureaucratic obstacles to brownfields redevelopment," said Ullrich. "EPA is looking forward to seeing a much faster pace of successful projects in Ohio."

The Smith Brothers Hardware site was a warehouse facility from 1926 until it was abandoned in 1981, and then used again from 1985 to 1986 when it was abandoned once more. Later, the site was a target for vandals and was partially burned down. The property was purchased in 1997 by SBHI Inc. and was cleaned up and renovated. In August 2000, Ohio EPA certified the property to meet Ohio EPA cleanup standards and issued a covenant-not-to-sue under the original Voluntary Action Program.

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MEDIA BRIEFING

When: Tuesday, July 31, 10:30 a.m to 11:00 a.m.

Where: Former site of Smith Brothers Hardware, 580 North 4th Street, Columbus.

Who: EPA Deputy Regional Administrator David Ullrich, Ohio EPA Director Chris Jones, and invited officials and stakeholders.

Photo Op: Signing ceremony in front of completed brownfields cleanup.

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EPA: Sun Pipe Line Documents Available
at Romulus and Taylor Libraries

CONTACT:

(Media) Dave Novak, (312) 886-7478

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA127

CHICAGO (July 27, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 said today that documents about the proposed underground injection permit for Sun Pipe Line will be available early next week at libraries in Romulus and Taylor, Mich.

"At a meeting in Romulus earlier this week, EPA made a commitment that we would quickly make these documents available to the public and they should be in local libraries by Monday," said Dave Novak, EPA community involvement coordinator.

The documents will be at the Romulus Public Library, 11121 Wayne Road, and at the Taylor Community Library, 12303 Pardee.

The proposed permit will allow Sun Pipe Line to construct a deep well at Inkster Road and I-94 near Romulus to inject brine (saltwater) produced when creating caverns for the storage of natural gas liquids.

###

EPA Cites Hancock for Air Pollution

CONTACT:

(Media) William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

(Technical) Julie Monahan, (312) 886-0120

(Legal) Orelia Merchant, (312) 886-2241

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA126

CHICAGO (JULY 27, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has filed an administrative complaint against Hancock Manufacturing Co. Inc. for alleged violations of federal and federally enforceable state clean air regulations at the

company's casings manufacturing plant, Cleveland and Fifth Streets, Toronto, Ohio. EPA proposed a \$343,962 penalty.

The Hancock plant contains seven in line vapor degreasers to remove grease from metal parts. Six degreasers use trichloroethylene as a solvent, and one uses methylene chloride. EPA classifies both chemicals as hazardous air pollutants, and both are volatile organic compounds.

The EPA complaint alleges that, during an Ohio EPA inspection on June 21, 1999, Hancock failed to comply with the national emission standards for halogenated solvent cleaning by not ensuring that its idle degreasers were properly covered. In

addition, the complaint alleges Hancock failed to comply with requirements for recordkeeping, reporting and submission of records.

Hancock has 30 days from receipt of the complaint to file an answer and request a hearing. It may request an informal conference with EPA at any time to discuss the allegations.

"Hazardous air pollutants are a serious threat to human health and the environment," said Cheryl Newton, acting director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "We will take all necessary steps to ensure that companies comply with the regulations."

Breathing small amounts of trichloroethylene for short periods may cause headaches, lung irritation, dizziness, poor coordination and difficulty in concentrating. Breathing it for long periods may cause nerve, lung, kidney and liver damage. EPA considers trichloroethylene an intermediate between a probable and a possible cancer-causing agent in humans. Breathing high levels of methylene chloride can cause dizziness, nausea, and a tingling or numbness in fingers and

toes. EPA has determined that methylene chloride is a probable cancer-causing agent in humans.

Volatile organic compounds combine in the atmosphere with other chemicals on warm, sunny days to form ground level ozone, which can cause breathing problems, reduced lung function, eye irritation, stuffy nose and reduced resistance to colds and other infections. Ozone can aggravate asthma and may speed up aging of lung tissue. Children, the elderly and people with chronic respiratory diseases are the most sensitive.

###

EPA Cites Pole Zero for Air Pollution

CONTACT:

(Media) William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

(Technical) Julie Monahan, (312) 886-0120

(Legal) Orelia Merchant, (312) 886-2241

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA125

CHICAGO (JULY 27, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has filed an administrative complaint against Pole Zero Corp. for alleged clean air violations at the company's radio frequency filter plant, 5530 Union Centre Drive, West Chester, Ohio. EPA proposed a \$159,043 penalty.

Pole Zero operates a batch vapor cleaning degreaser at the plant that uses trichloroethylene, a hazardous air pollutant, as a solvent. The company is required to meet the national emission standards for hazardous air pollutants for halogenated solvent cleaning.

The EPA complaint alleges that Pole Zero installed the degreaser without first getting a state installation permit and without meeting the control requirements for the degreaser. An Ohio EPA inspection on June 20, 2000, found that the refrigeration device designed to cool the solvent in Pole Zero's degreaser failed to achieve the required temperature. In addition, the company failed to comply with reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

Pole Zero has 30 days from receipt of the complaint to file an answer and request a hearing. It may request an informal conference with EPA at any time to discuss the allegations.

"Hazardous air pollutants are a serious threat to human health and the environment," said Cheryl Newton, acting director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "We will take all necessary steps to ensure that companies comply with the regulations."

Breathing small amounts of trichloroethylene for short periods may cause headaches, lung irritation, dizziness, poor coordination and difficulty in concentrating. Breathing it for long periods may cause nerve, lung, kidney and liver damage. EPA considers trichloroethylene an intermediate between a probable and a possible cancer causing agent in humans.

###

EPA Reaches Agreement with Segerdahl

CONTACT:

(Media) William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

(Technical) Lynne Suesse, (312) 886-0250

(Legal) Debra Klassman, (312) 886-6742

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA124

CHICAGO (JULY 27, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has reached an agreement with Segerdahl Corp. on alleged violations of federally enforceable state clean air regulations at the company's printing and coating plant, 1351 S. Wheeling Rd., Wheeling, Ill. EPA assessed a \$15,000 penalty.

The agreement resolves an EPA administrative complaint filed at the same time alleging that Segerdahl failed to do timely capture efficiency tests on its coating line to show it had cut its overall volatile organic compound (VOC) emissions by 81

percent, as required by state regulations.

"EPA's mission is to protect public health and the environment," said Cheryl Newton, acting director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "We will take whatever steps are necessary to ensure compliance with clean air regulations." VOCs combine in the air with other chemicals on warm, sunny days to form ground level ozone or smog. Smog, in turn, can cause breathing problems, reduced lung function, eye irritation, stuffy nose and reduced resistance to colds and other infections. It can also aggravate asthma and speed up the aging of lung tissue.

Wheeling is located in the Chicago metropolitan area, which does not meet the health based standard for ground level ozone.

#

EPA, Ohio EPA Sign New Brownfields
Agreement July 31, 10:30 A.M.

CONTACT:

(Media) Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050

(Ohio EPA) Linda Oros, (614) 644-2160

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA123

CHICAGO (July 27, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 and Ohio EPA will sign a new Memorandum of Agreement at a ceremony July 31, 10:30 a.m., in Columbus. The agreement outlines an alternative approach for parties entering into the Ohio Voluntary Action Program to receive assurance that EPA will not ask for additional cleanup at brownfields.

Top officials from EPA and Ohio EPA will attend the ceremony at the former site of Smith Brothers Hardware, which has recently completed a \$2 million redevelopment effort under the program.

MEDIA BRIEFING

When: Tuesday, July 31, 10:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

When: Former site of Smith Brothers Hardware, 580 N. 4th St., Columbus.

Who: EPA Deputy Regional Administrator David Ullrich, Ohio EPA Director Chris Jones, and invited officials and guests.

Photo Op: Signing ceremony in front of completed brownfields cleanup.

###

EPA Cites Citgo for Air Pollution

CONTACT:

(Media) William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

(Technical) Loren Denton, (312) 886-6814

(Legal) Andre Daugavietis, (312) 886-6663

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA121

CHICAGO (JULY 26, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has cited CITGO Petroleum Corp. for alleged violations of federal clean air regulations at the company's petroleum refinery, 135th Street and New Avenue, Lemont, Ill.

The EPA citation alleges CITGO made major modifications to the refinery's sulfur recovery plant that resulted in significant increases in sulfur dioxide emissions without doing required performance testing and without implementing a continuous monitoring system for all emission points. In addition, CITGO failed to submit excess emissions reports and failed to show compliance with emission limitations.

This is a preliminary finding of violations. To resolve the violations, EPA may issue a compliance order, assess an administrative penalty or bring suit against the company. The company has 30 days from receipt of the notice to request a meeting with EPA to discuss the allegations and how to resolve them.

"EPA's mission is to protect public health and the environment," said Cheryl Newton, acting director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "We will take whatever steps are needed to ensure compliance with the Clean Air Act."

Exposure to sulfur dioxide can impair breathing, aggravate existing respiratory diseases like bronchitis and reduce the ability of the lungs to clear foreign particles. In addition, sulfur dioxide causes acid rain.

#

EPA: Indiana's Ozone Air Quality Plan
Means Healthier Air for Northwest Indiana
Residents

CONTACT:

(EPA Media) William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

(EPA Technical) Ryan Bahr, (312) 353-4366

(IDEM Media) Timothy Coulom, (317) 232-8500

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA120

CHICAGO (JULY 25, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 is proposing to approve an Indiana plan to attain the health based 1 hour outdoor ozone air quality standard in Northwest Indiana that meets all Clean Air Act requirements.

"The Indiana plan is well developed and will improve air quality for the residents of Northwest Indiana," said Acting Regional Administrator David A. Ullrich.

"When combined with pollution control plans for Chicago and Milwaukee, it will help the Chicago Northwest Indiana Milwaukee area achieve the health based 1 hour ozone air quality standard by 2007."

"As we continue to work with our neighbors in Illinois and Wisconsin to address the issue of ozone," said Lori F. Kaplan, commissioner of the Indiana Department of Environmental Management, "this plan will ensure that the residents of Northwest Indiana and the other affected areas will breathe cleaner, healthier air by 2007."

The Chicago Northwest Indiana Milwaukee area is a severe ozone nonattainment area. It is required to meet the air quality standard by 2007. EPA is also proposing to approve similar Illinois and Wisconsin plans. All three states, members of the Lake Michigan Air Directors Consortium, worked together to develop the areawide plan.

Many of the controls in the Indiana plan, such as the vehicle inspection and maintenance program, cleaner gasoline, transportation control measures, retail gasoline refueling and more stringent control technology on industrial sources, have been implemented for several years. These controls have resulted in continuous improvement in air quality.

The plan EPA is proposing to approve recognizes the contribution from these already implemented measures, as well as contributions from new controls. The most significant new control is the reduction of oxides of nitrogen from electric generating units like power plants, industrial boilers and cement kilns.

Nitrogen oxide combines in the atmosphere with other chemicals on warm, sunny days to form ground-level ozone, which can cause breathing problems, reduced lung functions, eye irritation, stuffy nose and reduced resistance to colds and other infections. Ozone can aggravate asthma and may speed up aging of lung tissue. Children, the elderly and people with chronic respiratory diseases are the most sensitive.

###

Media Briefing at St. Regis Paper Site
Cancelled; May Be Rescheduled for July
25, 9 A.M.

CONTACT:

(Media) Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA119

CHICAGO (July 24, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5
has cancelled the media briefing this afternoon at the St. Regis Paper Superfund
site in Cass Lake, Minn., due to poor weather and airport traffic in Chicago
(where EPA's staff is based).

Interested local media may request a rescheduled briefing Wednesday, July 25,
at 9 a.m, by calling community involvement coordinator Don de Blasio at the
Hotel Cass Lake, (800) 442-3910.

The public meeting to discuss EPA's new environmental sampling at the site,
which is on the Leech Lake Indian Reservation, will be held as scheduled,
Wednesday, July 25, 6 p.m. in the Paradise Room of the Palace Casino, 6280
Upper Cass Road, N.W., Cass Lake.

#

EPA Fines Athens \$111,937 for Hazardous
Waste Violations

CONTACT:

(Media) Karen Thompson, (312) 353-8547

(Legal) Jacqueline Kline, (312) 886-7167

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA118

CHICAGO (July 23, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5
has issued an order fining the City of Athens, Ohio, \$111,937 for violations of the
federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA).

EPA found that over a period of years Athens violated RCRA hazardous waste
treatment, storage and disposal regulations at its city garage. The city was
ordered to submit to EPA and the Ohio EPA closure and post-closure plans for
its two hazardous waste management units and institute a ground-water
monitoring program.

Under RCRA, passed by Congress in 1976, EPA regulates hazardous wastes
from their production to their final disposal.

#

EPA Set for New Sampling at St. Regis

Paper Site; Meeting July 25

CONTACT:

(Media) Don de Blasio, (312) 886-4360

(Technical) Linda Kern, (312) 886-7341

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA117

CHICAGO (July 20, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 will soon begin new environmental sampling at the St. Regis Paper Superfund site in Cass Lake, Minn., on the Leech Lake Indian Reservation.

A public meeting to discuss the project will be held Wednesday, July 25, 6 p.m., in the Paradise Room of the Palace Casino, 6280 Upper Cass Frontage Road, N. W., Cass Lake. The public meeting will be followed by an informal availability session

with EPA officials, lasting until about 8 p.m. A fact sheet about the project will be available at the meeting.

The purpose of the sampling is to collect additional information about the site and to evaluate whether the implemented remedy remains protective of human health and the environment.

The project will take about a month and includes sampling of soil, sediment, surface water, ground water and residential wells. Fish samples from Cass Lake and Pike Bay also will be analyzed. During the sampling period, residents may see

workers wearing required protective clothing in and around Cass Lake.

Once the sampling results are analyzed, EPA will consult with the Leech Lake Division of Resource Management and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) and then determine if additional work is needed at the site.

Detailed site information is available at two Cass Lake locations: the Cass Lake Community Library, 223 Cedar, and the Leech Lake Division of Resource Management, 15756 State 371, N.W. A copy of the fact sheet is available from EPA community involvement coordinator Don de Blasio, (800) 621-8431, Ext. 64360, or e-mail: deblasio.don@epa.gov.

About the Site

The St. Regis Paper Corp. operated a wood treatment facility at the site from 1957 to 1985, resulting in ground water and soil contamination. A successor company, Champion International, assumed responsibility for the site in 1985. In 1987 under

MPCA supervision, Champion extended the Cass Lake community water system to potentially affected residents, and installed ground water extraction wells at both the site and a disposal pit at the city dump, which received sludge from the site.

Currently, the contaminated ground water is extracted, treated on-site, and then discharged into a channel between Pike Bay and Cass Lake. A storage vault containing about 40,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil and sludge is also maintained at the site. Champion International was acquired by International Paper in 2000.

###

MEDIA BRIEFING AND PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

When: Tuesday, July 24, 2 p.m.

Where: St. Regis Paper Superfund site (meet EPA staff at the corner of 2nd Street, South, and Central Avenue, Cass Lake)

Who: EPA, possibly other agencies.

What: Site tour and discussion of upcoming sampling project.

Photo Op: Tour of environmental sampling sites.

###

EPA Holds Public Hearing on Proposed
Permit for Sun Pipe Line; Comment Period
Extended to Aug. 10

CONTACT:

(Media) Phillipa Cannon, (312) 353-6218

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA116

CHICAGO (July 19, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 will hold a public meeting and hearing Tuesday, July 24, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Crowne Plaza Detroit, 8000 Merriman, Romulus, Mich., on a proposed Class 1 nonhazardous injection well permit for Sun Pipe Line Company.

The meeting will begin with an informal question-and-answer session from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. It will be followed by a formal public hearing from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., where EPA representatives will listen to comments, but not answer questions, about the

proposed permit that will allow Sun Pipe Line to construct a deep well at Inkster Road and I-94 near Romulus to dispose of brine (saltwater). The company produces brine when mining salt to create caverns for the storage of natural gas liquids.

In addition, EPA has extended the comment period on the proposed permit until Aug. 10, 2001. EPA will review and respond in writing to comments received at the hearing and during the comment period.

Underground injection control permits are regulated by the Safe Drinking Water Act and are designed to protect underground sources of drinking water from contamination.

Written comments should be sent to:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Attention: Lisa Perenchio

77 W. Jackson Blvd. (WU-16J)

Chicago, IL 60604-3590

The proposed permit may be reviewed at the Romulus Public Library, 11121 Wayne Road, and at the Henry Ford Centennial Library, 16301 Michigan Ave., Dearborn, Mich.

About Sun Pipe Line Company

Sun Pipe Line, an oil and gas company, is headquartered in Philadelphia. In the Romulus area, it uses eight caverns developed between 1950 and 1973 to store natural gas liquids. Currently, the volume of the caverns is about 41 million gallons. The company wants to expand some caverns and create new ones to increase storage capacity to about 42 million gallons.

About EPA

Founded in 1970, EPA is responsible for protecting the environment and human health. The Agency enforces air, water and land laws and ensures that designated health standards are met.

#

EPA Cites Ritchie Engineering for Clean-air Violations

CONTACT:

(Media) William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

(Technical) Rae Trine, (312) 353-9228

(Legal) Ivan Lieben, (312) 886-2242

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA115

CHICAGO (JULY 18, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has cited Ritchie Engineering Co. Inc., 10950 Hampshire Ave. S., Bloomington, Minn., for alleged violations of federal regulations on refrigerant recycling at the company's refrigerant recovery and recycling equipment manufacturing plant, 1120 Fuller Drive, Garrett, Ind.

The equipment is designed to recover and recycle hydrochlorofluorocarbon and chlorofluorocarbon refrigerants that deplete ozone levels in the upper atmosphere, if they are allowed to escape.

The EPA citation alleges Ritchie Engineering failed to have six of its refrigerant recovery and recycling equipment models certified by an approved equipment testing organization as required by federal regulations. The models are R50a, R53a, R62a, R70a, R72a and R73a. In addition, the citation alleges that the company failed to properly label its models R30a, R50, R53a, R62a, R72a and R73a. EPA learned of the violations from a company response to an EPA request for information.

This is a preliminary finding of violations. To resolve the violations, EPA may issue a compliance order, assess an administrative penalty or bring suit against the company. The company has 20 days from receipt of the notice to hold a meeting with EPA to discuss the allegations and how to resolve them.

"EPA's mission is to protect public health and the environment," said Cheryl Newton, acting director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "We will take whatever steps are needed to ensure compliance with the Clean Air Act."

Chlorofluorocarbon refrigerants deplete the stratospheric or "good" ozone layer, allowing dangerous amounts of cancer-causing ultraviolet rays from the sun to strike the earth. Production of some of these chemicals was stopped in 1995, and

federal law strictly controls their use and handling.

###

EPA Cites Ashta Chemicals for Air
Pollution and Pesticide Violations

CONTACT:

(Media) William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

(Technical-CAA) Kevin Vuilleumier, (312) 886-6188

(Technical-FIFRA) Lourdes Andujar, (312) 353-8402

(Legal) Stuart Hersh, (312) 886-6235

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA114

CHICAGO (JULY 18, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has filed an administrative complaint against Ashta Chemicals Inc. for alleged violations of federal and federally enforceable state clean-air regulations and federal pesticide

regulations at the company's chemical plant, 3509 Middle Rd., Ashtabula, Ohio. EPA proposed a \$247,500 penalty for clean-air violations and a \$33,000 penalty for pesticide violations.

The EPA complaint alleges that Ashta violated clean-air regulations by failing to:

- comply with emission limits on particulates (smoke, ash, dust),
- properly operate and maintain an emission-control system,
- meet conditions of an installation permit,
- maintain records required by national emission standards for mercury, and
- meet requirements to have reasonably available air-pollution control technology.

The complaint alleges that Ashta violated federal pesticide regulations by:

- producing a pesticide in an unregistered establishment,
- keeping incomplete records,
- distributing false, misleading and misbranded pesticide products, and
- failing to submit annual pesticide reports for 1996, 1997 and 1998.

Ashta has 30 days from receipt of the complaint to file an answer and request a hearing. It may request an informal conference with EPA at any time to discuss the allegations.

"EPA's mission is to protect human health and the environment," said Cheryl Newton, acting director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "We will take whatever steps are necessary to ensure compliance with clean-air regulations."

Inhaling high concentrations of particulates can affect children, the elderly, and people with heart and lung diseases the most.

Mercury can cause significant health problems if breathed or eaten. Chronic exposure can cause permanent central nervous system damage, fatigue and weight loss.

###

Cleanup Complete at H.O.D. Landfill;

Meeting July 10

CONTACT:

(Media) Mike Joyce, (312) 353-5546

(Technical) Ron Murawski, (312) 886-2940

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA103

CHICAGO (July 2, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 announces that cleanup construction work is now complete at the H.O.D.

Landfill Superfund site in Antioch, Ill.

A public availability session to discuss the estimated \$10 million project will be held Tuesday, July 10, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., at the Antioch Village Hall, 874 Main St.

Representatives from EPA, Illinois EPA and the potentially responsible parties that funded the cleanup will be available to discuss the project and future site monitoring efforts.

EPA and Illinois EPA officials supervised the cleanup, which began in August 2000. The project involved excavation and on-site consolidation of about 25,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil from an area immediately northwest of the site. It also included significant upgrades to the existing leachate collection and landfill gas extraction systems, as well as improvements to the existing landfill waste-cap cover for the site.

With the cleanup construction now complete, the site enters a planned 30-year period of operation and maintenance activities. This work, which will be done by the potentially responsible parties with oversight by EPA and Illinois EPA, includes: waste-cap maintenance, scheduled site inspections, and continual monitoring of groundwater, surface water, leachate and landfill gas to ensure that contaminant levels continue to meet EPA cleanup standards. Costs associated with the future monitoring activities are included in the \$10 million cleanup total.

About the Site

The H.O.D. Landfill is a 121-acre property located northeast of Route 173 and McMillen Road. A 51-acre portion of the site was used for municipal and industrial waste disposal from the early 1960s through the early 1980s.

Environmental concerns at the Superfund site included contamination from solvents, heavy metals, and cutting and hydraulic fluids. The site was placed on the Superfund National Priorities List in 1990.

###

Media Advisory: Briefing on Atofina
Incident Air Monitoring; 2 P.m, EPA
Grosse Ile Office

CONTACT:

Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA113

CHICAGO (July 16, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 and the U.S. Coast Guard will hold a media briefing today at 2 p.m. at EPA's Grosse Ile office to update Detroit area reporters on air monitoring following the Atofina facility incident on Saturday. A representative from the Wayne County Department of Public Health will also be available to discuss health issues. An explosion at the Atofina facility on Saturday resulted in evacuations of portions of Grosse Ile, Riverview and Trenton.

EPA air monitoring now indicates safe levels of chlorine, methyl mercaptan and other chemicals released by the Atofina facility.

Directions: EPA's Large Lakes Research Center, 9311 Groh Rd., is located south of Grosse Ile Parkway, at the intersection of Meridian and Groh.

###

EPA Cites DMI Automotive for Air

Pollution

CONTACT:

(Media) William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

(Technical) Joseph Cardile, (312) 353-2151

(Legal) Janet Carlson, (312) 886-6059

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA112

CHICAGO (JULY 16, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has filed an administrative complaint against DMI Automotive Inc. for alleged violations of federal regulations on chromium, a hazardous air pollutant, at the company's electroplating facility, 1200 Durant Drive, Howell, Mich. EPA proposed an \$87,000 penalty. The EPA complaint alleges that DMI Automotive failed to do timely performance testing, to timely submit an operation and maintenance plan, and to maintain records. DMI Automotive has until July 30 to file an answer to the complaint and request a hearing. It may request an informal conference with EPA at any time to discuss the allegations.

"EPA will take all necessary steps to ensure compliance with hazardous air pollutant regulations," said Cheryl Newton, acting director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "Hazardous air pollutants are a serious threat to human health and the environment."

Hexavalent chromium, a highly hazardous cancer causing substance, is found in chromic acid mist released into the air as part of the electroplating process.

Chromic acid is also a respiratory irritant, whose short term effects include coughing and wheezing.

Noncancerous long term effects include bronchitis, as well as ulcerations and perforations of the nasal septum.

#

EPA Settles with Pepsi-Cola Bottlers
\$23,435 Fine and Environmental Projects

CONTACT:

Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050

Ruth McNamara, (312) 353-3193

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA111

CHICAGO (July 12, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 settled an administrative complaint with Pepsi-Cola General Bottlers in Munster, Ind., for alleged violation of federal laws on the reporting of a hazardous chemical release. The company will pay a civil penalty of \$23,435 and pay for environmental projects valued at \$145,150.

EPA's September 1999 complaint alleged that, on Nov. 16, 1997, the Pepsi facility, 9300 Calumet Ave. in Munster, failed to promptly report the release of about 3,150 lbs. of anhydrous ammonia from a pressurized refrigeration system. Though no injuries were reported, the facility was evacuated, and the release migrated beyond the Pepsi property to a nearby hospital.

All releases above 100 pounds must be reported promptly to the National Response Center (NRC), and to the state and local emergency planning committees. The facility eventually notified the NRC and the Lake County Emergency Planning Committee more than 14 hours after the incident. In addition, a written follow-up report was also filed late.

