

EPA, Sierra Club settle with Walnutdale

Farms on water pollution

CONTACT:

Phillippa Cannon, (312) 353-6218

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA001

CHICAGO (Jan. 8, 2004) - U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 and the Sierra Club recently reached an agreement with Walnutdale Farms Inc. -- a dairy in western Michigan -- and owners Ralph and Kevin Lettinga of Wayland, Mich., to settle alleged water pollution violations resulting from the discharge of manure and other pollutants to public waterways. Separate EPA and Sierra Club lawsuits against the dairy were consolidated by the court.

As part of the settlement, which was lodged with the court Dec. 22, Walnutdale Farms and the Lettingas will build and use a retention pond to store contaminated runoff from the dairy for 180 days and develop a plan for approval by EPA and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality to manage and dispose of all wastes from the dairy without polluting nearby waterways. In addition, they will pay \$100,000 plus interest over a four-year period, with half the amount being paid to the United States as a civil penalty and the other half to the Sierra Club in partial reimbursement of litigation costs. There will be a 30-day public comment period before the settlement is finalized by the court.

"EPA and Michigan Department of Environmental Quality have been working with the dairy to help it meet Clean Water Act requirements," said EPA Water Division director Jo-Lynn Traub. "The dairy's owners have been extremely cooperative and have already made several improvements to prevent water pollution from the facility. The dairy has also obtained a Michigan wastewater discharge permit -- the first such permit issued by the state to a concentrated animal feeding operation."

In October 2002, EPA filed suit against Walnutdale Farms and the Lettingas under the Clean Water Act, alleging that manure and other pollutants were being unlawfully discharged into a farm drain and subsequently into the Red Run Drain, which is a tributary of the Rabbit River. 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. The compliance measures required by the settlement are expected to stop the illegal discharges.

Under a preliminary settlement with the Sierra Club, the dairy has made several improvements. Among other things, it has constructed a manure storage lagoon, which allows the dairy to store manure over the winter months rather than spreading it on frozen or snow-covered fields. In the past, according to the complaints filed by EPA and the Sierra Club, manure accumulated on frozen or snow-covered ground would run off into Red Run Drain during the spring thaw. These improvements have already resulted in improved water quality in the Red Run Drain.

About Walnutdale Farms

Walnutdale Farms has more than 700 dairy cattle which are confined, fed and maintained within several freestall barns. Under the Clean Water Act, a facility that has more than 1,000 animal units -- defined by the type and size of the animal for example, 700 dairy cattle or 2,500 hogs weighing 55 pounds or more -- is considered to be a large concentrated animal feeding operation (CAFO). The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality requires all large CAFOs to obtain a wastewater discharge permit.

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EPA orders Duluth and WLSSD to eliminate sewer overflows

CONTACT:

Phillippa Cannon, (312) 353-6218

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA002

CHICAGO (Jan. 12, 2004) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has ordered the city of Duluth and the Western Lake Superior Sanitary District (WLSSD) to immediately take action to eliminate sanitary sewer overflows. In the summer of 2003, there were several raw sewage overflows into the St. Louis River, St. Louis Bay and Lake Superior.

The order was issued Jan. 6 in partnership with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA). It requires the city and WLSSD to submit a detailed plan of action within 60 days to be reviewed by EPA and MPCA.

"Sanitary sewer overflows are illegal under the Clean Water Act and eliminating them is a priority for both EPA and the state," said EPA Region 5 Water Division director Jo Lynn Traub. "EPA recognizes that the problems with this system did not arise overnight and it will take some time to fully correct them. This action is the first step in a long-range solution to the problem. We will work with all parties to address these overflows on a schedule that is challenging but realistic."

MPCA Majors and Remediation Division Director Jim Warner stated, "The MPCA, through a permit issued to the city and WLSSD, has the parties on a schedule to address the known causes of the sanitary sewer overflows. We will continue to work with the city, WLSSD and EPA so that all sanitary sewer overflows will be eliminated."

Several factors contributed to the overflows such as power outages, electrical equipment failures, broken sewers, roots and debris blocking sewers, and heavy rain. The sewer system is designed to carry only sanitary sewage and not combined sanitary and storm water like many older systems.

The St. Louis River is an area of concern on the Great Lakes and sewage spills are one of the factors contributing to pollution of the river and restricting recreational activities.

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.

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EPA: Minnesota student wins National
Radon Action Month Poster contest

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA003

CHICAGO (Jan. 13, 2004) -- Vaughn Malchow, a student at Princeton Middle School in Princeton, Minn., has won the National Radon Action Month poster contest in the hand-drawn category with his entry, "Radon in Our Home."

National Radon Action Month is sponsored by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Department of Agriculture and other national, state and local partners.

"Vaughn's poster will be used across the country to increase awareness of the dangers of radon. We are pleased that a student from our Region has won this important national contest," said EPA Region 5 Administrator Thomas V. Skinner.

The 12-year-old student, who competed against thousands of contestants, received a certificate and a \$700 savings bond at ceremonies Tuesday, Jan. 13, at EPA headquarters in Washington, D.C. He shared the honors with the winner of the computer-generated poster category, Marki Grace Calvert, 11, a student at Loganville Middle School, Loganville, Ga. Both students received paid travel and lodging for themselves and their parents.

The students had their pictures taken with EPA Administrator Mike Leavitt before the ceremonies. The awards were presented by Jeff Holmstead, EPA Assistant Administrator for Air and Radiation.

January is Radon Action Month a good time for Americans to test for radon in their homes since they spend more time indoors during the winter months.

Exposure to radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States. EPA estimates that approximately 21,000 lung cancer deaths each year are radon-related.

Radon comes from the decay of naturally occurring uranium in the earth's soil and can accumulate indoors to dangerous levels. EPA recommends that houses with radon levels of 4 picocuries or more be fixed to prevent accumulation of the gas indoors.

To learn more about how to receive a discounted home test kit or for more information about radon and how to contact your state radon office, go to www.epa.gov/radon, or call 1-800-SOS-RADON.

NOTE TO EDITORS: Pictures are available electronically. For more information, contact William Omohundro at 312-353-8254.

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EPA Grants Clean Air Act Authority to

Fond du Lac Band

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA004

CHICAGO (Jan. 20, 2004) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has recognized the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa as the first tribe in the region to be granted authority to administer parts of the Clean Air Act. EPA Region 5 Administrator Thomas V. Skinner signed the decision document and presented a certificate of recognition to Fond du Lac Band leaders at the tribal center Jan. 7.

“The Fond du Lac Band is the first tribe in Region 5 to get authority under the Clean Air Act to protect our nation’s vital air resources as a sovereign partner with EPA,” Skinner said.

Under this authority, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources will have to give the Fond du Lac Band advance notice of any Clean Air Act Title 5 operating permit applications it receives for sources within a 50-mile radius of the reservation boundaries. The tribe would then be able to review and comment on certain aspects of these permits that the state may take into consideration prior to issuing the final permits.

In addition, instead of having to provide a 40 percent match for its outdoor air-quality monitoring program grants, the tribe’s match will be cut to 5 percent. The tribe now collaborates on various air monitoring projects with the MPCA and the University of Minnesota at Duluth.

The action is the culmination of several years work on the part of the region and the tribe. The tribe began discussions with the region in 1998, soon after the CAA tribal authority rule went into effect. The rule gives tribes the right to receive from EPA the CAA authorities they want to implement, and EPA continues to implement all other CAA authorities in Indian country.

The Fond du Lac Band’s discussions with EPA gained momentum in the summer of 1999 when the tribe presented a draft proposal to EPA. After further developing this proposal, in 2002 the tribe formally submitted to the regional administrator a complete, final application for this authority.

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EPA: Lucas County, Ohio, Now Meets
Health-based Sulfur Dioxide Standard

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA005

CHICAGO (Jan. 21, 2004) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced today that all of Lucas County, Ohio, now meets the health-based, outdoor air-quality standard for sulfur dioxide.

Lucas County east of Toledo has several industrial facilities that have substantially reduced their sulfur dioxide emissions over the years. EPA is redesignating this area as a sulfur dioxide attainment area. The action will be published soon in the Federal Register.

"This area once had a serious sulfur dioxide problem," said EPA Region 5 Administrator Tom Skinner. "We congratulate Lucas County and the state of Ohio on this achievement."

Sulfur dioxide is a pungent, colorless gas formed primarily by the burning of sulfur-containing fossil fuels and ores. Major sources include fossil fuel-burning power plants and industrial boilers. To meet the health-based standard, outdoor air concentrations must not exceed 0.14 parts per million, averaged over 24 hours.

"This is great news for people in the area and another completed item in Ohio EPA's plan to bring all of Ohio into compliance with clean-air standards," said Ohio EPA Director Christopher Jones.

EPA also approved several Ohio rules limiting sulfur dioxide emissions. Finally, EPA approved state plans to maintain the health-based standard at least through 2014.

Exposure to sulfur dioxide can impair breathing, aggravate existing respiratory diseases like bronchitis and reduce the ability of the lungs to clear foreign particles. Sulfur dioxide can also cause acid rain and contribute to fine particle pollution. Children, the elderly and people with existing heart and lung conditions are the most sensitive to sulfur dioxide.

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EPA, DOJ and state of Wisconsin reach agreement with Ace Ethanol

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA006

CHICAGO (January 22, 2004) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Department of Justice and the state of Wisconsin have reached an agreement with Ace Ethanol LLC on alleged violations of federal and state clean-air regulations at the company's ethanol plant in Stanley, Wis.

"This settlement will result in cleaner air for people who live in the Stanley area," according to EPA Region 5 Administrator Thomas V. Skinner. "Ace will install a thermal oxidizer to cut air pollution from its plant and also pay a fine of approximately \$300,000 to the state of Wisconsin."

The agreement resolves federal and state complaints filed at the same time alleging that Ace began building the plant without getting appropriate permits and installing necessary air pollution control equipment.

Ace mills, cooks, ferments and distills whole corn at the plant to make ethanol. Distillation separates the liquid ethanol from the corn meal, which Ace may dry or sell as wet mash for animal feed. The complaints allege that significant amounts of volatile organic compounds, nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide, particulate matter and hazardous air pollutants are produced by these manufacturing activities.

Volatile organic compounds and nitrogen oxides contribute to the formation of ground-level ozone, or 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.

When carbon monoxide enters the bloodstream, it reduces delivery of oxygen to the body's organs and tissues. Exposure to high levels of carbon monoxide can impair vision, hand movement, learning ability and performance of complex tasks, and can also cause death.

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

The consent decree was lodged in federal district court in Madison, Wis., and is subject to a 30-day comment period.

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**MEDIA ADVISORY: EPA Administrator
Mike Leavitt to Announce Federal Funding
for Great Lakes**

CONTACT:

Phillippa Cannon, 312-353-6218

Cathy Milbourn, 202-564-7824

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA007

CHICAGO (January 28, 2004) — On January 29, EPA Administrator Mike Leavitt will announce the President's 2005 budget request to address the cleanup of contaminated sediment in some of the most polluted parts of the Great Lakes ecosystem.

Who:

Mike Leavitt, EPA Administrator

Jim Connaughton, White House Council on

Environmental Quality

What:Announcement of President's budget request for Great Lakes cleanup

When:Thursday, January 29, 2004

11:30 a.m. EST

Where:

Dossin Great Lakes Museum

100 Strand Drive

Belle Isle, Detroit

Directions:

From East Jefferson near Grand Boulevard, cross the Belle Isle Bridge and drive 1.5 miles on the outer island drive.

###

Bush administration proposes major new funding for Great Lakes cleanup

CONTACT:

Phillippa Cannon, (312) 353-6218

Cynthia Bergman, (202) 564-9828

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA008

Region 5 Administrator Tom

Skinner explains how EPA

plans to use \$45 million to help

clean up parts of the Great

Lakes. The significant increase

in Great Lakes Legacy Act

funds is part of President

Bush's proposed 2005 budget.

Further information is available

online:

Great Lakes Legacy Act

Great Lakes Program

DETROIT (January 29, 2004) — President

Bush's 2005 budget proposal will include

an unprecedented \$45 million for the

cleanup of contaminated sediments in the

Great Lakes system. The increase in Great

Lakes Legacy Act funding was announced

today by EPA Administrator Mike Leavitt

while visiting Belle Isle, an island park in

the Detroit River, which is one of 31 heavily

polluted "Areas of Concern." Leavitt was

joined by Council on Environmental Quality

Chairman Jim Connaughton.

The \$45 million will be used to start or

further the cleanup of four to six of the

"Areas of Concern," sediment that is

heavily contaminated with PCBs, heavy

metals and polycyclic aromatic

hydrocarbons (PAHs). The request is a \$35

million increase over 2004 Legacy Act

funding. The budget also seeks an

additional \$3 million for the Great Lakes

Program for restoration projects and an

additional \$1 million for research into the

control of invasive species such as the

zebra mussel and Asian carp which plague

the Great Lakes.

"This major increase in funding demonstrates the President's commitment to

preserving and protecting these Great Lakes," Administrator Leavitt said.

"Accelerating the cleanup of these contaminated areas will help keep the

pollution from moving out into the lakes where cleanup becomes dramatically

more difficult."

EPA will work with states, tribes and other stakeholders to identify sites that will

receive money for cleanup. Funds could enhance an existing cleanup or help

start a new project.

EPA's Great Lakes National Program Office is based in Chicago and works in

partnership with stakeholders to protect, maintain and restore the chemical,

biological and physical integrity of the Great Lakes.

Further information is available from:
Great Lakes Legacy Act at <http://www.epa.gov/glla>
Great Lakes Program at <http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/index.html>
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EPA reaches agreement with Barrett

Paving

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA009

CHICAGO (Feb. 2, 2004) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has reached an agreement with Barrett Paving Materials Inc. on alleged clean-air violations at the company's gravel plant, 3835 Centennial Ave., Sylvania, Ohio.

EPA Region 5 Administrator Thomas V. Skinner said, "As part of the agreement, Barrett will reduce dust emissions and protect the health of its neighbors by installing a wheel wash for trucks at its main entrance and by paving at least 14,000 square feet of road at the plant." Skinner said the two projects will cost \$90,000. This is in addition to a \$5,631 civil penalty.

Companies that violate the Clean Air Act may voluntarily propose environmental projects as part of their settlements. EPA may reduce monetary penalties if it believes a project will cut pollution significantly and goes beyond what is required by EPA regulations.

The agreement resolves an EPA complaint filed in May 2003 alleging Barrett had failed to comply with testing and notification regulations.

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

###

EPA cites Superior Aluminum Alloys for clean-air violations

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA010

CHICAGO (February 2, 2004) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has filed an administrative complaint against Superior Aluminum Alloys LLC for alleged violations of hazardous air-pollutant regulations at the company's secondary aluminum production plant, 14214 Edgerton Road, New Haven, Ind. EPA proposed a \$120,535 penalty.

"We're alleging that Superior emitted almost three times more dioxins and furans from its thermal chip dryer than are allowed," said Region 5 Administrator Thomas V. Skinner. He said the excessive emissions were discovered during a March 2003 emissions test.

Superior 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 how to resolve the allegations.

Exposure to high doses of dioxins can cause severe skin lesions, usually on the head and upper body. There is also evidence that dioxins may cause liver damage and probably cause cancer in humans. Furans can irritate and burn the skin and eyes. They can also damage the liver and kidneys and may cause cancer in humans.

#

EPA update meeting on St. Regis Paper

Site Feb. 12, 6 P.M.

CONTACT:

Don de Blasio, (312) 886-4360

Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA011

NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS:

[This news release replaces an earlier version issued today.] EPA representatives will be available for a separate briefing session with media at 3:30 p.m. at Cass Lake Bena Elementary School, 15 Fourth St. N.E., Cass Lake. Please arrive promptly.

CHICAGO (Feb. 3, 2004) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has scheduled a community update meeting for the St. Regis Paper Co. Superfund site, in Cass Lake, Minn. The meeting will be held Thursday, Feb. 12, from 6 to 8 p.m., at the Cass Lake Bena Elementary School, 15 Fourth St. N.E., in Cass Lake.

At the meeting, EPA representatives will discuss a cleanup order that was issued to International Paper in December. Plans for an additional investigation of contamination to be carried out during the summer and fall will also be discussed.

EPA is primarily concerned about potential dioxin contamination from wood treatment operations at the former St. Regis Paper site. Past sampling and cleanup in the area has also confirmed polyaromatic hydrocarbons and pentachlorophenol contamination.

International Paper, which acquired Champion International in 2000, is responsible for cleaning up soil and ground-water contamination on and around the site. Champion bought the St. Regis Paper Co. in 1985.

For special needs at the meeting, contact community involvement coordinator Don de Blasio, (312) 886-4360.

Technical documents and other information about the St. Regis Paper Superfund site are on file at the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Division of Resource Management, 6350 Highway 2 N.W., Cass Lake, and the Cass Lake City Clerk's office, 332 Second St. N.W., Cass Lake. Information about the site is available on EPA's Web site at www.epa.gov/region5/sites/stregis.

###

EPA proposes restoration plan for Cleveland property; invites public comment

CONTACT:

Karen Thompson, (312) 353-8547

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA012

CHICAGO (Feb. 4, 2004) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 is proposing ecological restoration plans for land near the River Recycling Industries facilities, 4195 Bradley Road, Cleveland, Ohio.

River Recycling has volunteered to pay for the project as part of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act corrective action program. It could include:

- covering former wastewater treatment ponds with liners and fresh topsoil;
- planting native prairie plants and turf grasses;
- creating a canopy of natural Ohio trees along the Cuyahoga riverbank;

and

- constructing a berm along the top of the river bank.

The proposed ecological enhancements are designed to provide a better habitat for wildlife and a picnic area across the river from the Cleveland Metroparks trail.

The public is invited to comment prior to EPA reviewing and selecting a final plan. The 45-day public comment period is from Feb. 6 to March 23, 2004.

Send written comments to Todd Gmitro, corrective action project manager, EPA Region 5 (DW-8J), 77 W. Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL 60604.

Detailed reports and information are available for reading at the Cleveland

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EPA reaches agreement with ISG Indiana

Harbor on clean-air violations

CONTACT:

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For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA013

CHICAGO (Feb. 4, 2004) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has reached an agreement with ISG Indiana Harbor Inc. on the company's alleged failure to control hydrochloric acid emissions at its steel pickling plant at 3001 Dickey Road, East Chicago, Ind.

"As part of the agreement, ISG will protect the health of its neighbors by installing two air conveyor systems at its sinter plant, cutting dust emissions by about 7,500 pounds a year," said EPA Region 5 Administrator Thomas V. Skinner. Skinner said the systems will cost the company at least \$111,783. This is in addition to a civil penalty of \$42,839.

Companies that violate the Clean Air Act may voluntarily propose environmental projects as part of their settlements. EPA may reduce monetary penalties if it believes a project will cut pollution significantly and goes beyond what is required by EPA regulations.

A December 2002 test on ISG's pickling line stack showed excessive emissions of hydrochloric acid. ISG agreed to the settlement without the filing of an administrative complaint and has agreed to bring its hydrochloric acid emissions into compliance.

Hydrochloric acid is corrosive to the eyes, skin and mucous membranes.

Inhalation may cause coughing, hoarseness, inflammation and ulceration of the respiratory tract and chest pain.

#

EPA settles with two Michigan companies
for hazardous chemical inventory
reporting violations

CONTACT:

Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050

James Entzminger, (312) 886-4062

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA014

CHICAGO (February 10, 2004) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has settled cases against two Michigan companies, Welch Foods Inc., Lawton, and CMS Gas Transmission and Storage Co., Jackson, for violations of federal hazardous chemical inventory reporting laws.

EPA's consent agreement and final order with Welch includes a \$15,659 fine and an environmental project valued at \$58,632. In its civil complaint, filed June 19, 2003, EPA alleged that the company, at 400 Walker St., failed to submit, in 2000 and 2001, required emergency and hazardous chemical inventory reports for anhydrous ammonia to the state of Michigan, the Van Buren County local emergency planning committee and the local fire department. The forms notify state and local authorities of the storage of hazardous chemicals above certain quantities. Previously, Welch was cited by EPA for similar hazardous chemical inventory reporting oversights covering the years 1994 to 1996. This violation was resolved in June 1997 for \$2,000.

In addition to the fine, Welch agreed, under a "supplemental environmental project," to take steps to enhance site security and public health near the plant. The project requires Welch to upgrade fencing and install surveillance cameras and related computer equipment by May 31.

Anhydrous ammonia may be fatal if inhaled for prolonged periods of time. It can burn the skin and irritate the eyes, nose and throat.

In the other administrative action, filed by EPA on Jan. 13, CMS agreed to pay a \$30,000 penalty for failure to file the proper emergency preparedness notification forms with state and local authorities for a natural gas well condensation unit on Smith Lake Road in Kalkaska. Natural gas condensate is a hazardous chemical and, under federal environmental laws, also requires notification when stored above certain quantities.

###

EPA cites 18 companies for clean-air violations

CONTACT:

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For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA015

CHICAGO (Feb. 11, 2004) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has notified 18 companies that it believes they violated federal or federally enforceable state clean-air regulations.

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 resolving the allegations.

"EPA's mission is to protect public health and the environment," said Region 5 Administrator Thomas V. Skinner. "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). Four companies received both.]

COMPANIES RECEIVING FOVs

Morgan Electro Ceramics Inc.

232 Forbes Road

Bedford, Ohio

EPA alleges Morgan failed to comply with federal limits on perchloroethylene emissions from two batch vapor degreasers at its electro-ceramics manufacturing plant. In addition, EPA alleges the company failed to maintain an accurate log of solvents added to one of the degreasers.

Copeland Corp.

1675 W. Campbell Road

Sidney, Ohio

EPA alleges Copeland failed to comply with federal stratospheric ozone standards at the company's compressor and condenser manufacturing plant. The standards require repair, retrofitting or retirement of leaking refrigeration equipment.

Spectro Alloys Corp.

13220 Doyle Path

Rosemont, Minn.

EPA alleges Spectro failed to comply with federal clean-air regulations by emitting excessive amounts of hydrochloric acid from furnaces used to recover aluminum from aluminum scrap.

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Aluminum Recovery Technologies Inc.

2170 Production Road

Kendallville, Ind.