The settlement includes a Supplemental Environmental Project, valued at \$145,150, in which the facility will install upgraded ammonia monitoring equipment, and a new pumped system for energy-efficient refrigeration.

About Anhydrous Ammonia

Anhydrous ammonia may be fatal if inhaled for prolonged periods of time. It causes burns to the skin and may cause irritation to the eyes, nose and throat.

###

EPA Reaches Agreement with National
Maintenance and Repair

CONTACT:

(Media) William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

(Technical) Sarah Graham, (312) 886-6797

(Legal) Christine Liszewski, (312) 886-4670

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA110

CHICAGO (July 12, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has reached an agreement with National Maintenance and Repair Inc. on alleged violations of federally enforceable state clean air regulations at the company's barge and towboat cleaning and repair facility, Foot of Hawthorne Street, Hartford, Ill. EPA assessed a \$39,364 penalty.

The agreement resolves an EPA administrative complaint filed in September 2000 alleging National failed to collect and record the information required by state regulations regarding the coatings it used and that the company's degreasers were left open during a joint inspection with Illinois EPA in October 1998.

"EPA's mission is to protect public health and the environment," said Cheryl Newton, acting director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "We will take whatever steps are necessary to ensure compliance with clean air regulations." Coatings are a source of volatile organic compounds, which combine in the air with other chemicals on warm, sunny days to form ground level ozone (smog). Smog, in turn, can cause breathing problems, reduced lung function, eye irritation, stuffy nose, and reduced resistance to colds and other infections. It can also aggravate asthma and speed up the aging of lung tissue. Hartford is in Madison County, which is part of the Metro East Area of Metropolitan St. Louis. This area does not meet the health based standard for ground level ozone.

###

State of Wisconsin to Take over Refuse
Hideaway Landfill Cleanup

CONTACT:

(Media) Susan Pastor, (312) 353-1325

(Technical) John Fagiolo, (312) 886-0800

(Legal) Jacqueline Kline, (312) 886-7167

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA109

CHICAGO (July 11, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 lodged a consent decree in which the state of Wisconsin assumes responsibility for the ongoing cleanup of the Refuse Hideaway Landfill Superfund site, in Middleton.

Under the agreement, lodged July 10 in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Wisconsin, the state will continue to operate and maintain the cleanup systems in place at the landfill and monitor ground-water at and around the site. In addition to resources provided by Wisconsin, other potentially responsible parties (a complete list is available from the contacts listed above or from Mick Hans: 312-353-5050) are contributing funds, with the understanding that all future work at the site will be done by the state. The total cleanup cost, including past and estimated future costs, is about \$6.5 million.

The final cleanup plan, approved by EPA in June 1995 and revised in September 1998, called for continued operation and maintenance of the cleanup systems installed by the state in late 1989, and monitoring of ground-water until contaminants decrease to concentrations at or below the state's cleanup standards.

U.S. Department of Justice will hold a 30-day comment period as soon as formal notice of the consent decree is published in the Federal Register. EPA will EPA News Release 01-OPA109: State of Wisconsin to Take over Refuse Hideaway Landfill Cleanup consider all comments received. Then, if EPA still believes the settlement is fair and reasonable, it will ask the court to formally enter the settlement.

About the Site

The Refuse Hideaway site, on U.S. 14 about two miles west of Middleton, was a residential and commercial landfill from 1974 to 1988. Leachate from the landfill drained through soil at the site, resulting in extensive ground-water contamination, as well as contamination of several private wells near the site.

###

Final Cleanup Begins at Granville Solvents Site

CONTACT:

(Media) Rafael P. Gonzalez, (312) 886-0269

(Technical) Kevin Adler, (312) 886-7078

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA108

CHICAGO (July 12, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 announces that the final phase of cleanup begins this week at the Granville Solvents site, in Granville, Ohio. Residents near the site, 300 Palmer Lane, may see construction vehicles and workers in required protective equipment through September, with periodic site visits after that.

The third and final phase of the cleanup primarily targets soil contamination. It will also enhance the effectiveness of the in-place ground water cleanup system installed during the first phase of work in 1994.

The project, supervised by a Chicago-based Superfund team and paid for by a group of potentially responsible parties, will consist of razing two small buildings, followed by installation of a combined soil-vapor extraction and air-sparging system. (Soil-vapor extraction removes chemical contamination from the ground above the water table. Air sparging bubbles air into the ground water contaminant plume to strip chemicals from the water for capture by the soil-vapor system.)

In addition, 26 new wells will be drilled at the site as part of the final cleanup system. The soil-vapor extraction will operate for about a year to complete the soil cleanup goals. The ground water cleanup, enhanced by air sparging, will take about five years to reach EPA's cleanup goals.

The ground water cleanup system has processed about 770 million gallons of water since it became operational in December 1994.

In 1997, a new drinking water well for the village was installed during the second phase of the cleanup.

Site documents are available for review at the Granville Public Library, 217 E. Broadway. For more information, contact community involvement coordinator Rafael P. Gonzalez, (800) 621-8431, Ext. 60269, or e-mail: gonzalez.

rafaelp@epa.gov.

About the Site

The 1.5-acre site is a former solvents blending and recycling facility that closed in 1986. It is about 700 feet west of the Village of Granville's drinking water well field.

###

EPA Seeks Public Comment on Reilly
Hazardous Waste Permit; Public Hearing
July 18

CONTACT:

Jae Lee, (312) 886-3781

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA107

CHICAGO (July 10, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 will hold a public hearing on a request for a hazardous waste management permit by Reilly Industries Inc. at 7 p.m., Wednesday, July 18, at the Marion County Public Library, 40 E. St. Claire St., Indianapolis, Ind.

If approved, the permit will be issued under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) and would apply to Reilly's three boilers used to burn hazardous waste at the site. As part of its manufacturing process, Reilly produces hazardous waste that is burned on-site by three boilers. Heat is recovered in the boilers to generate steam to power the facility's manufacturing processes.

EPA will accept public comments on the draft permit until August 3. To review the documents, visit the Marion County Public Library, or contact Jae Lee at EPA Region 5, 77 W. Jackson Blvd. (DW-8J), Chicago, IL 60604, (800) 621-8431 Ext. 63781.

About Reilly Industries

Reilly Industries Inc. owns and operates a chemical manufacturing facility at 1500 S. Tibbs Ave., Indianapolis, Ind.

###

Cleanup Begins at Memorial Drive Dump

Site; Meeting July 17

CONTACT:

Zenny Sadlon, (312) 886-6682

Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050

Muncie Mayor Dan Canan, (765) 747-4845

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA106

CHICAGO (July 12, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5

begins cleanup next week of the Memorial Drive Dump site in Muncie, Ind.

Residents near the 10-acre site, which runs south about 900 feet along the White River between Memorial Drive and 15th Street, can expect to see construction equipment, increased vehicle traffic and workers in required protective clothing at the site through late October.

A public meeting session to discuss the cleanup and related issues will be held July 17, 7 p.m., at Mansfield Park Lodge, 2801 S. Eaton Ave. in Muncie.

Representatives from EPA, the Indiana Department of Health and Muncie Mayor Dan Canan will make brief presentations.

The site contains thousands of scrap lead-battery casings and an undetermined quantity of lead-contaminated soil, scattered randomly in a heavily-wooded area.

EPA believes the casings may have been dumped at the site sometime between the 1940s and 1960s. The site lies within a potential flood zone of the White River and is about three-quarters of a mile upstream from a public water intake.

The estimated \$1.2 million cleanup aims to eliminate the potential for hazardous lead to migrate from the site into the City of Muncie's water supply. A Chicago-based EPA Superfund emergency response team will supervise the work, which will include installation of about 600 feet of steel sheet piling along the shoreline, to prevent further migration of soil runoff into the river. The shore-facing side of the piling will be reinforced by a flexible mat of linked concrete blocks to prevent erosion.

EPA's Superfund program will initially pay for the cleanup, while efforts to identify parties responsible for dumping the hazardous material will continue on a separate track.

Residents with questions about the Memorial Drive Dump site cleanup may call EPA community involvement coordinator Zenny Sadlon, (800) 621-8431, Ext. 66682, or e-mail: sadlon.zenny@epa.gov.

###

NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS: EPA Will
Hold Public Meeting in Cincinnati July 10

CONTACT:

(Media) William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

(Technical) Stephen H. Rothblatt, (312) 886-6555

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA105

NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS: EPA WILL HOLD PUBLIC MEETING IN
CINCINNATI JULY 10

CHICAGO (JULY 6, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will hold a public meeting in Cincinnati July 10 to take public comments on a background paper on a 90 day review of its New Source Review (NSR) program. The meeting will be held at the Hyatt Regency, 151 W. Fifth St., in Cincinnati from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. with an additional evening session from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. The meeting focuses on the NSR background document and data about impacts on new utility and refinery capacity, energy efficiency and environmental protection.

New Source Review is a Clean Air Act program that requires an air pollution source to install the best pollution control equipment available when it builds a new facility or when it makes a major modification that increases emissions from an existing facility. The NSR was designed to ensure that new and modified sources do not impede progress toward cleaner air.

In its May 2001 report, the energy task force headed by Vice President Cheney recommended that EPA, in consultation with other federal agencies, review NSR regulations to determine the impact of those regulations on investment in new utility and refinery generation capacity, energy efficiency and environmental protection. EPA's final report, due to the President on August 17, is expected to include recommendations on how to improve the NSR process.

The background paper and instructions for submitting comments are available at www.epa.gov/air/nsr-review. For more information about this meeting, or to present oral testimony at the meeting, please contact Lorence Pope at (919) 541-0682. In addition to the meeting in Cincinnati, public meetings are scheduled for July 12 in Sacramento, Calif., July 17 in Boston, Mass., and July 20 in Baton Rouge, La.

###

EPA Cites S.H. Bell for Clean-Air

Violations

CONTACT:

(Media) William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

(Technical) Margaret Sieffert, (312) 353-1151

(Legal) John Matson, (312) 886-2243

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA104

CHICAGO (JULY 5, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has cited S.H. Bell Co. for alleged violations of federal and state clean-air regulations at two company terminals, one at 2219 Michigan Ave. and another at 1 Saint George St., in East Liverpool, Ohio.

The EPA citation alleges S.H. Bell violated state regulations by installing air pollutant sources without first obtaining a permit to install, by failing to comply with permit to install requirements, and by operating air pollutant sources without an operating permit.

According to the Agency, S.H. Bell violated federal regulations by operating a major air pollutant source without applying for a federally approved operating permit for major sources, by failing to notify the state of construction and start up of affected units at the terminals, and by failing to do initial performance tests on these units.

This is a preliminary finding of violations. To resolve the violations, EPA may issue a compliance order, assess an administrative penalty or bring suit against the company. The company has 30 days from receipt of the notice to request a meeting with EPA to discuss the allegations and how to resolve them.

"EPA's mission is to protect public health and the environment," said Cheryl Newton, acting director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "We will take whatever steps are needed to ensure compliance with the Clean Air Act."

###

Whitman Appoints Tom Skinner EPA

Regional Administrator

CONTACT:

Phillippa Cannon, (312) 353-6218

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA102

CHICAGO (June 28, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Administrator Christie Whitman appointed Tom Skinner, 39, administrator for EPA Region 5. As regional administrator, he will manage environmental programs in six Great Lakes states: Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin. He also will manage EPA's Great Lakes National Program.

"EPA is fortunate to have the leadership of such an experienced environmental professional. He brings a wealth of knowledge about Agency programs and relationships with the states, which will be critical in developing more progressive approaches to protecting the environment and public health," said EPA Administrator Christie Whitman.

"I am grateful to President Bush and Administrator Whitman for the opportunity to work with the six states of Region 5," said Skinner. "I can bring a state perspective to U.S. EPA that should benefit the region."

Skinner is the first former state environmental commissioner to serve as Region 5 administrator. Since January 1999, he has directed the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and served in the cabinet of Governor George Ryan. Prior to that, Skinner was a partner in the environmental law department of the Winston and Strawn law firm in Chicago for eight years. He was a special assistant to Illinois Governor James Thompson from 1988 until 1991.

An alumnus of Lawrence University and the Northwestern University School of Law, Skinner is a member of the Executive Committee of the Environmental Council of the States and chair of its Air Committee. He is the elected Village President of Lake Bluff, Ill.

###

EPA: Illinois' Ozone Air Quality Plan
Means Healthier Air for Millions in Chicago
Area

CONTACT:

(Media) William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254 (Technical) Edward Doty, (312)
886-6057

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA101

CHICAGO (JUNE 28, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 is proposing to approve an Illinois plan to attain the health-based 1-hour outdoor ozone air quality standard in the Chicago area that meets all Clean Air Act requirements.

"The Illinois plan is well-developed and will improve air quality for millions of Chicago-area residents," said Acting Regional Administrator David A. Ullrich.

"When combined with pollution control plans for Northwest Indiana and Milwaukee, it will help the Chicago-Northwest Indiana-Milwaukee area achieve the health-based 1-hour ozone air quality standard by 2007."

The Chicago-Northwest Indiana-Milwaukee area is a severe ozone nonattainment area. It is required to meet the air quality standard by 2007. EPA is also proposing to approve similar Indiana and Wisconsin plans. All three states, members of the Lake Michigan Air Directors Consortium, worked together to develop the areawide plan.

Many of the controls in the Illinois plan, such as the vehicle inspection and maintenance program, cleaner gasoline, transportation control measures, retail gasoline refueling and more stringent control technology on industrial sources, have been implemented for several years. These controls have resulted in continuous improvement in air quality.

The plan EPA is proposing to approve recognizes the contribution from these already implemented measures, as well as contributions from new controls. The most significant new control is the reduction of oxides of nitrogen from electric generating units like power plants, industrial boilers and cement kilns.

Nitrogen oxide combines in the atmosphere with other chemicals on warm, sunny days to form ground-level ozone, which can cause breathing problems, reduced lung functions, eye irritation, stuffy nose and reduced resistance to colds and other infections. Ozone can aggravate asthma and may speed up aging of lung tissue. Children, the elderly and people with chronic respiratory diseases are the most sensitive.

###

EPA Settles with Terra Industries --

\$115,000 Fine

CONTACT:

(Media) Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050

(Technical) Ruth McNamara, (312) 363-3193

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA100

CHICAGO (June 28, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5

settled an administrative complaint with Terra Industries Inc. in Crookston,

Minn., for alleged violation of federal laws on the reporting of a hazardous

chemical release. The company will pay a civil penalty of \$115,000.

EPA's December 1999 complaint alleged that on Aug. 29, 1998, Terra's fertilizer

mixing plant on Highway 75 South in Crookston failed to immediately notify the

National Response Center and the Minnesota Emergency Response

Commission (MERC) of a 1,282-pound release of anhydrous ammonia from a

leaking tank pipe. In addition, Terra filed required follow-up reports only after a

formal request by EPA. The company also failed to submit a 1997 hazardous

chemical inventory report to the MERC and the Crookston Fire Department

until it received an information request from EPA.

EPA's complaint proposed a \$315,000 fine. The settlement allowed adequate

consideration of additional information provided by Terra, as well as the

company's cooperation in the investigation and settlement process.

About Anhydrous Ammonia

Anhydrous ammonia may be fatal if inhaled for prolonged periods of time. It

causes burns to the skin and may cause irritation to the eyes, nose and throat.

###

EPA Cites Six Companies for Clean-Air

Violations

CONTACT:

For more information, call the technical or legal contacts listed below.

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA099

CHICAGO (JUNE 27, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 notified six companies in April and May that it believes they violated federal or federally enforceable state clean-air regulations, or both.

These are preliminary findings of violations. To resolve them, EPA may issue compliance orders, assess administrative penalties or bring suit against the companies. The companies have 30 days from receipt of the notices to request meetings with EPA to discuss the allegations and how to resolve them.

"EPA's mission is to protect public health and the environment," said Cheryl Newton, acting director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "We will take whatever steps are needed to ensure compliance with the Clean Air Act."

[NOTE TO EDITORS: Companies alleged to have violated federal clean-air regulations received a Finding of Violation (FOV), and companies alleged to have violated federally enforceable state regulations received a Notice of Violation (NOV). One company received both.]

COMPANIES RECEIVING FOVs

Safety-Kleen Corp.

633 E. 138th St.

Dolton, Ill.

EPA alleges Safety-Kleen failed to comply with national emission standards for hazardous air pollutants at its waste recovery facility. Specifically, it was unable to show that it could control emissions from its drum shredder system and evaporators.

Technical Contact: Morgan Jencius, (312) 886-2407

Legal Contact: Mark Palermo, (312) 886-6082

Mastercraft Industries Inc.

120 W. Allen St.

Rice Lake, Wis.

EPA alleges Mastercraft Industries failed to comply with federal rules governing emissions of volatile hazardous air pollutants from wood furniture manufacturing operations. Specifically, the company exceeded emissions limitations and failed to implement work practice standards and to submit reports to EPA.

Technical Contact: Manojkumar Patel, (312) 353-3565

Legal Contact: Nidhi O'Meara, (312) 886-0568

Capitol Interiors Inc.

493 S. Ellis Ave.

Peshtigo, Wis.

EPA alleges Capital Interiors merchandise display manufacturing plant violated the emissions standards, work practice standards and reporting requirements of the national emission standards for hazardous air pollutants.

Technical Contact: Michelle Farley, (312) 886-6778

Legal Contact: Cynthia King, (312) 886-6831

COMPANIES RECEIVING NOVs

Venture Grand Rapids LLC

5050 Kendrick Drive SE

Grand Rapids, Mich.

EPA alleges Venture Grand Rapids violated state clean air regulations by exceeding one of the volatile organic compound (VOC) emission limits allowed by its state installation permit.

Technical Contact: Tanya Boomer, (312) 353-4145

Legal Contact: Cathleen Martwick, (312) 886-7166

Capitol Interiors Inc.

493 S. Ellis Ave.

Peshtigo, Wis.

EPA alleges Capitol Interiors violated conditions of its state operating permit. Specifically, the company failed to meet annual and semi annual reporting requirements and baghouse pressure drop requirements.

Technical Contact: Michelle Farley, (312) 886-6778

Legal Contact: Cynthia King, (312) 886-6831

Johns Mansville

6050 River Road

Monclova Township, Ohio

EPA alleges Johns Mansville started building a t glass operation at its plant before getting a permit to prevent significant deterioration of air quality. T glass machines melt glass marbles to begin a process that produces glass fibers. Before new air pollution sources can be built, or existing sources modified, in areas that have attained national health-based standards for all air pollutants, companies must first get permits that restrict their emissions and prevent significant deterioration of air quality in those areas. In addition, the company failed to apply best available control technology for volatile organic compound emissions from its t glass operation.

Technical Contact: Will Brooke, (312) 886-0258

Legal Contact: Cynthia King, (312) 886-6831

Imco Recycling of Michigan LLC

267 N. Filmore Road

Coldwater, Mich.

EPA alleges Imco Recycling violated prevention of significant deterioration of air quality rules at its facility. Before new air pollution sources can be built, or existing sources modified, in areas that have attained national health-based standards for all air pollutants, companies must first get permits that restrict their emissions and prevent significant deterioration of air quality in those areas. In addition, EPA alleges various permit emission limits.

Technical Contact: Joseph Cardile, (312) 353-2151

Legal Contact: Tamara Carnovsky, (312) 886-2250

#

Media Advisory

CONTACT:

(EPA) Noemi Emeric, (312) 886-0995

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA098

WHAT:

'Partnering for a Healthy Environment' conference

WHEN:

8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Thursday, June 28

WHERE:

The Gateway Center, Collinsville, Ill.

WHO:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, Illinois Manufacturing Extension Center, Lewis and Clark Community College, BP Amoco Wood River and East St. Louis business and government leaders

WHY:

To examine together, for the first time, the environmental challenges in the area.

NOTE:

Available for interviews and photos David Ullrich , acting administrator of EPA Region 5, Thomas Skinner, director of the Illinois EPA; former Rams linebacker Michael Jones; John Baricevie, chairman of the St. Clair County Board; and Rudolph Papa, chairman of the Madison County Board

#

EPA Will Host First Community Meeting of
Cleveland Air Toxics Project

CONTACT:

(Media) William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

(Technical) Jack Barnette, (312) 886-6175

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA097

CHICAGO (JUNE 26, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 will host the first meeting of individuals interested in the Cleveland air toxics project Thursday, June 28, at Saint Michael's Hospital Guild Hall, off Broadway Avenue on Fowler Road. The meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m., but EPA officials will be available to discuss the project at 5:30 p.m.

The purpose of the meeting is to provide an overview and answer questions about the project, agree on operating procedures and membership, and begin the process of selecting projects to cut risks from air toxics. Additional meetings will be held each month.

EPA has worked cooperatively with the Cleveland Department of Public Health and Ohio Environmental Protection Agency to bring a diverse group of people together to address local air toxics issues. They include interested residents and representatives of neighborhood organizations, business and industry, local government and environmental groups.

With EPA advice and support, these community stakeholders will work together to choose and implement activities of the pilot program to meet three objectives:

- Achieve early reductions of air toxic releases;
- Address local air pollution issues in a sustainable way; and
- Ensure the approach can be replicated by other communities.

The project is a non-regulatory, voluntary effort to address air toxic risks from outdoor and indoor sources, such as consumer products, small and mid-sized businesses, cars, trucks, buses and activities in homes and schools.

The project will provide a framework for addressing air toxics in urban areas.

EPA plans to conduct other initiatives at both national and local levels. The initiatives will address specific pollutants and identify and address specific community risks.

###

EPA: Wisconsin's Ozone Air Quality Plan
Means Healthier Air for Milwaukee Area

CONTACT:

(Media) William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

(Technical) Randy Robinson, (312) 353-6713

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA096

CHICAGO (JUNE 22, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 is proposing to approve a Wisconsin plan to attain the health-based 1-hour outdoor ozone air quality standard in the Milwaukee area that meets all Clean Air Act requirements.

"The Wisconsin plan is a well-developed plan that will improve air quality for Milwaukee-area residents," said Acting Deputy Regional Administrator Bharat Mathur. "When combined with pollution control plans for Northwest Indiana and Chicago, it will bring the Chicago-Northwest Indiana-Milwaukee area into attainment of the health-based 1-hour ozone air quality standard by 2007."

The Chicago-Northwest Indiana-Milwaukee area is a severe ozone nonattainment area. It is required to meet the air quality standard by 2007. EPA is also reviewing similar plans from the states of Indiana and Illinois. All three states, members of the Lake Michigan Air Directors Consortium, worked together to develop the areawide plan.

Many of the controls in the Wisconsin plan, such as the vehicle inspection and maintenance program, cleaner gasoline, transportation control measures, retail gasoline refueling and more stringent control technology on industrial sources, have been implemented for several years. These controls have resulted in continuous improvement in air quality.

The plan EPA is proposing to approve recognizes the contribution from these already implemented measures, as well as contributions from new controls. The most significant new control is the reduction of nitrogen oxide from electric generating units like power plants, industrial boilers and cement kilns applied in states across the Eastern half of the country.

Nitrogen oxide combines in the atmosphere with other chemicals on warm, sunny days to form ground-level ozone, which can cause breathing problems, reduced lung functions, eye irritation, stuffy nose and reduced resistance to colds and other infections. Ozone can aggravate asthma and may speed up aging of lung tissue. Children, the elderly and people with chronic respiratory diseases are the most sensitive.

###

EPA Orders River Ridge Farms to Stop
Unpermitted Discharges

CONTACT:

(Media) Phillipa Cannon, (312) 353-6218

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA095

CHICAGO (June 21, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Region 5 recently ordered River Ridge Farms Inc. to stop unauthorized discharges of manure, wastewater and silage leachate from its two large concentrated animal feeding operations in Coopersville and Allendale, Mich. On January 30, 2001, after a rainfall, an EPA inspector observed discharges of manure-contaminated stormwater at the cattle feeding operation in Coopersville, Mich., and at the River Ridge Dairy in Allendale, Mich. EPA alleges that these discharges violate the Clean Water Act.

EPA issued an administrative order on June 12, 2001, which also requires River Ridge Farms Inc. to develop and implement a storm-water pollution prevention plan, improve its capacity to safely store waste and submit a comprehensive plan to manage all wastes at the facility, including manure, wastewater, spoiled milk, waste feed and silage, silage leachate and dead animals.

"Discharges of manure and other wastes from feedlots may kill fish, cause infectious diseases in people, lead to excessive algae growth and upset the balance of life in streams and lakes," said Jo Lynn Traub, EPA regional Water Division director. "Permitting tools, such as storm-water pollution prevention plans, impose enforceable pollution control standards and management practices on facilities to protect water quality and public health."

"River Ridge Farms has a history of alleged discharges going back more than two decades. The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality has taken a number of enforcement actions against the company, however, unlawful discharges have continued," Traub said. "The purpose of this action is to order the farm to construct containment facilities and use management practices to ensure that discharges of pollutants do not occur."

About River Ridge Farms, Inc.

EPA also inspected the River Ridge Farm facilities in October 2000, and determined that the large dairy and the large cattle feeding operation were concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs) because there are more than 700 dairy cattle at the dairy and more than 1000 cattle at the cattle feeding operation. The dairy discharges manure-contaminated stormwater into a farm drain and subsequently the Grand River near Allendale. The cattle feeding operation discharges to the Terpstra Sadler Drain and subsequently the Grand River from its Coopersville facility.

On February 2, 2001, River Ridge Farms, Inc. submitted National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit applications to MDEQ for River Ridge Farm and River Ridge Dairy.

###

EPA Recognizes Monticello High School
for Pollution-Cutting, Energy-Saving

Actions

CONTACT:

(Media) William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

(Technical) Julie Magee, (312) 886-6063

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA094

CHICAGO (JUNE 20, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 recognized Monticello High School, Monticello, Ill., as the first school in Illinois to qualify for EPA's pollution-cutting and energy-saving Energy Star label at a 5:30 p.m. award ceremony Wednesday, June 20, in White Heath, Ill.

EPA Region 5 Energy Star Coordinator Audrie Washington presented the Energy Star bronze plaque to Monticello School District Superintendent Mike Reeves at the ceremony.

In order to achieve the Energy Star label, a school must be among the top 25 percent in the nation for energy performance. Monticello High School has entered into a contract with Johnson Controls Inc., a private company, that guarantees \$3.86 million in energy and operational savings over the next 10 years.

The Energy Star label is given to a variety of organizations to recognize their efforts to use energy efficiently, both in their own buildings and in the products they manufacture. For more information about Energy Star, visit www.energystar.gov or for school related energy information visit <http://yosemite1.epa.gov/estar/business.nsf/webmenus/K-12>.

EPA introduced Energy Star in 1992 as a voluntary market-based partnership to reduce air pollution through increased energy efficiency. Energy Star now works with more than 7,000 partners to improve the energy efficiency of products, homes, buildings and businesses. Energy Star offers an easy way to identify the most energy-efficient products and now has relationships with more than 1,600 manufacturers.

Together, Energy Star and its partners offer more than 11,000 products in more than 30 categories that bear the Energy Star label. Energy Star offers labels to identify the most energy-efficient homes, buildings, office equipment, heating and cooling equipment, lighting, major appliances and home electronics.

Noncancerous long term effects include bronchitis, as well as ulcerations and perforations of the nasal septum.

About Intaglio Vivi-Color Alliance

Intaglio Vivi Color Alliance owns and operates a small, hard chromium electroplating facility with two chromium electroplating tanks at this Middletown plant. The company uses a composite mesh pad system to control chromium emissions from each of its tanks.

About EPA

Founded in 1970, EPA is responsible for protecting the environment and human health. The Agency enforces air, water, and land laws and ensures that designated health standards are met. EPA Region 5 includes six Great Lakes states: Illinois,

Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin.

###

EPA Cites Intaglio Vivi-Color Alliance

CONTACT:

(Media) William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

(Technical) Erik Hardin, (312) 886-2402

(Legal) Timothy Thurlow, (312) 886-6623

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA093

CHICAGO (JUNE 20, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has filed an administrative complaint against Intaglio Vivi Color Alliance Ltd. for alleged violations of federal regulations on chromium, a hazardous air pollutant, at the electroplating operation of the company's plant, 4014 Tytus Ave., Middletown, Ohio. EPA proposed a \$10,000 civil penalty.

The EPA complaint alleges that Intaglio Vivi Color Alliance exceeded the chromium emission limit and did not meet federal deadlines for doing an initial performance test, for beginning to monitor operating limits and for preparing an operation and maintenance plan.

Intaglio Vivi Color Alliance has 30 days from receipt of the complaint to file an answer and request a hearing. It may request an informal conference with EPA at any time to discuss the allegations.

"EPA is committed to enforcing regulations for hazardous air pollutants to protect public health and the environment," said Cheryl Newton, acting director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "We will take all necessary steps to ensure that companies comply with the Clean Air Act."

Hexavalent chromium, a highly hazardous cancer causing substance, is found in chromic acid mist released into the air as part of the electroplating process.

Chromic acid is also a respiratory irritant, causing short term effects that include coughing and wheezing.

Noncancerous long term effects include bronchitis, as well as ulcerations and perforations of the nasal septum.

About Intaglio Vivi-Color Alliance

Intaglio Vivi Color Alliance owns and operates a small, hard chromium electroplating facility with two chromium electroplating tanks at this Middletown plant. The company uses a composite mesh pad system to control chromium emissions from each of its tanks.

###

NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS: EPA to
Recognize Monticello High School
for Pollution-Cutting, Energy-Saving
Actions

CONTACT:

(Media) William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

(Technical) Julie Magee, (312) 886-6063

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA092

CHICAGO (Jun. 19, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5
will recognize Monticello High School, 1 Sage Drive, Monticello, Ill., for its
commitment to EPA's pollution-cutting and energy-saving Energy Star program
at a 5 p.m. ceremony tomorrow (Wednesday, June 20) at the school.

Monticello High School is the first school in the state to win EPA's Energy Star
label. In order to win an Energy Star label, a school must be among the top 25
percent in the nation for energy performance. Monticello has entered into a
contract with a private company, Johnson Controls Inc. that guarantees \$3.86
million in energy and operational savings over the next 10 years.

EPA Region 5 Energy Star Coordinator Audrie Washington will present the
Energy Star plaque to Monticello school district superintendent Mike Reeves at
the ceremony.

###

EPA: Louisville Area Meets Ozone

Standard

CONTACT:

(Media - Region 5) William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

(Technical - Region 5) Ryan Bahr, (312) 353-4366

(Media - Region 4) Dawn Harris, (404) 562-8421

(Technical - Region 4) Allison Humphris, (404) 562-9030

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA091

CHICAGO (JUNE 18, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced today that the Louisville, Ky., area is meeting the health-based 1-hour outdoor air standard for ozone (smog) and proposed to approve requests by Indiana and Kentucky to redesignate the area to attainment of the national air quality standard. EPA's proposed action is based on three years of complete, quality-assured, outdoor air monitoring data for 1998, 1999 and 2000. The Louisville ozone nonattainment area consists of Clark and Floyd counties in Indiana and Jefferson County and parts of Bullitt and Oldham counties in Kentucky.

EPA also proposed to approve state plans to maintain the 1-hour health-based ozone standard for at least the next 10 years and to approve regional motor vehicle emissions budgets.

EPA acting regional administrators in Chicago and Atlanta have signed documents proposing to approve the state requests.

The acting administrator of EPA Region 5 in Chicago, David A. Ullrich, said, "The Louisville area, including Clark and Floyd counties, Indiana, has made significant progress in improving air quality for the area's citizens. We congratulate the community on this important public health achievement."

A. Stanley Meiburg, acting administrator of EPA Region 4 in Atlanta said, "We are pleased with the progress the Louisville area, including Jefferson County and parts of Bullitt and Oldham counties in Kentucky, is making toward improving air quality. The benefits derived from implementation of the various pollution control measures will lead to greater public health protection."

EPA's actions will soon be officially proposed in the Federal Register. The public will have 30 days to comment on the actions after they are published. Ground-level ozone is commonly referred to as smog. Smog is formed when a mixture of air pollutants are baked in the hot summer sun. These pollutants are released from cars and factories. Smog can cause a variety of respiratory problems, including coughing, wheezing, shortness of breath and chest pain. Asthmatics, children and the elderly are especially at risk. However, these health effects are of concern to everyone.

###

EPA, Community Leaders to Speak at
'Partnering for a Healthy Environment'
Conference in Metro East Area

CONTACT:

(Media) Phillipa Cannon, (312) 353-6218

(DOJ) Cristine Romano, (202) 514-2008

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA090

CHICAGO (June 18, 2001) -- The U.S. Department of Justice, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5, U.S. Department of the Interior and the State of Indiana today announced that Guide Corp. (Anderson, Ind.) will pay more than \$10 million in settlement of a civil lawsuit over one of the largest fish kills in Indiana history. The company, an automotive lighting manufacturer, agreed to pay \$6 million into two White River Restoration Funds, \$2.025 million to reimburse the costs that agencies used to respond to the fish kill and \$2 million in penalties. In a separate action today, Guide agreed to plead guilty to criminal violations of the Clean Water Act and pay an additional \$3,912,000 under a settlement reached with the U.S. Attorney's office.

"Since becoming EPA Administrator I have stressed partnerships. I strongly believe that as partners we can work together to protect the environment and ensure that we set reasonable and effective standards," said EPA Administrator Christie Whitman. "That being said, when necessary, we will take needed action to enforce the law. The White River Restoration Funds will pay for ongoing efforts to restock the river with fish and for projects to restore the river."

In an April 2000 lawsuit, the United States and Indiana alleged that over several weeks, beginning in December 1999, Guide and Crown EG, Inc. (Dayton, Ohio) discharged toxic wastewater from an automotive parts facility in Anderson, Ind., killing more than 100 tons of fish and other aquatic creatures along more than 40 miles of the White River, from Anderson to downtown Indianapolis.

In addition to paying the more than \$10 million in fines and costs, Guide Corp. will complete a compliance audit of its Anderson facility, take steps to bring the plant into compliance with environmental regulations and submit a compliance report to EPA and the State. A citizens' advisory council will advise the White River Restorations Funds' trustees on the restoration projects.

About Guide Corp. Guide Corp. is one of the world's largest manufacturers of automotive lighting. Its parent corporation is Lightsource Parent Corp. Crown EG, Inc. was hired to operate Guide's wastewater treatment plant.

###

EPA, Community Leaders to Speak at
'Partnering for a Healthy Environment'
Conference in Metro East Area

CONTACT:

(EPA) Noemi Emeric, (312) 886-0995

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA089

CHICAGO (June 15, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, Illinois Manufacturing Extension Center, Lewis and Clark Community College and BP Amoco Wood River will host a conference from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Thursday, June 28, at the Gateway Center, Collinsville, Ill., to examine together, for the first time, the environmental challenges in the Metro East Area.

Three sessions, each unique in focus and topic, are planned. Track 1 is designed for community and local government leaders, Track 2 for teachers in grades K-12 and Track 3 for small and medium-sized businesses.

Scheduled to open the conference is John Baricevie, St. Clair County Board Chairman. David Ullrich, EPA Region 5 Acting Administrator and Richard Mark CEO and President of St. Mary's Hospital, East St. Louis are also on the opening program.

Track 1 will follow with concurrent sessions on "Healthy Homes/Healthy Lives" and "Supplemental Environmental Projects: How Your City Can Benefit." Luncheon speakers are Madison County Board Chairman Rudolph Papa, Illinois EPA Director Thomas Skinner and former St. Louis Rams star linebacker Michael Jones who will showcase his foundation's redevelopment efforts in the village of Brooklyn.

Afternoon sessions for Track 1 include "Eyesores: How To Clean Them Up," "Regional Environmental Issues: How We Fit In," "The Silent Epidemic: Lead and Mercury" and "Brownfields: Barriers To Development and How To Overcome Them." All of these topics will use East St. Louis as an example.

Other event sponsors are: the Air and Waste Management Resource Center, TL Maddox Companies, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers St. Louis District, Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville, Southern Illinois Regional Employers Association and the Illinois Society of Professional Engineers St. Clair Chapter.

For more information about the conference or to register call Helen Flatau, Lewis and Clark Community College, (618) 468-4652.

###

EPA: Lunda Construction Agrees to Pay
\$10,900 and Remove Deerskin River Dam

CONTACT:

(Media) Phillippa Cannon, (312) 353-6218

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA088

CHICAGO (June 18, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 reached agreement with Lunda Construction (Black River Falls, Wis.), for alleged violations of the Clean Water Act. The company will pay \$10,900 and perform an environmental project.

In July 2000, EPA issued an administrative complaint against Lunda for allegedly discharging material into the Wisconsin and Wolf Rivers without obtaining the necessary permits. The violations allegedly occurred when the company was building and repairing bridges over the rivers.

In return for a reduced fine, the company agreed to perform a supplemental environmental project. Under supervision of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, the company will remove the Deerskin River Dam in Washington, Wis., at a cost of around \$59,000.

About Lunda

Lunda is based in Black River Falls, Wis. Its primary business is bridge construction. It also does dam building, pile driving and related concrete foundation work.

###

EPA: June 26 is New Date for Detroit
Public Meeting to Discuss Great Lakes
Goals

CONTACT:

(Media) Phillipa Cannon, (312) 353-6218

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA087

CHICAGO (June 15, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will hold a public meeting in Detroit to discuss a proposed Great Lakes strategy, originally scheduled for June 27, on June 26.

Under the auspices of the U.S. Policy Committee, a consortium of federal, state and tribal environmental and natural resources agencies that protect the environment of the Great Lakes, EPA will hold meetings in Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota and New York during June and July to discuss and listen to public comments on the proposed Great Lakes strategy. The strategy sets out basin-wide goals, and activities to achieve them, agreed upon by federal, state, local and tribal agencies working on Great Lakes issues.

"The problems affecting the Great Lakes are complex, and no single agency can solve them alone," said David A. Ullrich, acting EPA Great Lakes National Program manager. "Agencies at all levels of government will work together so that someday it will be completely safe to swim, drink the water and eat the fish in all parts of the Great Lakes."

Among the priorities identified in the strategy are contaminated sediments, invasive species, loss of habitat and fish consumption advisories. EPA expects the strategy to become final in September 2001 after public comments have been reviewed. The strategy can be reviewed at <http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/>. The meetings will be held on the following dates:

- June 25 Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, 525 Lake Ave. South, Suite 400, Duluth, Minn. 3 p.m. to 8 p.m.
- June 26 Southeast Michigan Council of Governments, 535 Griswold St., Suite 300, Detroit, Mich. 3 p.m. to 8 p.m.
- June 28 Niagara University, Dunleavy Hall, Room 127, Niagara Falls, N. Y. 3 p.m. to 8 p.m.
- July 2 EPA Region 5, Lake Michigan Conference Room, 12th floor, 77 West Jackson Blvd., Chicago, Ill. Noon to 5 p.m.

The Great Lakes form the largest body of fresh water in the world, supplying drinking water to more than 30 million people. They have 10,000 miles of shoreline extending across eight states, two Canadian provinces and 600 beaches on the U.S. shores.

EPA's Great Lakes National Program office was established in 1978 to work solely on Great Lakes protection issues.

###

EPA Co-Sponsors Climate Change
Workshop in Milwaukee

CONTACT:

(Media) William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA086

CHICAGO (JUNE 15, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is co-sponsoring a one-day workshop on the potential impacts of climate change on the water ecology of the Great Lakes from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. today at the Great Lakes Water Institute of the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee.

The event will allow scientists from the entire Great Lakes region to share research and discuss topics affecting freshwater ecology. Other workshop sponsors are the University of Michigan, the National Wildlife Federation and the Great Lakes Regional Assessment Team.

Representatives from water utilities, tribal communities and recreational and commercial fishing operations will present the challenges and opportunities faced by their industries. Panel discussions will follow, providing a forum for participants to discuss not only the potential effects of climate change on their lives and livelihoods, but also strategies to address those impacts.

###

EPA Proposes LaSalle, IL., Site for
Superfund National Priorities List

CONTACT:

(U.S. EPA) Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050

(Illinois EPA) Maggie Carson, (217) 557-8138

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA085

CHICAGO (June 14, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 proposes adding the Matthiessen and Hegeler Zinc Company site in LaSalle, Ill., to the Superfund National Priorities List (NPL) of hazardous waste sites. Sites on the list are eligible for further investigation and cleanup under the Federal Superfund program.

A total of 10 sites were proposed for the NPL, including the Matthiessen and Hegeler site, the only new site in EPA Region 5. EPA also announced 10 final sites, none of which are in Region 5. Currently, there are 1,236 final sites on the NPL and 67 proposed sites. The combined 1,303 includes 67 federal facilities. Today's action appears in the Federal Register, with 60-day public comment period to follow. More Superfund information is online at www.epa.gov/superfund/sites/index.htm.

About the Site The Matthiessen and Hegeler site is a 160-acre inactive zinc smelting and rolling facility on the east side of LaSalle that operated from about 1858 to 1978. The Little Vermilion River borders the site to the east, with residential properties on the other sides. The site is enclosed by a chain-link fence. The southern portion of the property (which is not part of the NPL site) contains an active specialty chemicals firm, Carus Chemical, and the now-closed LaSalle Rolling Mills plant.

Environmental concerns include a 6-acre slag waste pile containing metals such as cadmium, copper, chromium, lead, nickel and zinc. Runoff from the piles washes directly into the river, and sediment samples from the river bottom indicate elevated levels of the same metals.

Placing the site on the NPL would provide EPA resources to further investigate and develop cleanup plans for the site, and offsite areas, that may have been impacted by Matthiessen and Hegeler's operations.

###

EPA Recognizes Cambridge Homes for
Commitment to Pollution-Cutting, Energy-
Saving Program

CONTACT:

(Media) William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

(Technical) Julie Magee, (312) 886-6063

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA084

CHICAGO (JUNE 15, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency today recognized Cambridge Homes of Libertyville, Ill., for the company's commitment to EPA's pollution-cutting and energy-saving Energy Star Homes program during a 10 a.m. press conference at the recreation center of the Cambridge Homes Carillon Lakes planned community, Crest Hill, Ill.

EPA's Energy Star Homes national director Sam Rashkin said, "Every home buyer should want an energy efficient home because it delivers lower cost of ownership and better performance. The Department of Energy's Building America Program has been helping builders like Cambridge Homes adopt energy efficient technologies and construction practices. EPA's Energy Star label provides a critical marketing solution by making it easy for consumer's to identify a truly energy efficient home. All they have to do is look for the Energy Star label."

The event was followed by a tour of the recreation center and 10 model homes that meet EPA requirements for Energy Star Home designation. An Energy Star Home uses 30 percent less energy for heating, cooling and water heating than a home based on the Model Energy Code developed by the Council of American Building Officials. It must feature improved insulation, advanced windows, tightly sealed ducts, high-efficiency heating and cooling, and reduced air infiltration.

The features required for Energy Star Home designations provide a wide variety of benefits such as lower cost, quality construction, improved comfort and improved indoor air quality. They make it possible for owners to save money each month because of lower utility bills and maintenance costs.

"Most energy used to power homes comes from the burning of fossil fuels, which contributes to urban smog, acid rain and global climate change," said EPA Region 5 Energy Coordinator Julie Magee. "This program helps save money and protect the environment at the same time."

EPA expects the annual pollution prevention from Energy Star-labeled homes built over the next 20 years to equal the elimination of emissions from half a million cars.

Almost 30 Energy Star product categories are available to consumers, including heating and cooling equipment, appliances, consumer electronics, computers, office equipment and home lamps and lighting fixtures.

The Energy Star program is a joint effort between EPA and the U.S. Department of Energy to provide consumers with a simple way to identify cost-effective, energy-efficient products. For more information on Energy Star, visit <http://www.energystar.gov>.

About Cambridge Homes Cambridge Homes, one of Chicago's largest builders, has three communities designated Energy Star: Cambridge at the Glen in Glenview, Ill., Forest Glen in Carol Stream, Ill., and the age-restricted community in Carillon Lakes in Crest Hill. It is the first builder in the Chicago suburban area to produce entire communities with Energy Star-rated homes and the first large-scale builder in the area to participate in the program.

About EPA Founded in 1970, EPA is responsible for protecting the environment and human health. The Agency enforces air, water and land laws and ensures that designated health standards are met. EPA Region 5 includes six Great Lakes states: Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin.

###

EPA Holds Public Meetings to Discuss
Great Lakes Goals

CONTACT:

(Media) Phillipa Cannon, (312) 353-6218

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA083

CHICAGO (September 10, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Great Lakes National Program Office will hold meetings in Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota and New York during June and July to discuss and listen to public comments on a proposed strategy for the Great Lakes. The strategy sets out basin-wide goals, and activities to achieve them, agreed upon by federal, state, local and tribal agencies working on Great Lakes issues.

"The problems affecting the Great Lakes are complex and no single agency can solve them alone," said David A. Ullrich, acting Great Lakes National Program manager. "Agencies at all levels of government will work together so that someday it will be completely safe to swim, drink the water and eat the fish in all parts of the Great Lakes."

Among the priorities identified in the strategy are contaminated sediments, invasive species, loss of habitat and fish consumption advisories. EPA expects the strategy to become final in September 2001 after public comments have been reviewed. The strategy can be reviewed at <http://www.epa.gov/glnpo>.

The meetings will be held on the following dates:

June 25

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, 525 Lake Avenue South, Suite 400,
Duluth, Minn. 3 p.m. to 8 p.m.

June 27

Southeast Michigan Council of Governments, 535 Griswold Street, Suite
300, Detroit, Mich. 3 p.m. to 8 p.m.

June 28

Niagara University, Dunleavy Hall, Room 127, Niagara Falls, N.Y. 3 p.m.
to 8 p.m.

July 2

U.S. EPA Region 5, Lake Michigan Conference Room, 12th floor, 77
West Jackson Blvd., Chicago, Ill. Noon to 5 p.m.

The Great Lakes form the largest body of fresh water in the world, supplying drinking water to more than 30 million people. They have 10,000 miles of shoreline extending across eight U.S. states, two Canadian provinces and 600 beaches on the U.S. shores.

EPA's Great Lakes National Program Office was established in 1978 to work solely on Great Lakes protection issues.

###

EPA Settles with Ecolab on Pesticide
Violations; Includes \$277,953 Fine and
Environmental Project

CONTACT:

(Media) Karen Thompson, (312) 353-8547

(Technical) Terence Bonace, (312) 886-3387

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA082

CHICAGO (May 31, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 recently reached agreement with ECOLAB Inc. on alleged violations of federal regulations on selling and distributing unregistered pesticides. ECOLAB will pay a \$277,953 fine and perform two environmental projects costing at least \$107,000.

In September 2000 EPA ordered ECOLAB, under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), to immediately stop selling and distributing all ChloraSorb products. ChloraSorb is an absorbent/deodorant used mainly in hospitals and other health care facilities to clean up spilled body fluids. ECOLAB made claims in its labeling and promotional materials that ChloraSorb acts as a disinfectant.

The settlement requires ECOLAB to distribute its remaining inventory of ChloraSorb products free of charge to Cook County Hospital, Chicago, Ill., and Regions Hospital, St. Paul, Minn. The company must also publish two educational papers in the Soap and Detergent Association newsletter and make a presentation on requirements for pesticide registration for cleaning products to the Association membership.

Under FIFRA, all pesticides, including disinfectants, sold in the United States must be registered by EPA to ensure they do not pose an unreasonable risk to human health or the environment. Companies must provide EPA with evidence that shows their products are effective during the registration process.

About ECOLAB Inc.

ECOLAB Inc. of St. Paul, Minn., manufactures soaps, detergents and specialty cleaning and polishing products.

###

EPA Cites Kienast for Asbestos Violations

CONTACT:

(Media) William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

(Technical) Jeffrey Gahrns, (312) 886-6794

(Legal) Deirdre Tanaka, (312) 886-6730

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA081

CHICAGO (MAY 31, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has filed an administrative complaint against Lu Vern Kienast and L.G. Kienast Utility Construction, 765 Washburn Road, Oshkosh, Wis., for alleged violations of federal regulations on asbestos, a hazardous air pollutant. EPA proposed a \$115,600 penalty.

The alleged violations took place at a demolition site, the former H.D. Hudson Manufacturing Building, 106 E. Tennessee Ave., Oshkosh. A Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources inspector followed numerous leads and conducted inspection activities during the period from September 1998 through December 1998.

The EPA complaint alleges that Kienast failed to:

- thoroughly inspect the building for the presence of asbestos before demolition;
- give EPA timely written notice of its intent to demolish;
- adequately wet all asbestos containing material and keep it wet until collected and contained, or treated, before disposal;
- remove all asbestos containing material before demolition; and
- properly dispose of asbestos containing waste material.

Kienast has 30 days from receipt of the complaint to file an answer and request a hearing. It may request an informal conference with EPA at any time to discuss the allegations.

"EPA is committed to enforcing the asbestos regulations to protect public health and the environment," said Cheryl Newton, acting director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "We will take all necessary steps to ensure that asbestos contractors comply with federal regulations."

Asbestos is a known cancer causing substance that can cause mesothelioma, a type of lung cancer, and asbestosis, a lung disease, many years after exposure.

###

EPA Picks Cleanup Plan for Zionsville

Third Site

CONTACT:

(Media) Susan Pastor, (312) 353-1325

(Technical) Mike McAteer, (312) 886-4663

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA080

CHICAGO (June 14, 2001) -- EPA evaluated a range of cleanup alternatives for the site and chose a \$6 million plan that includes installing:

- Containment walls and a dewatering system that will remove much of the subsurface chemical pool, plus chemical oxidation to treat any remaining chemical pools;
- A soil-vapor extraction system to address chemical contamination in the shallow soil area; and
- Pumping and treatment systems to address two nearby ground-water contamination plumes.

EPA chose this plan because it is environmentally effective, comparatively uncomplicated to carry out and cost-effective. A 30-day comment period was held in Fall 2000.

Copies of site studies and other documents are available for review at Hussey Memorial Library, 250 North 5th Street, Zionsville.

Residents with questions about the plan may call EPA community involvement coordinator Susan Pastor, (800) 621-8431, Ext. 31325, or e-mail: pastor.

susan@epa.gov.

Other Site News

An audit of the soil-vapor extraction system at the neighboring Enviro-Chem site during late 2000 and early 2001 indicated that soil contamination levels have been reduced significantly since it was installed in 1998. If an additional round of tests confirms this trend, EPA may propose to permanently shut down the soil-vapor system later this year. EPA and the responsible parties at the Enviro-Chem site are also evaluating the extent of ground water contamination beneath the site. Options for addressing the ground water will be evaluated over the next few months.