EPA alleges Aluminum Recovery Technologies failed to comply with federal clean-air regulations by emitting excessive amounts of dioxin, furans and hydrochloric acid from furnaces and scrap dryers.

Cognis Corp.

2525 S. Kensington Road

Kankakee, Ill.

EPA alleges Cognis violated national emissions standards for hazardous air pollutants by failing to adequately test, monitor and keep records of hazardous air-pollutant emissions, including methanol, ethylene dichloride and hydrochloric acid.

Georgia-Pacific Corp.

1919 S. Broadway
Green Bay, Wis.

EPA alleges Georgia-Pacific violated federal stratospheric ozone rules governing the production, use and safe disposal of ozone-depleting refrigerants at its paper mill. Specifically, the company violated leak repair, testing, planning and retrofitting or retiring requirements for commercial and industrial refrigeration units. In addition, EPA alleges Georgia-Pacific violated federal new source performance standards by failing to meet emission standards for its fossil fuel-fired steam generator.

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Perrigo Co.
655 Hooker Road
Allegan, Mich.

EPA alleges Perrigo violated federal stratospheric ozone rules governing the production, use and safe disposal of ozone-depleting refrigerants. Specifically, Perrigo violated work practice, reporting and recordkeeping requirements and failed to repair leaks of ozone-depleting chemicals.

Cytec Industries Inc.
2715 Miller Road
Kalamazoo, Mich.

EPA alleges Cytec violated federal stratospheric ozone rules governing the production, use and safe disposal of ozone-depleting refrigerants. Specifically, Cytec violated work practice, reporting and recordkeeping requirements and failed to repair leaks of ozone-depleting chemicals.

DaimlerChrysler Corp.
2401 S. Reed Road
Kokomo, Ind.

EPA alleges DaimlerChrysler violated federal clean-air regulations by making significant modifications to its transmission plant that increased its air pollution emissions without getting a permit requiring control of these emissions and without adding required control technology. The company also failed to provide enough information about these modifications in its Clean Air Act Title 5 operating permit application.

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M.C. Aluminum America Inc.
6875 S. Inwood Drive
Columbus, Ind.

EPA alleges M.C. Aluminum violated federal clean-air regulations by failing a performance test for dioxin and furans, both hazardous air pollutants, on one of the company's thermal chip dryers.

Star Metals Inc.
Illinois Street
Petersburg, Ind.

EPA alleges Star Metals violated federal clean-air regulations by exceeding its emission limit for dioxins and furans, both hazardous air pollutants, at its scrap dryer during a May 2003 emissions test.

Nemschoff Chairs
2218 Julson Court
Sheboygan, Wis.

EPA alleges Nemschoff Chairs violated federal reporting, recordkeeping, notification, planning and permitting requirements of national emission standards for hazardous air pollutants. In addition, EPA alleges the company failed to meet hazardous air pollutant emissions limitations.

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Abbott Laboratories
1401 Sheridan Road

North Chicago, Ill.

EPA alleges Abbott violated federal stratospheric ozone rules governing the production, use and safe disposal of ozone-depleting refrigerants. Specifically, the company violated leak repair, testing, planning and retrofitting or retiring requirements for chillers at its North Chicago and Abbott Park, Ill., plants.

SAPPI Fine Paper North America

Muskegon Mill

2400 Lakeshore Drive

Muskegon, Mich.

EPA alleges SAPPI violated federal clean-air regulations by performing numerous life extension projects at its recovery furnace that triggered new source performance standards reconstruction provisions but failed to comply with those new source requirements.

OSCO Industries Inc.

11th and Chillicothe Streets

Portsmouth, Ohio

and

OSCO Industries Inc.

Athens and Chillicothe Streets

Jackson, Ohio

EPA alleges OSCO violated federal clean-air regulations by making major modifications to these two gray-iron foundries without getting proper permits and without installing necessary pollution control equipment. OSCO also failed to submit timely and complete Clean Air Act Title 5 operating permit applications for the foundries.

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Perma-Fix of Dayton Inc.

300 S.W. End Ave.

Dayton, Ohio

EPA alleges Perma-Fix failed to comply with federal clean-air regulations when it built a biological wastewater treatment operation at its waste treatment facility.

Specifically, the company violated national emission standards for hazardous air pollutants and failed to submit a timely and complete Clean Air Act Title 5 operating permit application for the facility.

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COMPANIES RECEIVING NOVs

Morgan Electro Ceramics Inc.

232 Forbes Road

Bedford, Ohio

EPA alleges Morgan failed to comply with federally enforceable state clean-air regulations by allowing its operating permit to expire on Feb. 16, 1996, and continuing to operate without a valid operating permit.

International Truck and Engine Corp.

5565 Brookville Road

Indianapolis, Ind.

EPA alleges International Truck and Engine violated federally enforceable state clean-air regulations by making major modifications to its gray-iron foundry without proper permitting or registration and without utilizing necessary pollution-control equipment.

SAPPI Fine Paper North America

Muskegon Mill

2400 Lakeshore Drive

Muskegon, Mich.

EPA alleges SAPPI violated federally enforceable state clean-air regulations by modifying its Muskegon Mill to increase the capacity of the recovery furnace without getting a permit requiring best available air-pollution control technology.

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Rockwell Lime Co.

4110 Rockwood Road

Manitowoc, Wis.

EPA alleges Rockwell Lime violated its federally enforceable state permit to prevent significant deterioration of air quality by exceeding the limit on the sulfur content of combustion fuel at one of its lime kilns.

DaimlerChrysler Corp.

2401 S. Reed Road

Kokomo, Ind.

EPA alleges DaimlerChrysler violated federally enforceable state clean-air regulations by making significant modifications to its transmission plant that increased its air pollution emissions without getting a permit requiring control of these emissions and without adding required control technology. The company also failed to provide enough information about these modifications in its Clean Air Act Title 5 operating permit application.

OSCO Industries Inc.

11TH and Chillicothe Streets

Portsmouth, Ohio

and

OSCO Industries Inc.

Athens and Chillicothe Streets

Jackson, Ohio

EPA alleges that OSCO violated federally enforceable state clean-air regulations by making major modifications to these two gray-iron foundries without getting proper permits and without installing necessary pollution control equipment.

OSCO also failed to submit timely and complete Clean Air Act Title 5 operating permit applications for the foundries.

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Proposed agreement with Johns Manville

resolves NPL site issues

CONTACT:

Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050

Jan Carlson, (312) 886-6059

(IL AG) Melissa Merz, (312) 814-2518

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA016

CHICAGO (Feb. 11, 2004) -- U.S. Department of Justice, on behalf of U.S.

Environmental Protection Agency, and the Illinois Attorney General's office today

lodged a proposed amended consent decree with Johns Manville that addresses

a variety of issues related to the Johns Manville Superfund site in Waukegan, Ill.

The document was lodged with the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of

Illinois and will be published in the Federal Register, followed by a public

comment period.

Called a first amended consent decree, the proposed agreement supersedes a

March 1988 consent decree between the federal and state governments and

Manville, and requires additional cleanup steps for the portion of the site owned

by Manville. The agreement does not address, and reserves EPA's ability, to

require cleanup of other areas of the site owned by other entities.

EPA issued a cleanup decision for the site in June 1987. During the cleanup,

EPA made two significant changes to certain aspects of the cleanup. The

proposed amended decree would formally implement these changes.

Requirements modified or added by the agreement include:

- Requiring Manville to close its wastewater treatment system, ponds and non-asbestos disposal pit;

- Requiring Manville to dredge or encapsulate asbestos-containing material in the on-site industrial canal;

- New land-use restrictions to prevent any future interference with the cleanup;

- Requiring Manville to conduct ongoing operation and maintenance of completed work; and

- Payment to EPA for costs that will be incurred overseeing these additional activities.

A Federal Register notice announcing a 30-day comment period on the

proposed first amended consent decree is expected to be published within the

next week. During the comment period, the amended decree will be online at

www.usdoj.gov/enrd/open.html. Comments should be addressed to Assistant

Attorney General, Environment and Natural Resources Division, P.O. Box 7611,

U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, D.C. 20044-7611, and should refer to

United States v. Manville Sales Corporation, D.J. Ref. 90-11-1-7B.

###

Media Advisory: EPA to hold a two-day hearing in Chicago to take public comment on proposed rules

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA017

CHICAGO (Feb. 23, 2004)

WHAT: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will hold a two-day hearing to provide additional opportunity for members of the public to participate in open comment periods on several proposals to achieve deep reductions in emissions of air pollutants from power plants. The hearing will specifically solicit public comment on the proposed Utility Mercury Reductions and Interstate Air Quality Rules. EPA announced both proposed rules in December 2003. Two other concurrent hearings will be held on these proposed rules in Philadelphia, Pa., and in Research Triangle Park, N.C.

WHO: Hearing Officer: Bill Wehrum, counsel to EPA's Assistant Administrator for Air and Radiation; Joe Paisie, manager of the integrated policy and strategies group of EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards; Sarah Dunham, chief of the program development branch of the Clean Air Markets Division of EPA's Office of Atmospheric Programs.

WHEN: Wednesday, Feb. 25, 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., 2 to 6 p.m., 7:30 to 9 p.m. (later as needed). Thursday, Feb. 26, same schedule.

WHERE: Hilton Chicago Hotel, 720 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago, Ill.

The public comment period for these proposals remains open until March 30. Individuals may also submit comments electronically, by mail, by facsimile or by hand delivery/courier. EPA will consider written comments submitted during the comment period with the same weight as oral comments presented during the public hearings.

More information is at www.epa.gov/interstateairquality and www.epa.gov/mercury.

###

EPA issues notice to Wisconsin for deficiencies in its air permits program

CONTACT:

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For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA018

CHICAGO (Feb. 24, 2004) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 today notified the state of Wisconsin that the state must remedy deficiencies in its Clean Air Act Title 5 program. Title 5 operating permits are required for all major sources of air pollution. They contain all Clean Air Act requirements in a single, federally enforceable document.

While Wisconsin has made efforts to improve certain aspects of its Title 5 program, EPA is issuing this notice of deficiency to ensure that all existing problems are addressed. The notice will be published soon in the Federal Register.

EPA said the state's problems include not demonstrating that it is collecting enough fees to cover the costs of running the permit program, not adequately administering program funds and not issuing permits to all of its sources in the time allowed by the Clean Air Act. In addition, the state has several programmatic issues that it needs to correct, such as not ensuring that all permit conditions are federally enforceable and not including all appropriate applicable requirements in permits.

EPA will continue to work with Wisconsin to strengthen its program. If the deficiencies are not addressed within two years, Wisconsin will lose the opportunity to run the program and the federal government will take responsibility for issuing permits to Title 5 sources.

More information on the CAA Title 5 program is at www.epa.gov/oar/oaqps/permits/index.html

###

Eleven EPA Region 5 businesses and organizations are recognized for energy efficiency

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA019

CHICAGO (Mar. 5, 2004) -- Eleven businesses and organizations in U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 are among 57 presented 2004 ENERGY STAR awards nationwide in recognition of their outstanding contributions to cut greenhouse gas emissions through energy efficiency. The Region 5 winners are:

- Veridian Homes, Madison, Wis., for excellence in efficient homes;
- 3M, St. Paul, Minn., University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, and General Motors Corp., Detroit, Mich., for excellence in energy management;
- Ace Hardware Corp., Oak Brook, Ill., Sears, Roebuck and Co., Hoffman Estates, Ill., Good Earth Lighting Inc., Wheeling, Ill., Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency, Rochester, and Whirlpool Corp., Benton Harbor, Mich., for excellence in efficient products; and
- Wisconsin Focus on Energy Program, Madison, and Minnesota Power, an ALLETE Co., Duluth, for excellence in energy efficiency and environmental education.

"We congratulate these ENERGY STAR partners for their contributions to energy efficiency," said EPA Region 5 Administrator Thomas V. Skinner.

"Energy efficiency saves the consumer money and saves the environment."

Last year alone, ENERGY STAR helped Americans save enough energy to power 20 million homes, reducing greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to that of 18 million cars all while saving consumers \$9 billion. Additionally, more than 200,000 new homes have earned the ENERGY STAR, and more than 15,000 office buildings, schools, supermarkets and hotels have benchmarked their energy performance as a basis for future progress. All this was accomplished without sacrificing quality, features or personal comfort.

ENERGY STAR was introduced by EPA in 1992 as a voluntary, market-based partnership to reduce air pollution through increased energy efficiency. Today, with assistance from the Department of Energy, the program offers businesses and consumers energy efficient solutions to save energy, money and help protect the environment for future generations. More than 8,000 organizations have become ENERGY STAR partners and are committed to improving the energy efficiency of products, homes and businesses.

For more information, see www.energystar.gov or call toll-free 1-888-STAR-YES (1-888-782-7937).

###

EPA settles with Stolle for hazardous chemical release reporting violations; Includes gear for Local Fire Department

CONTACT:

Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050

James Entzminger, (312) 886-4062

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA020

CHICAGO (March 8, 2004) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has settled an administrative complaint against Stolle Products, 1501 Michigan St., in Sidney, Ohio, for violation of federal laws on the reporting of a hazardous chemical release.

EPA's consent decree and final order with Stolle includes a \$9,280 fine and an environmental project valued at \$24,872. In its complaint, filed July 17, 2003, EPA alleged that on March 22, 2003, at 8:30 a.m., a worker mixed incompatible chemicals in a dip tank used to treat metal parts at the metal fabricating company, a division of American Trim LLC. A chemical reaction resulted in the release of an estimated 280 pounds of nitrogen dioxide from the facility.

Federal laws require facilities to immediately notify the National Response Center, state and local authorities about any nitrogen dioxide release greater than 10 pounds. Though Stolle reported the release to the Shelby County local emergency planning committee and the Sidney fire department arrived at the site shortly after the incident, the company failed to notify the state or NRC until about 5 p.m., more than eight hours after the incident.

In addition to the fine, Stolle agreed, under EPA's "supplemental environmental project" policy, to purchase and donate new chemical gas detection equipment to the Sidney Fire Department. The equipment, which can identify 100 different chemicals, is valued at \$24,872.

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About Nitrogen Dioxide

Nitrogen dioxide can irritate the eyes, nose and throat. People exposed to large amounts can experience headaches, nausea, chest pains and difficulty breathing.

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EPA proposes Evansville Soil
Contamination Site to Superfund National
Priorities List

CONTACT:

Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050

Stuart Hill, (312) 886-0689

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA021

CHICAGO (March 8, 2004) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency today proposed naming the Jacobsville Neighborhood soil contamination site in Evansville, Ind., 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.

EPA proposed adding 11 sites to the NPL. The Evansville site was the only site in EPA Region 5 in this NPL update. The NPL now contains 1,240 sites, plus 65 proposed sites. As of January 29, cleanup construction has been completed at 892 sites and is under way at 360 sites. More information is at www.epa.gov/superfund.

About the Site

The 250-acre site, roughly 45 city blocks, encompasses both residential properties and commercial properties that were formerly manufacturing sites. These long-closed companies, some of which used lead in their operations, include: Blount Plow Works (horse-drawn plows; c. 1880s to 1940s), Advance Stove Works (stoves; c. 1900 to 1950s), Newton-Kelsay (draft animal harness parts; c. 1900 to 1950s) and Sharpes Shot Works (lead shot; c. 1878 to unknown date) . Evansville Plating Works, an abandoned electroplating facility, is also within the site area. In separate actions, EPA removed plating waste from this facility in 1990-1991, followed by contaminated soil removal and demolition of the building in 2003.

Next, EPA will evaluate what further investigation is needed and determine potentially responsible parties. A range of cleanup options and cost estimates will then be developed. These options will be presented to the public and local officials before a cleanup plan is selected and the source of funding for the work is determined.

Site documents are available for public review at EPA's Records Center in Chicago and at the Indiana Department of Environmental Management, 100 N. Senate Ave. in Indianapolis. For more information about the site, contact EPA community involvement coordinator Stuart Hill: (800) 621-8431, Ext. 6-0689 (business hours only), or hill.stuart@epa.gov.

###

EPA Grants Exemption to Romulus

Injection Wells

CONTACT:

Phillippa Cannon, (312) 353-6218

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA022

CHICAGO (Mar. 17, 2004) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has granted Environmental Disposal Systems (EDS) an exemption from federal restrictions on land disposal of hazardous waste for two commercial Class 1 injection wells in Romulus, Mich. EDS wants to accept liquid hazardous waste from other businesses and inject it into the wells.

Based on an extensive review of the company's petition for exemption and other information, such as scientific data and public comments, EPA has determined that the waste will stay confined to a layer of rock deep underground and will not threaten human health or the environment. The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality must still issue a hazardous waste operating license before the company can begin using the wells.

EDS has demonstrated that, to a reasonable degree of certainty, the waste will not move out of the injection zone or come into contact with an underground source of drinking water for at least 10,000 years. Scientists specializing in geology and computer modeling from the U.S. Geological Survey and the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory in California reviewed the data and computer modeling and agreed that the demonstration meets the requirements for an exemption. The well will be continuously monitored throughout its operation.

EDS originally asked for an exemption in January 2000. EPA announced in November 2002 that it was prepared to approve the exemption. The decision-making process was extended last summer after the state of Michigan issued a permit to Sunoco Partners Marketing and Terminals LLC (SPMT) which allows it to pump brine from several geologic layers, including the layer into which EDS wants to inject waste. EPA extended its review to look at the effect of the SPMT permit on EDS' project.

Based on the evidence in the record, EPA can reliably predict that SPMT will not extract from the same geologic formation EDS plans to use for injection. Extraction from the shallower Lockport Formation will not affect the EDS project. EPA has made the exemption conditional: it will automatically terminate if SPMT begins extracting from the injection zone.

Injecting wastes deep underground is a proven way of environmentally protective disposal. There are 163 Class 1 hazardous waste injection wells located at fifty-one facilities nationwide, twenty-four of these wells are in EPA Region 5 and seven are in Michigan.

EPA offered an extensive public comment period on this petition, reviewed several hundred comments and responded to them in summary form. EPA revised the exemption based on those comments. All those who commented will receive a copy of the response-to-comments document and it will also be available in the following libraries:

Romulus Public Library, 11121 Wayne Road; Taylor Community Library, 1203 Pardee Road; and Henry Ford Centennial Library, 16301 Michigan Ave., Dearborn.

The information is also online at:

EPA Grants Exemption, factsheet, March 2004 (PDF, 4pp, 70K,About PDF)
epa.gov/region5/water/uic/pubpdf/factsheet031604.pdf

Response to Comments, March 2004 (PDF, 134pp, 412K,About PDF)

http://www.epa.gov/region5/water/uic/pubpdf/eds_rtc.pdf

All documents related to the EDS decision are online at epa.gov/region5/water/uic/uicpub.htm#eds

###

Agreement signed to address Hartford, Illinois, contamination and vapor problems

CONTACT:

CONTACT: (U.S. EPA) Mike Joyce, (312) 353-5546

(U.S. EPA) Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050

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

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA023

CHICAGO (March 18, 2004) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has signed an agreement with three oil companies to tackle ongoing hazardous vapor problems caused by a large, underground pool of petroleum products in Hartford, Ill. The companies also agreed to design a permanent cleanup plan. The agreement with Atlantic Richfield Co., Shell Oil Products US and Premcor Refining Group is called an administrative order on consent. It requires the companies take a series of actions to address the long-standing problems caused by pollution in Hartford. These include: providing temporary measures to safeguard residences and public buildings from dangerous fumes, investigating the underground pool of refined petroleum products created by past pipeline breaks, and developing of a plan to provide temporary housing and relocation expenses for residents if they are displaced because of fumes in their homes. The companies also agreed to design a way to permanently clean up the underground contamination.

Two meetings to discuss the agreement and its impact on Hartford residents will be held Thursday, March 25. Both will be held in the Hartford Community Center, 715 N. Delmar. EPA and Illinois officials will be available to answer questions one-on-one at an informal open house from 1 to 3 p.m. A public meeting featuring formal presentations will begin at 7 p.m. Written comments on the agreement will be accepted at both sessions. A legal reporter will be at the evening meeting to record oral statements.

Also, comments will be accepted by mail, e-mail or fax sent to: Mike Joyce, Office of Public Affairs (P-19J), EPA Region 5, 77 W. Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL 60604; fax (312) 353-1155; e-mailjoyce.mike@epa.gov

Copies of the agreement are available at the Hartford Public Library and Hartford Village Hall.

For special needs or accommodations at the public meeting, contact Joyce at (312) 353-5546.

###

EPA reaches agreement with demolition
contractors on clean-air violations

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA024

CHICAGO (Mar. 26, 2004) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has reached an agreement with Demolition Contractors Inc., 675 Richmond St. N.W., Grand Rapids, Mich., on alleged violations of federal and state clean-air regulations.

"As part of the agreement, Demolition Contractors will protect the health of its neighbors by improving dust control at its concrete crushing plant in Walker, Mich.," said EPA Region 5 Administrator Thomas V. Skinner. Skinner said the improvements will cost the company at least \$46,000. This is in addition to a civil penalty of \$55,000.

Companies that violate the Clean Air Act may voluntarily propose environmental projects as part of their settlements. EPA may reduce monetary penalties if it believes a project will cut pollution significantly and goes beyond what is required by EPA regulations.

An EPA administrative complaint filed at the same time alleged that Demolition Contractors had failed to comply with federal asbestos regulations at several demolition sites and with state regulations limiting dust levels at its Walker crushing plant.

Asbestos is a known cancer-producing substance that can cause mesothelioma, a type of lung cancer, and asbestosis, a lung disease, many years after exposure.

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

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EPA cites Bombardier for clean-air violations

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA025

CHICAGO (Mar. 26, 2004) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has cited Bombardier Recreational Products for alleged violations of federal and state clean-air regulations at the company's fiberglass boat manufacturing plant, 451 E. Illinois Ave., Benton, Ill.

EPA alleges Bombardier violated clean-air regulations by emitting excessive amounts of volatile organic compounds from its plant and by not notifying the state of the excessive emissions.

This is a preliminary finding of violations. To resolve them, EPA may issue a compliance order, assess an administrative penalty or bring suit against the company. Bombardier has 30 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 Region 5 Administrator Thomas V. Skinner. "We will take whatever steps are needed to ensure compliance with the Clean Air Act."