###

Industrial Excess Landfill Update: More
Sampling Begins this Week, Building
Demolition Starts Soon

CONTACT:

(Media) Denise Battaglia, (312) 886-9859

(Media) Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA079

CHICAGO (May 29, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 announces that a new round of ground-water sampling by the responsible parties begins this week to gauge current conditions at the Industrial Excess Landfill Superfund site in Uniontown, Ohio. The project will take about a week, with results available after EPA reviews and validates the responsible parties' data.

The sampling work will assess current levels of volatile organic compounds, metals and radiation in the site's ground water. The data will also be used to gauge progress in reducing pollutant concentrations in the ground water below the landfill via natural processes or "natural attenuation." The work will be done with oversight by EPA and Ohio EPA. A local government representative will also observe the work.

A separate project to remove seven or eight remaining underground storage tanks(USTs) and septic systems, and demolish three abandoned buildings beyond the western edge of the landfill outside the fence line on Cleveland Avenue, will also begin soon. The UST excavation is scheduled to take place the week of June 11. Staging of equipment to remove asbestos and then take down the buildings will probably begin the week of June 4, followed by demolition the week of June 11.

###

EPA Proposes Cleanup Changes for
Rasmussen Dump; Meeting May 30, 6:30 P.
M.

CONTACT:

(Media) Don de Blasio, (312) 886-4360
(Technical) Ken Glatz, (312) 886-1434
(MDEQ) Deborah Larsen, (517) 373-4825

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA078

CHICAGO (May 23, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 will hold a public meeting to discuss proposed changes to the cleanup plan for the Rasmussen Dump Superfund site in Livingston County, Mich. The meeting will be Wednesday, May 30, 6:30 p.m., at Green Oak Township Hall, 10789 Silver Lake Road, South Lyon. A public hearing will follow at 7:00 p.m. to take oral comments on the plan.

The proposed changes arose because ongoing ground water monitoring data shows a small zone of contamination north of the main pollution plume, which was not previously seen. To address this, the potentially responsible parties are proceeding with trial operation of a plan that includes installation of an ozone/oxygen oxidation system to treat on-site ground-water contamination; shutting down the existing ground-water pumping and treatment system; and installation of at least two additional monitoring wells (bringing the total to at least 20). A fact sheet outlining the proposed changes will be available at the May 30 meeting. It is also available from community involvement coordinator Don de Blasio, (800) 621-8431, Ext 64360. Site documents are available for review at Brighton Area Library, Hamburg City Library and EPA's Chicago Records Center. Written comments may be submitted by mail, fax or e-mail by June 25, 2001, to Ken Glatz, Remedial Project Manager, Superfund Division (SR-6J), U.S. EPA Region 5, 77 West Jackson Blvd., Chicago, Illinois 60604, fax (312) 886-4071, e-mail glatz.kenneth@epa.gov.

About the Site

The 33-acre Rasmussen Dump site is on Spicer Road in Green Oak Township, 40 miles west of Detroit and about 1.5 miles northeast of Hamburg, and borders the Spiegelberg Landfill Superfund site to the west. It was an unlicensed dump that accepted household and industrial wastes from the 1960s to 1972. The dump had not been properly capped, and sand and gravel mining that took place at the site subsequently undermined the landfill, resulting in the redistribution of hazardous fill and drum wastes. The landfill was subsequently capped in 1995, as part of the remedy identified by EPA in its 1991 Record of Decision. EPA and Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) have worked together to address site issues since 1982.

###

EPA Reaches Agreement with Cade

Autoair

CONTACT:

(Media) William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

(Technical) Spiros Bourgikos, (312) 886-6862

(Legal) Joseph Williams, (312) 886-6631

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA077

CHICAGO (MAY 22, 2001) U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has reached an agreement with Cade Autoair Inc. on alleged violations of federal clean air regulations at the company's metal parts plant, 5640 Enterprise Drive, Lansing, Mich.

The agreement, which includes a \$10,500 fine and a supplemental environmental project, resolves an EPA administrative complaint filed Sept. 26, 2000. The complaint alleged that Cade failed to comply with federal reporting and recordkeeping requirements and failed to demonstrate that it had not exceeded federal limits on emissions of trichloroethylene a hazardous air pollutant from its degreaser. The violations were discovered during a state inspection in June 1998.

For its supplemental environmental project, Cade will install equipment at a cost of at least \$82,700 that will eliminate the use of its halogenated solvent degreaser by the end of March 2002. It will also train its workers in clean area procedures and requirements and report to EPA on the project until 2005.

"We are pleased that Cade has agreed to complete this environmental project to improve the quality of our air," said Cheryl Newton, acting director of the regional Air and Radiation Division.

Companies may voluntarily propose supplemental environmental projects to be included in their settlements. EPA may reduce monetary penalties if it believes a project will cut pollution significantly and the project goes beyond what is required by EPA regulations.

Breathing small amounts of trichloroethylene for short periods may cause headaches, lung irritation, dizziness, poor coordination and difficulty in concentrating. Breathing it for long periods may cause nerve, lung, kidney and liver damage. EPA considers trichloroethylene as an intermediate between a probable and a possible cancer causing agent in humans.

#

EPA Enters Final Phase of Site
Investigation at Tremont City Landfill

CONTACT:

(Media) Denise Battaglia, (312) 886-9859

(Technical) John O'Grady, (312) 886-1477

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA076

CHICAGO (May 18, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 this week entered the third and final phase of its investigation to determine the nature and extent of contamination at the Tremont City Landfill site, near Tremont City, Ohio.

The investigation, which will continue through late June, includes sampling and laboratory analyses of water from seeps, streams, leachate, groundwater and soil collected at the 8.5-acre barrel fill area, and other points around the property.

Samples from about 20 private wells also will be collected from residences near the site. EPA will ask permission to sample these wells from the individual property owners.

Significantly, ground-water samples, taken during Phase II of the investigation, show that chromium, a heavy metal, is present in a deep well (150 feet below ground surface) about 75 feet northeast of the barrel fill. The chromium concentration in this well was above naturally occurring "background" levels, and may indicate that contamination is working its way downward into the drinking water aquifer that lies beneath the site.

A Chicago-based EPA Superfund team will continue to oversee the project in cooperation with Ohio EPA and the U.S. Geological Survey.

After the investigation, EPA will develop a report with recommendations for how to address contamination issues at the site. The report will be released later this year.

A fact sheet explaining the project, as well as preliminary findings from the earlier phases of the investigation, has been sent to area residents. It is also available at www.epa.gov/region5/sites, or from community involvement coordinator Denise Battaglia, (800) 621-8431, Ext. 69859, or e-mail: battaglia.denise@epa.gov. A community meeting will be scheduled in late summer or early fall, following completion of the on-site investigation.

About the Site

The 80-acre Tremont City Landfill site is a closed facility on Snyder-Domer Road, about one mile west of Tremont City. The site includes a barrel fill containing about 47,000 drums of industrial waste and 52,000 gallons of liquids and sludges, as well as a 58-acre landfill and a 14-acre waste transfer station that EPA investigated during the earlier phases of the project.

###

EPA Cites Hyde Park Realty on Lead-Based Paint

CONTACT:

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(Technical) Scott Cooper, (312) 886-1332

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA075

CHICAGO (May 15, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 recently filed a 2,600-count complaint against Hyde Park Realty Company Inc. for alleged violations of Federal regulations on lead-based paint and its hazards. EPA also notified owners of 25 buildings managed by Hyde Park Realty, at the time of the discovery, of potential violations.

EPA and Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) investigations beginning in December 1998 revealed that Hyde Park Realty failed to comply with requirements of the lead disclosure rule in 520 apartments in more than 40 rental buildings it managed.

Phyllis Reed, chief of the regional Pesticides and Toxics Branch said, "By carrying out these enforcement actions, EPA is restating that protecting children's health from lead-based paint exposure is one of our highest priorities. To this end we will vigorously pursue compliance with this rule."

On March 6, 1996, EPA and HUD issued new rules to protect families, especially those with children, from hazards of lead-based paint in the home. Real estate companies and property owners must provide buyers and renters with information on lead-based paint including a lead warning statement and a lead pamphlet. They must also disclose if lead-based paint is known to be present before a sale is closed or a rental agreement is signed. This applies to residences built before 1978, the year the sale of residential lead-based paint was banned. According to the Chicago Department of Public Health, more than 20,000 children under the age of six were diagnosed with lead poisoning in 1998.

Deteriorated lead paint is the most common source of lead exposure to children in the United States. About 75 percent of the nation's housing built before 1978 contains lead-based paint. When properly managed, lead-based paint poses little risk. If not maintained, though, even low levels of lead exposure can threaten the health of housing occupants, especially children and pregnant women. Adverse impacts include learning disabilities, growth impairment and permanent damage to the brain, nervous system, hearing, vision and kidneys.

About Hyde Park Realty

Hyde Park Realty Company Inc. is a property management company located at 1743 2 E. 55th St., Chicago.

###

EPA Awards \$9,920 to Wisconsin for
Environmental Education

CONTACT:

(Media) Megan Gavin, (312) 353-5282

(Media) Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA074

CHICAGO (May 8, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 recently awarded \$9,920 in grants to Marinette County Land and Water Conservation (Marinette) and Wisconsin Wetlands Association (Madison) in Wisconsin to support innovative environmental education.

"It is with great pleasure that I extend EPA's support to these organizations in Wisconsin for environmental education programs," said Acting Regional Administrator David A. Ullrich. "By learning about local environmental issues, students, teachers and citizens can make positive contributions to improving the health of their communities."

This year, EPA awarded a total of \$189,582 to 20 recipients in the Midwest. More than 80 applicants competed for these grants. As required by Federal law, the majority of the awards are for grass-roots programs costing \$5,000 or less. During the past 10 years, EPA Region 5 has awarded more than \$1.5 million in educational grants to academic institutions, nonprofit organizations, and tribes in the Midwest.

EPA awards these grants under the 1990 National Environmental Education Act, which gives EPA the authority to support and create environmental education programs nationwide.

WISCONSIN

- \$5,000 to Marinette County Land & Water Conservation (Courthouse, 1926 Hall Ave., Marinette), to provide stewardship planning assistance to property owners. Goals of the project include: increasing knowledge of the impacts of development on shoreline habitat and water quality, and encouraging participation in the stewardship planning process.

- \$4,920 to Wisconsin Wetlands Association (222 S. Hamilton St., Suite 1, Madison), to provide a purple loosestrife bio-control workshop for teachers with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. The project's goal is to produce a set of written teaching materials on biological control of purple loosestrife in order to make widespread teacher participation in the state's loosestrife control program easy, consistent and educational.

#

EPA Awards \$16,000 to Ohio for
Environmental Education

CONTACT:

(Media) Megan Gavin, (312) 353-5282

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA073

CHICAGO (May 15, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has recently awarded \$16,058 in grants to a school and a nonprofit organization to support innovative environmental education in Ohio.

"It is with great pleasure that I extend EPA's support to these organizations in Ohio for environmental education programs," said Acting Regional Administrator David A. Ullrich. "By learning about local environmental issues, students and teachers can make positive contributions to improving the health of their communities."

This year, more than 80 applicants competed for funds. Altogether, EPA is awarding \$189,582 to 20 recipients in the Midwest. As required by law, a majority of the awards are for grass-roots programs costing \$5,000 or less. During the past 10 years, EPA Region 5 has awarded more than \$1.5 million in educational grants to academic institutions, nonprofit groups, and tribes in the Midwest.

EPA is awarding these funds under the 1990 National Environmental Education Act, which gives EPA the authority to support and create environmental education programs nationwide.

OHIO

- \$5,000 to Clark Center Alternative School (Route 1, Box 15, Marietta) provides high quality hands-on project-based environmental learning as a tool to motivate at risk youth. Youth will collaborate with key partners to plan, design and create an indigenous butterfly/bird land lab on school grounds. The land lab will provide students an opportunity to observe, investigate and record the life cycle, behavior, and migratory patterns of native butterflies and birds. Students will also create presentations for schools and organizations on the benefits of preserving natural habitats.

- \$11,058 to Cleveland Metroparks-Divison of Outdoor Education (Garfield Park Nature Center, 11350 Broadway Ave, Garfield Heights) will expand their existing outreach on watersheds. The goal of the project is to create a watershed resource that will be shared between 34 naturalists who will disseminate the information in schools, within the park's programs and to the community at various locations.

#

EPA Awards \$66,275 To Minnesota For Environmental Education

CONTACT:

(Media) Megan Gavin, (312) 353-5282

(Media) Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA072

CHICAGO (May 15, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 recently awarded \$66,275 in grants to several Minnesota organizations to support innovative environmental education. The recipients are Eco-Education (St. Paul), Hennepin Conservation District (Minnetonka), Minnesota Lakes Association (Brainerd), Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (St. Paul), Prairie Ecology Bus Center (Lakefield) and St. Paul Neighborhood Energy Consortium (St. Paul).

"It is with great pleasure that I extend EPA's support to these organizations in Minnesota for environmental education programs," said Acting Regional Administrator David A. Ullrich. "By learning about local environmental issues, students and teachers can make positive contributions to improving the health of their communities."

This year, EPA awarded a total of \$189,582 to 20 recipients in the Midwest. More than 80 applicants competed for these grants. As required by Federal law, the majority of the awards are for grass-roots programs costing \$5,000 or less. During the past 10 years, EPA Region 5 has awarded more than \$1.5 million in educational grants to academic institutions, nonprofit organizations and tribes in the Midwest.

EPA awards these grants under the 1990 National Environmental Education Act, which gives EPA the authority to support and create environmental education programs nationwide.

MINNESOTA

- \$25,000 to Eco-Education (275 E. Fourth St. #821, St. Paul) to provide training to 5th through 8th grade teachers from Minneapolis and St. Paul schools through its Model Schools in Urban Environmental Education Initiative. Teachers will increase their knowledge of current urban environmental issues and apply it in their classrooms.

- \$4,550 to Hennepin Conservation District (10801 Wayzata Blvd., Suite 240, Minnetonka), to educate citizens about the function and value of wetlands and to foster public awareness and citizen involvement in protecting wetlands. The Hennepin Conservation District will develop and train at least three citizen volunteer teams consisting of adults and teens. Training sessions will be conducted to teach the teams how to sample and analyze plant and invertebrate communities in four of the community's wetlands. The testing gives resource managers a clearer picture of what constitutes a healthy wetland ecosystem and gives the district information for comparison, analysis, restoration and mitigation efforts.

- \$5,000 to Minnesota Lakes Association (PO Box 321, Brainerd), to provide workshops for teachers and students on lake ecology. Using an existing curriculum, Interactive Lake Ecology, 5th and 6th grade students will learn the basics of lake ecology and how to be responsible stewards of lakes. The project will target 500 students and 20-25 teachers in at least five schools.

- \$21,725 to Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (520 Lafayette Rd., St. Paul), to host four, two-day workshops for state and local elected officials, educators, citizens and the regulated community to help them understand the vulnerability of water resources in a sensitive geologic setting. The project will also promote the adoption of decisions and practices that protect the environment and human health in these vulnerable areas.

- \$5,000 to Prairie Ecology Bus Center (P.O. Box 429, Lakefield), to transport students from their schools to nearby natural areas. Educators will teach about aquatic systems including information on the water cycle and water quality. About 1,500 students in grades 4 through 12 and their teachers will have an opportunity to take part in hands-on, problem-based education programs about their community's aquatic resources.

- \$5,000 to St. Paul Neighborhood Energy Consortium (624 Selby, St. Paul) to promote recycling to St. Paul's Hmong and Hispanic communities. The goals are to increase recycling rates by making recycling accessible to diverse communities, build relationships with both

communities and to test an outreach model for reaching other diverse communities. The project will reach about 35,000 residents.

###

EPA Awards \$27,050 to Michigan for
Environmental Education

CONTACT:

(Media) Megan Gavin, (312) 353-5282

(Media) Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA071

CHICAGO (May 15, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 recently awarded \$27,050 in grants to nonprofit organizations and universities in Michigan to support innovative environmental education. The recipients are Liberty Children's Art Project (Nagaunee), Michigan State University-Kent County Extension Office (Grand Rapids) and Wildlife Unlimited (Holland).

"It is with great pleasure that I extend EPA's support to these organizations in Michigan for environmental education programs," said Acting Regional Administrator David A. Ullrich. "By learning about local environmental issues, students and teachers can make positive contributions to improving their communities."

This year, EPA awarded a total of \$189,582 to 20 recipients in the Midwest. More than 80 applicants competed for the grants. As required by Federal law, the majority of the awards are for grass-roots programs costing \$5,000 or less. During the past 10 years, EPA Region 5 has awarded more than \$1.5 million in educational grants to academic institutions, nonprofit organizations and tribes in the Midwest.

EPA awards these grants under the 1990 National Environmental Education Act, which gives EPA the authority to support and create environmental education programs nationwide.

MICHIGAN

- \$5,000 to the Liberty Children's Art Project (42 Iron St., Nagaunee). Students from the Negaunee Middle School in Michigan will work with artists and environmental educators at Partridge Creek Nature Park to design and create glazed ceramic plaques explaining significant environmental features in the park.

- \$5,000 to Michigan State University, Kent County Extension Office (836 Fuller, NE, Grand Rapids). MSU and its partners will compile existing land-use educational materials into a land-use learning series for upper elementary students (4th and 5th grades) and train teachers how to use the materials in their classrooms. The series will provide an interactive way for teachers and students to learn about land-use planning and decision-making in their community. Topics will include: the role of local government in land-use planning, impacts of land-use decisions on the environment and basic map making skills while surveying local neighborhoods.

- \$17,050 to Wildlife Unlimited (P.O. Box 1975, Holland). The Dune Ecosystem project will provide 50 high school students with the opportunity to participate in environmental investigation, restoration and preservation of habitats. Outcomes will include establishing a functioning natural outdoor classroom for students, adults and families at the 100-acre Outdoor Discovery Center Preserve. Both students and teachers will develop designs for interpretive trails and panels at an educational facility.

#

EPA Awards \$32,589 to Indiana for
Environmental Education

CONTACT:

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(Media) Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA070

CHICAGO (May 15, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has recently awarded \$32,589 in grants to support innovative environmental education programs in Indiana. The recipients are Huntington County Community Schools-Riverview Middle School (Huntington), Johnson County Solid Waste District (Franklin) and Marian College (Indianapolis).

"It is with great pleasure that I extend EPA's support to these organizations in Indiana for environmental education programs," said Acting Regional Administrator David A. Ullrich. "By learning about local environmental issues, students and teachers can make positive contributions to improving the health of their communities."

This year, EPA awarded a total of \$189,582 to 20 recipients in the Midwest. More than 80 applicants competed for the grants. As required by Federal law, a majority of the awards are for grass-roots programs costing \$5,000 or less. During the past 10 years, EPA Region 5 has awarded more than \$1.5 million in educational grants to academic institutions, nonprofit organizations, and tribes in the Midwest.

EPA awards these grants under the 1990 National Environmental Education Act, which gives EPA the authority to support and create environmental education programs nationwide.

INDIANA

- \$4,580 to Huntington Co. Community Schools-Riverview Middle School (2465 Waterworks Road, Huntington), approximately 200 6th grade students at Riverview Middle School will help create a soils learning center lab. The lab will teach students about soils as a living system, soil forming processes including factors and components, the role of soil in the hydrologic cycle and the soil qualities and land use capabilities of other human activities.

- \$4,960 to the Johnson County Solid Waste District (18 W. Jefferson St., Franklin) for an environmental education program focused on solid waste management, particularly waste reduction. Johnson County will use a robotic dog as a mascot and teaching tool. The dog will also visit the Hoosier Association of Science Teachers= annual conference, a meeting of the Indiana Environmental Education Association, and be part of an interactive workshop at the Indiana Recycling Coalition conference.

- \$23,049 to Marian College (3200 Cold Spring Road, Indianapolis) Approximately 125 8th graders and 60 9th graders will visit the college to learn "What is an Environmental Scientist?" Students will learn about the ecological importance of wetlands and get hands-on experience in the methods/procedures environmental scientists use in wetland evaluations. Marian College faculty and environmental science majors will serve as facilitators.

#

EPA Awards \$37,690 for Environmental Education in Illinois

CONTACT:

(Media) Megan Gavin, (312) 353-5282

(Media) Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA069

CHICAGO (May 15, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has recently awarded \$37,690 in grants to several nonprofit organizations and a high school in Illinois to support innovative environmental education. The recipients are the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum of the Chicago Academy of Sciences (Chicago), the MidAmerica Leadership Foundation B Ecovida (Chicago), Interstate RC & D (Milan) and Thornton Fractional Township High School (Calumet City).

"It is with great pleasure that I extend EPA's support to these organizations in Illinois for environmental education programs," said Acting Regional Administrator David A. Ullrich. "By learning about local environmental issues, students and teachers can make positive contributions to improving the health of their communities."

This year, EPA awarded a total of \$189,582 to 20 recipients in the Midwest. More than 80 applicants competed for these grants. As required by Federal law, the majority of the awards are for grass-roots programs costing \$5,000 or less. During the past 10 years, EPA Region 5 has awarded more than \$1.5 million in educational grants to academic institutions, nonprofit organizations, and tribes in the Midwest.

EPA awards these grants under the 1990 National Environmental Education Act, which gives EPA the authority to support and create environmental education programs nationwide.

ILLINOIS

- \$22,700 to Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum of the Chicago Academy of Sciences (2060 N. Clark Street, Chicago), for a pilot environmental science project for elementary students. The Academy will partner with Reilly School, the first Chicago public school to install solar panels, to develop four solar energy activities geared toward 4th-6th grade students. In addition, the development of both an interactive online experience and a live Web chat will enable students to talk to solar energy experts.

- \$4,990 to MidAmerica Leadership Foundation-Ecovida (1840 S. Throop, Chicago), which will implement aquaculture, vermiculture, organic gardening and other ecology programs at Manuel Perez Elementary School in partnership with the Heifer Project and Community Supported Agriculture of Angelic Organics. The project will be piloted in the 2001-2002 school year.

- \$5,000 to Interstate RC&D (3020 East 1st Avenue, Milan.) Interstate RC & D's Outdoor Environmental Education program will provide teacher training and hands-on learning activities for 2000 children in grades 3-8. The training is intended to give students and teachers a knowledge of plant and animal communities native to Northwest Illinois and Eastern Iowa. They will also teach about the wise-use and management of local natural resources.

- \$5,000 to Thornton Fractional Township High School (1601 Wentworth Ave, Calumet City), for its Prairie Heritage Project to help students reestablish links to their communities' natural heritage. Initial phases of the project will be completed by Thornton's environmental club before the school year starts. In addition to the plot of land becoming a reclaimed prairie, it will also become a classroom without walls and a demonstration site for the surrounding communities. The community will be invited to learn lessons garnered from the project.

#

EPA Seeks Public Comment on Wayne
Disposal Permit Modification; Public
Hearing May 23

CONTACT:

Denise Battaglia, (312) 886-9859

Karen Thompson, (312) 353-8547

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA068

CHICAGO (May 9, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 will hold a joint public hearing with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) on a request to modify operations at the Wayne Disposal Inc. landfill. The hearing begins at 7 p.m., Wednesday, May 23, at Belleville High School, 501 West Columbia, Belleville, Mich.

The company is requesting a revision to its Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) approval that would expand a hazardous waste cell to accept 2.9 million cubic yards of additional waste.

EPA will accept public comments on the draft TSCA approval until June 11. To review the documents, visit the Fred C. Fischer Library, 167 Fourth St., or Van Buren Township, 46425 Tyler Rd., both in Belleville, or contact Denise Battaglia at EPA Region 5, 77 W. Jackson Blvd., P-19J, Chicago, Ill. 60604, (800) 621-8431 Ext. 69859.

EPA will evaluate and respond to all significant public comments, including those received at the hearing. A response summary will be made available to the public when EPA makes a final decision.

About Wayne Disposal

Wayne Disposal Inc. located at 49350 North I-94 Service Dr., Belleville, Mich., is

EPA News Release 01-OPA-068: EPA Seeks Public Comment on Wayne Disposal Permit Modification; Public Hearing May 23 a hazardous waste and PCB-waste landfill.

#

EPA Reaches Agreement with Industrial
Cleanup

CONTACT:

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(Technical) Joseph Cardile, (312) 353-2151

(Legal) Kathleen Schnieders, (312) 353-8912

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA067

CHICAGO (MAY 9, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has reached an agreement with Industrial Waste Cleanup, Inc., 12838 Gavel, Detroit, Mich., on alleged violations of federal regulations on asbestos, a hazardous air pollutant. EPA assessed a \$6,500 penalty.

The agreement resolves an EPA administrative complaint filed in 1999 alleging Industrial Waste Cleanup violated federal asbestos regulations during a 1997 renovation of the St. Lawrence Church and School, 44633 Utica Road, Utica, Mich. A complaint against St. Lawrence Church and School filed at the same time was settled in February 2000. No penalty was assessed against the church and school.

"EPA is committed to enforcing the asbestos regulations to protect public health and the environment," said Cheryl Newton, acting director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "We will take all necessary steps to ensure that asbestos contractors comply with the federal regulations."