Volatile organic compounds contribute to the formation of ground-level ozone, or 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. People with asthma, children and the elderly are especially at risk, but these health concerns are important to everyone.

###

Three Ohio cities receive job training grants from EPA

CONTACT:

Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050

Kären Thompson, (312) 353-8547

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA027

CHICAGO (March 31, 2004) — The cities of Cincinnati, Cleveland and Toledo today were awarded job training grants by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. EPA Administrator Mike Leavitt made the announcement in Cincinnati as part of a national announcement of a new round of Brownfields Job Training Grants. EPA is awarding a total of \$2.4 million to 16 communities in 13 states. “These grants focus on achieving results,” Leavitt said. “They train people for real jobs – jobs that help restore neighborhoods, protect public health and build strong communities.”

The Cincinnati Department of Community Development and Planning will receive \$125,000 to train 120 people in four 12-week cycles of 264 classroom hours each. The program has a goal of placing 80 percent of graduates in environmental jobs.

The Cleveland Department of Economic Development will receive \$200,000 to train 80 people in a 240-hour training program that has a goal of placing 75 percent of graduates in environmental jobs.

The city of Toledo will receive \$150,000 to train 80 people in a 160-hour program with a placement goal of 85 percent.

Each program teaches subjects such as lead and asbestos abatement, mold remediation, environmental sampling and related skills. Students will come from disadvantaged communities that have brownfields.

Elsewhere in the Midwest, grants went to communities in Illinois and Wisconsin. Today’s announcement brings to 82 the number of grants awarded since the job training program began in 1998. More than 1,800 people have been trained in environmental cleanup skills. More than 60 percent of those completing the training have obtained employment in the environmental field with an average hourly wage of \$12.84.

Brownfields are abandoned, idled or under-used industrial and commercial facilities where expansion or redevelopment is complicated by real or perceived environmental contamination. Brownfield revitalization provides communities with the tools to reduce environmental and health risks, reuse abandoned properties, take advantage of existing infrastructure, create a stronger local tax base, attract new businesses and jobs, create new recreational areas and reduce the pressure to develop open spaces.

More information on all the grant recipients is available at:www.epa.gov/brownfields.

###

Chicago agency receives \$150,000 job training grant from EPA

CONTACT:

Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050

Kären Thompson, (312) 353-8547

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA028

CHICAGO (March 31, 2004) — Chicago's Office of Applied Innovations Inc., a nonprofit organization, has received a \$150,000 job training grant from U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. EPA Administrator Mike Leavitt made the announcement today in Cincinnati as part of a national announcement of a new round of Brownfields Job Training Grants. EPA is awarding a total of \$2.4 million to 16 communities in 13 states.

"These grants focus on achieving results," Leavitt said. "They train people for real jobs – jobs that help restore neighborhoods, protect public health and build strong communities."

OIA Inc. will use the funds to train at least 50 people in lead and asbestos abatement, mold remediation, environmental sampling and related skills. The program expects at least 88 percent of students will graduate, and at least 84 percent will be placed in environmental jobs after graduation. Training modules vary from two weeks to 12 weeks. Students will come from all three of Chicago's empowerment zones.

Elsewhere in the Midwest, grants went to communities in Wisconsin and Ohio. Today's announcement brings to 82 the number of grants awarded since the job training program began in 1998. More than 1,800 people have been trained in environmental cleanup skills. More than 60 percent of those completing the training have obtained employment in the environmental field with an average hourly wage of \$12.84.

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More information on all the grant recipients is available at:www.epa.gov/brownfields.

###

Milwaukee agency receives \$150,000 job training grant from EPA

CONTACT:

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Kären Thompson, (312) 353-8547

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA029

CHICAGO (March 31, 2004) — The Milwaukee Community Service Corps has received a \$150,000 job training grant from U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. EPA Administrator Mike Leavitt made the announcement today in Cincinnati as part of a national announcement of a new round of Brownfields Job Training Grants. EPA is awarding a total of \$2.4 million to 16 communities in 13 states.

“These grants focus on achieving results,” Leavitt said. “They train people for real jobs – jobs that help restore neighborhoods, protect public health and build strong communities.”

The MCSC will use the funds to train 64 people in lead and asbestos abatement, mold remediation, environmental sampling and related skills. The 280-hour training program will include students from the Milwaukee Renewal Community. The program’s goal is full- or part-time employment in environmental jobs for every graduate.

Elsewhere in the Midwest, grants went to communities in Illinois and Ohio.

Today’s announcement brings to 82 the number of grants awarded since the job training program began in 1998. More than 1,800 people have been trained in environmental cleanup skills. More than 60 percent of those completing the training have obtained employment in the environmental field with an average hourly wage of \$12.84.

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More information on all the grant recipients is available at:www.epa.gov/brownfields.

###

Consent order to bring Michigan City water to most of Town of Pines; public meetings April 13

CONTACT:

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Ken Theisen, (312) 886-1959

(IDEM) Cheryl Reed, (317) 233-5965

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA030

CHICAGO (April 7, 2004) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 announced today that the companies responsible for ground-water contamination in the Town of Pines, Ind., immediately west of Michigan City, have agreed to pay for new municipal water connections for most households in the community.

The water service is the key development among a series of future steps outlined in a pair of consent orders signed by EPA and four responsible companies: NIPSCO, Brown Inc., Ddalt Corp. and Bulk Transport Corp.

"Over the past two years, the responsible parties have spent nearly \$2 million to bring Michigan City water to about 130 homes," said Acting Regional Administrator Bharat Mathur. "Despite this effort, we continued to find evidence of contaminated drinking water in other parts of the town. This action should address the situation."

Under the terms of the orders, the responsible parties have agreed to immediately supply bottled water to a second group of about 140 additional homes, pending connection to the Michigan City municipal water system. As a result, most of the town will soon be receiving city water.

A pair of public meetings to discuss the water hook-ups will be held April 13, from 2 to 4 p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m., at the Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. 4th St. The meetings will include a presentation by EPA and Indiana Department of Environmental Management officials, followed by a question-and-answer session.

Separate from the 140 homes set to receive Michigan City water, about 70 other homes will receive bottled water as a precautionary measure. These include residences in the far western corner of Pines in a triangular area encompassing Pine, Poplar and Highway 12; and residences south of Highway 20 on Old Railroad, South Railroad, on Ardendale to Old Chicago, and about one-half mile southwest along Old Chicago. Under the second consent order, provisions for this group of homes may be revised in the future, following a long-term study EPA has requested from the potentially responsible parties to assess human health and ecological risks associated with the site.

"These agreements ensure that Pines residents will immediately have safe, clean water," said IDEM Commissioner Lori F. Kaplan. "IDEM has been working with the responsible parties to resolve this situation since it was first discovered. I'm pleased the companies have agreed to the solution we sought from the beginning."

The two agreements also mean that it will no longer be necessary to consider naming the community to EPA's Superfund National Priorities List.

Design work for the water hook-up project is expected to begin in a few weeks, with construction to follow in the spring and continuing into 2005. Work on the long-term study will also begin soon. EPA will oversee both the water hook-up project and the long-term study with support from IDEM.

In a separate matter, EPA announced yesterday that it will provide bottled water as a precautionary measure to Pine Elementary School. The school is about 3/4-mile outside of the Town of Pines. Recent sampling of the school's drinking water well showed readings for boron below EPA's action level and readings for

molybdenum slightly above EPA's action level. The water will be delivered this week, while the school is closed for spring break.

For about 30 years, the Yard 520 landfill, which is south of Pines, received hundreds of thousands of tons of industrial waste fly ash. Fly ash was also used as fill material in and around the community. Boron and other hazardous materials traced to fly ash have affected private water wells throughout the town.

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Bharat Mathur named as Acting Regional Administrator for U.S. EPA Region 5

CONTACT:

Phillippa Cannon, (312) 353-6218

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA031

CHICAGO (Apr. 7, 2004) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 today named Bharat Mathur as acting regional administrator following the departure of Regional Administrator Thomas V. Skinner who was recently appointed acting assistant administrator for the EPA Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance. As acting regional administrator, Mathur leads the implementation of federal environmental programs in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin.

At the time of his appointment, Mathur was serving as deputy regional administrator. He joined EPA in January 2000 as director of the Air and Radiation Division after a lengthy career with the state of Illinois where he managed Illinois EPA offices dealing with air pollution, hazardous and solid waste, and Clean Water Act programs. He has undergraduate and graduate degrees in engineering.

Other EPA Appointments

Other recent appointments at EPA Region 5 are Norman Niedergang as acting deputy regional administrator from director of the Resources Management Division, Cyndy Colantoni as acting director of the Resources Management Division from associate director, Richard Karl as acting director of the Superfund Division from manager of emergency response, Margaret Guerriero as director of the Waste, Pesticides and Toxics Division from associate director of the Superfund Division, and Steve Rothblatt, director of the Air and Radiation Division from manager of air pollution monitoring, regulation development, permits and grants.

###

EPA approves interim operating requirements for von Roll America incinerator

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA032

CHICAGO (April 8, 2004) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has approved interim operating requirements for Von Roll America's hazardous waste incinerator in East Liverpool, Ohio. The requirements cover seven hazardous air pollutants included in new Clean Air Act regulations.

EPA imposed the interim requirements because tests done last December showed that the incinerator did not show compliance with lead and cadmium emission limits set by the new regulations. On March 18, Von Roll agreed to temporarily stop feeding these semi-volatile metals to the incinerator.

A more recent test done in March showed that Von Roll can meet the new emissions limits if the lead and cadmium feed rate to the incinerator is less than an upper limit of 10.07 pounds per hour. EPA specified this upper limit in its approval of an interim operating feed rate for lead and cadmium.

EPA's approval also includes interim operating requirements to meet emission standards for dioxin and furans, mercury, low-volatile metals, carbon monoxide and hydrocarbons, hydrochloric acid and chlorine gas, and particulate matter.

The approvals are part of new Clean Air Act regulations requiring maximum achievable control technology for hazardous waste incinerators. The new regulations set Sept. 30, 2003, as the date for facilities to comply with the seven emission standards, unless an extension is granted. They also establish monitoring, testing, reporting and record-keeping requirements, including a requirement to demonstrate compliance by testing.

In tests done last year before the compliance deadline, the Von Roll facility failed to meet limits on four pollutants: dioxins and furans, particulate matter, semi-volatile metals and mercury. Further tests done last December showed compliance with all but the semi-volatile metal standard. Von Roll had 90 days from the December test to report results to EPA.

Von Roll has told EPA that it plans to conduct a re-test of its performance test for lead and cadmium during the week of April 19. The company must submit a revised notice of compliance no later than 60 days after completion of the test.

###

EPA cites eight companies for violation of
Architectural Coating Rules

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA033

CHICAGO (April 7, 2004) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has cited eight companies — three in Michigan, two in Ohio and one each in Illinois, Minnesota and Wisconsin — for alleged violations of federal architectural coating rules. Architectural coatings are paints and similar coverings used on building exteriors, pavements and curbs.

EPA allegations against the companies include making coatings that exceed limits on smog-producing volatile organic compounds, not correctly labeling products and not submitting proper notifications to EPA.

“Smog can cause serious health problems — especially for children and the elderly,” said Acting Regional Administrator Bharat Mathur. “There may be an industry-wide problem with compliance with these rules, so we encourage manufacturers to contact EPA if they believe they have violations before EPA investigates their plants.” Mathur said self-disclosure is taken into consideration when penalties are assessed.

Companies that believe they have violations and decide to self-disclose should contact George Czerniak, chief of the regional air enforcement branch, at 312-353-2088.

The Michigan companies are: Lymtal International Inc., 4150 S. Laper Road, Lake Orion; Nelson Paint Co., One Nelson Drive, Kingsford; and Pro Coatings Inc., 233 ½ Prospect St., Sparta. The Ohio companies are: Aexcel Corp., 7373 Production Dr., Mentor; and Republic Powdered Metals Inc., 3735 Green Road, Beachwood.

The other companies are: Carbit Paint Co., 927 W. Blackhawk St., Chicago, Ill.; Viking Paints Inc., 100 W. 78th St., Richfield, Minn.; and Mule-Hide Products Co. Inc., 4150 Wyetta Drive, Beloit, Wis.

These are preliminary findings of violations. To resolve them, EPA may issue a compliance order, assess an administrative penalty or bring suit against the companies. The companies have 30 days from receipt of the notice to meet with EPA to discuss the allegations and how to resolve them.

Volatile organic compounds contribute to the formation of ground-level ozone, or 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. People with asthma, children and the elderly are especially at risk, but these health concerns are important to everyone.

Self-disclosure information is at www.epa.gov/compliance/incentives/auditing/auditpolicy.html

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Get the facts before paying for air duct cleaning

CONTACT:

Karen Thompson, (312) 353-8547

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA034

CHICAGO (April 15, 2004) — Homeowners should pause and get the facts before rushing out to hire an air duct cleaning service, warns U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5.

Duct cleaning has never been shown to actually prevent health problems but the media is full of advertisements promoting cleaning services, many of which apply chemicals to the duct work to kill or control bacteria, fungi and other organisms. EPA experts urge anyone contemplating air duct cleaning to be aware of the facts and get as much information as possible before spending a lot of money.

EPA does not recommend cleaning air ducts unless a specific problem occurs such as clogging or vermin infestation. Studies show that air particles or dust in homes do not increase because of dirty air ducts.

Mold can be an especially tricky problem. If a visible substance appears to be mold, a positive determination can only be made by an expert and may require laboratory analysis. The presence of mold does not necessarily mean that ducts must be cleaned. Keep in mind that internally insulated air ducts that get wet or moldy cannot be effectively cleaned and will require replacement.

No matter what type of ducts you have (unlined sheet metal or fiberglass-lined), the conditions causing mold growth---such as leaking pipes or improper humidity--- must be corrected or mold will reoccur regardless of cleaning or replacement.

If you decide to have your ducts cleaned, talk to at least three contractors and ask detailed questions. Inquire about their experience in duct cleaning and working on systems like yours. Find out what procedures they use to protect residents, pets and homes from contamination. Ask if they comply with the cleaning standards of the National Air Duct Cleaners Association. Find out whether they hold any relevant state licenses and check references. Also contact your local consumer affairs office or Better Business Bureau to learn about any complaints against the company you're considering.

The duct cleaning service may tell you that you need a disinfectant, sanitizer or other antimicrobial agent applied to kill germs and mold and prevent future growth. The company may also want to apply ozone. Be aware that little research has been conducted on the effectiveness of these techniques. In fact, using these products may trigger the very health problems you were trying to avoid. Chemicals sprayed into an operating air control system may be released into the home triggering adverse health effects.

EPA regulates sanitizers, disinfectants and other antimicrobial products under federal pesticide laws. A product must be registered by EPA for a specific use before it can be legally used for that purpose. EPA has assessed the health risks of only some biocide products specifically for use in heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) systems. Some of the product registrations are only for coatings applied at the point of manufacture and should not be used on existing systems.

If you allow the use of a disinfectant or antimicrobial product in your air ducts, carefully read the label before it is applied. Make sure it has an EPA registration number (EPA Reg#) and states that it can be used specifically in air ducts or HVAC systems. If you have the EPA registration number, you can view the approved product label on the Internet at www.epa.gov/pesticides/pestlabels/ Check the label for very specific directions. The directions should include information about cleaning the system before application, using the correct

amount, proper application method and the conditions under which the product can be used. Also read the hazards and precautionary statements. Since the label is the law, make sure the product is used strictly according to its label. As a precaution, all residents and pets should leave the premises during application. To learn more about air duct cleaning, please see the EPA publication "Should You Have the Air Ducts In Your Home Cleaned?" EPA 402-K-97-002, available on the Internet at www.epa.gov/iaq/pubs/airduct.html or by calling the Indoor Air Quality Information Clearinghouse at (800) 438-4318. For questions regarding antimicrobial products approved for air ducts, contact the Antimicrobial Hot Line at (703) 308-0127.

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EPA names Illinois counties that do not meet new 8-hour ground-level ozone standard

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA037

CHICAGO (April 15, 2004) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency said today that 10 Illinois counties and parts of two other counties in the state do not meet the new 8-hour, health-based outdoor air quality standard for ground-level ozone. The counties are: Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry, Will, Jersey, Madison, Monroe and St. Clair and parts of Grundy and Kendall.

In a letter to Governor Rod Blagojevich, EPA Administrator Mike Leavitt said, "These ozone standards are strong medicine. As a former Governor of Utah, I recognize that having parts of your state designated as being in nonattainment will require more actions on your part to achieve cleaner, healthier air. We need to work together to make certain your state can, as other have in the past, clean the air while sustaining economic growth."

"The good news here is that the air is getting cleaner," said Acting Regional Administrator Bharat Mathur. "We've made a lot of progress over the last 30-plus years. Now, to pick up the pace of environmental progress, we've raised the bar with this new tougher standard."

These counties, called nonattainment areas, have (or contribute to) ozone levels higher than allowed under EPA's 8-hour ozone national air quality standard. The standard is designed to protect the public from exposure to ground-level ozone. Ozone is unhealthy to breathe especially for people with respiratory diseases, and for children and adults who are active outdoors. By law, nonattainment areas may be subject to certain requirements to reduce ozone-forming pollution. Ground-level ozone forms when emissions of nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds "cook" in the sun. Sources of these pollutants include cars and trucks, power plants, refineries and other large industrial facilities, and some natural sources.

Breathing ozone can irritate air passages, reduce lung function, aggravate asthma, and inflame and damage the cells lining the lungs. It also may aggravate chronic lung diseases like emphysema and bronchitis, may reduce the immune system's ability to fight off bacterial infections in the respiratory system and cause permanent lung damage.

EPA issued the 8-hour ozone standard in July 1997, based on information demonstrating the 1-hour standard was inadequate for protecting public health. Scientific information shows that ozone can affect human health at lower levels, and over longer exposure times than one hour.

The state has until 2010 to meet the new standards. The 8-hour ozone standard is 0.08 parts per million (ppm) averaged over eight hours. The 1-hour standard is 0.12 ppm, measured in hourly readings. For more information, including a listing of all designations, go to:www.epa.gov/ozonedesignations.

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EPA names Indiana counties that do not meet new 8-hour ground-level ozone standard

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA038

CHICAGO (April 15, 2004) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency said today that 23 Indiana counties and part of one other county in the state do not meet the new 8-hour, health-based outdoor air quality standard for ground-level ozone.

The counties are: Lake, Porter, Elkhart, St. Joseph, Clark, Floyd, Marion, Boone, Hendricks, Morgan, Johnson, Shelby, Hancock, Madison, Hamilton, Vanderburgh, Warrick, Delaware, Greene, Jackson, LaPorte, Allen, Vigo and part of Dearborn.

In a letter to Governor Joseph Kernan, EPA Administrator Mike Leavitt said, "These ozone standards are strong medicine. As a former Governor of Utah, I recognize that having parts of your state designated as being in nonattainment will require more actions on your part to achieve cleaner, healthier air. We need to work together to make certain your state can, as other have in the past, clean the air while sustaining economic growth."

"The good news here is that the air is getting cleaner," said Acting Regional Administrator Bharat Mathur. "We've made a lot of progress over the last 30-plus years. Now, to pick up the pace of environmental progress, we've raised the bar with this new tougher standard."

These counties, called nonattainment areas, have (or contribute to) ozone levels higher than allowed under EPA's 8-hour ozone national air quality standard. The standard is designed to protect the public from exposure to ground-level ozone.

Ozone is unhealthy to breathe especially for people with respiratory diseases, and for children and adults who are active outdoors. By law, nonattainment areas may be subject to certain requirements to reduce ozone-forming pollution. Ground-level ozone forms when emissions of nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds "cook" in the sun. Sources of these pollutants include cars and trucks, power plants, refineries and other large industrial facilities, and some natural sources.

Breathing ozone can irritate air passages, reduce lung function, aggravate asthma, and inflame and damage the cells lining the lungs. It also may aggravate chronic lung diseases like emphysema and bronchitis, may reduce the immune system's ability to fight off bacterial infections in the respiratory system and cause permanent lung damage.

EPA issued the 8-hour ozone standard in July 1997, based on information demonstrating the 1-hour standard was inadequate for protecting public health. Scientific information shows that ozone can affect human health at lower levels, and over longer exposure times than one hour.

Deadlines for meeting the 8-hour ozone standard range from 2009 to 2010, depending on the severity of an area's ozone problem. The 8-hour ozone standard is 0.08 parts per million (ppm) averaged over eight hours. The 1-hour standard is 0.12 ppm, measured in hourly readings. For more information, including a listing of all designations, go to: www.epa.gov/ozonedesignations.

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EPA names Ohio counties that do not meet new 8-hour ground-level ozone standard

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA039

CHICAGO (April 15, 2004) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency said today that 33 Ohio counties do not meet the new 8-hour, health-based outdoor air quality standard for ground-level ozone. The counties are: Stark, Butler, Clermont, Hamilton, Warren, Clinton, Ashtabula, Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, Medina, Portage, Summit, Delaware, Franklin, Licking, Fairfield, Madison, Knox, Clark, Greene, Miami, Montgomery, Jefferson, Lucas, Wood, Mahoning, Trumbull, Columbiana, Belmont, Allen and Washington.

In a letter to Governor Bob Taft, EPA Administrator Mike Leavitt said, "These ozone standards are strong medicine. As a former Governor of Utah, I recognize that having parts of your state designated as being in nonattainment will require more actions on your part to achieve cleaner, healthier air. We need to work together to make certain your state can, as other have in the past, clean the air while sustaining economic growth."

"The good news here is that the air is getting cleaner," said Acting Regional Administrator Bharat Mathur. "We've made a lot of progress over the last 30-plus years. Now, to pick up the pace of environmental progress, we've raised the bar with this new tougher standard."

These counties, called nonattainment areas, have (or contribute to) ozone levels higher than allowed under EPA's 8-hour ozone national air quality standard. The standard is designed to protect the public from exposure to ground-level ozone. Ozone is unhealthy to breathe especially for people with respiratory diseases, and for children and adults who are active outdoors. By law, nonattainment areas may be subject to certain requirements to reduce ozone-forming pollution. Ground-level ozone forms when emissions of nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds "cook" in the sun. Sources of these pollutants include cars and trucks, power plants, refineries and other large industrial facilities, and some natural sources.

Breathing ozone can irritate air passages, reduce lung function, aggravate asthma, and inflame and damage the cells lining the lungs. It also may aggravate chronic lung diseases like emphysema and bronchitis, may reduce the immune system's ability to fight off bacterial infections in the respiratory system and cause permanent lung damage.

EPA issued the 8-hour ozone standard in July 1997, based on information demonstrating the 1-hour standard was inadequate for protecting public health. Scientific information shows that ozone can affect human health at lower levels, and over longer exposure times than one hour.

Deadlines for meeting the 8-hour ozone standard range from 2009 to 2010, depending on the severity of an area's ozone problem. The 8-hour ozone standard is 0.08 parts per million (ppm) averaged over eight hours. The 1-hour standard is 0.12 ppm, measured in hourly readings. For more information, including a listing of all designations, go to:www.epa.gov/ozonedesignations.

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EPA names Michigan counties that do not meet new 8-hour ground-level ozone standard

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA040

CHICAGO (April 15, 2004) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency said today that 25 Michigan counties do not meet the new 8-hour, health-based outdoor air quality standard for ground-level ozone. The counties are: Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, St. Clair, Washtenaw, Wayne, Lenawee, Genesee, Lapeer, Ottawa, Kent, Muskegon, Allegan, Huron, Calhoun, Kalamazoo, Van Buren, Clinton, Eaton, Ingham, Berrien, Benzie, Cass and Mason.

In a letter to Governor Jennifer Granholm, EPA Administrator Mike Leavitt said, "These ozone standards are strong medicine. As a former Governor of Utah, I recognize that having parts of your state designated as being in nonattainment will require more actions on your part to achieve cleaner, healthier air. We need to work together to make certain your state can, as other have in the past, clean the air while sustaining economic growth."

"The good news here is that the air is getting cleaner," said Acting Regional Administrator Bharat Mathur. "We've made a lot of progress over the last 30-plus years. Now, to pick up the pace of environmental progress, we've raised the bar with this new tougher standard."

These counties, called nonattainment areas, have (or contribute to) ozone levels higher than allowed under EPA's 8-hour ozone national air quality standard. The standard is designed to protect the public from exposure to ground-level ozone. Ozone is unhealthy to breathe especially for people with respiratory diseases, and for children and adults who are active outdoors. By law, nonattainment areas may be subject to certain requirements to reduce ozone-forming pollution. Ground-level ozone forms when emissions of nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds "cook" in the sun. Sources of these pollutants include cars and trucks, power plants, refineries and other large industrial facilities, and some natural sources.

Breathing ozone can irritate air passages, reduce lung function, aggravate asthma, and inflame and damage the cells lining the lungs. It also may aggravate chronic lung diseases like emphysema and bronchitis, may reduce the immune system's ability to fight off bacterial infections in the respiratory system and cause permanent lung damage.

EPA issued the 8-hour ozone standard in July 1997, based on information demonstrating the 1-hour standard was inadequate for protecting public health. Scientific information shows that ozone can affect human health at lower levels, and over longer exposure times than one hour.

Deadlines for meeting the 8-hour ozone standard range from 2009 to 2010, depending on the severity of an area's ozone problem. The 8-hour ozone standard is 0.08 parts per million (ppm) averaged over eight hours. The 1-hour standard is 0.12 ppm, measured in hourly readings. For more information, including a listing of all designations, go to:www.epa.gov/ozonedesignations.

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EPA names Wisconsin counties that do not meet new 8-hour ground-level ozone standard

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA041

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency said today that 10 Wisconsin counties do not meet the new 8-hour, health-based outdoor air quality standard for ground-level ozone. The counties are: Door, Kewaunee, Manitowoc, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine, Washington, Waukesha, Kenosha and Sheboygan.

In a letter to Governor Jim Doyle, EPA Administrator Mike Leavitt said, "These ozone standards are strong medicine. As a former Governor of Utah, I recognize that having parts of your state designated as being in nonattainment will require more actions on your part to achieve cleaner, healthier air. We need to work together to make certain your state can, as other have in the past, clean the air while sustaining economic growth."

"The good news here is that the air is getting cleaner," said Acting Regional Administrator Bharat Mathur. "We've made a lot of progress over the last 30-plus years. Now, to pick up the pace of environmental progress, we've raised the bar with this new tougher standard."

These counties, called nonattainment areas, have (or contribute to) ozone levels higher than allowed under EPA's 8-hour ozone national air quality standard. The standard is designed to protect the public from exposure to ground-level ozone. Ozone is unhealthy to breathe especially for people with respiratory diseases, and for children and adults who are active outdoors. By law, nonattainment areas may be subject to certain requirements to reduce ozone-forming pollution. Ground-level ozone forms when emissions of nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds "cook" in the sun. Sources of these pollutants include cars and trucks, power plants, refineries and other large industrial facilities, and some natural sources.

Breathing ozone can irritate air passages, reduce lung function, aggravate asthma, and inflame and damage the cells lining the lungs. It also may aggravate chronic lung diseases like emphysema and bronchitis, may reduce the immune system's ability to fight off bacterial infections in the respiratory system and cause permanent lung damage.

EPA issued the 8-hour ozone standard in July 1997, based on information demonstrating the 1-hour standard was inadequate for protecting public health. Scientific information shows that ozone can affect human health at lower levels, and over longer exposure times than one hour.

Deadlines for meeting the 8-hour ozone standard range from 2009 to 2010, depending on the severity of an area's ozone problem. The 8-hour ozone standard is 0.08 parts per million (ppm) averaged over eight hours. The 1-hour standard is 0.12 ppm, measured in hourly readings. For more information, including a listing of all designations, go to:www.epa.gov/ozonedesignations.

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EPA cites Lehigh Cement for clean-air violations

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA043

CHICAGO (April 21, 2004) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has cited Lehigh Cement Co. for alleged clean-air violations at the company's portland cement plant at 121 N. First St., Mitchell, Ind.

EPA alleges Lehigh failed to apply for and get a permit to prevent significant deterioration of air quality when it modified its cement kilns in 2003. The modification caused a substantial increase in carbon monoxide emissions. EPA said the company continues to operate the kilns without this permit.

Companies must get permits that restrict emissions from their plants before they can modify them in ways that increase emissions if the plants are located in areas that already comply with all national outdoor air-quality standards. These permits are designed to prevent deterioration of air quality in areas with clean air. These are preliminary findings of violations. To resolve them, EPA may issue a compliance order, assess an administrative penalty or bring suit against the company. Lehigh has 30 days from receipt of the notice to meet with EPA to discuss resolving the allegations.

"EPA's mission is to protect public health and the environment," said Acting Regional Administrator Bharat Mathur. "We will take whatever steps are needed to ensure compliance with the Clean Air Act."

When carbon monoxide enters the bloodstream, it reduces delivery of oxygen to the body's organs and tissues. Exposure to high levels of carbon monoxide can impair vision, hand movement, learning ability and performance of complex tasks, and can also cause death.

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EPA cites Carmeuse Lime for clean-air violations

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA044

CHICAGO (April 21, 2004) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has cited Carmeuse Lime Inc. for alleged violations of federal and state clean-air regulations at the company's lime manufacturing plant, 3245 E. 103rd St., Chicago.

EPA alleges Carmeuse failed to comply with planning, reporting, record-keeping and notification requirements of the Clean Air Act. The plant emits hydrochloric acid and lime dust.

These are preliminary findings of violations. To resolve them, 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 meet with EPA to discuss resolving the allegations.

"EPA's mission is to protect public health and the environment," said Region 5 Acting Administrator Bharat Mathur. "We will take whatever steps are needed to ensure compliance with the Clean Air Act."

Hydrochloric acid is corrosive to the eyes, skin and mucous membranes.

Inhalation may cause coughing, hoarseness, inflammation and ulceration of the respiratory tract, and chest pain.

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

#

EPA cites Degussa for clean-air violations

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA045

CHICAGO (April 22, 2004) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has cited Degussa Engineered Carbons LP for alleged clean-air violations at the company's carbon black production plant at 11135 State Route 7, Belpre, Ohio. EPA alleges Degussa used feedstock oil with a higher sulfur content than was permitted and emitted more sulfur dioxide than was permitted from December 2001 to August 2003. In addition, EPA alleges the company failed to report its excessive emissions.

These are preliminary findings of violations. To resolve them, 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 meet with EPA to discuss resolving the allegations.

"EPA's mission is to protect public health and the environment," said Region 5 Acting Administrator Bharat Mathur. "We will take whatever steps are needed to ensure compliance with the Clean Air Act."

Carbon black is a powdery compound made primarily from petroleum and used to make such things as tires, printing inks, paints and plastics.

Exposure to sulfur dioxide can impair breathing, aggravate existing respiratory diseases like bronchitis and reduce the ability of the lungs to clear foreign particles. Sulfur dioxide can also cause acid rain and contribute to fine particle pollution. Children, the elderly and people with existing heart and lung conditions are most sensitive to sulfur dioxide.

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EPA cites Wabash Environmental Technologies for clean-air violations

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA046

CHICAGO (April 22, 2004) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has cited Wabash Environmental Technologies LLC for alleged violations of federal clean-air regulations at the company's waste treatment facility, 1331 S. First St., Terre Haute, Ind.

EPA alleges that in November 2000 Wabash began operating a biological waste treatment system with a potential to emit more hazardous air pollutants than EPA regulations allow. EPA said the system did not meet hazardous air pollutant control requirements at startup and still does not meet requirements.

These are preliminary findings of violations. To resolve them, EPA may issue a compliance order, assess an administrative penalty or bring suit against the company. Wabash has 30 days from receipt of the notice to meet with EPA to discuss resolving the allegations.

"EPA's mission is to protect public health and the environment," said Acting Regional Administrator Bharat Mathur. " We will take whatever steps are needed to ensure compliance with the Clean Air Act."

Hazardous air pollutants may cause serious health effects, including birth defects and cancer. They may also cause harmful environmental and ecological effects.

#

EPA selects Minnesota youth for
Presidential Environmental Youth Award

CONTACT:

Megan Gavin, (312) 353-5282

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA047

CHICAGO (April 22, 2004) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has selected Benjamin Banwart of Shakopee, Minn., as regional winner of the President's Environmental Youth Award. Winners from each of EPA's 10 regions were recognized at a ceremony at the White House on Earth Day, April 22, 2004. In May 2000, 18-year-old Benjamin officially adopted Jackson Park in Shakopee and made a commitment to restore it. He focused his efforts on three areas: forestry management, invasive species control and erosion control. Through coordination with his Dan Patch Chapter of the Order of the Arrow, a part of Boy Scouts of America, he was able to get donations and equipment necessary to organize workdays to remove invasive buckthorn and create a trail around one of the park lakes.

"Benjamin's project shows that everyone can make a difference when it comes to protecting the environment," said Acting Regional Administrator Bharat Mathur. "We received many outstanding entries and I commend all participants for their efforts as our future environmental leaders."

EPA also recognized these finalists:

First runner-up: In 2002, Trempealeau Elementary's fifth grade students from Trempealeau, Wis., convinced their entire school district (which included three elementary schools, a middle school, a high school and a kindergarten center) to stop using plastic utensils in their cafeterias. Additionally, they expanded an already successful recycling program. The success of the recycling program enabled the school to convert a lawn area into school gardens as well as add some wildlife displays.

Second runner-up: North Star Student Group from Minneapolis, Minn., campaigned to reduce children's exposure to school bus diesel emissions. As a result of their efforts Minnesota passed a state law reducing children's exposure to diesel exhaust by minimizing idling, reconfiguring bus parking and redesigning air-intake vents to reduce emissions entering the school. An "Air Quality and School Bus Idling" curriculum was developed for third through sixth grade. The program, in collaboration with Minnesota Office of Environmental Assistance received national attention through the National Governors Association, American Lung Association and Department of Energy's Smart Communities Network.

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. Today's awards recognized projects completed during the 2003 school year.

###

EPA cites U.S. Steel for clean-air violations

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA048

CHICAGO (April 23, 2004) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has cited U.S. Steel Corp. Great Lakes Division for alleged clean-air violations at the company's steel mill at 1 Quality Drive, Ecorse, Mich.

EPA alleges that U.S. Steel failed to apply for a permit to prevent significant deterioration of air quality for hot metal desulfurization units that it installed in 1985. EPA said the violations began in 1985 and will continue until the company gets its permit and installs the best available air pollution control technology.

EPA calculates that the company's desulfurization process has resulted in a net increase in sulfur dioxide emissions of at least 57 tons a year.

Companies must get permits that restrict emissions from their plants before they can modify them in ways that increase emissions if the plants are located in areas that already comply with all national outdoor air-quality standards. These permits are designed to prevent deterioration of air quality in areas with clean air. These are preliminary findings of violations. To resolve them, EPA may issue a compliance order, assess an administrative penalty or bring suit against the company. U.S. Steel has 30 days from receipt of the notice to meet with EPA to discuss resolving the allegations.

"EPA's mission is to protect public health and the environment," said Region 5 Acting Administrator Bharat Mathur. "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. Sulfur dioxide can also cause acid rain and contribute to fine particle pollution. Children, the elderly and people with heart and lung conditions are the most sensitive to sulfur dioxide.

###

EPA reaches agreement with Southwest

General Health Center

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA049

CHICAGO (April 23, 2004) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has reached an agreement with Southwest General Health Center, 18697 Bagley Road, Middleburgh Heights, Ohio, on alleged clean-air violations at the center's medical waste incinerator.

"As part of the agreement, Southwest will protect the health of its neighbors by carrying out a mercury thermometer exchange in 11 surrounding communities," said Acting Regional Administrator Bharat Mathur. Mathur said the exchange will cost the center at least \$37,500. This is in addition to a civil penalty of \$12,500. Companies and institutions that violate the Clean Air Act may voluntarily propose environmental projects as part of their settlements. EPA may reduce monetary penalties if it believes a project will cut pollution significantly and goes beyond what is required by EPA regulations.

The settlement resolves an EPA allegation that Southwest violated the dioxin and furan emission standard for hospital medical waste incinerators. Southwest has permanently shut down its incinerator and is sending its medical waste to another facility.

Exposure to high doses of dioxins can cause severe skin lesions, usually on the head and upper body. There is also evidence that dioxins may cause liver damage and probably cause cancer in humans. Furans can irritate and burn the skin and eyes. They can also damage the liver and kidneys and may cause cancer in humans.

###

Lawn care tips for reducing pesticide use

CONTACT:

Kären Thompson, (312) 353-8547

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA050

CHICAGO (April 21, 2004) — Spring is here! The grass is growing and plants are emerging. It's the time of year when consumers are bombarded with advertisements for products to control a variety of annoying weeds and insect pests. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's pesticide programs caution homeowners against using pesticides as the first line of defense without considering other approaches.

Here are some tips for maintaining a healthy yard while minimizing your use of pesticides:

- Select the Right Plants for the Right Location---Learn about soil, moisture and light conditions in your yard and select plants with requirements that match those conditions. Consider native plant species that require less water, fertilizers, and pesticides. Use disease and insect-resistant varieties and avoid invasive plant species.

- Water Properly and Only When Necessary---Water plants according to their specific requirements. Water lawn slowly and to the depth of the root zone. Plant drought tolerant species if possible (like native flowers and grasses)

- Mow High and Often---Maintain sharp mower blades and cut grass so it is two to three inches tall. Remove no more than one-third of the height of the grass blades at each mowing and leave clippings in place -- it's free fertilizer!

- Identify and Learn About Pests---Identify each pest correctly and understand its lifecycle to determine the best control method. Get help from your local county cooperative extension service.

- Use Cultural and Physical Methods to Remove or Prevent Pests---Dethatch your grass in the spring; pull weeds and pick bugs off by hand; use mulch around plants and trees to suppress weeds and keep in moisture.

- Choose the least toxic pesticide that will achieve the results you want and be the least toxic to you and the environment.

- Find the signal word -- either "Danger", "Warning" or "Caution" on the pesticide label. The signal word tells you how poisonous the product is. "Caution" appears on pesticides that are the least harmful. A pesticide with the word "Warning" is more poisonous than those with a Caution label. Pesticides with the word "Danger" should be used with extreme care because they can severely burn your skin or eyes.

- Read and Follow Pesticide Labels for Use and Disposal---Spot-treat areas whenever possible instead of applying a product to the whole yard, which is wasteful and can be environmentally damaging. Remember, using more of a product is not better!

#

EPA to hold public meeting on proposed
Black Lagoon Dredging Project in Trenton

CONTACT:

Kären Thompson, (312) 353-8547

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA051

CHICAGO (April 23, 2004) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 and federal, state and local planners will hold a public meeting on the proposed Black Lagoon dredging project in Trenton, Mich., from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Thursday April 29 at the Westfield Center, 2700 Westfield Road, Trenton.

The Great Lakes Legacy Act and specific design and implementation details for the proposed project will be discussed.

The meeting will include presentations and opportunities to ask questions of the project partners: city of Trenton, EPA's Great Lakes National Program office, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality and the Detroit River Navigator.

For special needs or accommodations, please contact community involvement coordinator Don de Blasio, (800) 621-8431, extension 64360, weekdays 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

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University of Michigan designated best workplace for commuters

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA052

CHICAGO (May 3, 2004) -- The University of Michigan in Ann Arbor has become the largest university designated one of the Best Workplaces for Commuters by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Department of Transportation. University of Michigan officials accepted the new designation today at the Big Ten and Midwestern Universities Parking and Traffic Conference held on the Purdue University campus in West Lafayette, Ind.

The Best Workplaces for Commuters initiative was established by EPA and DOT to encourage employers to reduce emissions and traffic congestion and promote employee well-being by providing commuter benefits that prompt workers to stop traveling to their jobs alone.

"Organizations like the University of Michigan show us that it is beneficial both for the environment and the financial bottom line to promote commuter options so employees have choices other than driving to work alone," said EPA Region 5 Acting Administrator Bharat Mathur.

Factors contributing to the University of Michigan's recognition by the program were its subsidies for using mass transit, car and van pools as well as offering a free shuttle bus service. The commuter benefits are offered to 27,500 employees, and the shuttle service carries 39,000 students a year on 4.5 million trips.

David Miller, interim director of the UM Parking and Transportation Services, called the Best Workplaces for Commuters program a win-win for everyone involved. He said the university saves on parking expenses, improves employee retention, increases recruitment potential and helps the environment. He challenged other Midwestern universities at the parking conference to join the program by offering commuter benefits.

"The University of Michigan is the first and so far the only Big Ten university to make the list," Miller said.

EPA said as of this spring more than 1.4 million commuters are participating in the program. More than 650 workplaces are designated Best Workplaces for Commuters. Research by EPA and DOT shows that on average 15 to 30 percent of the employees offered commuter benefits will switch from driving alone to what officials call a "less-stress" commute such as bus, train, van pool or telecommuting. EPA said if half of all U.S. employees were offered commuter benefits it would be the same as taking 15 million cars off the road and save workers about \$12 billion in fuel costs.

To qualify as one of the Best Workplaces for Commuters, employers must offer at least one primary benefit such as a mass transit or carpooling subsidy, a parking space "buy-out" or substantial telecommuting. They must also extend to workers at least three supporting benefits such as membership in an ozone-action network, shuttles, preferred parking for car and van pools, secure bicycle parking or incentives to live closer to work.

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.

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EPA cites Applied Composites for clean-air violations

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA054

CHICAGO (April 28, 2004) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has cited Applied Composites Corp. for alleged clean-air violations at the company's fiberglass plastics manufacturing plant at 333 N. Sixth St., St. Charles, Ill.

EPA alleges that the Applied Composites plant emits more than twice the amount of smog-producing volatile organic compounds as Illinois clean-air regulations allow.

These are preliminary findings of violations. To resolve them, EPA may issue a compliance order, assess an administrative penalty or bring suit against the company. Applied Composites has 30 days from receipt of the notice to meet with EPA to discuss the allegations and how to resolve them.

"EPA's mission is to protect public health and the environment," said Acting Regional Administrator Bharat Mathur. "We will take whatever steps are needed to ensure compliance with the Clean Air Act."

Volatile organic compounds contribute to the formation of ground-level ozone, or 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. People with asthma, children and the elderly are especially at risk, but these health concerns are important to everyone.

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Soil cleanup begins at Cicero's Sterling

Morton High School

CONTACT:

Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050

Joe Munoz, (312) 886-7935

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA055

CHICAGO (May 3, 2004) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 this week begins an \$800,000 contaminated soil removal project at the new Sterling Morton High School Freshman Center campus, 1600-1874 S. 54th Ave., in Cicero, Ill.

The 18-acre freshman campus is set to open in August. Area residents can expect to see construction vehicles and workers in required protective clothing near the intersection of 16th St. and 54th Ave. through late June.

Prior to building the Freshman Center, the site was seven former industrial properties. In fall 2002, School District 201 demolished the industrial buildings and removed four underground storage tanks under the oversight of Illinois EPA's voluntary cleanup program. However, the district soon determined the site contained more contaminated soil than anticipated.

Currently, there are large piles contaminated soil on the west and south sides of the school building. Once these are removed and transported to an approved landfill, EPA, in consultation with Illinois EPA, will survey the site for additional contamination that needs to be removed before the opening of the school. When the cleanup is completed, Illinois EPA will issue a "no further remediation letter," which will document that the site is safe for occupancy.

The soil was contaminated by a range of industrial operations that date as far back as the 1920s. EPA is primarily concerned about contamination from lead and other heavy metals; trichloroethylene (TCE), a common cleaning solvent; and polyaromatic hydrocarbons.

Fencing around the site will be repaired as part of the project. EPA does not believe there are immediate health risks to people living near the site, but wants the hazardous material removed before the school opens and students and community residents start to use the facility.

Residents with questions about the project may call EPA community involvement coordinator Joe Munoz (English or Spanish) at (312) 886-7935.

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Area governments and corporations honored for natural landscaping projects

CONTACT:

Kären Thompson, (312) 353-8547

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA057

CHICAGO (May 11, 2004)— U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 and Chicago Wilderness have chosen 13 area public and corporate landscaping projects as winners of the 2004 Conservation and Native Landscaping Awards.

A ceremony hosted by the Chicago Park District was held at Jackson Park Lagoon recently. (View Photos)

Winners in the community category are: Crystal Lake Park District, Chicago Park District, Lake County Forest Preserve, city of Chicago and the villages of Park Forest, Frankfort and Vernon Hills.