Asbestos is a known cancer causing substance that can cause mesothelioma, a type of lung cancer, and asbestosis, a lung disease, many years after exposure.

###

EPA Reaches Agreement with Equistar

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For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA066

CHICAGO (May 8, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 recently reached agreement with Equistar Chemicals L.P. on alleged violation of the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). Equistar will pay a \$49,750 fine.

Equistar failed to fully implement an air emissions leak detection and repair program designed to monitor for hazardous waste emissions from valves and pumps at the site. The settlement resolves a September 2000 complaint.

Under RCRA, passed by Congress in 1976, EPA regulates hazardous wastes from their production to their final disposal.

About Equistar

Located at 8805 N. Tabler Rd., Morris, Ill. Equistar produces volatile vinyl acetate, a hazardous waste under state and federal law, in its manufacture of plastics.

###

EPA Cites Hutchinson Utilities

Commission

CONTACT:

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(Technical) Greg Chomycia, (312) 353-8217

(Legal) Karl Karg, (312) 886-7948

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA065

CHICAGO (MAY 8, 2001) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has filed an administrative complaint against Hutchinson Utilities Commission for alleged violations of federal acid-rain regulations at the commission's electric generating station, 225 Michigan St., Hutchinson, Minn. EPA proposed a \$55,000 civil penalty.

The complaint alleges that Hutchinson Utilities failed to comply with planning, monitoring, record keeping and reporting requirements of the acid-rain regulations. Regulated emissions include sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxide and carbon dioxide.

Hutchinson Utilities has 30 days from receipt of the complaint to file an answer and request a hearing. It may request an informal conference with EPA at any time to discuss the allegations.

"EPA is committed to enforcing clean-air regulations to protect public health and the environment," said Cheryl Newton, acting director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "We will take all necessary steps to ensure that companies comply with the Clean Air Act."

Exposure to high concentrations of sulfur dioxide can impair breathing, aggravate existing respiratory diseases like bronchitis and reduce the ability of the lungs to clear foreign particles. Sulfur dioxide causes acid rain. Children, the elderly and people with existing heart and lung conditions are the most sensitive. Nitrogen dioxide can irritate the lungs and lower resistance to respiratory infections. Nitrogen oxides contribute to formation of ground-level ozone (smog) and acid rain.

Build up of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere has been linked to the warming of the Earth's atmosphere.

#

Cleanup Begins at South Point Plant Site

CONTACT:

(Media) Bob Paulson, (312) 886-0272

(Technical) Matt Mankowski, (312) 886-1842

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA064

CHICAGO (May 3, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 announces that cleanup is under way at the South Point Plant Superfund site, in South Point, Ohio. Residents and businesses near the 610-acre site can expect to see workers in required protective equipment at the site, along with slightly increased traffic.

The project will take about 18 months at an estimated cost of \$4 million. Several responsible parties are funding the work, which EPA will supervise.

Following a few weeks of set-up, and clearing debris and vegetation, contaminated material will be excavated from an area in the central portion of the site. The excavated material then will be consolidated in the site's eastern disposal area, or sent to off-site disposal if highly contaminated. Material collected from the three other less contaminated portions of the site will be consolidated and buried at the site under an EPA-approved landfill cap. An existing ground-water pumping and treatment system will remain operable throughout the project and for decades to come.

For more information, call community involvement coordinator Bob Paulson, (312) 886-0272, or e-mail: paulson.robert@epa.gov.

About the site

The South Point Plant site is between U.S. 52 and the Ohio River, along the northern boundary of the city of South Point. The site covers a large industrial area where ammonia fertilizer, formaldehyde, coal-water fuel, ethanol and other products were manufactured from 1943 to 1997. The site lies upon the eastern flood plain of the Ohio River, within half a mile of the village of South Point's well field. The intake for the Ashland, Ky., municipal water supply is about a mile downstream from the site. The site was placed on the Superfund National Priorities List in 1984.

###

EPA Proposes Plan for New
Contamination Found at Fields Brook Site;
Meeting May 10, 7 P.M.

CONTACT:

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(Legal) Peter Felitti, (312) 886-5114

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA063

CHICAGO (May 3, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 will hold a public meeting to discuss its plan to address an additional layer of contamination found last fall at the Fields Brook Superfund site in Ashtabula, Ohio. The meeting will be Thursday, May 10, 7 p.m., at the Ashtabula Chamber of Commerce, Culver Conference Center, 4536 Main Ave.

EPA representatives will discuss a proposal to use an on-site treatment method called low-temperature thermal desorption to address about 15,000 cubic yards of highly contaminated soil and sediment unexpectedly found below Fields Brook during the ongoing site cleanup last fall.

The proposed system first heats the soil and sediment, which volatilizes the contaminants into the air within the treatment unit, and then thermally destroys them. The system would need to meet EPA's regulatory requirements for an incinerator. If EPA uses this treatment approach, it would be tested first to ensure full compliance with all health and safety requirements.

Despite the delay due to the discovery of the additional contamination, EPA expects cleanup work in Fields Brook to be completed in 2002.

Other Site News

Cleanups at the remaining two industrial or "source control" areas will be finished this summer. At one area, extraction wells will be installed at the Detrex Corp. facility to pump out the highly contaminated ground water below the site. At the other area, the excavation of PCB-contaminated soil will begin at the RMI Metals facility this month. The material will be placed in the existing on-site landfill.

Cleanups are already completed at the other four Fields Brook source control areas: Acme Scrap, Millenium TiCl4 Plant, the North Sewers and Conrail.

###

EPA Settles with Safety-Kleen on
Hazardous Waste Violations

CONTACT:

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(Technical) Michael Mikulka, (312) 886-6760

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA062

CHICAGO (May 1, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 recently reached agreement with Safety-Kleen Systems, Inc., for allegedly violating the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) at its Dolton, Ill., recycling center. Safety-Kleen paid a \$310,000 fine.

Several EPA inspections at the center in 1997, 1998 and 1999 revealed numerous violations. The order requires Safety-Kleen to: make additional waste determinations, cease shipping hazardous waste off-site without a manifest and not operate certain processes at the facility without a RCRA permit. In addition, upgrades to the storage areas and complete implementation of a new computer-based tracking system for hazardous waste will be required.

Safety-Kleen will also be required to perform three significant on-site environmental improvement projects that will reduce volatile organic emissions by more than 66,000 pounds per year. The projects are estimated to cost over \$1.2 million.

Under RCRA, passed by Congress in 1976, EPA regulates hazardous wastes from their generation to their final disposal.

About Safety-Kleen

Safety-Kleen Systems, Inc., Columbia, S.C., is a hazardous waste management company which operates the Dolton solvent reclamation and recycling center.

The facility regenerates spent solvents as well as blends them into fuels derived from hazardous waste.

#

EPA Administrator Whitman Awards
Environmental Education Grant to Peggy
Notebaert Nature Museum

CONTACT:

(Media) Kären Thompson, (312) 353-8547
(Nature Museum) Gary Silbar, (847) 433-5784
For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA061

CHICAGO (Apr. 30, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Administrator Christie Whitman today awarded a \$22,700 environmental
education grant to the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum of the Chicago
Academy of Sciences on behalf of EPA Region 5.

"It's so important that our young people know that taking care of our environment
is everyone's responsibility and you're never too young to start," said EPA
Administrator Christie Whitman.

The grant will fund Chicago Del Sol, a unique environmental project about solar
energy to be piloted by the Nature Museum in partnership with Frank Reilly
Elementary School, 3650 W. School St., Chicago. The interactive environmental
science activities will be Web-based. Middle-school students will learn about
solar energy through hands-on experiments, field trips to the museum and on
line chats with solar experts. Reilly School teachers will learn how to incorporate
into the curriculum solar activities that meet education standards and contribute
to student performance. The project will serve as a model for other Chicago
public schools.

EPA began awarding grants in 1992 under the 1990 National Environmental
Education Act, which allows EPA to support and create environmental education
programs nationwide. EPA Region 5 has awarded more than \$336,300 in
environmental education grants to the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum and the
Chicago Academy of Sciences since 1992. The Chicago Academy of Sciences
was one of the first recipients under that act.

"Although the grant dollar amount is relatively small, I am sure that our return on
this investment in youth will be very large," said David Ullrich, EPA Acting
Regional Administrator. "Both institutions have created exceptional programs
and products that have become models for environmental education nationally."
The Nature Museum will partner with science teachers at Frank Reilly
Elementary School, the first of several Chicago Public Schools to receive solar
energy systems. The solar units were installed at the school in October of 1999
and funded by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs, the
Chicago Department of the Environment, ComEd and Chicago Public Schools.
The museum also has a new solar energy system, the first of its kind in Chicago.
"We're very grateful to the EPA for awarding us this grant and look forward to
continuing the exceptional relationship we have established with the Reilly
School," said Joe Shacter, president of the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum
and the Chicago Academy of Sciences. "We're proud that EPA Administrator
Christie Whitman chose to present us this grant in person and are thrilled to
show her our wonderful museum and grounds."

The 2001 grant to the Nature Museum is one of 20, totaling \$189,582, to be
awarded in Region 5's six states comprising Illinois, Indiana, Michigan,
Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin. The Nature Museum's proposal competed
among 90 other applicants and was subject to a rigorous evaluation process.
In the past 10 years, EPA Region 5 has awarded more than \$1.6 million in
environmental education grants to academic institutions, nonprofit groups and
Tribes in the Midwest. Nationally, EPA has awarded more than 2,000
environmental education grants to recipients across the United States since
1992 totaling more than \$20 million.

#

EPA Screens First Delta, Ohio, Properties
for Lead Contamination

CONTACT:

Susan Pastor, (312) 353-1325

Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050

Matt Ohl, (312) 886-4442

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA059

CHICAGO (April 27, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 next week begins screening properties for possible lead contamination in four Delta, Ohio, neighborhoods. The properties may have received foundry sand for use as fill material some time during the 1940s to 1980s from the former Eagle-Picher Industries facility at 202 Van Buren St. The facility is now owned by the Bunting Bearings Corp.

The project begins April 30 and will take at least a few weeks, followed by laboratory analysis this summer. Originally set to begin a few weeks ago, work was delayed to gather additional information and arrange for property access. The sand, which is dark brown to black in color, may contain high levels of lead that could pose a health risk. The project is limited to about 20 to 25 residential properties in four neighborhoods near the facility. Each property will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. If the sampling indicates a potential health issue, EPA, Ohio EPA, and the Ohio and Fulton County Health Departments will work together on the quickest and most appropriate course of action.

The sampling process will involve three different site assessment tools, which will help EPA to identify and determine the extent of any contaminated material. Every effort will be made to minimize property damage.

Eagle-Picher Industries is currently cleaning up the Van Buren Street facility.

Last year's activities, primarily involving excavation and off-site disposal of contaminated foundry sand, were halted by the company when the foundry sand was found to extend under pavement and buildings at the site. Eagle-Picher is now exploring alternatives to treat the waste without removing the buildings.

EPA has not ruled out the possibility that other properties may have received the material. Residents in other neighborhoods with questions about the project may call Matt Ohl, (800) 621-8431, Ext. 64442, or Susan Pastor, Ext. 31325. A fact sheet containing additional information is also available and has been mailed to homes in the neighborhoods where the sampling will take place.

###

EPA Continues Removal Action at
Valleycrest Landfill

CONTACT:

Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050

Rafael P. Gonzalez, (312) 886-0269

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA058

CHICAGO (April 25, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 will continue the removal action at the Valleycrest Landfill Superfund site in Dayton, Ohio, under its existing removal enforcement order.

The removal action, which began in December 1998, was scheduled to transition from EPA to Ohio EPA in early summer. However, based on concerns about the potential for future public health threats to communities near the site, EPA will continue the removal action at the site.

"After significant public input and additional discussion with Ohio EPA, Ohio Department of Health and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, we believe that maintaining the current federal role at the site is the appropriate course of action," said Regional Superfund Director William Munro. To date more than 25,000 subsurface drums, in varying stages of decay, have been removed from Area 5 for off-site disposal. About 3,160 cubic yards of polychlorinated biphenyl-contaminated soil and debris, 5,800 cubic yards of trichloroethane (TCE)-contaminated debris, and 340 cubic yards of lead-contaminated debris also have been sent for off-site disposal.

The announcement will not affect EPA's previously-stated commitment to supervise construction, operation and maintenance of a landfill gas abatement system around Valleycrest's perimeter. The existing community safety measures and emergency notification procedures also remain unchanged.

A community meeting to provide a comprehensive update on developments at the site will be announced in the near future.

About the Site

The 102-acre Valleycrest Landfill site, also known as North Sanitary Landfill, was formerly a gravel pit that accepted industrial and municipal waste from 1965 to 1975. Some areas of the site were also used for disposal of foundry sand, fly ash and bag house dust (collected from pollution control equipment) from the mid-1970s through 1989.

###

EPA Settles with Metalworking Lubricants
on Hazardous Waste Violations

CONTACT:

(Media) Karen Thompson, (312) 353-8547

(Technical) Lorna Jereza, (312) 353-5110

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA057

CHICAGO (Sep. 10, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 recently reached agreement with Metalworking Lubricants Co. for allegedly violating the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). Metalworking paid a \$15,000 fine.

EPA inspected the facility in September 1999 and discovered that on several occasions Metalworking Lubricants accepted used oil at its facility without submitting waste oil processing reports required by EPA and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. Under the agreement, Metalworking Lubricants will immediately stop all waste oil processing.

About Metalworking Lubricants, Inc.

Metalworking Lubricants recycles oils and greases and resells them to auto and steel companies. It is located at 25 Silverdome Industrial Park, Pontiac, Mich., and has done business in Pontiac since 1952.

#

Cleanup at Skinner Landfill Under Way

CONTACT:

(Media) Susan Pastor, (312) 353-1325

(Technical) Scott Hansen, (312) 886-1999

(Legal) Sherry Estes, (312) 886-7164

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA056

CHICAGO (April 25, 2001) -- As a result of a recent consent decree at the Skinner Landfill Superfund site in West Chester, Ohio, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 will supervise an \$11 to \$15 million cleanup now under way. Ohio EPA will assist EPA with the site supervision.

The consent decree, entered in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Ohio in Cincinnati, and which was available for public comment from June 9 to August 14, 2000, represents an agreement among the U.S. Government, the site owners, and 13 former waste generators and transporters. The agreement requires the companies to pay for and manage the cleanup of the site. These companies will pay EPA's costs in overseeing the work. The consent decree also provides for the potential re-use of the site once the cleanup has been completed.

The agreement also includes 48 companies, four federal agencies and five municipalities that sent a very small amount of waste to the site. In addition, a related agreement has been signed involving seven cities and villages that sent trash and debris to the site, which should relieve them of any past or future liability.

According to a 1993 EPA decision, the cleanup will include a hazardous waste cap over the landfill, operation and maintenance of the cap, and ground-water control and monitoring. The cap will consist of a synthetic clay layer, a drainage layer, and layer of top soil and grass.

Staging of construction equipment for the project, along with the removal of some trees, has begun. Area residents and businesses can expect to see slightly increased vehicle traffic and workers in required protective clothing. Since Union Elementary School is nearby, site work that is likely to cause the most waste and soil disturbance will be done when school is not in session. The project is expected to wrap up by late October.

The consent decree for the cleanup and other site-related documents are available at www.epa.gov/region5/sites/.

About the site

The 78-acre Skinner site is about 15 miles north of Cincinnati. From 1934 to 1990, it accepted residential and commercial waste. Sampling of the site's buried lagoon confirmed the presence of pesticides, volatile and semi-volatile organic compounds, PCBs and heavy metals.

###

EPA Awards Brownfields Grants to
LaPorte and Michigan City

CONTACT:

Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA055

CHICAGO (April 23, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency awarded Brownfields \$250,000 grants to LaPorte and Michigan City, Indiana.

Nationally, more than 90 communities received funding of more than \$38 million for brownfields assessment and cleanup. In the EPA Region 5 states (Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin) 19 grants were awarded. Brownfields are abandoned or underutilized properties where real or perceived environmental contamination has slowed redevelopment. Grants may be awarded to address individual sites, or groups of sites, within a defined geographic area. Three grant categories were included in the announcement: new pilot grants, supplemental pilot funding to continue ongoing work at sites that have already received grants, and revolving loan fund grants, which make low-cost loans available to communities to assist in moving their initiatives forward.

Both LaPorte and Michigan City received new brownfields pilot assessment grants. LaPorte will use its grant to assess five parcels encompassing more than 100 acres and two abandoned railroad rights-of-way. The grant includes \$50,000 specifically earmarked for greenspace preservation in this case, expansion of nearby Fox Park, including an urban bicycle trail.

Michigan City will use its grant to assess two abandoned industrial sites: Schmock Oil and Royal Metal. The Michigan City grant also includes \$50,000 for greenspace preservation, which will be used to assess a 23-acre former city dump which is slated to be converted into a nature park.

Since 1993, EPA has provided over \$162 million in brownfields grants with \$2.9 billion leveraged and over 11,000 jobs created. Summaries of the April 2001 grants will be online soon at www.epa.gov/brownfields.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Brownfields 2001 Conference in Chicago, September 24-26

U.S. EPA and Illinois EPA are among more than a dozen organizations co-sponsoring Brownfields 2001, a national conference at Chicago's McCormick Place Convention Center, September 24-26, 2001. For details on speakers and the conference program, or assistance in developing local story ideas, call Mick Hans in the EPA Region 5 press office, (312) 353-5050.

#

EPA Awards Brownfields Grants to Five
Illinois Communities

CONTACT:

Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA054

CHICAGO (April 20, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency awarded five Brownfields grants to Illinois communities: Belvidere, Canton, East Moline, Freeport and Lacon. The grants total \$950,000.

Brownfields are abandoned or underutilized properties where real or perceived environmental contamination has slowed redevelopment. Grants may be awarded to address individual sites, or groups of sites, within a defined geographic area. Three grant categories were included in today's announcement: new pilot grants, supplemental pilot funding to continue ongoing work at sites that have already received grants, and revolving loan fund grants, which make low-cost loans available to communities to assist in moving their initiatives forward.

Nationally, more than 90 communities received funding of more than \$38 million for brownfields assessment and cleanup. In the EPA Region 5 states (Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin) 19 grants were awarded.

Summaries of the grants will be online soon at www.epa.gov/brownfields.

Belvidere and Freeport received new brownfields pilot assessment grants.

Belvidere will use its \$200,000 grant to target two areas: four properties within the downtown Kishwaukee River corridor and three properties on East Madison Street. Freeport will use its \$250,000 grant for a comprehensive assessment of the Rawleigh Complex, the site of an EPA and Illinois EPA drum removal and contaminated soil excavation in 2000. The Freeport grant includes \$50,000 specifically earmarked for greenspace preservation.

Canton, East Moline and Lacon received supplemental funding grants. Canton will use its \$200,000 grant (including \$50,000 for greenspace preservation) to target areas within the former International Harvester site. East Moline will use its \$150,000 grant to assess three sites in The Quarter, a downtown area with a history of industrial and transportation use. Lacon will use its \$150,000 grant to sample offshore sediment and develop a cleanup plan for the Lacon Woolen Mill site, a facility near the Illinois River which closed in the late 1960s.

Since 1993, EPA has provided over \$162 million in brownfields grants with \$2.9 billion leveraged and over 11,000 jobs created.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Brownfields 2001 Conference in Chicago, September 24-26

U.S. EPA and Illinois EPA are among more than a dozen organizations co-sponsoring Brownfields 2001, a national conference at Chicago's McCormick Place Convention Center, September 24-26, 2001. For details on speakers and the conference program, or assistance in developing local story ideas, call Mick Hans in the EPA Region 5 press office, (312) 353-5050.

###

EPA Names Regional President's
Environmental Youth Award Winners

CONTACT:

Megan Gavin, (312) 353-5282

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA053

CHICAGO (Sep. 10, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Region 5 today announced the regional winners of the President's

Environmental Youth Awards for the 2000 school year. Winning projects from 10

EPA Regions will be recognized at a ceremony in Washington, D.C., on April 24.

The first-place winners are Lauren Goldberg, now at the University of

Wisconsin-Madison, and Andrew Klaber, now at Yale, for the Recycled Paper

Procurement Initiative they carried out while at Stevenson High School,

(Lincolnshire, Ill.) The students researched and completed a pilot project that led

to their school and 30 other schools in the district buying and using recycled

paper. The results of the project can be seen at [http://buyrecycledpaper.](http://buyrecycledpaper.hypermart.net)

hypermart.net. Their advisor was Chris Franken, Director of Student Activities at

Stevenson High School.

"We received many outstanding entries and we commend all participants for

their efforts as our future environmental leaders," said Acting Regional

Administrator David A. Ullrich. "First-place winners Lauren Goldberg and Andrew

Klaber not only convinced their high school to buy recycled paper, but are

encouraging others to buy recycled paper by posting all their research on a Web

site."

EPA also recognized these finalists:

First runner-up: "Just Dig It," an Arbor Day event organized by Girl Scouts

Sarah Hansen and Elizabeth Schultz (Deerfield, Ill.) The girls coordinated and

promoted tree planting and cleaning up garlic mustard in the Wright Woods

Forest Preserve. More than 200 people in the community attended the event.

Second runner-up: Students at Waterville Primary School (Waterville, Ohio),

designed, promoted and created the Waterville Land Lab in a former farm field

behind the school. It features native Northwest Ohio plants in different

ecosystems such as a wetland, prairie, oak savanna and woodland wildflower

garden. The lab promotes appreciation and awareness of Northwest Ohio's

natural heritage and encourages stewardship of the environment.

Third runner-up: Detroit's Fabulous Garden (Detroit, Mich.) Children

transformed a vacant city lot into a garden with the help of a neighbor

knowledgeable on organic gardening. In addition to choosing seeds, helping to

maintain tools, weeding and watering the garden, the children designed hedges

and pathways. One of the children, inspired by the project, is studying to

become a junior master gardener.

The President's Environmental Youth Awards program is a national contest,

sponsored annually by EPA, to honor creative environmental projects developed

and carried out by elementary and high school students.

###

EPA Awards Eight Brownfields Grants to Michigan Communities

CONTACT:

Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA052

CHICAGO (April 20, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency awarded eight Brownfields grants to Michigan communities: Keweenaw Bay, Jackson County (two), Lansing, Saginaw, St. Louis, Three Rivers and Washtenaw County. The grants total \$3.45 million.

Brownfields are abandoned or underutilized properties where real or perceived environmental contamination has slowed redevelopment. Grants may be awarded to address individual sites, or groups of sites, within a defined geographic area. Three grant categories were included in today's announcement: new pilot grants, supplemental pilot funding to continue ongoing work at sites that have already received grants, and revolving loan funds grants, which make low-cost loans available to communities to assist in moving their initiatives forward.

Nationally, more than 90 communities received funding of more than \$38 million for brownfields assessment and cleanup. In the EPA Region 5 states (Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin) 19 grants were awarded. Summaries of the grants will be online soon at www.epa.gov/brownfields.

Keweenaw Bay, St. Louis, Three Rivers and Washtenaw County received new \$200,000 Brownfields grants. (As a result, they will be eligible for the other EPA grant categories in the future.) Keweenaw Bay, an Indian community south of Houghton, will use its grant to assess ecological damage from past industrial uses at and around Sand Point, which it plans to develop into a recreational park. St. Louis will use its grant to inventory and conduct preliminary assessments of dozens of brownfield sites in the area. A series of workshops to engage local stakeholders are also proposed. Three Rivers, a community of 7,500, has targeted at least seven sites -- some owned by the city -- for assessment with its grant. Washtenaw County will use its grant to focus on regional urban sprawl and transportation corridor issues, as well as an inventory and assessment of 10 to 15 sites in the Ann Arbor area.

Jackson County and Saginaw received \$1 million revolving loan fund grants to support ongoing activities that previously received EPA grants. Lansing received a \$500,000 grant. Jackson County plans to use its grant to advance redevelopment at the former Michigan Industrial Holdings property and two former metal recycling facilities owned by Jackson Iron & Metal. In addition, Jackson County received a \$150,000 supplemental funding grant to expand the use of a 100-site inventory previously created by an EPA pilot grant. Saginaw will use its grant to address several sites, including a vacant agricultural elevator, an abandoned riverfront steel recycling facility and a former soap manufacturing building.

Lansing will use its grant for two ongoing projects: expansion of the Lansing Convention Center and cleanup of contaminated sites in downtown Lansing that will then be used for the construction of an Arts & Education Center.

Since 1993, EPA has provided over \$162 million in brownfields grants with \$2.9 billion leveraged and over 11,000 jobs created.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Brownfields 2001 Conference in Chicago, September 24-26

U.S. EPA and Illinois EPA are among more than a dozen organizations co-sponsoring Brownfields 2001, a national conference at Chicago's McCormick Place Convention Center, September 24-26, 2001. For details on speakers and the conference program, or assistance in developing local story ideas, call Mick Hans in the EPA Region 5 press office, (312) 353-5050.

###

EPA Awards Four Brownfields Grants to
Ohio Communities

CONTACT:

Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA051

CHICAGO (April 20, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency awarded four Brownfields grants to Ohio communities: Columbus, Lockland, Mansfield and a joint grant to Cleveland and Lima. The grants total \$2.8 million.