Six additional winners in the corporate category are: Fermilab, Batavia; Coffee Creek Center, Chesterton, Ind.; Sears Prairie Stone, Hoffman Estates; Prairie Sun, Naperville; Butterprint Farm, Monee; and Eden Place Nature Center, Chicago.

The projects were recognized for their extensive and creative use of natural landscaping to support native plants and animals that contribute to the region's biodiversity.

"These 'green' projects will give homeowners some great ideas for keeping their yards natural," said Bharat Mathur, Region 5 acting regional administrator. "Not only are native plants beautiful, but they offer many environmental benefits."

Chicago Wilderness is an alliance of more than 150 public and private organizations that work together to protect, restore, study and manage the natural ecosystems of the Chicago region. For more information:

www.chicagowilderness.org

Winner highlights:

Local Government

Crystal Lake Park District—Sterne's Fen, a 180-acre rare wetland that was restored by removal of invasive species and controlled burns. Only 142 acres of fen wetlands survive in the entire state. Sterne's Fen supports 191 native plant species including 10 that are endangered or threatened.

Chicago Park District—Jackson Park Lagoon restoration is a 3-year, \$3.5 million project with goals of ecological balance, preservation of the historic Olmsted landscape and accommodating contemporary visitor use patterns. Winding pathways and recycled boardwalks guide visitors through 45 acres of native oak, plum and hawthorne trees, and shorelines restored with native wetland plants.

Lake County Forest Preserve—Independence Grove in Libertyville, at 1100 acres, is on the banks of the Des Plaines River and one of the largest native landscapes in the Chicago area. It features a 300-acre outdoor recreation and environmental education area, an ambitious reclamation of a former sand and gravel quarry. The preserve includes a 115-acre lake, over seven miles of trails, a swimming beach, marina and a visitor center with native gardens and a lakefront plaza. North of the lake is the 75-acre St. Francis Woods, one of the highest quality pre-settlement forests in Lake County.

City of Chicago—Center for Green Technology is a former dump from which 600,000 tons of construction and demolition debris was cleared. The rehabilitated brownfield is now home to an environmentally sustainable educational facility surrounded by aesthetically pleasing and biologically diverse landscape. The site features native prairie, savanna and wetland plants that attract many species of native birds, butterflies and wildlife.

Village of Park Forest—Central Park Wetland Restoration Project, with the assistance of three grants, has turned a swamp into a 45-acre wetland bog right

in the center of the community. Other valued activities in the plan include reestablishing native species, restoring natural biodiversity (from turf grass), promoting conservation awareness and better filtration of storm water.

Village of Frankfort—Prairie Park projects have restored 8 acres of native tall grass prairie, 4 acres of wet prairie, and a 2-acre fishing pond with an emergent shoreline. A storm water treatment train is made of natural swales, rocky streams, stilling pools, sediment basins and natural aeration systems. Over 150 species of native flowers and grasses thrive in the park.

Village of Vernon Hills—Village Hall Complex water detention pond and grounds were stabilized with native plantings and grasses and have become a habitat for migratory birds. The natural landscaping is a model for potential developers in the area.

Corporate

Universities Research Association—Fermilab Main Injector Mitigation Project in Batavia is a 10-acre wetland reconstruction. When a large building project destroyed wetlands in 1993, a plan was set in place to rebuild them. The result is a combination of forest and sedge meadow wetland that is home to many uncommon bird and butterfly species.

Coffee Creek Watershed Conservancy—Coffee Creek Watershed Preserve in Chesterton, Ind., is a 167-acre natural area that contains a variety of unique habitats in various states of quality, including mesic woodlands, beech bluffs, oxbow wetlands, seeps, marsh, flood plain, pasture and Coffee Creek. An intense restoration effort over the past seven years has brought back to life a piece of native Indiana.

ConopCo Realty & Development, Inc.—Sears Prairie Stone in Hoffman Estates is the world headquarters of Sears Roebuck and Co. and a business park nestled between two large Cook County forest preserves. Natural landscaping provides beauty, habitat and low maintenance on the property that is home to hundreds of birds, amphibians, reptiles, mammals and insects.

Prairie Sun Consultants—Prairie Sun in Naperville began with just one native plant on the property. Since then more than 300 different native species of trees, shrubs, vines, prairie grasses, wildflowers, ferns and woodland flowers have been planted. The flora draws hundreds of different species of birds and insects.

Butterprint Farm Rural Wildlife Preserve—An old, historic farm in Monee, Ill., is being naturally rehabilitated by naturalist Bill Banks and wife Diane. Twenty-one acres of farmland are planted in pumpkins, corn and cereal rye while the rest is devoted to native woodland and prairie plants. Public education programs commence every October.

Fuller Park Community Development—Eden Place Nature Center, 43rd Place and Stewart Avenue in Chicago, is a doorway to the world of nature for Southside residents. Its 3 acres provide a live simulation of a bio-diversified environment exploring the mechanics of a wetland, prairie and woodland teeming with flowers and wildlife native to Illinois.

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Media Advisory: EPA Administrator Leavitt
and Minnesota Governor Pawlenty to hold
press event tomorrow

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA058

CHICAGO (May 11, 2004)

WHAT: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the state of Minnesota will hold a joint press event tomorrow to discuss EPA's Clean Air Nonroad Diesel Rule announced today and its significance for Minnesota and the rest of the country. The new rule will cut emission levels from construction, agricultural and industrial diesel-powered equipment by more than 90 percent. It will also remove 99 percent of the sulfur in diesel fuel by 2010, resulting in dramatic reductions in soot from all diesel engines.

WHO: EPA Administrator Mike Leavitt and Minnesota Governor Tim Pawlenty.

WHEN: Wednesday, May 12, 9 a.m. CDT.

WHERE: Capitol steps south of Aurora Street. Nonroad diesel equipment will be on display on the capitol lawn.

More information on EPA's clean diesel programs, including the Clean Air Nonroad Diesel Rule, is at:www.epa.gov/cleandiesel. For background information from an EPA Region 5 air specialist, call William Omohundro at 312-353-8254.

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EPA Administrator Leavitt and Minnesota Governor Pawlenty hold press event on EPA's new clean air nonroad diesel rule
CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA059

CHICAGO (May 12, 2004) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Mike Leavitt and Minnesota Governor Tim Pawlenty today discussed the importance of EPA's new Clean Air Nonroad Diesel Rule for Minnesota and the rest of the country at a press event at the Minnesota capitol in St. Paul.

The rule will cut emission levels from construction, agricultural and industrial diesel-powered equipment, including mining and logging equipment, by more than 90 percent and remove 99 percent of the sulfur in diesel fuel by 2010, resulting in dramatic reductions in soot from all diesel engines.

"We are going to make that burst of black smoke that erupts from diesels a thing of the past," said Administrator Leavitt. "We're able to accomplish this in large part because of a masterful collaboration with engine and equipment manufacturers, the oil industry, state officials, and the public health and environmental communities."

"The Bush Administration has taken a major step forward in protecting air quality," said Governor Pawlenty. "This is a common sense initiative that is great for our environment and mindful of the concerns of agriculture, construction, mining and other industries."

When the full inventory of older nonroad engines has been replaced, the nonroad diesel program will annually prevent up to 12,000 premature deaths, one million lost work days, 15,000 heart attacks and 6,000 children's asthma-related emergency room visits. The anticipated costs vary with the size and complexity of the equipment but are in the range of one to three percent of the total purchase price for most equipment categories.

While the estimated increased cost for low-sulfur fuel is about seven cents per gallon, the net increase is projected to average about four cents per gallon because the use of ultra-low sulfur fuel could significantly reduce engine maintenance expenses. The overall benefits of the nonroad diesel program are estimated to significantly outweigh the costs by a ratio of 40 to 1.

The Clean Air Nonroad Diesel Rule is the latest round in EPA's decade-long effort to make diesel engines and fuels cleaner. This new rule complements the Clean Diesel Truck and Bus Rule (announced Dec. 21, 2000), which will put the cleanest running heavy-duty trucks and buses in history on America's roads, building a fleet that will be 95 percent cleaner than today's trucks and buses. On-highway compliance requirements take effect with the 2007 model year.

The Clean Air Nonroad Diesel Rule will result in the widespread introduction of emission control systems, a move comparable to the advent of catalytic converters for cars in the 1970s. The new standards, to be phased in over the next several years, will result in reductions of pollution equivalent to having some two million fewer trucks on the road.

The rule and other EPA clean diesel programs are part of a suite of clean air actions that will dramatically improve air quality. EPA's Clean Air Rules of 2004 provide national tools to achieve significant improvement in air quality and the associated benefits of improved health, longevity and quality of life for all Americans.

More information on EPA's Clean Air Nonroad Diesel Rule and other clean diesel programs is at www.epa.gov/cleandiesel. Information about the Clean Air Rules of 2004 is at www.epa.gov/cleanair2004/.

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Media Advisory: EPA Administrator Leavitt
to hold Clean Diesel press event with
International Truck and Engine Corp.

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA060

CHICAGO (May 12, 2004)

WHAT: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and International Truck and Engine Corp. will hold a joint press event tomorrow to discuss EPA's clean diesel program and how EPA is working with diesel engine manufacturers to develop low-emission diesel engines to protect public health and the environment.

WHO: EPA Administrator Mike Leavitt; Margo Oge, director of EPA's Office of Transportation and Air Quality; Daniel C. Ustian, president of Navistar International Corp. (parent company of International Truck and Engine Corp.); Jack Allen, president of IT&E engine group; and Patrick Charbonneau, vice-president, regulatory and technology affairs, IT&E.

WHEN: Thursday, May 13, 9 a.m. CDT.

WHERE: International Truck and Engine Corp., Engine Plant and Technical Center, 10400 W. North Ave., Melrose Park, Ill. Enter at main entrance. For directions, contact Rachel Lukawski at 312-988-4102.

More information on EPA's clean diesel programs is at www.epa.gov/cleandiesel.

For background information from an EPA Region 5 air specialist, call William Omohundro at 312-353-8254.

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Clean Diesel the focus of EPA
Administrator Leavitt and International
Truck and Engine partnership

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA061

CHICAGO (May 13, 2004) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Administrator Mike Leavitt joined senior executives of International Truck and Engine Corp. in Melrose Park, Ill., today to announce a partnership to further develop and commercialize a new clean diesel emissions control technology. The technology was developed by EPA at its National Vehicle and Fuel Emissions Laboratory in Ann Arbor, Mich.

"We are changing the way diesel engines are made and the way diesel fuel is refined in our country," said Administrator Leavitt. "The benefit is cleaner air, less dependence on foreign oil and more jobs and a stronger economy for Americans."

International Truck has partnered with EPA researchers to evaluate and demonstrate clean diesel effectiveness in International's new SUV-sized V-6 diesel engine. The new technology, called Clean Diesel Combustion, is a low-cost, durable diesel engine technology that allows diesel engines to meet the emissions levels required by EPA's future diesel emissions standards. The partnership with International Truck will enable EPA to transfer clean diesel technology from the research laboratory to the truck and auto industry market place.

Today's announcement follows the signing earlier this week of the Clean Air Nonroad Diesel Rule, a regulation that will result in the widespread introduction of emission control systems throughout the country. This change, which is comparable to the advent of the catalytic converter for cars in the 1970s, will reduce emission levels from construction, agricultural and industrial-powered equipment by over 90 percent and remove approximately 99 percent of the sulfur in diesel fuel by 2010.

The EPA-International clean diesel technology partnership is the result of a method established by Congress to move technology from federal laboratories to the market place. It enables companies interested in exploring the commercial potential of scientific research done at these laboratories to support, evaluate and license promising technologies like Clean Diesel Combustion.

Information about clean diesel combustion technology is at www.epa.gov/otaq/technology.

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**MEDIA ADVISORY: EPA to award Great
Cities grant to retrofit diesel-fueled
garbage trucks**

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA063

CHICAGO (May 19, 2004)

WHAT: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 will hold a joint press event with the city of Detroit tomorrow to kick off the regional Great Cities Partnership Program. EPA will award the city a grant to retrofit diesel engines on city garbage trucks to clean up their exhausts. This will result in cleaner, healthier air for the people of Detroit.

WHO: EPA Acting Regional Administrator Bharat Mathur and Walter C. Watkins Jr., chief development officer for the city of Detroit, will make remarks.

WHEN: 11:00 a.m. EDT, Thursday, May 20.

WHERE: Russell Ferry Yard, 5800 Russell St., Detroit.

More information on EPA's clean diesel programs is at www.epa.gov/cleandiesel.

A city garbage truck will be at the site for inspection and for photo opportunities.

###

EPA awards Great Cities grant to Detroit to retrofit diesel-fueled garbage trucks

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA064

CHICAGO (May 20, 2004) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has kicked off its Great Cities Partnership Program in Detroit by awarding the city a \$100,000 grant to retrofit its diesel-fueled garbage trucks to cut air pollution from their exhausts.

EPA's Acting Regional Administrator Bharat Mathur presented a \$100,000 check to Detroit's Chief Development Officer Walter C. Watkins Jr. today at Russell Ferry Yard.

"Retrofitting vehicles such as garbage trucks is an important part of EPA's overall strategy to clean up diesel exhausts," Mathur said. "EPA believes that your success in reducing pollution from diesel engines will be duplicated by other cities throughout the nation. That will mean more breathable air for millions."

"Mayor Kilpatrick and the city of Detroit are pleased to receive this grant from EPA," Watkins said. "The health of our citizens is a paramount interest for us, and we are confident that this technology will benefit our workers and the community at large."

In April, EPA announced a new, tougher standard for ground-level ozone called the Clean Air Ozone Rule one of the Clean Air Rules of 2004 and Detroit was one of the major cities in non-attainment of this new eight-hour ozone standard. Over the next few years, EPA will be working with state and local officials to help the Detroit area put programs into place that will reduce emissions that lead to the formation of ground-level ozone. The Detroit garbage-truck retrofit project will address the area's non-attainment status with ozone and fine particulate matter.

The project will retrofit 25-40 city garbage trucks with oxidation converters to cut exhaust emissions. Twenty-five garbage trucks now emit about 200 tons of air pollutants a year. Retrofitting the trucks will cut particulate matter by 30 percent, hydrocarbons and toxics by 50 percent, carbon monoxide by 30 percent and nitrogen oxides by 40 percent. It will also be used to develop and implement an anti-idling ordinance in the city and an outreach and education program.

The Great Cities Partnership Program focuses on one major city in each of the six Region 5 states. The cities are Chicago, Cleveland, Detroit, Indianapolis, Milwaukee and Minneapolis.

The program is designed to help improve the quality of life, revitalize neighborhoods and communities, improve energy efficiency and restore the health of watersheds and ecosystems. EPA's goal is to achieve tangible environmental results in each of the six Great Cities in one year or less.

More information on EPA's clean diesel programs is at www.epa.gov/cleandiesel.

##

EPA to demolish 150-foot smokestack at Aircraft Components site; final chemical cleanup under way

CONTACT:

(EPA) Phillippa Cannon, (312) 353-6218

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

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

(Rep. Upton) Sean Bonyun, (202) 225-3761

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA065

Photo Opportunity Wednesday morning: On May 26, at 8 a.m., EPA officials and U.S. Rep. Fred Upton will supervise demolition of the smokestack. Media and area residents may observe safely from the bridge over the Paw Paw River next to the site at 671 North Shore Drive.

CHICAGO (May 24, 2004) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5, joined by U.S. Rep Fred Upton, will supervise the implosion of a 150-foot-tall smokestack at the Aircraft Components Superfund site, 671 North Shore Drive, Benton Charter Township, Mich. The concrete smokestack will be demolished under the supervision of explosives experts and public safety officials

Wednesday, May 26, at 8 a.m.

A warning siren will be sounded twice prior to the detonation. Traffic will be halted in the immediate vicinity of the site. A test blast may be conducted on Tuesday afternoon.

The detonation will create a dust cloud that is expected to disperse quickly. EPA contractors will monitor the air for safety throughout the demolition and subsequent cleanup.

A viewing area will be designated near the bridge over the Paw Paw River on North Shore Drive next to the site. To ensure safety, area residents and media are asked to stay away from the top of the bluff along the northern part of the Aircraft Components property until an all-clear announcement is made.

The demolition is part of the final phase of cleanup at the 17-acre site, which had been a manufacturing complex converted to a warehouse containing thousands of World War II-era aircraft gauges marked with paint containing radium-226, a radioactive element. A three-phase \$12 million cleanup, paid for by Superfund, began in 1996. To date, five contaminated warehouse buildings, portions of the concrete foundations, and a small Quonset hut have been removed. More than 10,000 tons of building debris and radioactive aircraft parts have been sent for disposal.

EPA, in consultation with Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, has completed cleanup of all of the radiological contamination and is now, along with the smokestack demolition, addressing the remaining chemical contamination.

This work will continue through the summer into early fall. The smokestack is being taken down because there is a risk it could topple during placement of the steel sheet piling that needs to be installed in the river before EPA can dredge out a hot spot of contaminated sediment. The smokestack demolition and disposal, paid for by Superfund, will cost about \$50,000.

Once the smokestack debris is removed, EPA and MDEQ will supervise the excavation and disposal of a few thousand tons of contaminated surface soil and wetland and river sediments. A chemical "hydrogen releasing compound" will also be injected into the contaminated ground-water plume below the site, in order to clean it without having to pump out any water. EPA hopes to designate the site as "construction complete" in September 2004, after which the agencies will continue to monitor ground-water quality for several more years until cleanup standards are met.

More site information is at the Benton Harbor Public Library, 213 E. Wall St.

Residents with questions may call community involvement coordinator Don de

Blasio, (800) 621-8431, ext. 64360 (business hours only).
#

EPA seeks comments on permit renewal applications by EDS

CONTACT:

Phillippa Cannon, (312) 353-6218

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA066

CHICAGO (May. 26, 2004) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 proposes to renew underground injection control permits for two commercial hazardous waste injection wells owned by Environmental Disposal Systems Inc., in Romulus, Mich., and seeks public comments. The original permits were issued in April 1998 and expired in October 2003.

The permits allow EDS to dispose of liquid hazardous and nonhazardous waste by injecting it into the two wells. The waste will include diluted acids, spent solvents and landfill drainage as well as a variety of nonhazardous materials. The average daily volume of waste injected will be approximately 240,000 gallons and the maximum injection pressure allowed will be 765 pounds per square inch.

New conditions in the draft permits include changes to the waste analysis plan, the injection rate and pressure, the plugging plan, and limitations on the injection of several kinds of hazardous waste. These conditions were added to reflect more precise information known about the wells after they were constructed and to make the permits consistent with the recently approved exemption to the federal ban on the land disposal of hazardous waste.

The conditions of the April 1998 permits are effective and enforceable until the effective date of the new permits, unless the new permits are denied.

EPA will hold a public hearing to receive comments on the permit renewal applications from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Tuesday, June 29, at the Crowne Plaza Detroit, 8000 Merriman Road, Romulus, Mich. EPA will accept oral and written comments on the proposed permit renewals. A court reporter will record all comments.

Written comments may be sent to Dana Rzeznik, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (WU-16J), 77 W. Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL 60604-3590. Comments may also be e-mailed to rzeznik.dana@epa.gov. Comments must be postmarked or e-mail dated before midnight July 12, 2004.

The draft permits and other documents related to the EDS wells are available for review at the following libraries: Eshleman Library, Henry Ford Community College, 5101 Evergreen Road, Dearborn; Romulus Public Library, 11121 Wayne Road; and Taylor Community Library, 12303 Pardee Road. A more extensive record is available for review at EPA regional offices in Chicago.

Any person who files a comment on the draft permits or participates in the public hearing may petition the Environmental Appeals Board to review any condition of the final decisions.

To read the draft permits, other official documents and for more information about EPA's underground injection control program, visit EPA's Web site at www.epa.gov/r5water/uic/uic.htm

###

EPA update meeting on St. Regis Paper

Site June 8, 6 P.M.

CONTACT:

Don de Blasio, (312) 886-4360

Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA067

CHICAGO (June 2, 2004) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5

has scheduled a community update meeting for the St. Regis Paper Co.

Superfund site in Cass Lake, Minn. The meeting will be held Tuesday, June 8, from 6 to 8 p.m., at the Cass Lake Bena Elementary School, 15 Fourth St. N.E., in Cass Lake.

At the meeting, EPA representatives will discuss the soil cleanup set to begin this month and the sampling effort planned for later in the summer. For special needs at the meeting, contact community involvement coordinator Don de Blasio, (800) 621-8431, ext. 64360, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

International Paper, which acquired Champion International in 2000, is responsible for cleaning up soil and ground-water contamination on and around the site. Champion bought the St. Regis Paper Co. in 1985.

Technical documents and other information about the St. Regis Paper Superfund site are on file at the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Division of Resource Management, 6350 Highway 2 N.W., Cass Lake, and the Cass Lake City Clerk's office, 332 Second St. N.W., Cass Lake. Information about the site is available on EPA's Web site at www.epa.gov/region5/sites/stregis.

###

EPA reaches agreement with BP

Chemicals

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA068

CHICAGO (June 1, 2004) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has reached an agreement with BP Chemicals Inc. now BP Amoco Chemical Co. on alleged clean-air violations at the company's chemical manufacturing complex at 1900 Ft. Amanda Road, Lima, Ohio. EPA assessed a \$30,000 penalty.

The agreement resolves an EPA complaint filed last September alleging that BP Chemicals started building a new plant before its permit went into effect.

Companies must get permits that restrict their emissions before they can build plants in areas that already meet air-quality standards.

The EPA complaint also alleged that BP Chemicals had exceeded emission limits for gases containing nitrogen oxides. This count was dropped because the company had reached an agreement with the state of Ohio resolving the same alleged violation.

Nitrogen oxides contribute to the formation of ground-level ozone, or 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 and wheezing, shortness of breath and chest pain. People with asthma, children and the elderly are especially at risk, but these health concerns are important to everyone.

###

EPA cites M & M Drying for clean-air violations

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA069

CHICAGO (June 2, 2004) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has cited M & M Drying for alleged clean-air violations at the company's aluminum production plant at 4125 Mahoning Rd., Canton, Ohio.

EPA alleges that M & M Drying failed to test for dioxins and furans at its thermal chip dryer and failed to notify EPA of its compliance status.

These are preliminary findings of violations. To resolve them, 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 meet with EPA to discuss resolving the allegations.

"EPA's mission is to protect public health and the environment," said Acting Regional Administrator Bharat Mathur. "We will take whatever steps are needed to ensure compliance with the Clean Air Act."

Exposure to high doses of dioxins can cause severe skin lesions, usually on the head and body. There is also evidence that dioxins may cause liver damage and probably cause cancer in humans. Furans can irritate and burn the skin and eyes. They also damage the liver and kidneys and may cause cancer in humans.

###

EPA reaches agreement with City of

Detroit

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA070

CHICAGO (June 9, 2004) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has reached an agreement with the city of Detroit public lighting department on alleged violations of acid rain regulations at the department's Mistersky power station, 5425 W. Jefferson St., Detroit, Mich.

"This agreement will help ensure healthier, cleaner air for the people of Detroit," said Acting Regional Administrator Bharat Mathur. He said the city has agreed to pay a \$61,600 civil penalty.

The agreement resolves EPA allegations that the Mistersky station failed to submit a monitoring plan, initial certifications, test audits and electronic data reports in a complete and timely manner. In addition, EPA said the station failed to submit semiannual reports for new source performance standards.

Acid rain is formed when emissions of sulfur and nitrogen compounds and other substances are transformed in the atmosphere by chemical processes. It falls to the earth as rain, snow or fog that damages buildings, trees, forest soils, lakes, streams and aquatic life, and affects public health.

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Media Advisory: EPA Administrator to
award Clean School Bus grants to two
Michigan school districts

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA071

CHICAGO (June 10, 2004)

WHAT:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Mike Leavitt will award grants totaling \$165,357 to Ann Arbor Public Schools and to Okemos Public Schools to reduce diesel emissions from school buses and protect children from breathing unhealthy air. These awards are among 20 federal grants being made across the country this year under a \$5 million dollar demonstration program to showcase cleaner technologies for school buses. President Bush has requested \$65 million in his 2005 budget proposal to upgrade the nation's school bus fleet.

WHO:

EPA Administrator Mike Leavitt, Ann Arbor Mayor John Hieftje, Ann Arbor Superintendent of Schools Dr. George Fornero and Okemos Director of Community Education Dr. John Zappala.

WHEN:

Monday, June 14, 12 noon EDT.

WHERE:

The bus garage near the Ann Arbor Public School District Administration Building. Enter off the 2555 S. State St. entrance. Go down the hill past the Administration Building and turn left.

More information is at www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus/.

###

EPA Administrator Leavitt awards Clean
School Bus Grants to two Michigan
School Districts

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA072

CHICAGO (June 14, 2004) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Mike Leavitt awarded grants totaling \$165,357 to two Michigan school districts as part of EPA's Clean School Bus USA program at a press event today in Ann Arbor, Mich. The grants will be used to reduce exhaust emissions from diesel-fueled buses.

A \$95,357 grant went to Ann Arbor Public Schools to retrofit 110 buses and to provide a two-year supply of biodiesel fuel for 18 buses belonging to the neighboring Manchester Community Schools. A \$70,000 grant went to the Okemos Public Schools and six neighboring districts for retrofitting 40 to 50 buses. Retrofitting refers to the installation of advanced emissions control technology on older buses.

"By retrofitting these buses, we bring tomorrow's technology to today's children," EPA Administrator Mike Leavitt said. "We'll cut harmful emissions from these buses by 20 to 50 percent, and that means that kids and parents alike can breathe a little easier."

The goal of Clean School Bus USA is to reduce children's exposure to diesel exhaust and the amount of air pollution created by diesel school buses. School buses are the safest way for children to get to school. However, pollution from diesel vehicles has health implications for everyone, especially children.

Initially launched in April 2003, Clean School Bus USA brings together partners from business, education, transportation and public health organizations to eliminate unnecessary public school bus idling, to retrofit buses and to replace the oldest buses with new, less polluting buses.

The buses will be retrofitted with diesel oxidation catalysts that use a chemical process to break down pollutants in the exhaust stream into less harmful components. The catalysts can be installed on any new or used bus, and run on regular diesel fuel.

Biodiesel is a domestically produced renewable fuel that can be made from vegetable oil or animal fat. It is safe, biodegradable and reduces air pollutants such as particulate matter, carbon monoxide, hydrocarbons and air toxics.

More information is at www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus/.

#

EPA Administrator Leavitt announces
2004 Brownfields Grants in Milwaukee,
June 15, 9 A.M.

CONTACT:

Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050

Dave Ryan, (202) 564-7827

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA073

CHICAGO (June 14, 2004) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Administrator Mike Leavitt will announce more than 200 new 2004 Brownfields
grants to communities across the United States on Tuesday, June 15, at 9 a.m.
in Milwaukee, Wis.

Leavitt will make the announcement at the former Ampco Metal Inc. facility, 1745
S. 38th St., accompanied by Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett and Wisconsin
Department of Natural Resources Secretary Scott Hassett.

Directions: From I-94, exit at Miller Park Way going south. Turn left at Mitchell
Street and proceed ½ block. Enter the property by turning right through the
construction gates on Mitchell. Park beyond the gates.

#

EPA announces 2004 Brownfields Grants;

\$10 million for Wisconsin

CONTACT:

Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050

Dave Ryan, (202) 564-7827

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA074

CHICAGO (June 15, 2004) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Administrator Mike Leavitt today announced \$75.4 million in new Brownfields grants to 42 states, Puerto Rico and five tribes. Nationally, 219 applicants were selected to receive 265 grants. In Wisconsin, nine communities will receive \$10.38 million for 19 separate projects.

“Brownfields sites are a blight on thousands of cities, towns and rural areas across the country,” said Leavitt. “We’re helping turn these eyesores into opportunities, bringing new life to communities and cities, everything from new jobs and new housing to new shopping opportunities and new recreational facilities.”

Leavitt made the announcement at the site of the former Ampco Metal facility, a defunct foundry in Milwaukee that is being developed into the Stadium Business Park. He was joined by Mayor Tom Barrett and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Secretary Scott Hassett.

Brownfields are abandoned, idled or under-used industrial and commercial facilities where expansion or redevelopment is complicated by real or perceived environmental contamination. Nationally, there are an estimated 450,000 brownfield sites.

The Wisconsin grantees include Milwaukee’s Redevelopment Authority, which will oversee \$1.98 million in grants. Projects on tap: \$1 million for loans to clean up sites in the Menominee Valley and the 30th Street industrial corridor, \$200,000 to clean up hazardous materials at 2121 S. Kinnick and 3009 N. Humboldt, \$180,000 to clean up hazardous materials at Try Chem, 1333 W. Pierce, and \$400,000 for assessment of numerous sites contaminated with hazardous materials or petroleum.

Other Wisconsin grants announced today:

Wisconsin DNR: \$4 million for loans to clean up sites in communities belonging to the Wisconsin Brownfield Coalition, a group of seven regional planning commissions.

Village of Ashwaubenon: \$400,000 to assess sites contaminated with hazardous materials or petroleum.

City of Delavan: \$1 million to clean up hazardous materials at 725 Ann St., 829 Ann St., 915 Ann St., 917 Ann St. and 231 S. 7th St.

Delavan Redevelopment Authority: \$1 million for a loan to clean up hazardous materials at 902 Wisconsin St.

Town of Madison (a separate entity within the Madison city limits): \$200,000 to assess sites contaminated with hazardous materials and \$1 million to make loans for specific hazardous materials cleanup projects.

City of Oshkosh: \$400,000 to clean up hazardous materials at 123 Jackson St. and 305 Ceape Ave.

City of Racine: \$200,000 to assess sites contaminated with petroleum.

St. Croix Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin: \$200,000 to assess sites contaminated with hazardous materials.

To date, EPA’s Brownfields assistance has leveraged more than \$5.8 billion in private investment, helped create more than 27,000 jobs and resulted in the assessment of more than 4,500 properties. For more information on the grant recipients, go to:

www.epa.gov/brownfields.

#

EPA: Ohio now meets health-based sulfur dioxide standard

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA075

CHICAGO (June 18, 2004) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced today that the entire state of Ohio now meets the health-based, outdoor air-quality standard for sulfur dioxide.

EPA Administrator Mike Leavitt signed the authorization redesignating the Cleveland area to attainment. In combination with previous redesignations of numerous other areas in Ohio, this brings all of Ohio into attainment for the sulfur dioxide standard. The Cleveland redesignation will be published in the Federal Register soon.

"We congratulate Ohio on reaching this important clean-air goal," said EPA Region 5 Acting Administrator Bharat Mathur. "Our partners in the state and local agencies worked hard to make this happen and they deserve a lot of credit."

"This is great news for people in the area and another completed item in Ohio EPA's plan to bring all of Ohio into compliance with clean-air standards," said Ohio EPA Director Christopher Jones.

Sulfur dioxide is a pungent, colorless gas formed primarily by the burning of sulfur-containing fossil fuels and ores. Major sources include fossil fuel-burning power plants and industrial boilers. To meet the health-based standard, outdoor air concentrations must not exceed 0.14 parts per million, averaged over 24 hours. The Cleveland nonattainment area included most of Cuyahoga County. EPA also approved numerous Ohio rules limiting sulfur dioxide emissions, and removed the federally promulgated rules that these Ohio rules replace. Finally, EPA approved state plans to maintain the health-based standard for at least the next 10 years.

Exposure to sulfur dioxide can impair breathing, aggravate existing respiratory diseases like bronchitis and reduce the ability of the lungs to clear foreign particles. Sulfur dioxide can also cause acid rain. Children, the elderly and people with existing heart and lung conditions are the most sensitive to sulfur dioxide.

###

EPA cites Tower Industries for clean-air violations

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA076

CHICAGO (June 18, 2004) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has cited Tower Industries LLC for alleged violations of federal and state clean-air regulations at two company plastics plants in Massillon, Ohio.

In December 2003, Tower closed its plant at 655 Third St. N.W. and moved to a new facility at 2101 S. Ninth St. S.W. EPA alleges Tower built and operated its new plant, a major source of hazardous air pollutants, without getting a state permit.

In addition, EPA alleges that the new Tower plant exceeded emission limits for hazardous air pollutants and that the company did not get a determination of control technology requirements and give proper notifications for the plant.

EPA also alleges that Tower violated state regulations at its 655 Third St. N.W. plant by failing to maintain daily records and to submit annual reports to the local health authority.

These are preliminary findings of violations. To resolve them, 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 meet with EPA to discuss resolving the allegations.

"EPA's mission is to protect public health and the environment," said Region 5 Acting Administrator Bharat Mathur. "We will take whatever steps are needed to ensure compliance with the Clean Air Act."

Hazardous air pollutants may cause serious health effects including birth defects and cancer. They may also cause harmful environmental and ecological effects..

###

EPA settles with American Progressive
Circuits on hazardous waste violations

CONTACT:

Karen Thompson, (312) 353-8547

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA077

CHICAGO (June 18, 2004) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has settled a complaint against American Progressive Circuits Inc. of Addison, Ill., for violations of the federal law governing hazardous waste and used oil. The company admitted to all of the violations and agreed to pay a \$22,000 penalty and to comply with all hazardous waste storage rules.

EPA cited American Progressive Circuits for six violations of the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, including failure to: obtain tank assessments and properly maintain secondary containment for its hazardous waste storage tanks, have a hazardous waste storage permit, conduct required inspections, train personnel about hazardous waste handling procedures, keep a contingency plan at the facility, and properly label a used oil container.

EPA regulates hazardous waste from its production to final disposal.

About American Progressive Circuits Inc.

American Progressive Circuits Inc., 1772 Armitage Court, Addison, Ill., makes circuit boards.

###

EPA cites Jupiter Aluminum for clean-air violations

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA079

CHICAGO (June 22, 2004) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has cited Jupiter Aluminum Corp. for alleged violations of federal clean-air regulations at the company's secondary aluminum production plant at 1745 165th St., Hammond, Ind.

EPA alleges that Jupiter, a major source of hazardous air pollutants, failed to comply with notification, testing, planning, reporting, operating, file-maintenance, monitoring, measuring and recordkeeping requirements of the Clean Air Act.

These are preliminary findings of violations. To resolve them, EPA may issue a compliance order, assess an administrative penalty or bring suit against the company. Jupiter has 30 days from receipt of the notice to meet with EPA to discuss resolving the allegations.

"EPA's mission is to protect public health and the environment," said Acting Regional Administrator Bharat Mathur. "We will take whatever steps are needed to ensure compliance with the Clean Air Act."

Hazardous air pollutants may cause serious health effects, including birth defects and cancer. They may also cause harmful environmental and ecological effects.

#

Hazardous chemical reporting roundup:
EPA settles cases in Milwaukee and
Indiana; issues new complaints in St. Paul,
Ashtabula

CONTACT:

Karen Thompson, (312) 353-8547

Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050

Ruth McNamara, (312) 353-3193

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA080

CHICAGO (June 24, 2004) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 recently settled administrative cases involving hazardous chemical reporting violations with Kohl's Foods, Milwaukee, Wis., and Steel Dynamics, Butler, Ind. Separately, complaints were recently filed against Sewall Gear Manufacturing, St. Paul, Minn., and U.S. Aluminate Co., Ashtabula, Ohio.

Kohl's paid \$140,000 to resolve EPA's complaint for failing to promptly notify the National Response Center and the local emergency response commission during an accidental release of 3,800 pounds of ammonia from its warehouse at 11100 W. Burleigh St. on Sept. 10, 2002. A required written follow-up report was also filed late, 39 days after the incident. The incident occurred when pressure relief components in the facility's refrigeration system failed. A vapor cloud caused several nearby businesses to be evacuated.

Steel Dynamics paid \$40,700 to resolve EPA's complaint for failure to properly report a release of 2,000 gallons of spent "pickle liquor" containing ferrous chloride on January 18, 1999, from its facility at 4500 County Road 59. The release was reported to the National Response Center eight days after it occurred. In addition to violations of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know portion of the Superfund law, the complaint also included a violation of the Clean Water Act because the spill eventually reached the Solomon Shank Ditch, a public waterway.

In addition, EPA Region 5 filed a civil complaint proposing a \$58,000 penalty against Sewall Gear Manufacturing. The company was cited for failure to submit to the Minnesota emergency response commission and the local fire department the required 2002 chemical inventory forms documenting the storage of 10,000 pounds of liquid nitrogen. The company was also cited previously for hazardous materials recordkeeping violations in 2001.

In a fourth case, a recent EPA complaint proposes a \$124,550 penalty against U. S. Aluminate. The company was cited for failure to promptly notify the National Response Center, the Ohio Emergency Response Commission and the Ashtabula County local emergency planning committee of a 44,987-pound release of 50 percent sodium hydroxide solution on July 18, 2003. U.S. Aluminate was also late in submitting a required follow-up report to the local emergency response planning committee.

###

MEDIA ADVISORY: EPA to brief news media on areas it plans to name as not meeting new soot standard

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA082

CHICAGO (June 28, 2004)

WHAT: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 will brief news media on areas in the region that EPA plans to name as not meeting the new, health-based outdoor air quality standard for fine particles (soot) 2.5 microns or smaller. Regional air quality specialists will be available to answer questions about the potential designations.

WHO: Region 5 Acting Administrator Bharat Mathur, Regional Air and Radiation Division Director Steve Rothblatt and staff.

WHEN: Tuesday, June 29, 2 p.m. CDT.

WHERE: Media representatives should call (866) 299-3188. The conference code is "312 353 2073.

###

EPA issues list of Illinois counties it plans to name as not meeting new, health-based soot standard

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA083

CHICAGO (June 29, 2004) - U.S. Environmental Protection Agency today issued a list of 12 Illinois counties that it plans to name as not meeting the new, health-based outdoor air quality standard for fine particles (soot). The counties are: Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry, Will, Madison, Monroe, St. Clair, Randolph and parts of Grundy and Kendall. The state has until September 1 to recommend changes to the list. EPA will make final designations in November.

In a letter to Governor Rod Blagojevich, EPA Acting Regional Administrator Bharat Mathur said, "The Bush Administration is addressing fine particle pollution with a comprehensive national clean air strategy. This strategy includes EPA's recent rule to reduce pollution from nonroad diesel engines, and the proposed rule to reduce pollution from power plants in the Eastern United States. These two rules are important components of EPA's efforts to help states and localities meet the more protective national fine-particle and 8-hour ozone air quality standards. Together these rules will help all areas of the country achieve cleaner air."

These counties, called nonattainment areas, have or contribute to, fine particle levels higher than allowed under EPA's national air quality standard. The standard is designed to protect the public from exposure to these tiny particles that are 2.5 microns or smaller. By comparison, a human hair is about 70 microns in diameter.

Fine particles have been associated with a range of serious adverse health effects, including aggravation of lung disease, asthma attacks and heart problems. EPA believes that airborne fine particles cause tens of thousands of premature deaths across the United States each year. In addition, exposure to them results in tens of thousands of hospitalizations as well as millions of sick days and doctor visits.

More information is at www.epa.gov/pmdesignations.

###

EPA issues list of Indiana counties it plans to name as not meeting new, health-based soot standard

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA084

CHICAGO (June 29, 2004) - U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region today issued a list of 19 Indiana counties that it plans to name as not meeting the new, health-based outdoor air quality standard for fine particles (soot). The counties are: Lake, Porter, Elkhart, Saint Joseph, Vanderburgh, Warrick, Dubois, Gibson, Pike, Spencer, Marion, Hamilton, Hendricks, Johnson, Morgan, Clark, Floyd, Jefferson and part of Dearborn. The state has until September 1 to recommend changes to the list. EPA will make final designations in November.

In a letter to Governor Joseph Kernan, EPA Acting Regional Administrator Bharat Mathur said, "The Bush Administration is address fine particle pollution with a comprehensive national clean air strategy. This strategy includes EPA's recent rule to reduce pollution from nonroad diesel engines, and the proposed rule to reduce pollution from power plants in the Eastern United States. These two rules are important components of EPA's efforts to help states and localities meet the more protective national fine-particle and 8-hour ozone air quality standards. Together these rules will help all areas of the country achieve cleaner air."

These counties, called nonattainment areas, have or contribute to fine particle levels higher than allowed under EPA's national air quality standard. The standard is designed to protect the public from exposure to these tiny particles that are 2.5 microns or smaller. By comparison, a human hair is about 70 microns in diameter.

Fine particles have been associated with a range of serious adverse health effects, including aggravation of lung disease, asthma attacks and heart problems. EPA believes that airborne fine particles cause tens of thousands of premature deaths across the United States each year. In addition, exposure to them results in tens of thousands of hospitalizations as well as millions of sick days and doctor visits.

More information is at www.epa.gov/pmdesignations.

###

EPA issues list of Michigan counties it plans to name as not meeting new, health-based soot standard

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA085

CHICAGO (June 29, 2004) - U.S. Environmental Protection Agency today issued a list of 7 Michigan counties that it plans to name as not meeting the new, health-based outdoor air quality for fine particles (soot).

The counties are : Monroe, Wayne, Livingston, Macomb, Oakland, St. Clair and Washtenaw. The state has until September 1 to recommend changes to the list. EPA will make final designations in November.

In a letter to Governor Jennifer Granholm, EPA Acting Regional Administrator Bharat Mathur said, "The Bush Administration is address fine particle pollution with a comprehensive national clean air strategy. This strategy includes EPA's recent rule to reduce pollution from nonroad diesel engines, and the proposed rule to reduce pollution from power plants in the Eastern United States. These two rules are important components of EPA's efforts to help states and localities meet the more protective national fine-particle and 8-hour ozone air quality standards. Together these rules will help all areas in the country achieve cleaner air."

These counties, called nonattainment areas, have or contribute to fine particle levels higher than allowed under EPA's national air quality standard. The standard is designed to protect the public from exposure to these tiny particles that are 2.5 microns or smaller. By comparison, a human hair averages about 70 microns in diameter.

Fine particles have been associated with a range of serious adverse health effects, including aggravation of lung disease, asthma attacks and heart problems. EPA believes that airborne fine particles cause tens of thousands of premature deaths across the United States each year. In addition, exposure to them results in tens of thousand of hospitalizations as well as millions of sick days and doctor visits.

More information is at www.epa.gov/pmdesignations.

###

EPA issues list of Ohio counties it plans to name as not meeting new, health-based soot standard

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA086

CHICAGO (June 29, 2004) - U.S. Environmental Protection Agency today issued a list of 33 Ohio counties that it plans to name as not meeting the new, health-based outdoor air quality standard for fine particles (soot).

The counties are: Stark, Butler, Clermont, Hamilton, Warren, Cuyahoga, Lake, Lorain, Medina, Portage, Summit, Geauga, Ashtabula, Delaware, Fairfield, Franklin, Licking, Coshocton, Clark, Greene, Montgomery, Lawrence, Scioto, Adams, Gallia, Washington, Jefferson, Lucas, Wood, Belmont, Columbiana, Mahoning and Trumbull. The state has until September 1 to recommend changes to the list. EPA will make final designations in November. In a letter to Governor Bob Taft, EPA Acting Regional Administrator Bharat Mathur said, "The Bush Administration is addressing fine particle pollution with a comprehensive national clean air strategy. This strategy includes EPA's recent rule to reduce pollution from nonroad diesel engines, and the proposed rule to reduce pollution from power plants in the Eastern United States. These two rules are important components of EPA's efforts to help states and localities meet the more protective national fine-particle and 8-hour ozone air quality standards. Together these rules will help all areas of the country achieve cleaner air."

These counties, called nonattainment areas, have or contribute to fine particle levels higher than allowed under EPA's national air quality standard. The standard is designed to protect the public from exposure to these tiny particles that are 2.5 microns or smaller. By comparison, a human hair is about 70 microns in diameter.

Fine particles have been associated with a range of serious adverse health effects, including aggravation of lung disease, asthma attacks and heart problems. EPA believes that airborne fine particles cause tens of thousands of premature deaths across the United States each year. In addition, exposure to them results in tens of thousands of hospitalizations as well as millions of sick days and doctor visits.

More information is at www.epa.gov/pmdesignations.

###

EPA plans to name Kenosha County Wisconsin as not meeting new, health-based soot standard

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA087

CHICAGO (June 29, 2004) - U.S. Environmental Protection Agency said today that Kenosha County is the only Wisconsin county it plans to name as not meeting the new health-based outdoor air quality standard for fine particles (soot).