Brownfields are abandoned or underutilized properties where real or perceived environmental contamination has slowed redevelopment. Grants may be awarded to address individual sites, or groups of sites, within a defined geographic area. Three grant categories were included in today's announcement: new pilot grants, supplemental pilot funding to continue ongoing work at sites that have already received grants, and revolving loan fund grants, which make low-cost loans available to communities to assist in moving their initiatives forward.

Nationally, more than 90 communities received funding of more than \$38 million for brownfields assessment and cleanup. In the EPA Region 5 states (Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin) 19 grants were awarded.

Summaries of the grants will be online soon at www.epa.gov/brownfields.

Columbus and Lockland received \$150,000 supplemental funding grants.

Columbus will use its grant for eight additional site assessments, with significant activity targeted for a previously designated state empowerment zone and federal enterprise community. Lockland will use its grant for additional technical analysis at three sites examined under the original grant, plus a first-time assessment of a recently-closed roofing products manufacturer.

Mansfield received a \$1 million revolving loan fund grant, which it will use to evaluate an 8-acre former chrome plating operation and a former pump manufacturer with a 50,000 square-foot building.

A \$1.5 million revolving loan fund grant shared by Cleveland and Lima will be managed by the Ohio Department of Development. Cleveland has targeted the Forgotten Triangle and MidTown areas for redevelopment. Lima will focus on further development of the Liberty Commons Industrial Park, as well as on the Flanders/McKibbey Railyard, to permit expansion of Buckeye Rubber, a major employer in the city.

Since 1993, EPA has provided over \$162 million in brownfields grants with \$2.9 billion leveraged and over 11,000 jobs created.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Brownfields 2001 Conference in Chicago, September 24-26

U.S. EPA and Illinois EPA are among more than a dozen organizations co-sponsoring Brownfields 2001, a national conference at Chicago's McCormick Place Convention Center, September 24-26, 2001. For details on speakers and the conference program, or assistance in developing local story ideas, call Mick Hans in the EPA Region 5 press office, (312) 353-5050.

###

EPA Cites Six Companies for Clean-Air

Violations

CONTACT:

XXXXXX

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA050

CHICAGO (APRIL 19, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 notified six companies in February and March that it believes they violated federal or federally enforceable state clean-air regulations, or both.

These are preliminary findings of violations. To resolve them, EPA may issue compliance orders, assess administrative penalties or bring suit against the companies. The companies have 30 days from receipt of the notices to request meetings with EPA to discuss the allegations and how to resolve them.

"EPA's mission is to protect public health and the environment," said Cheryl Newton, acting director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "We will take whatever steps are needed to ensure compliance with the Clean Air Act."

[NOTE TO EDITORS: Companies alleged to have violated federal clean-air regulations received a Finding of Violation (FOV), and companies alleged to have violated federally enforceable state regulations received a Notice of Violation (NOV). One company received both.]

COMPANIES RECEIVING FOVs

Tri-Star Cabinet & Top Co.

1000 S. Cedar

New Lenox, Ill.

EPA alleges Tri-Star violated federal rules governing the emission of volatile hazardous air pollutants from wood furniture manufacturing operations. Specifically, Tri-Star failed to meet standards required for maximum achievable control technology for wood furniture coatings. In addition, the company did not have a formulation assessment plan for the known carcinogens formaldehyde and methylene chloride as part of its work practice implementation plan.

Technical Contact: Noel Vargas, (312) 353-3575

Legal Contact: Randa Bishlawi, (312) 886-0510

Dynachem, Inc.

Maple Grove Road

Georgetown, Ill.

EPA alleges Dynachem failed to comply with national emission standards for hazardous organic air pollutants from the synthetic organic chemical manufacturing industry at its acid plant during an EPA inspection on July 17-20, 2000.

Technical Contact: Linda Hamsing, (312) 886-6810

Legal Contact: Kathleen Schnieders, (312) 353-8912

Xcel Energy

French Island Generating Plant

South Bainbridge Street

LaCrosse, Wis.

EPA alleges Xcel Energy violated federal plan requirements for large municipal waste combustors built before Sept. 20, 1994, restricting emissions of certain pollutants, including particulates, sulfur dioxide and hydrogen chloride. Xcel Energy exceeded emission limits for these three pollutants.

Technical Contact: Farro Assadi, (312) 886-1424

Legal Contact: Cathleen Martwick, (312) 886-7166

COMPANIES RECEIVING NOVs

Tri-Star Cabinet & Top Co.

1000 S. Cedar

New Lenox, Ill.

EPA alleges Tri-Star failed to meet state standards for reasonably available control technology for wood furniture coatings. The standards set emission limits for volatile organic compound usage in wood finishing operations.

Technical Contact: Noel Vargas, (312) 353-3575

Legal Contact: Randa Bishlawi, (312) 886-0510

Grede Foundries, Inc.

Liberty Plant

6432 W. State St.

Wauwatosa, Wis.

EPA alleges Grede Foundries failed to comply with state limits on opacity (the amount of light obscured by particulate matter, such as smoke, dust and ash) at its iron foundry.

Technical Contact: Joseph Cardile, (312) 353-2151

Legal Contact: Deborah Carlson, (312) 353-6121

Parenti & Raffaelli, Ltd.

215 E. Prospect Ave.

Mt. Prospect, Ill.

EPA alleges Parenti & Raffaelli failed to comply with state requirements that prohibit the use of non complying coatings after the compliance date for wood furniture manufacturers. Non complying coatings are those that exceed limits on volatile organic compounds for wood furniture coaters.

Technical Contact: Noel Vargas, (312) 353-3575

Legal Contact: Jeffery Trevino, (312) 886-6729

Steel Dynamics, Inc.

2601 County Road

700 East

Columbia City, Ind.

EPA alleges SDI started building a structural steel mill without first getting a permit to prevent significant deterioration of air quality.

Technical Contacts: Linda Hamsing, (312) 886-6810 and Lynne Suesse, (312) 886-0250

Legal Contact: Karl Karg, (312) 886-7948

About EPA

Founded in 1970, EPA is responsible for protecting the environment and human health. The Agency enforces air, water, and land laws and ensures that designated health standards are met. EPA Region 5 includes six Great Lakes

states: Illinois,

Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin.

#

EPA Cites Aura-II for Hazardous Waste
Violations

CONTACT:

(Media) Karen Thompson, (312) 353-8547

(Technical) Walt Francis, (312) 353-4921

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA048

CHICAGO (April 16, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 recently filed a 12-count complaint against Aura-II, Inc., for alleged violations of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). A \$435,668 fine is proposed.

The company, in summary, failed to:

- obtain a permit for stored hazardous waste;
 - make plans with emergency response teams and local hospitals;
 - have the required safety equipment on hazardous waste storage tanks;
- and
- maintain hazardous waste recycling records.

EPA and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources discovered the violations during a Feb. 16, 2000, inspection. The company can request a meeting with EPA to discuss the complaint.

Under RCRA, passed by Congress in 1976, EPA regulates hazardous wastes from their generation to their final disposal.

About Aura-II

Aura-II is a solid waste recycling facility that recovers gold and silver from circuit boards and hazardous plating wastes. It is located at 8035 W. Calumet Rd., Milwaukee, Wis, and has done business in Milwaukee since 1982.

#

EPA Hosts Tour of Completed Mishawaka,
Indiana Superfund Site

CONTACT:

Leo Rosales, (312) 353-6198

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA047

CHICAGO (April 17, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 will host a site tour on April 19 at 10:00 a.m. to recognize completion of the \$6 million EPA-supervised cleanup at the Douglas Road Landfill Superfund site, in Mishawaka, Indiana.

The cities of Mishawaka and South Bend, the Michiana Area Council of Government, and the Friends of Juday Creek were instrumental in the success of the project. The work included installation of a landfill cap and construction of a wetland area to treat contaminated water from the landfill which will prevent further contaminant migration from the site. In addition, 95 homes that were previously on well water were connected to the municipal water supply to prevent potential exposure to contaminated ground-water.

About the site

The 16-acre Douglas Road site was a mixed-use residential and commercial landfill from 1954 to 1979. An EPA investigation in 1994 revealed contamination, including volatile and semi-volatile organic compounds, pesticides and heavy metals, was migrating from the site.

MEDIA BRIEFING AND PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

When: Thursday, April 19, 2001, 10 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. The tour will begin promptly.

Where: Douglas Road Landfill Site, at the northwest corner of Douglas and Grape Roads, Mishawaka, Indiana.

Who: Local officials, community groups, and EPA representatives, including Acting Regional Administrator David Ullrich.

Photo Op: Tour of completed landfill cleanup and wetland area.

#

EPA Cites R & F Metals for Clean-Air,
Clean Water and Hazardous-Waste
Violations

CONTACT:

(Media) William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

(Technical - Air) Joseph Cardile, (312) 353-2151

(Technical - Water) Beth Henning, (312) 886-5892

(Technical - Waste) George Opek, (312) 886-1423

(Legal) Richard Clarizio, (312) 886-0559

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA046

CHICAGO (APRIL 12, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has filed an administrative complaint against R & F Metals Co., Inc., for alleged violations of clean air, clean water and hazardous waste regulations at the company's scrap metal processing plant, 9101 W. Fort St., Detroit, Mich. EPA proposed a \$319,836 penalty.

The EPA complaint alleges that R & F Metals violated the Clean Air Act by improperly disposing of appliances containing ozone depleting refrigerants and by failing to keep records of proper evacuation of ozone depleting refrigerants from the appliances. The complaint also alleges the company violated the Clean Water Act by failing to have an oil spill prevention, control and countermeasures plan.

In addition, the EPA complaint alleges R & F Metals violated the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act by illegally storing used oil. The company had 10 deteriorating containers of used oil at the plant, and it failed to label 100 used oil containers. Further, it failed to timely respond to an EPA information request. R & F Metals has 30 days to file an answer to the complaint and request a hearing. It may request an informal conference to discuss the allegations anytime.

Chlorofluorocarbon refrigerants deplete the stratospheric, or "good," ozone layer allowing dangerous amounts of cancer causing ultraviolet rays from the sun to strike the earth. Production of some of these chemicals was stopped in 1995, and federal law strictly controls their use and handling.

EPA regulations are designed to ensure that oil and used oil are properly handled to prevent contamination of land, surface water and ground water.

Ground and surface water contamination can compromise the quality of water available for human consumption. In addition, small amounts of oil in lakes and rivers can negatively impact fish and wildlife.

About R & F Metals Co., Inc.

R & F Metals is a Michigan corporation with its principal place of business in Detroit. The company is the operator of the facility at 9101 W. Fort St. Metro Robbins Land Co. is the owner of the property. R & F Metals is a scrap metal recycler that has accepted metallic scrap, including small appliances. Baby Creek and the Detroit and Rouge rivers are navigable waters located within three quarters of a mile of the company's facility.

#

EPA Co-Sponsors Brownfields 2001
Conference in Chicago September 24-26;
Call for Presentations

CONTACT:

(Media) Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050

(Media) Ginny Narsete, (312) 886-4359

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA045

CHICAGO (April 10, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Illinois EPA, the International City/County Management Association and the Engineers' Society of Western Pennsylvania are among more than a dozen organizations co-sponsoring "Brownfields 2001," a national conference to showcase brownfields cleanup, redevelopment and policy issues, September 24-26, 2001, at Chicago's McCormick Place Convention Center.

The sixth annual conference is expected to draw more than 3,000 government officials, bankers, developers, planners, attorneys and community groups with a shared interest in the cleanup and redevelopment of abandoned or underutilized properties, commonly known as brownfields. The event will include a number of prominent speakers, including elected officials, as well as presentation of the prestigious Phoenix Awards, which recognize excellence and innovation in brownfields redevelopment.

Organizations and individuals involved in brownfields research are urged to respond to the Engineers' Society's call for presentations, which must be postmarked by April 20, 2001. A broad range of topics is encouraged, including building recycling, energy efficiency, financing, greenspace preservation, industrial/commercial developments, insurance archeology, neighborhood empowerment, remediation technology, small urban sites, smart growth and tax issues. The conference organizers also welcome recommendations for session moderators or participants in panel discussions.

For information on presentation guidelines and the conference program, see the Web site:www.brownfields2001.org.

Note to Editors

The conference program will include guided tours of innovative brownfields sites in the Chicago area along with opportunities to meet key officials involved in these projects. Sponsored by non-EPA agencies and organizations, details and logistics of these tours will be announced at a later date. For assistance in developing story ideas relevant to local publications or broadcast areas, please contact Mick Hans in the EPA Region 5 press office, (312) 353-5050 or e-mail: hans.mick@epa.gov.

###

EPA Cites John Morrell and Company for
Chemical Release Reporting Violation;
Proposes \$155,830 Fine

CONTACT:

(Media) Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050

(Technical) James Entzminger, (312) 886-4062

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA044

CHICAGO (April 9, 2001) -- EPA alleges that on October 22, 2000, at 6:15 a.m., the company failed to promptly report a 3,000-pound release of anhydrous ammonia from a 30,000-pound refrigeration system at its pork processing plant, 801 E. Kemper Road, in Hamilton County, about a mile south of the Butler County line.

Federal laws require facilities to immediately notify the National Response Center (NRC), as well as the state emergency response commission and the local emergency planning committee about any anhydrous ammonia release above 100 pounds. A written follow-up report to the state and local authorities is required as soon as practicable after the release.

Though no injuries or illnesses related to the incident were reported to EPA, a computer model analysis calculated the release crossed the Butler County line at a concentration level high enough require notification to the Butler County authorities.

Morrell reported the incident to the NRC about four hours after knowledge of the situation and to the Ohio emergency response planning commission about 31 hours later. The company never notified the Hamilton County or Butler County emergency planning committee. A written follow-up report was filed with the state 52 days after the incident and with Hamilton County 10 days after the incident. The report was never provided to Butler County.

Anhydrous ammonia may be fatal if inhaled for prolonged periods of time, causes burns to the skin and eyes, and may cause irritation to the eyes, nose and throat.

###

EPA Cites Joyner's Die Casting and
Plating for Hazardous Waste Violations

CONTACT:

(Media) Karen Thompson, (312) 353-8547

(Technical) Howard Caine, (312) 353-9685

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA043

CHICAGO (April 5, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 recently filed a complaint and compliance order against Joyner's Die Casting & Plating, Inc. (Brooklyn Park, Minn.), for alleged violations of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). A \$124,157 fine is proposed.

The company failed to: determine if solid wastes (cyanide carbonates) used on site were hazardous; obtain a permit for treatment, storage or disposal of hazardous waste; and file a report with EPA and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency that details the transportation of hazardous waste to another site. EPA discovered the violations during a June 8, 2000, inspection.

Under RCRA, passed by Congress in 1976, EPA regulates hazardous wastes from their production to their final disposal.

About Joyner's, Inc.

Joyner's is a die casting and plating company located at 7801 Xylon Ave. North, Brooklyn Park, Minn.

###

EPA Reaches Agreement With Arandell

CONTACT:

(Media) William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

(Technical) Michelle Farley, (312) 886-6778

(Legal) Alan Walts, (312) 353-8894

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA042

CHICAGO (APRIL 4, 2001) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has reached an agreement with Arandell Corp. on alleged clean-air violations at the company's printing plant, N82 W13118 Leon Road, Menomonee Falls, Wis. EPA assessed a \$95,400 civil penalty.

The agreement resolves an EPA administrative complaint filed on Sept. 20, 2000, alleging Arandell failed to comply with federally enforceable state regulations on volatile organic compound (VOC) emissions from its lithographic printing operations and failed to comply with terms of its federally enforceable state permit.

"EPA's mission is protection of human health and the environment," said Cheryl Newton, acting director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "We will take whatever steps are necessary to ensure compliance with clean-air regulations." The alleged violations were discovered by Southeast District staff of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources during an Oct. 28, 1998, inspection.

VOCs combine in the air with other chemicals on warm, sunny days to form ground-level ozone (smog), which can cause breathing problems, reduced lung function, eye irritation, stuffy nose, and reduced resistance to colds and other infections. Ozone can also aggravate asthma and speed up the aging of lung tissue.

Menomonee Falls is in the Milwaukee metropolitan area, which does not meet the health-based standard for ozone.

#

EPA Settles with J.H. Routh Packing —
Fine and Environmental Project

CONTACT:

(Media) Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050

(Technical) James Entzminger, (312) 886-4062

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA041

CHICAGO (April 5, 2001) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 settled an administrative complaint with J.H. Routh Packing Co. in Sandusky, Ohio, for violation of federal laws on the reporting of hazardous chemical releases. The company will pay a civil penalty totaling \$21,369 and spend \$34,210 on an environmental project.

EPA alleged that on October 12, 1999, J.H. Routh's facility at 905 Pierce St., failed to promptly report a 1,600-pound release of anhydrous ammonia from a refrigeration system inside an unmanned building. Federal laws require facilities to immediately notify the National Response Center (NRC), the state emergency response commission, and the local emergency planning committee about any anhydrous ammonia release above 100 pounds.

In addition to the late reporting of this incident, the company failed to submit the Emergency and Hazardous Chemical Inventory form for anhydrous ammonia for this facility to the state and local authorities from 1996 to 1998. Federal laws require reporting of on-site anhydrous ammonia above 500 pounds by March 1 every year.

The civil penalty includes a payment of \$18,630 to the U.S. Treasury (for not reporting on-site chemicals and late reporting of the release to the state and local authorities under the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act) and \$2,738 to EPA's Superfund hazardous waste cleanup program (for late reporting of the release under the Superfund statute). The company will also purchase self-contained breathing apparatus equipment valued at \$34,210 for the Margaretta Township Fire Department.

Anhydrous ammonia may be fatal if inhaled for prolonged periods of time, causes burns to the skin and eyes, and may cause irritation to the eyes, nose and throat.

###

EPA Seeks Information from Former
Employees at Lammers Barrel Facility,
Beavercreek, Ohio

CONTACT:

(Media) Bri Bill, (312) 353-6646

(Media) Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA040

CHICAGO (April 2, 2001) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 is seeking information about a former barrel recycling and chemical processing facility in Beavercreek, Ohio. The facility contributed to ground-water contamination in Beavercreek subdivision near the former site of a factory at the northeast corner of Grange Hall and East Patterson roads.

The facility, which burned down in 1969, operated under various names dating back to 1954, including Lammers Barrel Corp. and Lammers and Kohnen Chemical and Barrel Co. A possibly related firm named Lammers Inc. Solvent Recovery Services, Lammers and Kohnen Barrel Company or similar operated in Dayton at 1880 Radio Road. EPA is also interested in information about this facility, along with information about any company that may have operated at the Radio Road address in the 1970s.

EPA needs to identify parties responsible for contamination at the Beavercreek location and talk to former employees or vendors, to learn more about the chemicals that were brought to or processed there, the companies that did business with the facility, and the company's operations in general.

Anyone with information can call EPA's toll-free voice mail at (888) 640-9025. An EPA investigator will call back.

Other site news

EPA will begin a second comprehensive ground-water investigation this spring at the former factory site in Beavercreek. The data gathered by EPA during 2000 indicates that the soils beneath the site are affected at a deeper level and by more types of chemicals than previously thought. After the conclusion of this new study, EPA will probably revise the original cleanup plan to consider other cleanup alternatives.

For more information, call community involvement coordinator Bri Bill at (800) 621-8431, Ext. 36646, or e-mail: bill.briana@epa.gov.

###

EPA Reaches Agreement with Envirosafe

CONTACT:

(Media) Karen Thompson, (312) 353-8547

(Technical) Michael Valentino, (312) 886-4582

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA039

CHICAGO (March 28, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 recently reached agreement with Envirosafe Services of Ohio, Inc., to modify its federal Resource and Conservation Recovery Act (RCRA) permit and install filters on its waste processing buildings. The company is not required to pay a fine.

EPA relied on information gathered during December 1998 and August 1999 compliance inspections at Envirosafe, a hazardous waste treatment facility, located at 876 Otter Creek Rd., Oregon, Ohio.

Under RCRA, passed by Congress in 1976, EPA regulates hazardous wastes from their production to their final disposal.

About EPA

Founded in 1970, EPA is responsible for protecting the environment and human health. The Agency enforces air, water, and land laws and ensures that designated health standards are met. EPA Region 5 includes six Great Lakes states: Illinois,

Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin.

###

EPA Meeting Reviews John Mercer Site
Well Testing Results March 29, 6 P.M.

CONTACT:

(EPA) Bob Paulson, (312) 886-0272

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA037

CHICAGO (March 26, 2001) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 will host an informal public information meeting to review the results of the February 21-22 residential well testing conducted near the John Mercer site in St. Albans Township, Ohio. The meeting will be Thursday, March 29, from 6 p. m. to 8 p.m., at the United Methodist Church, 72 Church St., Alexandria. Proposed future site activities also will be discussed.

For more information, contact community involvement coordinator Bob Paulson, (800) 621-8431, Ext. 60272, e-mail: paulson.robert@epa.gov.

About the site

The John Mercer site, near the intersection of Hardscrabble and Battee Roads, received hundreds of industrial chemical drums in the 1970s. The drums contain waste materials, including solvents, resins, paint and dried paint debris. A Cleveland-based EPA Superfund emergency response team is overseeing the cleanup, which began in October 2000.

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###

EPA Will Screen Delta, Ohio, Properties for
Lead Contamination Next Week

CONTACT:

(Media) Susan Pastor, (312) 353-1325

(Technical) Ralph Dollhopf, (734) 692-7682

(Technical) Matt Ohi, (312) 886-4442

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA036

CHICAGO (Mar. 23, 2001) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 begins its investigation next week of residential properties where lead-contaminated foundry sand from the former Eagle Picher Industries facility on Van Buren Street in Delta, Ohio, may have been used as fill material. The project is expected to begin mid-week.

The sand, which is dark brown to black in color, may contain high levels of lead that could pose a health risk. Most likely, it was used for fill material from the 1940s to 1980s. The facility is now owned by the Bunting Bearings Corp.

The project is limited to about two dozen properties. EPA is currently contacting the owners of the properties that may have received the foundry sand to inspect the sites and take samples. If any of the properties are found to contain lead or contaminant levels above health standards, EPA will consider cleanup alternatives including excavating the material. Any cleanup required will be done under EPA supervision and paid for by EPA, which will seek reimbursement of its costs from potentially responsible parties.

To perform the tests, which will follow the initial inspections that begin next week, a small four-wheel drive all-terrain vehicle pulls a sampling probe onto the residential property, which will then extract a soil core at least 6-feet deep. On some properties a larger drill rig may be necessary. Every effort will be made to minimize property damage.

Significantly, in 1986 and 1998, children's blood-lead screenings were conducted in Ohio, with no indication of elevated lead levels among children in Delta. However, until the sampling is completed, children, who are especially vulnerable to lead exposures, should not dig in the areas being investigated and should avoid contact with anything that appears to be fill material.

Eagle Picher Industries is currently cleaning up the Van Buren Street facility.

Last year's activities, primarily involving excavation and off-site disposal of contaminated foundry sand, were halted by the company when the foundry sand was found to extend under pavement and buildings at the site. Eagle Picher is now exploring alternatives to treat the waste without removing the buildings.

For more information about the project, call Ralph Dollhopf, (734) 692-7682, Matt Ohi, (312) 886-4442, or Susan Pastor, (312) 353-1325.

###

EPA Seeks Comments on Prospective
Purchaser Agreement for Master Metals
Site

CONTACT:

(Media) Bri Bill, (312) 353-6646

(Legal) Kris Vezner, (312) 886-6827

(Technical) Gwen Massenburg, (312) 886-0983

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA035

CHICAGO (March 22, 2001) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 seeks comments on a proposed prospective purchaser agreement and covenant not to sue with Bredt-Zanick, LLC, and the Northern Ohio Lumber and Timber Co. (NOLTCO) for a portion of the Master Metals Superfund site in Cleveland, Ohio. The agreement only applies to the former lead smelting facility at 2850 W. Third St. Bredt-Zanick and NOLTCO paid \$2,000 for the property, which they plan to use for lumber and timber storage and cutting.

Bredt-Zanick and NOLTCO have agreed, as follows:

- They will ensure the integrity of the property for 30 years by carrying out maintenance to prevent and repair any cracking or splitting of the asphalt cap over the site;
- They will allow cleanup activities to take precedence over redevelopment of the property and cooperate with EPA and the parties cleaning up contaminants at the site; and
- They will immediately notify EPA of any future release or threatened release of hazardous substances, pollutants or contaminants from the site.

The agreement will not become effective until the close of a public comment period on April 9. Comments should be sent to Kris Vezner, Assistant Regional Counsel, U.S. EPA Region 5, 77 West Jackson Blvd., Chicago, Ill. 60604.

Comments should reference the Master Metals, Inc., Superfund Site – Cleveland – prospective purchaser agreement.

Master Metals Site

The Master Metals, Inc., Superfund site consists of two separate areas in a part of Cleveland known as the "Flats." Smelting operations released lead into existing slag and soil at the site's 4.3 acres. Between 1997 and 1999, the parties potentially responsible for contaminating the property removed waste, demolished or decontaminated buildings, and consolidated and treated contaminated soils at the site. In September 2000, EPA changed the scope of the cleanup project to enhance the site, covering it with an asphalt cap instead of soil cover to accommodate redevelopment. .