The state has until September 1 to recommend a change. EPA will make final designations in November.

In a letter to Governor Jim Doyle, EPA Acting Regional Administrator Bharat Mathur said, "The Bush Administration is addressing fine particle pollution with a comprehensive national clean air strategy. This strategy includes EPA's recent rule to reduce pollution from nonroad diesel engines, and the proposed rule to reduce pollution from power plants in the Eastern United States. These two rules are important components of EPA's efforts to help states and localities meet the more protective national fine-particle and 8-hour ozone air quality standards. Together these rules will help all areas of the country achieve cleaner air."

Counties that do not meet the standard are called nonattainment areas. They have, or contribute to, fine particle levels higher than allowed under EPA's national air quality standard. The standard is designed to protect the public from exposure to these tiny particles that are 2.5 microns or smaller. By comparison, a human hair is about 70 microns in diameter.

Fine particles have been associated with a range of serious adverse health effects, including aggravation of lung disease, asthma attacks and heart problems. EPA believes that airborne fine particles cause tens of thousands of premature deaths across the United States each year. In addition, exposure to them results in tens of thousand of hospitalizations as well as millions of sick days and doctor visits.

More information is at www.epa.gov/pmdesignatons.

###

Media advisory: EPA Administrator to
Award Clean School Bus grant to Indiana

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA088

CHICAGO (June 30, 2004)

WHAT: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Mike Leavitt will award a \$250,000 grant to the Indiana Department of Environmental Management to reduce diesel emissions from school buses and protect children from breathing unhealthy air. Clean school buses will be on site for inspection and photo opportunities.

WHO: EPA Administrator Mike Leavitt and IDEM Commissioner Lori Kaplan.

WHEN: Thursday, July 1, 9:30 a.m. local time.

WHERE: Near the west steps of the Indiana Statehouse on Government Way.

More information is at www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus/.

###

Initial EPA-ordered removal of
contaminated soil from St. Regis Paper

Co. site complete

CONTACT:

Phillippa Cannon, (312) 353-6218

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA090

CHICAGO (Jul. 1, 2004) -- Last week, under an EPA order, International Paper Co. completed an initial removal of dioxin-contaminated soil from the St. Regis Paper Co. Superfund site in Cass Lake, Minn. Over a period of ten days, 2,386 tons of soil were removed in 94 loads and sent to the Onyx FCR Landfill in Buffalo, Minn.

EPA is primarily concerned about dioxin contamination from the wood treatment operation at the former St. Regis Paper site. This initial removal addressed soil with dioxin levels of one part per billion or greater in parts of the site primarily owned by Cass Lake.

The excavated areas were sampled to be sure that the most contaminated soil was completely removed. Results are expected within four to six weeks. The excavated areas will remain covered and fenced until the sample results are received and reviewed. If results show additional soil needs to be excavated, more will be removed later this summer.

International Paper, which acquired Champion International in 2000, is responsible for cleaning up soil and ground-water contamination on and around the site. Champion bought the St. Regis Paper Co. in 1985.

Technical documents and other information about the St. Regis Paper Superfund site are on file at the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Division of Resource Management, 6350 Highway 2 N.W., Cass Lake; the Cass Lake City Clerk's office, 332 Second St. N.W., Cass Lake; Bemidji State University Library, 1500 Birchmont St. N.E., Bemidji ; and Leech Lake Tribal College, 203 Second St., Cass Lake. Information about the site is available on EPA's Web site at www.epa.gov/region5/sites/stregis.

###

Media briefing at Peerless Plating
Superfund Site, Muskegon, Mich., July 12,
11 A.M.

CONTACT:

Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA091

CHICAGO (July 8, 2004) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 and Michigan Department of Environmental Quality will host a site status briefing for area officials and media at the Peerless Plating Superfund site in Muskegon, Mich., Monday, July 12, at 11 a.m.

Cleanup at the 1-acre site, 2554 Getty St., a former metal plating facility that closed in 1983, was completed in 2002. An extensive ground water treatment system has been installed at the site and will continue operating for at least another decade. Recently, questions have been raised about new releases of cadmium and other chemicals from the site into Little Black Creek, which flows into Mona Lake and Lake Michigan. Both agencies believe there is no evidence of recent releases and that historical contamination in Little Black Creek sediment is not affecting the stream ecosystem-which otherwise appears to be improving over time.

The briefing will include a short walking tour of the site. Representatives of the Mona Lake Watershed Council will also be on hand.

Directions: The site is at 2554 Getty St., in Muskegon. Drive north on Getty past HDI Hardware at the intersection of Sherman and Getty. Take the third entrance on the right into the Peerless Plating parking lot.

#

Peerless Plating Superfund Cleanup
effective to date, monitoring to continue

CONTACT:

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

(EPA) Cheryl Allen, (312) 353-6196

(MDEQ) Sunny Krajcovic, (517) 241-8857

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA092

CHICAGO (July 12, 2004) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 and Michigan Department of Environmental Quality demonstrated the ongoing effectiveness of the cleanup at the Peerless Plating Superfund site in Muskegon, Mich., today at a tour for local officials and media.

The cleanup at Peerless Plating, located at 2554 Getty St., in Muskegon, was completed in April 2002. The project has since shifted into what's called the "operation and maintenance" phase, which includes an extensive system to pump out and treat contaminated ground water. The treated water is then released into Little Black Creek. Treated water samples are collected and analyzed weekly. The pump-and-treat facility is staffed full-time.

Recently, questions have been raised about elevated cadmium concentrations in Little Black Creek, which flows into Mona Lake. Cadmium is a heavy metal that may cause cancer in humans. Both agencies believe that there is no evidence of any recent cadmium contamination moving from the Peerless site to the creek. While there has been cadmium in Little Black Creek sediment for a number of years, it is not affecting the stream's ecosystem, which otherwise appears to be improving.

Under the federal Superfund law, EPA must formally review the site every five years. The first such review was completed in September 2002, when investigators found the pump-and-treat system to be working properly.

Background

Peerless Plating was an electroplating business from 1937 to 1983. Throughout this time, hazardous waste from the facility was stored in holding ponds known as waste lagoons. However, the waste in these lagoons seeped into Little Black Creek. Some waste was also intentionally discharged into the creek. In 1972, the Michigan Water Quality Commission required Peerless Plating to install a treatment system, but the company failed to comply. The state issued violation notices and filed suit against Peerless for environmental contamination.

In 1977, high concentrations of heavy metals were found in Little Black Creek. The waste from Peerless Plating was found to be one of the primary sources. In 1980, the lagoons were dug up, filled in and capped. Three years later, the company declared bankruptcy and the facility was closed.

###

EPA cites Lesaffre Yeast for clean-air violations

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA094

CHICAGO (July 13, 2004) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has cited Lesaffre Yeast Corp. for alleged clean-air violations at the company's yeast manufacturing plant at 433 E. Michigan St., Milwaukee, Wis.

EPA alleges that volatile organic compound emissions from Lesaffre's fermenters exceeded the limits in its operating permit and in state regulations. These are preliminary findings of violations. To resolve them, EPA may issue a compliance order, assess an administrative penalty or bring suit against the company. Lesaffre has 30 days from receipt of the notice to meet with EPA to discuss resolving the allegations.

"EPA's mission is to protect public health and the environment," said Acting Regional Administrator Bharat Mathur. "We will take whatever steps are needed to ensure compliance with the Clean Air Act."

Volatile organic compounds contribute to the formation of ground-level ozone, or 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. People with asthma, children and the elderly are especially at risk, but these health concerns are important to everyone.

#

EPA cites Erler Industries for clean-air violations

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA095

CHICAGO (July 16, 2004) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has cited Erler Industries Inc. for alleged violations of federal and state clean-air regulations at the company's coating facility that includes operations at 418 Stockwell St., 71 Hayden Pike and 125 W. Hayden Pike in North Vernon, Ind. EPA alleges that Erler exceeded emission limits on volatile organic compounds, releasing more than 20 tons per year over the cap. In addition, EPA alleges Erler failed to comply with monitoring, recordkeeping and reporting requirements that would have properly characterized emissions from its plants.

These are preliminary findings of violations. To resolve them, 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 meet with EPA to discuss resolving the allegations.

"EPA's mission is to protect public health and the environment," said Acting Regional Administrator Bharat Mathur. "We will take whatever steps are needed to ensure compliance with the Clean Air Act."

Volatile organic compounds contribute to the formation of ground-level ozone, or 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. People with asthma, children and the elderly are especially at risk, but these health concerns are important to everyone.

###

EPA cites Grainger for clean-air violations

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA096

CHICAGO (July 20, 2004) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has cited W.W. Grainger Inc. for alleged violations of federal clean-air regulations designed to protect the stratospheric ozone layer. The company has a facilities-maintenance products distribution center at 100 Grainger Road, Lake Forest, Ill.

EPA alleges that Grainger sold banned nonessential products made with an ozone-depleting substance and failed to display proper notification where products containing an ozone-depleting substance were sold. The company sells some products containing dichlorofluoroethane, a chlorofluorocarbon or CFC, including a wheel chock and aerosol dispensers of cleaning fluids for electronic or photographic equipment.

In addition, EPA alleges the company sold products containing an ozone-depleting substance to unqualified purchasers and to purchasers failing to show proof that they were qualified purchasers. Federal regulations require that products containing ozone-depleting substances only be sold to commercial buyers.

“EPA's mission is to protect public health and the environment,” said Acting Regional Administrator Bharat Mathur. “We will take whatever steps are needed to ensure compliance with the Clean Air Act.”

Chlorofluorocarbons 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 1955, and federal law strictly controls their use and handling.

###

EPA gives \$1,289,904 watershed grant to
Upper Sangamon River

CONTACT:

Phillippa Cannon, (312) 353-6218

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA097

CHICAGO (July 20, 2004) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Administrator Mike Leavitt announced 14 grants to fund watershed restoration
and protection projects nationwide.

The Agricultural Watershed Institute, one of two EPA Region 5 grant winners,
will receive \$1,289,904 for projects to restore the Upper Sangamon River
watershed in central Illinois.

“Through this program, EPA lends a hand to local groups working to protect and
restore our nation's watersheds,” said Leavitt from the banks of Gray's Lake,
part of the upper Mississippi watershed. “With these watershed projects, we take
a critical step forward in providing clean and safe water for every American.”

“The Upper Sangamon River suffers from water quality problems from
agricultural runoff, such as excess nitrogen and phosphorus,” said Bharat
Mathur, Acting EPA Regional Administrator.

The grant will be used for three interrelated projects to improve water quality
locally, regionally and even down to the Gulf of Mexico by reducing unnecessary
run-off from agricultural areas in the 592,000-acre watershed. Excess nutrients
in this run-off have been linked to the seasonal hypoxic – or oxygen starved –
algal blooms in the Gulf of Mexico.

Detailed information about these projects and the Targeted Watersheds Grant
Program is available at: epa.gov/owow/watershed/initiative/

#

EPA gives Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish
Band of Southwest Michigan \$1,147,593
watershed grant

CONTACT:

Phillippa Cannon, (312) 353-6218

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA098

CHICAGO (July 20, 2004) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Administrator Mike Leavitt announced 14 grants to fund watershed restoration and protection projects across the country.

The Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish band of Pottowatomi Indians, one of two EPA Region 5 grant winners, will receive \$1,147,593 for projects to restore the Kalamazoo River watershed in southwest lower Michigan.

“Through this program, EPA lends a hand to local groups working to protect and restore our nation's watersheds,” said Leavitt from the banks of Gray's Lake, part of the upper Mississippi watershed. “With these watershed projects, we take a critical step forward in providing clean and safe water for every American.”

The 2,020-square-mile watershed and 160-mile long Kalamazoo River provide important resources that are vital to survival of the Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish tribe. The tribe is leading the initiative on behalf of a watershed-wide group.

“The tribe plans to reduce agricultural runoff in the Kalamazoo River by developing a pollutant trading program,” said Bharat Mathur, Acting EPA Regional Administrator.

The project will build on previous trading experiences in Michigan to develop, test and implement the tools and infrastructure to create a model water quality trading market.

Detailed information about these projects and the Targeted Watersheds Grant Program is available at: epa.gov/owow/watershed/initiative.

###

EPA cites Intrametco for clean-air violations

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA100

CHICAGO (July 22, 2004) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has cited Intrametco Processing Inc. for alleged clean-air violations at the company's aluminum processing plant at 1901 W. Louisiana St., Evansville, Ind. EPA alleges Intrametco released almost 60 times the amount of dioxins and furans allowed by federal regulations. In addition, EPA said the company failed to comply with federal requirements for notification, planning, testing and labeling.

These are preliminary findings of violations. To resolve them, 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 meet with EPA to discuss resolving the allegations.

“EPA's mission is to protect public health and the environment,” said Acting Regional Administrator Bharat Mathur. “We will take whatever steps are needed to ensure compliance with the Clean Air Act.”

There is evidence that dioxins may cause liver damage and probably cause cancer in humans. Furans can irritate and burn the skin and eyes. They also damage the liver and kidneys and may cause cancer in humans.

###

EPA cites Morgan Electro Ceramics for
clean-air violations

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA101

CHICAGO (July 22, 2004) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5
has cited Morgan Electro Ceramics for alleged clean-air violations at the
company's electro-ceramic manufacturing plant at 232 Forbes Road, Bedford,
Ohio.

EPA alleges that Morgan operated degreasers that use perchloroethylene, a
hazardous air pollutant, to clean parts without getting a state permit. In addition,
EPA alleges Morgan did not submit a timely and complete application for an
operating permit.

These are preliminary findings of violations. To resolve them, EPA may issue a
compliance order, assess an administrative penalty or bring suit against the
company. Morgan has 30 days from receipt of the notice to meet with EPA to
discuss resolving the allegations.

“EPA's mission is to protect public health and the environment,” said Acting
Regional Administrator Bharat Mathur. “ We will take whatever steps are needed
to ensure compliance with the Clean Air Act.”

Hazardous air pollutants may cause serious health effects including birth defects
and cancer. They may also cause harmful environmental and ecological effects.

###

EPA reaches agreement with Greener Pastures; Includes \$25,000 fine and immediate sale stoppage

CONTACT:

Kären Thompson, (312) 353-8547

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA102

CHICAGO (July 29, 2004) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 recently reached agreement with Greener Pastures Development Corp., Oakdale, Minn. Under the agreement, the company will pay a \$25,000 penalty for illegally selling and distributing four unregistered pesticides; two for use in controlling algae in ponds and two for killing weeds in lawns.

EPA ordered Greener Pastures to stop selling, distributing or using all unregistered pesticides, including but not limited to "Tiger-by-the-Tail," "Nature's Weed & Feed 7-0-7," "Nature's Weed Control for Ponds," and "Clarify." In addition to the fine and stop-sale order, Greener Pastures must remove all pesticidal claims from its Web sites, advertising, labeling or other communications.

EPA worked closely with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA), the state's lead agency for pesticide enforcement. MDA performed inspections and provided testimony in support of EPA's action. The collaboration between the state and federal agencies was instrumental in reaching this agreement.

According to Karl Bremer, chief of EPA Region 5's pesticides and toxics branch, "Consumers should make sure that any product with pesticidal claims is registered with EPA. Only then can they be certain that the product will not cause adverse effects on the environment or people."

EPA registers all pesticides and pesticide products under the federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act. Except for certain limited exceptions, no pesticide may be legally sold or used in the United States unless its label has an EPA registration number. It is also unlawful to use any registered pesticides in a manner other than that indicated on the product label.

#

EPA names Indiana wastewater treatment plants among best-operated in region

CONTACT:

Phillippa Cannon, (312) 353-6218

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA103

CHICAGO (Aug. 4, 2004) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has named three Indiana wastewater treatment plants – Florence Regional Sewage District, the City of Franklin and Lake Monroe Regional Sewer District in Bloomington – among the best operated in the six-state region for 2004. They are three of 10 plants to receive EPA Regional Operation and Maintenance Awards this year. The Florence and Franklin plants will be receiving awards on Aug. 4 and the Lake Monroe District Caslon plant will receive its award on Sept. 8.

The Florence Regional Sewage District was recognized for having the best plant in the “small, advanced treatment” category. It serves about 240 people in Florence and the surrounding area and is managed by Shannon Jackson, superintendent and chief operator. The award will be presented at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 4 at the treatment plant, 12 Log Lick Road.

The Franklin facility was recognized for having the best plant in the “medium, advanced treatment” category. It serves about 20,000 people in Franklin and the surrounding area and is managed by Rick Littleton, wastewater superintendent. The award will be presented at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 4 at Beeson Hall, 484 South St., Franklin.

The Caslon Treatment Facility of the Lake Monroe Regional Sewer District was recognized as the best plant in the “small, secondary treatment” category. It serves about 3,000 people in the area around Lake Monroe including homes, a golf course, the Pointe Resort and the community of Harrodsburg. Jeff Farmer is the plant manager. The award will be presented at noon on Wednesday, Sept. 8 at the Pointe Resort golf course club house, 2250 East Pointe Road, Bloomington.

###

EPA update meeting on St. Regis Paper
site August 12, 6 P.M.

CONTACT:

Don de Blasio, (312) 886-4360

Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA104

CHICAGO (Aug. 4, 2004) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5

has scheduled a community update meeting for the St. Regis Paper Co.

Superfund site in Cass Lake, Minn. The meeting will be held Thursday, Aug. 12,

from 6 to 8 p.m., at Jack Kimball Post 284 American Legion, 217 2nd St. N.W.,

in Cass Lake.

At the meeting, EPA representatives will discuss upcoming soil sampling in the

Cass Lake area. There will also be a brief update about the excavation work

earlier in the summer. For special needs at the meeting, contact community

involvement coordinator Don de Blasio, (800) 621-8431, Ext. 64360, 9 a.m. -

4:30 p.m weekdays.

International Paper, which acquired Champion International in 2000, is

responsible for cleaning up soil and ground-water contamination on and around

the site. Champion bought the St. Regis Paper Co. in 1985.

Technical documents and other information about the St. Regis Paper

Superfund site are on file at the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Division of

Resource Management, 6350 Highway 2 N.W., Cass Lake, and the Cass Lake

City Clerk's office, 332 Second St. N.W., Cass Lake. Information about the site is

available on EPA's Web site atepa.gov/region5/sites/stregis.

#

Hazardous chemical reporting roundup:
EPA settles Avon, Ind., case; issues 4 new
complaints

CONTACT:

Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050

Bill Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA105

CHICAGO (September 8, 2004) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 recently settled an administrative case involving hazardous chemical reporting violations with Harlan Bakeries, Avon, Ind. Separately, new complaints were filed against Perdue Farms, Washington, Ind.; American Electric Power, Bridgeman, Mich.; Gould Electronics, McConnelsville, Ohio; and Southwest Landmark, Pleasant Plain, Ohio.

Harlan Bakeries paid \$55,605 to resolve EPA's complaint for failing to promptly notify the National Response Center and the local emergency response commission during two separate 1998 releases of anhydrous ammonia from its facility at 7597 E. U.S. Highway 36. Harlan's plan to settle the matter includes performing refrigeration system safety upgrades valued at \$133,500.

Anhydrous ammonia, which is commonly used in commercial refrigeration systems, may be fatal if inhaled for prolonged periods of time. It causes burns to the skin and may cause irritation to eyes, nose and throat. Federal laws require facilities to immediately notify the National Response Center, and state and local authorities about hazardous chemical releases above certain quantities.

The new complaints include:

1) A proposed penalty of \$34,376 against Perdue Farms, Washington, Ind. The company was cited for allegedly failing to promptly notify the National Response Center and the state emergency response commission of a 3,770-pound release of anhydrous ammonia from its facility at 213 Clark and Cosby Road on Dec. 9, 2001.

2) A proposed penalty of \$60,548 against American Electric Power's Cook Nuclear Plant, Bridgeman, Mich. The company was cited for allegedly failing to promptly notify the National Response Center, and state and local authorities of a 1,227-pound release of sodium hypochlorite on Nov. 16, 2002. The problem was caused by a disconnected pipe connection that flowed onto the floor, then into a drain, and ultimately into a reservoir that feeds into a condenser and then into Lake Michigan. EPA alleges that the required follow-up reports were also filed late. Sodium hypochlorite is used as a disinfectant in chlorination systems. It may cause severe skin and eye irritation or burns to broken skin, and is a respiratory irritant.

3) A proposed penalty of \$24,063 against Gould Electronics, McConnelsville, Ohio. The company was cited for allegedly failing to promptly notify the National Response Center of a 1,414-pound sodium hypochlorite release that occurred on March 2, 2004, at its facility at 5045 N. State Route 60, N.W. The incident began when a piece of ice broke a valve on a wastewater treatment storage tank, releasing the chemical. The release did not leave the Gould property.

4) A proposed penalty of \$135,498 against Southwest Landmark, Pleasant Plain, Ohio. The company was cited for allegedly failing to promptly notify the National Response Center and state and local authorities of a 2,833-pound release of anhydrous ammonia on February 18, 2004, at its facility at 10018 Walnut St. The release occurred when someone attempted to steal ammonia, leaving a tank valve open. EPA alleges that the required follow-up reports were also filed late. At the time of the incident, the local fire department evacuated a one-mile radius around the facility.

#

EPA names Breese, Ill. wastewater
treatment plant among best-operated in
region

CONTACT:

Phillippa Cannon, (312) 353-6218

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA106

CHICAGO (Aug. 4, 2004) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5
has named the Breese, Ill., wastewater treatment plant among the best-operated
in the six-state region for 2004. It is one of 10 treatment plants to receive EPA
Regional Operation and Maintenance Awards this year.

Breese was recognized as the second-best plant in the “small, secondary
treatment” category. It serves about 4,100 people and is managed by Allen
Menietti, wastewater superintendent. The award will be presented at 10 a.m. on
Wednesday, Aug. 11 at City Hall, 500 N. First St.

###

EPA announces public comment period
for Deer River power station permit

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA107

CHICAGO (Aug. 9, 2004) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 will take public comments until Sept. 11 on a proposed federal air quality operating permit for the Great Lakes Gas Deer River natural-gas-fired compressor station on the Leech Lake Reservation near Deer River, Minn.