###

EPA Cites Consumers Recycling for Clean-Air and Clean-Water Violations

CONTACT:

(Media) William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254
(Technical- Air) Joseph Cardile, (312) 353-2151
(Technical- Water) Beth Henning, (312) 886-5892
(Legal) Richard Clarizio, (312) 886-0559
For Immediate Release
No. 01-OPA034

CHICAGO (MARCH 21, 2001) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has filed an administrative complaint against Consumers Recycling, Inc., for alleged violations of clean-air and clean-water regulations at the company's scrap metal processing plant, 7777 W. Chicago Ave., Detroit, Mich. EPA proposed a \$202,270 penalty.

The EPA complaint alleges that Consumers Recycling violated the Clean Air Act by improperly disposing of appliances containing ozone-depleting refrigerants.

The complaint also alleges the company violated the Clean Water Act by failing to have an oil spill prevention, control and countermeasures plan.

Consumers Recycling has until April 24, 2001, to file an answer and request a hearing. It may request an informal conference to discuss the allegations anytime.

Chlorofluorocarbon refrigerants deplete the stratospheric, or "good," ozone layer allowing dangerous amounts of cancer-causing ultraviolet rays from the sun to strike the earth. Production of some of these chemicals was stopped in 1995, and federal law strictly controls their use and handling.

About Consumers Recycling, Inc.

Consumers Recycling is a Michigan corporation with its principal place of business in Detroit. The company is the owner and operator of the facility at 7777 W. Chicago Ave. It processes scrap metal, including refrigerators and small appliances that have been disposed of by their original owners.

Consumers Recycling has owned and operated the facility since April 1983. Baby Creek and the Detroit and Rouge rivers are navigable waters located within five miles of the company's facility.

###

EPA Cites Laminated Products for Clean-Air Violations

CONTACT:

(Media) William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

(Technical) Farro Assadi, (312) 886-1424

(Legal) Jeffery Trevino, (312) 886-6729

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA033

CHICAGO (MARCH 20, 2001) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has filed an administrative complaint against Laminated Products, Inc., for alleged clean-air violations at the company's wood furniture manufacturing plant, 5718 52nd St., Kenosha, Wis. EPA proposed a \$38,500 penalty.

The EPA complaint alleges that Laminated Products failed to comply with planning, training, record keeping, and reporting requirements of the Clean Air Act for hazardous air pollutants used in the manufacture of wood furniture.

"Hazardous air pollutants are a serious threat to human health and the environment," said Cheryl Newton, acting director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "We will take all necessary steps to ensure that companies comply with the regulations."

Laminated Products has 30 days from receipt of the complaint to file an answer and request a hearing. It may request an informal conference to discuss the allegations anytime.

#

IEL Site Update: More Ground-Water
Sampling Begins March 19

CONTACT:

(Media) William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

Denise Battaglia, (312) 886-9859

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA032

CHICAGO (March 19, 2001) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 today announced that a new round of ground-water sampling by the responsible parties will begin March 19 to gauge current site conditions at the Industrial Excess Landfill, Uniontown, Ohio. The project is expected to take at least two weeks, with results available after EPA reviews and validates the responsible parties' data.

The sampling work will assess current levels of volatile organic compounds and metals in the site's ground water. The ground water also will be tested for radiation. The work will be done with oversight by EPA and Ohio EPA. A local government representative will observe the survey as in the previous two rounds last year.

In addition to the ground-water sampling, plans are underway to demolish the three existing abandoned buildings and the remaining underground storage tanks and septic systems near the landfill. Demolition work is expected to be completed by May or June. Also, EPA is still reviewing the phytocap proposal submitted by the responsible parties and expects to make a final decision soon.

###

NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS: EPA
Administrator Christie Whitman to Kick Off
Cleveland Project to Cut Air Toxics March
19

CONTACT:

(Media) William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

Lyn Luttner, (440) 897-5006

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA031

CHICAGO (Apr. 5, 2001) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Administrator Christie Whitman will be in Cleveland Monday, March 19, to help
kick off a pilot project to cut health risks from toxic air pollutants. EPA is co-
sponsoring the project with the city of Cleveland and the Ohio EPA.

Administrator Whitman will meet with community stakeholders from the Slavic
Village and St. Clair/Superior neighborhoods to explain the project since it will
focus on these areas. Ohio officials and dignitaries participating in the event are:
U.S. Senator George Voinovich, Ohio EPA Director Christopher Jones,
Cleveland Councilmen Joe Cimperman, Ward 13, and Ed Rybka, Ward 12; Tony
Brancantelli, executive director, and Bobbi Reichtell, development officer, Slavic
Village Development and Sadhu Johnston, director, Green Building Coalition.

The schedule is:

10:15 a.m. Press Van Departs for Tour of "Green House."

Departure Point is Holy Name Elementary School, 8328

Broadway Ave. Note: Press should arrive at Holy Name no later
than 10:15 a.m.

March 19

10:35 a.m. Tour of "Green House." The house was featured in the
Ohio EPA Pollution Prevention newsletter and conforms to the
American Lung Association guidelines for healthful homes.

10:50 a.m. Press boards van for ride back to Holy Name
Elementary School for stakeholder meeting.

11:00 a.m. Stakeholder Meeting on Cleveland Pilot Project at Holy
Name Elementary.

###

EPA Reaches Agreement With LTV Steel

CONTACT:

(Media) William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

(Technical) Erik Hardin, (312) 886-2402

(Legal) Ann Coyle, (312) 886-2248

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA030

CHICAGO (MARCH 16, 2001) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has reached an agreement with LTV Steel Co., Inc., on alleged clean-air violations at the LTV lime plant, 15 William St., Grand River, Ohio. EPA assessed a \$78,000 civil penalty.

The agreement resolves an EPA administrative complaint filed Sept. 29, 2000, alleging LTV Steel had exceeded federally enforceable state limits on visible emissions of particulates (dust) at its Grand River lime plant.

"EPA is committed to enforcing clean-air regulations to protect public health and the environment," said Cheryl Newton, acting director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "We are pleased LTV Steel has agreed to bring its visible particulate emissions into compliance with the Clean Air Act."

Inhaling high concentrations of particulates can affect children, the elderly and people with heart and lung diseases the most.

#

EPA Proposes Cleanup Plan for South
Green Avenue Site; Comment Period Ends

April 12

CONTACT:

XXXXXX

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA029

CHICAGO (March 14, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 is proposing a cleanup plan to address contamination at the South Green Avenue site in Detroit, Mich. A 30-day public comment period ends April 12.

The site, formerly known as the MichCon Station H site, is at 201 South Green Ave. In November 1997, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality removed 37 drums of chemicals and industrial wastes. In the summer of 1998, an EPA Superfund emergency response team removed five electrical capacitors containing PCB wastes, along with about 2,300 tons of PCB-contaminated soil.

The cleanup plan is based on a recently completed study of the site by MichCon with EPA oversight, called an Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA).

EPA considered five alternatives and recommends the plan that includes excavation of the remaining contaminated soil and other debris, plus off site disposal at an EPA approved facility and backfill with new, clean material.

Estimated cost of the proposed plan is \$900,000 to \$1.3 million.

A fact sheet summarizing the alternatives considered and the proposed plan is available from EPA community involvement coordinator Cheryl Allen, (800) 621-8431, Ext. 36196, or allen.cheryl@epa.gov. The fact sheet, the complete EE/CA and other site documents are also available for review at Detroit Public Library, Sociology and Economics Department, 5201 Woodward Ave.

Comments may be sent to the above e-mail address or to Cheryl Allen, Office of Public Affairs (P-19J), U.S. EPA Region 5, 77 West Jackson Blvd., Chicago, Ill. 60604-3590.

About the site

The 2.2 acre site was used by a series of gas utility companies from 1904 to 1976. It was then sold to A & A Scrap Metal Iron, which operated until 1995, when the state of Michigan took possession of the site due to unpaid property taxes. In 1997, the city of Detroit acquired the property for potential redevelopment under the city's Brownfields program. MichCon (one of the past owners) still owns and operates two small parcels at the western corner of the site, which are used to access an underground gas pipeline.

###

EPA: PCB Cleanup Completed at
Mahoningside Power Plant Site

CONTACT:

(Media) William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

(Technical) Mark Durno, (440) 250-1743

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA028

CHICAGO (March 14, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 said today that cleanup of the Mahoningside Power Plant site, 650 Summit St., Warren, Ohio, has been completed. EPA completed its activities at the site on February 23, 2001.

The site, formerly known as the Warren Water and Light Co., was contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and mercury. The city of Warren discovered high PCB levels during its demolition of the former power plant last spring. During that time, city-managed contractors removed more than 400 tons of contaminated debris from the former power plant and established a water-treatment system to filter contaminated water generated by the cleanup, as well as to contain all PCB contamination at the site. In July 2000, the city requested EPA's assistance in the cleanup. In August, a Cleveland-based superfund emergency response team took over management of the water-treatment system. The total cleanup cost estimate is \$860,000.

On October 10, 2000, EPA initiated the cleanup to stabilize and remove contaminated soils, debris and sediments. These activities included pressure cleaning the sumps, drains and piping of the basement of the former power plant, sampling the sub-surface to determine the extent of contamination, and removing sub-surface soil and shale that tested to be highly contaminated. EPA shipped approximately 1,770 tons of PCB-contaminated material to Model City, N.Y., in the Buffalo area for landfill disposal. EPA also shipped approximately 25 pounds of mercury- contaminated debris to Hellertown, Pa., for treatment and disposal.

Additionally, EPA sampled sediments from more than a mile stretch of the Mahoning River. The sample data showed low-level PCB contamination throughout most of this area. High levels of PCBs were detected in sediments at the base of the discharge pipe from the power plant. The high-level contamination was removed from the river during cleanup.

Environmental issues at the site will be turned over to the Ohio EPA to be managed through its Voluntary Action Program. This program is designed to facilitate redevelopment of the property while appropriately addressing residual contamination concerns.

###

EPA: Address Correction for Fort Wayne,
Ind., Meeting

CONTACT:

(EPA) Phillipa Cannon, (312) 353-6218

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA027

CHICAGO (Mar. 12, 2001) -- A Feb. 28 news release and other materials included the wrong street address for a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency meeting to be held in Fort Wayne, Ind., on March 15. The meeting will be held at the Fort Wayne Hilton at the Convention Center, 1020 S. Calhoun, from 1p.m. to 5 p.m.

EPA officials will give a brief presentation about proposed regulations for concentrated animal feeding operations followed by a question-and-answer session. Advance registration is not required.

Comments on the proposed rule may be sent by e-mail to CAFOS.

comments@epa.gov or mailed to Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations Rule, U.S. EPA Office of Water, Engineering and Analysis Division (4303), 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, D.C. 20460.

###

EPA Sponsors Great Lakes Exhibit At
John Crerar Library

CONTACT:

(EPA) Phillipa Cannon, (312) 353-6218

(University of Chicago) Barbara Kern, (773) 702-8717

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA026

CHICAGO (March 12, 2001) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the John Crerar Library at the University of Chicago are sponsoring "The Great Lakes: Our Legacy, Our Future" exhibit at the library March 19 to Oct. 1. The library, 5730 S. Ellis Ave., Chicago, is open to the public Monday through Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The exhibit provides information on environmental issues in the Great Lakes such as habitat loss, invasive species and chemical contamination, and EPA's efforts to protect and restore the lakes. Sampling and analytical equipment used aboard EPA's Research Vessel Lake Guardian will be on display.

The library also will highlight its historical and contemporary environmental collections, as well as the University's programs in environmental studies.

###

EPA, City of Cleveland, OEPA Launch Pilot
Project to Cut Air Toxics

CONTACT:

(U.S. EPA Media) William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

(Cleveland Media) Natalia Martinovic, (216) 664-2239

(Ohio EPA Media) Kara Allison, (614) 644-2160

(U.S. EPA Technical) Jack Barnette, (312) 886-6175

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA025

CHICAGO (March 8, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5, the city of Cleveland and the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency today launched a pilot project to cut health risks from toxic air pollutants in Cleveland.

EPA, in consultation with the Cleveland Public Health Department, will immediately take steps to form a group comprised of interested residents, businesses, industry, environmental organizations and city personnel to guide the project's implementation.

"President Bush pledged he would bring his Administration together with concerned citizens, community leaders, businesses and industries to begin transforming the way we achieve our goal of a cleaner, safer environment," EPA Administrator Christie Whitman said. "The Cleveland project is an innovative program and is a result of effective partnership among local, state and federal governments."

"Working closely with the city of Cleveland air pollution control program and the state of Ohio, EPA will assess and reduce air toxics in Cleveland to improve the quality of peoples' lives," said EPA acting Regional Administrator David A. Ullrich. "We plan to take the success achieved in the Cleveland project and apply it to other communities across the country."

Cleveland Mayor Michael R. White said, "We continue to work in finding ways to improve air quality for our residents and partnering with the U.S. EPA will only help us go further in the process and enhance our efforts. This pilot project will give us some indication of what more we can do collectively to reduce air toxics for a cleaner, healthier environment."

The project is a nonregulatory, voluntary effort that will address air toxic risks from outdoor and indoor sources such as consumer products, small and mid-sized businesses, cars, trucks, and buses, and activities in homes and schools. EPA chose Cleveland for the project because it is centrally located and has typical levels of air toxics for a mid-sized city. While risk reduction will benefit the whole city, EPA will focus its efforts in the St. Clair/Superior and Slavic Village (North and South Broadway) neighborhoods. EPA released its integrated strategy to combat urban air toxics in July 1999.

"Ohio EPA supports the toxic air pollutants project and its focus in the St. Clair/Superior and Slavic Village neighborhoods," said Ohio EPA Director Christopher Jones. "These neighborhoods appear to be good candidates for such a project and we will continue to work in a coordinated effort with U.S. EPA, the Cleveland Public Health Department and the neighborhoods to reduce the risks from toxic air pollutants throughout the city."

EPA's strategy presents a framework for addressing air toxics in urban areas, including plans to conduct initiatives at both national and local levels that will address specific pollutants and identify and address specific community risks. Air toxics include benzene, dioxin, mercury, formaldehyde, chlorinated solvents, pesticides and volatile organic compounds that cause, or may cause, cancer or other serious health effects.

#

EPA Orders Walnutdale Farms To Stop
Unpermitted Discharges

CONTACT:

(Media) Phillipa Cannon (312) 353-6218

(Technical) Robert Thompson (312) 353-6700

(Legal) Arnold Leder (312) 886-0133

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA024

CHICAGO (March 6, 2001) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 recently ordered Walnutdale Farms, Inc. (Wayland, Mich.) to stop unauthorized discharges of manure, wastewater and cooling water into a farm drain and subsequently into the Red Run Drain and Rabbit River. EPA observed discharges of manure-contaminated stormwater occurring after a precipitation event. EPA alleges that these discharges violate the Clean Water Act.

The administrative order issued on Feb. 26 also requires the dairy to apply to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality for a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit; stop applying manure on frozen and snow-covered ground; improve its capacity to safely store waste; submit a stormwater pollution prevention plan to EPA and the State; and submit a comprehensive plan to manage all wastes at the facility, including manure, wastewater, spoiled milk, waste feed and silage, silage leachate and dead animals.

"Discharges of manure and other wastes from feedlots may kill fish, cause infectious diseases in people, lead to excessive algae growth and upset the balance of life in streams and lakes," said Jo Lynn Traub, EPA regional Water Division director. "Permits impose enforceable pollution control standards and management practices on facilities to protect water quality and public health." EPA inspected the dairy in January 2001 and determined that it is a concentrated animal feeding operation (CAFO) because it has more than 700 dairy cattle and discharges manure-polluted wastewater into a farm drain and subsequently the Red Run Drain and Rabbit River. The inspection also revealed that the facility discharges other wastewater without a permit.

About EPA

Since September 2000, EPA has inspected 10 Michigan farms to determine whether they were CAFOs requiring NPDES permits, to better protect human health and water quality in the State and ensure that facilities comply with Clean Water Act requirements. Under the Clean Water Act, a facility that has more than 1,000 animal units – defined as 700 dairy cattle or 2,500 hogs – must have an NPDES permit.

###

EPA Cites SDI for Clean-Air Violation

CONTACT:

(Media) William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

(Technical) Linda Hamsing, (312) 886-6810, Lynne Suesse, (312) 886-0250

(Legal) Karl Karg, (312) 886-7948

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA023

CHICAGO (March 5, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has cited Steel Dynamics, Inc. (SDI) for alleged violation of federally enforceable state clean-air regulations at the future site of the company's structural steel mill, 2601 County Road, 700 East, Columbia City, Ind.

"SDI started building the mill without first getting a permit to prevent significant deterioration of air quality," said Cheryl Newton, acting director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "EPA discovered the alleged violation during inspections in September 2000 and on February 12 of this year."

Companies must get permits that restrict their emissions and prevent significant deterioration of air quality before they can build new air pollution sources, or modify existing sources, in areas that meet national health-based air quality standards for all air pollutants.

This is a preliminary finding of violation. To resolve it, EPA may issue a compliance order, assess an administrative penalty, or bring suit against the company. SDI has 30 days from receipt of the notice to request a meeting with EPA to discuss the allegation and how to resolve it.

#

EPA Holds Meeting on John Mercer Site

March 8, 6 P.M.

CONTACT:

(EPA) Bob Paulson, (312) 886-0272

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA022

CHICAGO (March 2, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 will host an informal public information meeting to discuss the ongoing cleanup at the John Mercer site in St. Albans Township, Ohio. The meeting will be Thursday, March 8, from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., at Northridge Elementary School, 68 College Street, Alexandria, Ohio.

For more information, contact EPA community involvement coordinator Bob Paulson, (800) 621-8431, ext. 60272, e-mail: paulson.robert@epa.gov.

About the site

The John Mercer site, near the intersection of Hardscrabble and Battee Roads, received hundreds of industrial chemical drums in the 1970s. The drums contain waste materials, including solvents, resins, paint and dried paint debris. A Cleveland based EPA Superfund emergency response team is overseeing the cleanup, which began in October 2000.

###

EPA Holds Meetings in Midwest on
Proposed Regulations for Feedlots

CONTACT:

(Media) Phillipa Cannon (312) 353-6218

(Technical) Stephen Jann (312) 886-2446

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA021

Chicago (Feb. 28, 2001)— U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will hold meetings in Ames, Iowa, and Fort Wayne, Ind., to explain proposed regulations for concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs). The meetings will be held March 7 at Benton Auditorium, Scheman Building, Iowa State Center, Elwood Drive, Ames, Iowa, from 1:30 to 5:30 p.m. and March 15 at the Fort Wayne Hilton at the Convention Center, 120 S. Calhoun St., in Fort Wayne, Ind., from 1 to 5 p.m.

EPA officials will give a brief presentation about the proposed regulations followed by a question-and-answer session. Advance registration is not required.

Comments on the proposed rule may be sent by e-mail to CAFOS.comments@epa.gov or mailed to Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation Rule, U.S. EPA Office of Water, Engineering and Analysis Division (4303), 1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, D.C. 20460.

###

Final Settlement of Organic Chemicals Site
Orders TPI Petroleum to Perform Clean Up
and Pay \$768,063

CONTACT:

(Media) Dave Novak, (312) 886-7478

(Legal) Jerry Kujawa, (312) 886-6731

(Technical) Tom G. Williams, (312) 886-6157

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA020

CHICAGO (February 28, 2001) — The U.S. District Court in Grand Rapids, Mich., entered as a final judgement the consent decree between U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 and TPI Petroleum, Inc. Under the decree, TPI will perform the soil cleanup at the Organic Chemicals, Inc., Superfund site, 3921 Chicago Drive, S.W., in Grandville, Mich. The company will reimburse EPA \$768,063 in past costs and interest and pay for EPA to supervise the soil cleanup.

The TPI settlement represents the third and final settlement with parties allegedly responsible for contamination at the site. With the resolution of this case, EPA now has recovered from private parties the full \$4.18 million cost of the work it performed, plus nearly \$500,000 in interest.

In the first settlement, reached in February 2000, Abitibi Price et al. (a group of 34 settling defendants) paid for a now-suspended groundwater cleanup and reimbursed EPA for \$3.3 million in past costs, plus about \$400,000 in interest. Currently, no homes or businesses in the area draw their drinking water from the groundwater plume covered by the settlement. If new monitoring data indicates that the levels of contamination are increasing, EPA will take additional steps.

\$768,063

In the second settlement, reached in July 2000, EPA settled with 89 small parties for past cost reimbursement of nearly \$200,000.

Under the new consent decree, TPI will complete a design plan for 6,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil at the site and then perform the cleanup work, which is expected to begin this summer. EPA will oversee the project.

About the site

The 5-acre site, which is about a mile from the Grand River, was a petroleum refinery during World War II, and petroleum distributor from 1945 to 1966. The now-closed Organic Chemicals, Inc., operated a solvent recycling and specialty chemical manufacturing business at the site from 1968 to 1991. The site was named to the Superfund National Priorities List in 1983.

#

NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS: Chicago to
Host National Pollution Prevention
Roundtable Next Week

CONTACT:

(Media) Dolly Tong, (312) 886-1019

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA019

CHICAGO (February 23, 2001) -- The National Pollution Prevention Roundtable organization, in cooperation with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5, Illinois EPA, the City of Chicago and the Illinois Waste Management & Research Center are hosting the annual Pollution Prevention Roundtable February 28-March 2 at the Hyatt Regency on the Riverwalk, 151 E. Wacker Drive. The forum will focus on innovative pollution prevention tools, technology and training that promote economic development and reduce waste. Four showcase pollution prevention businesses in the Chicago area will be open for tours. They include: SWD Inc., a metal finishing business in Addison; International Engine Corp. (formerly Navistar) a diesel engine manufacturer in Melrose Park; Motorola Co., a manufacturer of analog and digital radio products in Schaumburg; and the Ford Motor Co. Chicago Assembly Plant.

###

EPA, Environment Canada Release Great
Lakes Binational Toxics Strategy Progress
Report

CONTACT:

(EPA) Rita Cestarcic, (312) 886-6815

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA018

CHICAGO (Feb. 28, 2001) --

- Over 500 pounds of mercury were collected from thermostats in the United States and recycled, from 1998 to 2000.
- Mercury releases have decreased by 80 percent in Canada since 1988.
- Three major U.S. automobile manufacturers commit to reducing PCB use by 100 percent over the next 5 years.

These accomplishments and many more are highlighted in the recently released Great Lakes Binational Toxics Strategy (GLBTS) 2000 Progress Report. The GLBTS is an agreement, signed in 1997 between U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Environment Canada, that sets specific goals to reduce persistent, bioaccumulative, toxic (PBT) pollutants in the Great Lakes Basin over 10 years. PBTs are especially dangerous to human health because they become more concentrated as they move up the food chain, and they remain in the environment for a long time. A number of adverse health and ecological effects have been linked to PBT exposure. Pregnant women, fetuses, and children are the most vulnerable to health risks associated with PBTs.

The GLBTS 2000 Progress Report is available at www.epa.gov/glupo/bns.

###

Stakeholders to Discuss Proposed New
Track of Ohio Voluntary Action Program
for Brownfields March 1, 10:30 A.M.

CONTACT:

(U.S. EPA Media) Mick Hans, 312-353-5050

(Ohio EPA Media) Linda Oros (614) 728-0037

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA017

CHICAGO - U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 (EPA) will host a meeting about a proposed new track of the Ohio Voluntary Action Program to address brownfield sites in the state.

Stakeholders and the public are invited to attend the meeting on Thursday, March 1, 10:30 a.m. to noon, at Vern Riffe Center for Government and the Arts, 77 South High St., Conference Room 1952, in Columbus. Representatives from EPA and Ohio EPA will explain the proposal, as well as the program, and answer questions about the proposed Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) under which it will operate.

Ohio EPA proposes a two-track Voluntary Action Program. The meeting will examine the proposed second track, known as the MOA track. EPA and Ohio EPA will not require additional cleanup at properties cleaned under the MOA track. The MOA track requires volunteers to conduct additional public participation and requires Ohio EPA review and approval of plans throughout the cleanup process. The MOA describes the process volunteers must use and the details of the agreement between EPA and Ohio EPA. The first track, which is already in place, does not involve EPA. Cleanup work is performed by licensed, private consultants and then reviewed and approved by Ohio EPA.

Brownfields are properties where real or perceived environmental contamination has prevented reuse, redevelopment, or both. There are thousands of these sites in Ohio, ranging from abandoned dry cleaners to older industrial sites to underused railyards. EPA and Ohio EPA believe that the new second track will lead to more sites being cleaned up and put back into productive use.

More information, including the draft MOA, is available at: www.epa.state.oh.us/derr/derrmain.html. The MOA can be accessed by scrolling down to "Voluntary Action Program" and clicking on the highlighted link - "Proposed Final Memorandum of Agreement - January 26, 2001."

###

EPA Cites 10 Companies for Clean-Air
Violations

CONTACT:

For more information, call the technical or legal contacts listed below.

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA016

CHICAGO - U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 notified 10 companies in December and January that it believes they violated federal or federally enforceable state clean-air regulations, or both.

These are preliminary findings of violations. To resolve them, EPA may issue compliance orders, assess administrative penalties, or bring suit against the companies. The companies have 30 days from receipt of the notices to request meetings with EPA to discuss the allegations and how to resolve them.

"EPA's mission is to protect public health and the environment," said George Czerniak, chief of the regional Air Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Branch. "We will take whatever steps are needed to ensure compliance with the Clean Air Act."

[NOTE TO EDITORS: Companies alleged to have violated federal clean-air regulations received a Finding of Violation (FOV), and companies alleged to have violated federally enforceable state regulations received a Notice of Violation (NOV). Three companies received both.]

COMPANIES RECEIVING FOV'S

Hancock Manufacturing Co., Inc.

Cleveland and Fifth streets

Toronto, Ohio

EPA alleges Hancock failed to comply with national emission standards for halogenated solvent cleaning at its Toronto, Ohio, plant.

Technical Contact: Nancy Mugavero, (312) 353-4890

Legal Contact: Timothy O'Malley, (312) 886-6085

Pole Zero Corp.

5630 Union Centre Drive

West Chester, Ohio

EPA alleges Pole Zero failed to comply with national emission standards for halogenated solvent cleaning at its West Chester, Ohio, plant.

Technical Contact: Nancy Mugavero, (312) 353-4890

Legal Contact: Timothy O'Malley, (312) 886-6085

Consumers Concrete Corp.

3651 Vanrick Drive

Kalamazoo, Mich.

EPA has cited Consumers Concrete Corp. for alleged violations of new source performance standards for nonmetallic mineral processing plants at two of its sand and gravel plants. One plant is at 700 Nazareth Road, Kalamazoo, Mich., and the other is a portable plant currently at 465 12th St., Plainwell, Mich.

Technical Contact: Michelle Farley, (312) 886-6778

Legal Contact: Susan Tennenbaum, (312) 886-0273

Balkema Excavating, Inc.

1500 River St.

Kalamazoo, Mich.

EPA has cited Balkema Excavating, Inc., for alleged violations of federal clean-air regulations at four of its plants listed below.

Technical Contact: Michelle Farley, (312) 886-6778

Legal Contact: Susan Tennenbaum, (312) 886-0273

Midway Aggregates Plant

15600 E. Michigan

Climax, Mich.

EPA alleges Balkema violated performance standards for new sources of air pollutants because it failed to timely notify the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality when construction of the sand and gravel plant was scheduled to begin and when it actually began. In addition, it did not do timely performance tests at the plant.

Climax Portable Plant

15600 E. Michigan

Climax, Mich.

EPA alleges Balkema violated performance standards for new sources of air pollutants because it failed to timely notify the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality when construction of the sand and gravel plant was scheduled to begin and when it

EPA News Release 01-OPA016: EPA Cites 10 Companies for Clean-Air Violations actually began. In addition, it did not do timely performance tests at the plant.

4th St. Aggregates Plant
8964 Paw Paw Lake Drive
Schoolcraft, Mich.

EPA alleges Balkema violated performance standards for new sources of air pollutants because it failed to timely notify the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality when construction of the sand and gravel plant was scheduled to begin and when it actually began. In addition, it did not do timely performance tests at the plant.

Aggregate Resources Plant
14500 E. Michigan
Galesburg, Mich.

EPA alleges Balkema violated performance standards for new sources of air pollutants because it failed to timely notify the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality when construction of the sand and gravel plant was scheduled to begin and when it actually began.

COMPANIES RECEIVING NOV'S

Aztec Peroxides, Inc.
555 Garden St.
Elyria, Ohio

EPA alleges Aztec exceeded volatile organic compound emission limits required by its state permit at its liquid organic peroxide manufacturing plant. The excessive emissions were detected by a performance test required by the permit.

Technical Contact: Erik Hardin, (312) 886-2402

Legal Contact: Ann Coyle, (312) 886-2248

Citgo Petroleum Corp.
135th Street & New Avenue
Lemont, Ill.

EPA alleges Citgo made major modifications at its Lemont, IL, petroleum refinery without first getting a permit to prevent significant deterioration of air quality. Before new air pollution sources can be built, or existing sources modified, in areas that have attained national health-based standards for all air pollutants, companies must first get permits that restrict their emissions and prevent significant deterioration of air quality in those areas. In addition, Citgo failed to identify and monitor volatile organic compounds (VOC=s) at the refinery.

Technical Contact: Loren Denton, (312) 886-0243

Legal Contact: Andre Daugavietis, (312) 886-6814

Corn Plus Coop
711 6th Ave. S.E.
Winnebago, Minn.

EPA alleges Corn Plus Coop failed to comply with state limits on opacity (the amount of light obscured by dust) at its grain processing plant.

Technical Contact: Greg Chomycia, (312) 353-8217

Legal Contact: Susan Tennenbaum, (312) 886-0273

Hancock Manufacturing Co., Inc.
Cleveland and Fifth streets
Toronto, Ohio

EPA alleges Hancock failed to comply with state cold cleaning operations regulations at its Toronto, Ohio, plant.

Technical Contact: Nancy Mugavero, (312) 353-4890

Legal Contact: Timothy O'Malley, (312) 886-6085

Pole Zero Corp.
5530 Union Centre Drive
West Chester, Ohio

EPA alleges Pole Zero violated state clean-air regulations by failing to get a permit before it installed a halogenated solvent cleaning machine at its West Chester, Ohio, plant.

Technical Contact: Nancy Mugavero, (312) 353-4890

Legal Contact: Timothy O'Malley, (312) 886-6085

Subaru-Isuzu Automotive, Inc.
5500 SR 38 East
Lafayette, Ind.

EPA alleges Subaru-Isuzu made a major modification at its Lafayette, Ind., plant

without first getting a permit to prevent significant deterioration of air quality. Before new air pollution sources can be built, or existing sources modified, in areas that have attained national health-based standards for all air pollutants, companies must first get permits that restrict their emissions and prevent significant deterioration of air quality in those areas.

Technical Contact: Nicholas Autry, (312) 886-2258

Legal Contact: Cynthia King, (312) 886-6831

IKO Monroe, Inc.

1151 W. Elm St.

Monroe, Mich.

EPA alleges IKO Monroe installed production equipment that emits, or may emit, volatile organic compounds at its roofing products plant without first getting a state installation permit. The alleged violation was discovered during a federal and state inspection Aug. 17, 2000.

Technical Contact: Jeffrey Gahr, (312) 886-6794

Legal Contact: Alan Walts, (312) 353-8894

Agri-Energy, LLC

502 S. Walnut

Luverne, Minn.

EPA alleges Agri-Energy exceeded federally enforceable state limits on opacity, or the amount of light obscured by particulates (dust), at its ethanol plant during an EPA inspection on Sept. 26, 2000.

Technical Contact: Margaret Sieffert, (312) 353-1151

Legal Contact: Susan Tennenbaum, (312) 886-0273

Balkema Excavating, Inc.

1500 River St.

Kalamazoo, Mich.

EPA cited Balkema Excavating, Inc., for alleged violations of federally enforceable state clean-air regulations at three of its plants listed below.

Technical Contact: Michelle Farley, (312) 886-6778

Legal Contact: Susan Tennenbaum, (312) 886-0273

Midway Aggregates Plant

15600 E. Michigan

Climax, Mich.

EPA alleges Balkema failed to apply for and get installation and operating permits before it built and operated the sand and gravel plant.

Climax Portable Plant

15600 E. Michigan

Climax, Mich.

EPA alleges Balkema failed to get an installation permit before it began building the sand and gravel plant.

4th St. Aggregates Plant

8964 Paw Paw Lake Drive

Schoolcraft, Mich.

EPA alleges Balkema failed to get installation and operating permits before it began building and operating the sand and gravel plant.

#

EPA Proposes Change for Valleycrest
Landfill Cleanup; Public Meeting Feb. 7

CONTACT:

(Media) Leo Rosales, 312-353-6198

(Media) Mick Hans, 312-353-5050

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA015

CHICAGO — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 will propose changes in the cleanup plan for the Valleycrest Landfill in Dayton, Ohio, allowing the Ohio EPA to take over lead responsibility for the Superfund site, while EPA shifts to a technical advisory and assistance role.

Since 1998, an EPA-managed effort has resulted in the excavation of more than 22,000 drums from a single disposal area on the property at 200 Valleycrest Drive. Under the proposed change, the drum removal work at Area 5 will be suspended and Ohio EPA will resume primary responsibility for the completion of a comprehensive plan, known as a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS), to address the entire 102-acre site.

A public meeting will be held at Stebbins High School, 1900 Harshman Road, Riverside, on Wednesday, Feb. 7, 7 p.m. Representatives from both agencies will present a site update and discuss proposed changes to the cleanup plan. For more information, contact EPA community involvement coordinators Leo Rosales or Rafael Gonzalez, (800) 621-8431.

About the Site

The Valleycrest Landfill site, also known as North Sanitary Landfill, was formerly a gravel pit that accepted industrial and municipal waste from 1965 to 1975. Some areas of the site were also used for disposal of foundry sand, fly ash, and bag house dust (collected from air pollution control equipment) from the mid-1970s through 1989.

###

EPA and Chicago Sponsor Great Lakes
Beach Conference

CONTACT:

(EPA) Phillipa Cannon, (312) 353-6218
(Chicago DOE) Jessica Rio, (312) 744-5716

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA014

CHICAGO (February 1, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
and the City of Chicago will sponsor a Great Lakes Beach Conference, Feb. 6 to
8 in Chicago.

"Beach closures because of unhealthful bacteria levels in water are a problem
throughout the Great Lakes," said David A. Ullrich, Acting EPA Regional
Administrator. "This conference will bring experts together to discuss ways to
identify sources of contamination and protect beach water quality."

Featured speakers will be Richard M. Daley, Mayor of Chicago; David A. Ullrich,
Acting Regional Administrator, EPA Region 5; and Jim Hanlon, EPA Deputy
Director, Office of Science and Technology.

Topics that will be discussed include public health and safety, the new Federal
Beach Act, sources of contamination, risks to the public, and the impact of lake
levels on water quality. Chicago will share the results of its own recent beach
study.

The conference will be held at the Midland Hotel, 172 W. Adams St., and costs
\$145 including meals. To register, call (866) 242-3224.

###

EPA Reports That an Important Food
Source for Great Lakes Fish Has
Disappeared from Lake Erie

CONTACT:

(Media) Phillippa Cannon, (312) 353-6218

(Technical) Marc Tuchman, (312) 353-1369

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA013

CHICAGO (January 26, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
reports that an important source of food for Great Lakes fish has disappeared
from Lake Erie but scientists are not sure why.

Recent monitoring by EPA's Great Lakes National Program Office shows that
populations of the small (« inch long), shrimp-like diporeia have also dramatically
declined in Lakes Michigan and Huron. EPA routinely surveys 72 locations
across the lakes, with an emphasis on deeper sites.

"What is troubling about these recent findings is that these declines appear to be
more widespread than previously thought and have occurred at much greater
depths than we have seen so far," said Gary Gulezian, Great Lakes National
Program Office Director. "The decline of this species could have very significant
impacts on the Great Lakes food chain. At this time, I don't think we can even
predict how far-reaching those impacts might be."

Diporeia have historically been the dominant aquatic creatures in the deepest
portions of eastern Lake Erie and have been an important source of food for fish.

Canada's Department of Fisheries and Oceans had noted declines in the
number of the deep-dwelling organism in Lake Erie in the 1990's.

At EPA's northernmost monitoring site in Lake Michigan near Manistique,
diporeia populations have declined from 10,000 per square meter in 1997 to
zero in 2000.

So far, there appears to be no evidence of consistent declines in Lake Superior.

Scientists are not sure what is causing diporeia to disappear. It has been
hypothesized, but not proven, that the disappearance has been mainly due to
the proliferation of the zebra mussel, an exotic species introduced into the lakes
in the 1980's that competes with diporeia for food.

###

EPA Cites Safety-Kleen for Hazardous
Waste Violations

CONTACT:

(Media) Karen Thompson, 312-353-8547

(Technical) Michael Mikulka, 312-886-6760

(Legal) Michael McClary, 312-886-716

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA012

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 recently filed a complaint against Safety-Kleen Systems, Inc. (Hebron, OH), for alleged violations of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). A \$945,018 fine is proposed.

The Safety-Kleen hazardous recycling facility, located at 581 Milliken Dr. S.E., failed to operate controls to reduce air emissions, monitor equipment for emission leaks, tag faulty equipment and perform a necessary inspection. EPA and Ohio EPA discovered the violations during their surveys in April 1999 and 2000.

Under RCRA, passed by Congress in 1976, EPA controls hazardous wastes from their production to their final disposal. Safety-Kleen can request a hearing to discuss the charges.

###

EPA Orders Ford Motor to Protect
Migratory Birds, Fish and Wildlife

CONTACT:

(Media) Karen Thompson, 312-353-8547

(Technical) Diane Sharrow, 312-886-6199

(Legal) Mary McAuliffe, 312-886-6237

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA011

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 recently ordered Ford Motor Co. (Dearborn, MI), to protect migratory birds, fish and wildlife from oil waste found in the Rouge River boat slip adjacent to its property in the Rouge Manufacturing Complex.

EPA inspected the site on June 2, 2000, and found oily waste, more than two dozen dead fish and a dead migratory bird in the Rouge River boat slip. A second inspection by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Coast Guard on November 9 confirmed that migratory birds, fish and wildlife were being exposed to oil waste used by Ford in the boat slip.

Under Federal law, EPA controls certain wastes from their production to their final disposal and can issue immediate orders to protect human health and the environment.

###

EPA Cites Rogers Group; Includes
\$101,750 Fine

CONTACT:

(Media) William Omohundro, 312-353-8254

(Technical) Sara Dauk, 312-886-0243

(Legal) Joanna Glowacki, 312-353-3757

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA010

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 recently filed an administrative complaint against Rogers Group for alleged violations of Federal and federally enforceable State clean-air regulations at its specialty products plant, 1100 Oard Rd., Bloomington, IN. A \$101,750 penalty has been proposed. EPA said Rogers Group failed to comply with the State limit on opacity (the amount of light obscured by particulates, or dust, from the plant) and to do required performance tests at the plant.

The alleged opacity violations were discovered during an EPA inspection in April 1999. The failure to do the required performance testing is based on information received from the company in February 2000.

Rogers Group has 30 days from receipt of the complaint to file an answer and request a hearing. It may request an informal conference with EPA at anytime to discuss the allegations.

"EPA is committed to enforcing clean-air regulations to protect public health and the environment," said George Czerniak, chief of the regional Air Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Branch. "We will take all necessary steps to ensure that companies comply with the Clean Air Act."

EPA News Release 01-OPA-010: EPA Cites Rogers Group; Includes \$101,750 Fine
Inhaling high concentrations of particulates can affect children, the elderly, and people with heart and lung diseases the most.

#

EPA Settles with City of Holland on Water
Pollution

CONTACT:

(Media) Phillippa Cannon, 312-353-6218

(Technical) Sudhir Desai, 312-886-6704

(Legal) Robert H. Smith, 312-886-0765

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA009

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 recently signed a consent agreement and final order with the City of Holland, MI, on alleged Clean Water Act violations at its wastewater treatment plant. The city will pay a penalty of \$94,600 and certify that it is in compliance with the Clean Water Act and its discharge permit.

In July 2000, EPA alleged in an administrative complaint that the plant violated its discharge permit by discharging excess pollutants into Lake Macatawa; did not use proper test methods to analyze sewage sludge samples; did not monitor sewage sludge for contaminants frequently enough; did not meet Federal requirements to reduce pathogens; and inaccurately certified that it met requirements to reduce pathogens and minimize the potential of the sludge to attract vermin.

Wastewater discharge permits are designed to protect the Nation's waterways from pollution. Under the Clean Water Act, EPA may assess penalties of \$27,500 per day per violation.

#

EPA Settles with McIntyre on Hazardous
Waste Violations

CONTACT:

(Media) Karen Thompson, 312-353-8547

(Technical) George Opek, 312-886-1423

(Legal) Stuart Hersh, 312-886-6235

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA008

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 recently reached agreement with McIntyre Group (University Park, IL) for alleged violations of Federal rules on hazardous waste.

The chemical manufacturer must make improvements to its hazardous waste collection and control systems costing at least \$17,440. McIntyre must report to U. S. EPA and Illinois EPA on the improvements that will protect the environment by preventing spills into Thorn Creek.

Under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act passed by Congress in 1976, EPA controls hazardous wastes from their production to their final disposal.

###

EPA Settles with Kelsey-Hayes on PCB

Violations

CONTACT:

(Technical) Thomas Crosetto, 312-866-6294

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For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA007

For Immediate Release: January 19, 2001

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 recently reached agreement with Kelsey-Hayes Corp. (Fremont, OH) for violations of Federal rules on PCB's. The company will pay a \$6,500 fine and complete an environmental project costing at least \$7,840.

Based on a 1998 Ohio EPA inspection, Kelsey-Hayes, an auto parts manufacturer located at 4600 Oak Harbor Rd., was cited for violating the use, marking, and notification requirements for PCB's. The company agreed to remove all remaining regulated PCB equipment at the facility within 120 days at a cost not less than \$7,840.

PCB's are a group of toxic chemicals, once used widely in industry as coolants and lubricants. EPA banned the manufacture of PCB's in 1979 because of evidence that they accumulate in the environment and present health hazards for people.

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EPA Files Hazardous Chemical Reporting
Complaints Against Two Minnesota Firms

CONTACT:

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For Immediate Release

No. No. 01-OPA006

For Immediate Release: January 17, 2000

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has filed administrative complaints against two Minnesota facilities for violations of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act.

In the complaint against Terra Industries, Inc., EPA alleges that the company's fertilizer mixing plant on Highway 75 South, Crookston, failed to immediately notify the National Response Center (NRC) and the Minnesota Emergency Response Commission (MERC) of a 1,282-pound release of ammonia on August 29, 1998. Federal laws require facilities to immediately notify the NRC about any ammonia release above 100 pounds. EPA has proposed a \$315,700 fine.

Terra reported the release to the NRC and MERC 2 hours 30 minutes after the incident.

A written follow-up report was not submitted to the MERC until the facility received a formal information request from EPA in December 1998. In addition, Terra failed to submit a 1997 hazardous chemical inventory report for ammonia to the MERC and the Crookston Fire Department until it received the EPA request. Hazard chemical inventory reports are due annually to EPA by March 1.

In the second administrative complaint, EPA alleges computer chip manufacturer VTC, Inc., 2800 East Old Shakopee Rd., Bloomington, failed to submit required 1997 and 1998 hazardous chemical inventory forms to the MERC and the Bloomington Fire Department for six chemicals: chlorine, hydrogen fluoride, nitrogen, oxygen, propane, and sulfuric acid. EPA has proposed a \$240,750 fine. In November 1996, EPA settled an administrative complaint against VTC for failure to submit chemical inventory forms for 1994. The company paid a \$34,000 fine for that violation.

"Hazardous materials releases can pose a serious threat to public health and the environment," said Regional Superfund Director William Muno. "Notifications of releases, as well as hazardous materials stored on-site, must be completed in a timely manner so emergency responders know what they are confronting when they arrive at the scene of an incident."

Under Federal emergency response laws, facilities cited may request a meeting with EPA within 30 days to discuss or contest a proposed penalty.

Since 1989, EPA Region 5 has filed 222 separate complaints for hazardous chemical reporting violations, resulting in 209 settlements worth \$4.98 million in total fines and \$3.40 million in environmental projects.

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EPA, DOJ, and Illinois EPA Reach
Agreement with ADM; Includes \$1,463,500
Fine and \$1,600,000 for Pollution Control
Equipment

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For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA005

For Immediate Release: January 12, 2001

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5, the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), and Illinois EPA have reached agreement with Archer Daniels Midland Co. (ADM) on alleged violations of Federal and State clean-air regulations at the company's wet corn mill plant, 4666 Faries Parkway, Decatur, IL.

The agreement, which includes a \$1,463,500 penalty and installation of scrubbers costing \$1,600,000 to cut air pollution from two feed dryers, resolves a civil complaint filed at the same time.

The complaint alleged that ADM made a major modification to the plant without first getting a permit to prevent significant deterioration of air quality. It also alleged ADM exceeded limits on opacity, or the amount of light obscured by emissions of particulates (dust), at the plant.

"We are pleased that ADM has agreed to install scrubbers to control pollution from the two feed dryers," said EPA Region 5 Administrator Francis X. Lyons.

"This will cut particulate emissions from the plant by 80 tons per year."

Illinois EPA Director Tom Skinner said, "We are also pleased this settlement includes additional pollution control technology that will result in cleaner air in Decatur."

"This settlement will improve air quality for the people of Decatur, because it means fewer emissions of harmful dust," said Lois Schiffer, Assistant Attorney General in charge of the Environment Division at the Justice Department.

Companies must get permits that restrict their emissions and prevent significant deterioration of air quality before new air pollution sources can be built, or existing sources modified, in areas that meet national health-based air quality standards for all air pollutants.

Inhaling high concentrations of particulates can affect children, the elderly, and people with heart and lung diseases the most.

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EPA Adds Afternoon Meeting to Discuss
John Mercer Site Cleanup January 17

CONTACT:

(Media) Ginny Narsete, (312) 886-4359

(Technical) Karla Auker, (440) 250-1741

For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA004

January 11, 2001 -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 today scheduled a second a community meeting January 17 to discuss the ongoing cleanup at the John Mercer site in St. Albans Township, OH. The meetings will be held at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., at the Alexandria Public Library, 10 Maple Dr.

EPA added the afternoon meeting to accommodate residents who weren't able to attend the evening meeting. EPA will present the same information at both meetings. The John Mercer site, near the intersection of Hardscrabble and Battee Roads, received hundreds of industrial chemical drums in the 1970's. The drums contain waste materials, including solvents, resins, paint, and dried paint debris. The present site owners told EPA that the late John Mercer owned the property and brought the drums to the site for disposal.

A Cleveland-based EPA Superfund emergency response team is overseeing the cleanup, which began October 23, 2000. Initially 280 drums were removed from a ravine, most of which were empty. About 300 drums have already been removed from a second disposal area. In addition, two more areas with buried drums have been identified and a third site is being investigated.

At the meeting, EPA representatives will make a presentation on the cleanup and recent ground-water sampling results, and answer any questions residents may have. A representative from Akzo Nobel Coatings, Inc., the company paying for the cleanup, is also expected.

For more information, contact EPA Community Involvement Coordinator Ginny Narsete, 800-621-8431, ext. 64359, e-mail: narsete.virginia@epa.gov.

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EPA Reaches Agreement with Saturn and
BDK Partnership for Hazardous Waste
Violations

CONTACT:

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For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA003

For Immediate Release: January 11, 2001

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 recently settled with Saturn Paints and Screen, Inc. (Schaumburg, IL) and BDK Partnership (Palatine, IL), for allegedly violating Federal rules on hazardous waste. Fines of \$44,000 and \$43,500 will be paid respectively.

Saturn (operator) and BDK Partnership (owner) treated and stored hazardous waste at the facility, 804 Morse Ave., Schaumburg without first obtaining a permit required by Federal law. Under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act passed by Congress in 1976, EPA controls hazardous wastes from their production to their final disposal.

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NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS: EPA
Recognizes BP Amoco for Environmental
Clean-up Plans in Wood River, IL

CONTACT:

Karen Thompson, (312) 353-8547

For Immediate Release

No. No. 01-OPA002

January 8, 2001 -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will recognize BP Amoco for its leadership in streamlining environmental clean-up actions in Wood River, IL, at 11:30 a.m., Thursday, January 11, at a former refinery complex owned by BP Amoco, across Madison Ave. in downtown Wood River. In partnership with Federal, State, and local agencies, BP will pilot some of the most significant redevelopment projects in the Nation on the 800-acre site located about 20 miles northeast of St. Louis, MO, along the Mississippi River. Expected to attend the event are: Tim Fields, EPA Assistant Administrator; Bill Child, Illinois Bureau of Land Director; Thomas Christie, Wood River City Manager; and Greg Wurtz, Operations Manager/BP Amoco Global. A buffet lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m., followed by a program and Q&A at 12:30 p.m., and a tour of the site at 2 p.m.

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Meeting to Discuss John Mercer Site

Cleanup January 17

CONTACT:

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For Immediate Release

No. 01-OPA001

CHICAGO (January 8, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Region 5 will hold a community meeting January 17 to discuss the ongoing cleanup at the John Mercer site in St. Albans Township, OH. The meeting begins at 7 p.m., at the Alexandria Public Library, 10 Maple Drive.

The site, near the intersection of Hardscrabble and Battee Roads, received hundreds of industrial chemical drums in the 1970's. The drums contain waste materials, including solvents, resins, paint, and dried paint debris. The present site owners have told EPA that the late John Mercer owned the property and brought the drums to the site for disposal.

A Cleveland-based EPA Superfund emergency response team is overseeing the cleanup, which began October 23, 2000. Initially 280 drums were removed from a ravine, most of which were empty. A second disposal area has so far yielded about 300 drums. In addition, two more areas with buried drums have been identified and a third site is being investigated.

At the meeting, EPA representatives will make a presentation on the cleanup and recent ground-water sampling results, and answer any questions residents may have. A representative from Akzo Nobel Coatings, Inc., the company paying for the cleanup, is also expected.

Narsete, 800-621-8431, ext. 64359, e-mail: narsete.virginia@epa.gov.

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