The Deer River station occupies about 20 acres approximately three miles west of the city of Deer River in Itasca County. The facility consists of two stationary natural-gas-fired turbines that drive two natural gas compressors.

Great Lakes Gas operates nearly 2,000 miles of underground pipeline that transports natural gas to customers in midwestern and northeastern United States and Canada. The pipeline has 14 compressor stations — five of them in Minnesota — to keep natural gas moving through the system.

EPA is responsible for issuing and enforcing air quality permits for the plant until the tribe or the state has EPA approval to issue and enforce them. The plant is located in an area that meets all health-based outdoor air quality standards.

Interested persons may send written comments on the proposed permit, requests for a public hearing and requests to receive notices of any future actions to Steve Rothblatt, Director, Air and Radiation Division (A-18J), EPA Region 5, 77 W. Jackson Blvd., 18th floor, Chicago, Ill., 60604 or fax them to 312-886-5824.

The administrative record is available for public review during normal business hours at the Cass Lake Community Library, 223 Cedar Ave., Cass Lake; at the Deer River city clerk's office, 208 2nd St. S.E., Deer River; and at EPA's Chicago address. Comments will be available at those sites after the comment period ends. The proposed permit is at www.epa.gov/region5/air/permits/const/r5permits.htm.

###

MEDIA ADVISORY: EPA Administrator
Leavitt in Ashland, Wis., to gather
information on Great Lakes issues and
cleanup

CONTACT:

Phillippa Cannon, (312) 353-6218

Day of event – Don deBlasio, (312) 636-8654 (cell)

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA108

CHICAGO (Aug. 10, 2004) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Administrator Mike Leavitt will be in Ashland, Wis., on Wednesday, Aug. 11,
visiting the Northern Great Lakes Visitors Center and canoeing on Lake
Superior. This spring, he was asked to lead a task force to coordinate local,
state and federal efforts to clean up the lakes. This month he will be touring the
region to learn more about issues affecting the lakes.

2:00 p.m. Voyageur canoe tour on Lake Superior departing from Northern Great
Lakes Visitors Center. The center is on Bayfield Peninsula, about two-and one-
half miles west of Ashland. The trip will last about 40 minutes.

Reporters and photographers are invited to accompany Administrator Leavitt on
the canoe trip.

#

EPA cites Royster-Clark for clean-air violations

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA111

CHICAGO (Aug. 18, 2004) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has cited Royster-Clark Nitrogen Inc. for alleged clean-air violations at the company's nitric acid plant at 10743 Brower Road, North Bend, Ohio.

EPA alleges that, among other things, Royster-Clark modified its plant, significantly increasing emissions of ozone-producing nitrogen oxides, without getting a permit that would restrict its emissions. The company continues to emit excessive levels of nitrogen oxides and has failed to get required permits.

These are preliminary findings of violations. To resolve them, 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 meet with EPA to discuss resolving the allegations.

“EPA's mission is to protect public health and the environment,” said Acting Regional Administrator Bharat Mathur. “We will take whatever steps are needed to ensure compliance with the Clean Air Act.”

Nitrogen oxides contribute to the formation of ground-level ozone, or 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 and wheezing, shortness of breath and chest pain. People with asthma, children and the elderly are especially at risk, but these health concerns are important to everyone.

#

EPA MEDIA ADVISORY: Indiana Gov.
Kernan and federal government to
announce major environmental settlement
in Gary

CONTACT:

Phillippa Cannon (312) 353-6218

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA112

Chicago – (Aug. 18, 2004) – Gov. Joe Kernan of Indiana and officials from three federal agencies on Friday will announce details of one of the nation's largest natural resource damage settlements and efforts to restore the Grand Calumet River corridor.

Joining the governor from the federal government will be officials from the U.S. Department of the Interior, its Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

State representatives will include Mayor Scott King, the Departments of Environmental Management and Natural Resources, representatives of Attorney General Steve Carter, state legislators and locally elected officials. Also present will be representatives of the settling parties and concerned citizens.

Friday, Aug. 20

WHAT: Grand Calumet River settlement announcement

WHEN: 2 p.m.

WHERE: Marquette Park Pavilion

Lower level

1 N. Grand Ave.

Gary

Directions to Marquette Park Pavilion, Gary, Ind.:

From Chicago:

1. Travel east on I-90/94 Expressway (approx. 3-5 miles)
2. Stay in right lane for Indiana Toll Road; total of three (3) tolls: Chicago- \$2; Indiana-50 cents; Gary-Dunes Highway (U.S. 20) 25-cents (approx. 30 miles)
3. Exit Gary-Dunes Highway (U.S. 20) and travel east to Lake Street (1.5-2 miles)
4. Turn left (north) onto Lake Street, to second set of railroad tracks
5. Turn right (east) at railroad stoplight (Miller Avenue)
6. Turn left (north) at Grand Boulevard
7. Go through 3 stop lights (Birch, Hemlock, Forest), follow curve around to Marquette Park Pavilion

Reporters' contacts:

Jonathan Swain or Lisa Sirkin, Governor's Office, 317-232-4578

Cheryl Reed, Indiana Department of Environmental Management, 317-233-5965

Stephen Sellers, Department of Natural Resources, 317-232-4003

Staci Schneider, Indiana Attorney General, 317-232-6351

Georgia Parham, U.S. Dept. of Interior, 812-334-4261, ext. 203

Blain K. Rethmeier, U.S. Dept. of Justice, 202-514-2007

Phillippa Cannon, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 312-353-6218

###

EPA reaches agreement with Beta Steel on clean-air violations

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA114

CHICAGO (Aug. 25, 2004) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has reached an agreement with Beta Steel Corp. on alleged clean-air violations at the company's steel manufacturing plant at 6600 S. Boundary Road, Portage, Ind. EPA assessed a \$49,159 penalty, and the company agreed to do two environmental projects costing \$147,993.

“Beta has agreed to install a computer system and to do a study, both designed to reduce air pollutant emissions from their plant,” said Acting Regional Administrator Bharat Mathur. “We're pleased that Beta has agreed to these projects as they do more than the law requires.”

The agreement resolves an EPA complaint filed at the same time alleging that emissions of sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxide and volatile organic compounds from the Beta plant exceeded permitted limits.

Exposure to sulfur dioxide can impair breathing, aggravate existing respiratory diseases like bronchitis and reduce the ability of the lungs to clear foreign particles. Sulfur dioxide can cause acid rain and contribute to fine particle pollution. Children, the elderly and people with heart and lung conditions are the most sensitive to sulfur dioxide.

Nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds contribute to the formation of ground-level ozone, or 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 and wheezing, shortness of breath and chest pain. People with asthma, children and the elderly are especially at risk, but these health concerns are important to everyone.

###

EPA reaches agreement with Abbott Labs
on clean-air violations

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA115

CHICAGO (Aug. 25, 2004) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has reached an agreement with Abbott Laboratories on alleged violations of EPA regulations to protect stratospheric ozone at the company's health-care manufacturing plant at 1401 Sheridan Road, North Chicago, Ill. EPA assessed a \$17,903 penalty, and the company agreed to complete an additional environmental project.

"Abbott has agreed to retrofit two refrigeration units to use EPA-approved non-ozone depleting refrigerants," said Acting Regional Administrator Bharat Mathur. "We're pleased because this \$123,000 project does more than the law requires, and goes beyond what EPA had sought." He said Abbott will also retrofit five other units as part of a consent order issued simultaneously.

The agreement resolves an EPA complaint filed at the same time alleging that Abbott failed to repair chillers that leaked excessive amounts of stratospheric ozone-depleting chlorofluorocarbon refrigerants, or "CFCs." In addition, EPA alleged the company violated planning, testing, retrofitting and retirement requirements for the chillers.

When CFC refrigerants deplete the stratospheric ozone layer, dangerous amounts of cancer-causing ultraviolet rays from the sun strike the earth. Production of some of these chemicals was stopped in 1995, and federal law strictly controls their use and handling.

#

Media Advisory: EPA Administrator Leavitt
to discuss Great Lakes issues with Rep.
Ehlers during tour of Fish Ladder Park in
Grand Rapids

CONTACT:

EPA - Phillippa Cannon, (312) 353-6218
Rep. Ehlers' office - Jon Brandt, (202) 225-3884

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA116

CHICAGO (Aug. 25, 2004) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Administrator Mike Leavitt will join Rep. Vernon Ehlers in a tour of Fish Ladder
Park, 560 Front Ave., Grand Rapids, Mich., at 3:20 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 26.
They will discuss issues affecting the Great Lakes such as fish advisories,
mercury and combined sewer overflows. This spring, Administrator Leavitt was
asked to lead a task force to coordinate local, state and federal efforts to clean
up the Great Lakes. This month he has been touring the region to learn more
about issues affecting the lakes. Reporters and photographers are invited to
accompany Administrator Leavitt and Rep. Ehlers. A media availability will follow
the tour at approximately 3:45 p.m.

#

EPA to oversee additional soil removal at

St. Regis Paper site

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA118

CHICAGO (Aug. 26, 2004) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 will oversee work by International Paper Co. on additional removal of dioxin-contaminated soil at the St. Regis Paper Co. Superfund site in Cass Lake, Minn. Work starts Monday, Aug. 30.

EPA estimates that it will take about one week to remove about 500 tons of soil from the site on the west side of Norway Street. Soil samples from other parts of the site showed dioxin levels below EPA's action level of 1,000 parts per trillion. In late June, International Paper Co., under an EPA order, completed an initial removal of dioxin-contaminated soil from the site. Over a 10-day period, 2,386 tons of soil were removed in 94 loads and sent to the Onyx FCR Landfill in Buffalo, Minn.

In a related action, International Paper has agreed to perform work at the site under a unilateral administrative order issued by EPA on Aug. 11. The order calls for the company to collect soil, sediment, water, plant samples and fish and invertebrate tissue samples. The work will begin in September and continue through the fall.

This new sampling is being done to determine whether remaining contamination poses an unacceptable long-term risk to nearby residents or the environment. Results of the investigation will be presented at a public meeting in Cass Lake, probably in late winter.

The St. Regis site was a wood treatment facility that operated from about 1958 until 1985. Some pollution was removed by then-owner Champion Paper Co. under the authority of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency from 1986 to 1988. International Paper, the current owner, continues to maintain a ground-water treatment facility on the site.

Later reviews of the St. Regis cleanup work concluded that additional sampling and a risk assessment were needed. Sampling was conducted in 2001 by EPA and in 2003 by International Paper. Soil removal by International Paper, based on dioxin contamination identified in the sampling, is ongoing at the site.

Technical documents and other information about the site are on file at the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Division of Resource Management, 6350 Highway 2 N.W., Cass Lake; the Cass Lake City Clerk's office, 332 Second St. N.W., Cass Lake; Bemidji State University Library, 1500 Birchmont St. N.W., Bemidji; and Leech Lake Tribal College, 203 Second St., Cass Lake. Information about the site is available at www.epa.gov/region5/sites/stregis.

###

Grant award helps students monitor Upper

Peninsula Superfund Site

CONTACT:

Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050

Dave Novak, (312) 353-747

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA119

CHICAGO (September 1, 2004) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Region 5 has awarded a \$32,350 grant to Michigan Technological University in Houghton, Mich., to continue support of a unique Superfund program involving five Upper Peninsula high schools.

Students from Calumet, Chassell, Dollar Bay, Hancock and Lake Linden-Hubbell high schools are performing long-term monitoring of bird and plant diversity and soil fertility on the Torch Lake Superfund site in the UP's Keewenaw Peninsula.

Coordinated by MTU's Western Upper Peninsula Center for Science, Math and Environmental Education, the students' monitoring assists EPA's efforts in charting the progress of the vegetation cap and habitat reconstruction done under the Agency's Superfund program. The monitoring is believed to be the first time EPA has used students to collect the follow-up scientific data required after a Superfund cleanup is completed.

"EPA is pleased to be helping the scientific education of these high school students," said Acting Regional Administrator Bharat Mathur. "Hopefully some of the young people will consider careers in environmental science."

Funding for the initial year of the students' work was provided locally, but EPA is now paying for the remaining term of the agreement. Grant funds will be used for personnel costs as well as supplies needed for the monitoring. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is also coordinating with EPA and MTU on the project.

The Torch Lake site was placed on the National Priorities List of Superfund sites in 1986 due strictly to ecological and environmental concerns. In most cases, a human health threat must also be shown before a site is placed on the NPL.

More than 200 million tons of copper waste (stamp sands and slag) from 70 years of mining have been dumped in Torch Lake. As a result, erosion was rampant, vegetation scarce, and the aquatic ecosystem severely damaged.

Under EPA's cleanup plan, several inches of sandy loam were laid over polluted sections and then seeded. Since 1999, about 700 acres at 11 Houghton County sites have been cleaned up, with another 100 acres to complete.

During 2002, the first year of monitoring, plant regrowth and repopulation by birds and small animals were documented by scientific experts. In early 2003, EPA began training area high school teachers who now teach their students to do the monitoring as part of the class curriculum. The students take soil samples, identify and count birds, and lay out grids on the ground to survey plant growth. The collected data is then analyzed by EPA to determine if the cleanup is working. The Agency has been pleased with the results so far. Vegetation is once again growing on the formerly barren stamp sands, and birds and small mammals are moving back to the area.

#

EPA announces public comment period
for Cloquet Power Station permits

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA122

CHICAGO (Aug. 30, 2004) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 will take public comments until Sept. 30 on proposed federal air quality construction and operating permits for the Great Lakes Gas Cloquet natural-gas-fired compressor station on the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indian Reservation near Cloquet, Minn.

The Cloquet station occupies about 20 acres approximately 17 miles west of the city of Cloquet in St. Louis County. The facility consists of three stationary natural-gas-fired turbines that drive three natural gas compressors. In addition, one natural-gas-fired standby electrical generator provides electrical power for critical operations during temporary power outages and during peak loading.

Great Lakes Gas operates nearly 2,000 miles of underground pipeline that transports natural gas to customers in the midwestern and northeastern United States and Canada. The pipeline has 14 compressor stations five of them in Minnesota to keep natural gas moving through the system.

EPA is responsible for issuing and enforcing air quality permits for the plant until the tribe or the state has EPA approval to issue and enforce them. The plant is located in an area that meets all health-based outdoor air quality standards.

Interested persons may send written comments on the proposed permits, requests for a public hearing and requests to receive notices of any future actions to Steve Rothblatt, Director, Air and Radiation Division (A-18J), EPA Region 5, 77 W. Jackson Blvd., 18th floor, Chicago, IL., 60604 or fax them to (312) 886-5824.

The administrative record is available for public review during normal business hours at the Cloquet Public Library, 320 14th St., Cloquet; and at EPA's Chicago address. Comments will be available at those sites after the comment period ends. The proposed permits are at www.epa.gov/region5/air/permits/const/r5permits.htm.

###

EPA grant to fund Minnesota Department
of Health asthma project

CONTACT:

Phillippa Cannon, (312) 353-6218

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA124

CHICAGO (Sep. 10, 2004) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has awarded a \$48,795, two-year grant to the Minnesota Department of Health for a project to improve the lives of children with asthma.

Certified asthma educators will work with up to 60 Minneapolis/St. Paul families to assess and minimize or eliminate five common indoor asthma triggers in homes, including second-hand smoke, dust mites, cockroaches, mold and animal dander.

Minnesota Department of Health is partnering with federal, state and local agencies to address environmental factors in family homes with simple, inexpensive interventions such as using HEPA vacuum cleaner bags, room air cleaners and dehumidifiers.

Life quality surveys with children and parents will track emergency room visits, missed school days and hospitalizations before and after the interventions.

The project seeks to demonstrate to health insurance plans the value of home intervention not only to a child with asthma, but in long-term cost savings as well.

It is one of about a dozen EPA-funded projects on the connection between the environment and childhood asthma. The projects are part of a larger EPA effort to reduce the environmental triggers of childhood asthma. In addition to funding these projects, EPA has been conducting public awareness campaigns and working with other federal, state and local agencies to report and forecast conditions for ozone and particle pollution through the Air Quality Index.

#

EPA names Eagan and Waseca, Minn.,
wastewater treatment plants among best-
operated in region

CONTACT:

Phillippa Cannon, (312) 353-6218

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA125

CHICAGO (Sep. 10, 2004) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5
has named two Minnesota wastewater treatment plants among the best-
operated in the six-state region for 2004. The Seneca plant in Eagan and the
Waseca facility are two of ten plants to receive EPA Regional Operation and
Maintenance Awards this year.

The Eagan plant was recognized as the second best in the "large, advanced
treatment" category. It serves about 240,000 people in the southern part of the
Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area and discharges to the Minnesota River. It
is operated by Metropolitan Council Environmental Services (MCES), the
primary wastewater collection and treatment authority in the Twin Cities area.
The Eagan plant is supervised by David Gardner, Southwest Business Unit
manager for MCES. EPA will present the award at 10 a.m. on Thursday, Sept.
16 at the Seneca facility, 3750 Plant Road, Eagan.

The Waseca plant was recognized as the best in the "medium, advanced
treatment" category. It serves about 9,600 people, including a federal prison,
and discharges to the LeSueur River. The facility is managed by Carl C.
Sonnenberg, director of utilities. EPA will present the award at 11 a.m. on
Wednesday, Sept. 15 at City Hall, 508 S. State St., Waseca.

#

EPA awards \$36,786 in environmental education grants to four Illinois organizations

CONTACT:

Phillippa Cannon, (312) 353-6218

Megan Gavin, (312) 353-5282

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA126

CHICAGO (Sep. 22, 2004) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 recently awarded \$36,786 in grants to four Illinois organizations proposing innovative environmental education programs.

Receiving federal funds are BOLD, Chicago; Lewis and Clark Community College, Godfrey; St. Charles Park District; and Lake Michigan Federation, Chicago. The recipients were among 19 organizations in the six-state region splitting \$194,900 in grant money this year. More than 80 proposals were received from groups in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin.

"EPA is pleased to support the fine work of organizations that develop awareness and respect for the environment," said EPA Acting Regional Administrator Bharat Mathur.

The grants are awarded yearly under the National Environmental Education Act, which was passed in 1990 to stimulate environmental education by supporting design, demonstration and communication projects conceived by local organizations.

EPA has issued a request for proposals for the 2005 environmental education grants. Applications must be postmarked by November 15, 2004. The solicitation notice is available on EPA's web site at www.epa.gov/enviroed/grants.html.

###

EPA awards \$28,570 in environmental education grants to four Indiana organizations

CONTACT:

Phillippa Cannon, (312) 353-6218

Megan Gavin, (312) 353-5282

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA127

CHICAGO (Sep. 22, 2004) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 recently awarded \$28,570 in grants to four Indiana organizations proposing innovative environmental education programs.

Receiving federal funds are the Campfire Heartland Council, Indianapolis; Indiana Dunes Environmental Learning Center, Porter; Marion County Health Department, Indianapolis; and Allen County Soil and Water Conservation District, Fort Wayne. The recipients were among 19 organizations in the six-state region splitting \$194,900 in grant money this year. More than 80 proposals were received from groups in the Region 5 states of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin.

"EPA is pleased to support the fine work of organizations that develop awareness and respect for the environment in our young people," said EPA Acting Regional Administrator Bharat Mathur.

The grants are awarded yearly under the National Environmental Education Act, which was passed in 1990 to stimulate environmental education by supporting design, demonstration and communication projects conceived by local organizations.

EPA has issued a request for proposals for the 2005 environmental education grants. Applications must be postmarked by November 15, 2004. The solicitation notice is available on EPA's web site at www.epa.gov/enviroed/grants.html.

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Media Advisory: EPA Administrator Leavitt
to hold press event in Cassopolis, Mich.,
tomorrow

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA128

CHICAGO (Sept. 15, 2004)

WHAT:U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Mike Leavitt will
hold a press conference tomorrow to announce his decision on the air quality
classification for Cass County, Mich.

WHO:EPA Administrator Mike Leavitt, Cass County Commissioner Ron Francis
and other local officials.

WHEN:Thursday, Sept. 16, 12:30 p.m. EDT.

WHERE:Cass County Building, 120 N. Broadway, Ste. 217, Cassopolis.

More information on ozone designations is atwww.epa.gov/ozonedesignations/.

###

Media Advisory: EPA Administrator Leavitt
to hold press event in Muskegon, Mich.,
tomorrow

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA129

CHICAGO (Sept. 15, 2004)

WHAT: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Mike Leavitt will
hold a press conference tomorrow to announce his decision on the air quality
classification for Muskegon County, Mich.

WHO: EPA Administrator Mike Leavitt, Rep. Pete Hoekstra and local officials.

WHEN: Thursday, Sept. 16, 3:30 p.m. EDT.

WHERE: Muskegon County Courthouse, 990 Terrace St., County
Commissioners Board Room, 4th floor, Muskegon.

More information on ozone designations is at www.epa.gov/ozonedesignations/.

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EPA changes smog classification for Cass

County, Michigan

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA130

CHICAGO (Sept. 16, 2004) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Mike Leavitt announced today that he has approved the ozone nonattainment area reclassification of Cass County, Mich., from moderate to the next lower classification—marginal. The announcement was made in Cassopolis, the county seat.

"Our action is guided in part by recognition that the air quality in your communities is greatly influenced by pollution blowing across Lake Michigan," said Administrator Leavitt. "We will work with upwind communities to clean the air for everyone's benefit."

Leavitt said the change means the area is expected to achieve cleaner air sooner. While moderate areas must attain the national air quality standard for 8-hour ozone by June 2010, marginal areas must meet the standard by June 2007. Today's action is approval of a state request to reclassify Cass County. High air pollution levels in Cass County are largely the result of emissions from upwind areas in Illinois and Indiana. A marginal nonattainment classification will provide the county with the necessary flexibility to address the transport problem without implementing control programs that fail to target the true causes of the problem. The marginal classification will also allow the county to establish controls that are consistent with neighboring areas in southwest Michigan and northwest Indiana while enabling Cass County to achieve its clean air goals earlier. EPA approved the request under a Clean Air Act provision that allows reclassification of nonattainment areas if they are within 5 percent of a lower nonattainment classification. The change also means that the areas will have greater flexibility to select control measures that will be most effective in reducing ozone levels in their respective areas. While the action requires early attainment, areas will be subject to fewer mandatory emission reduction programs.

More information on ozone designations is at www.epa.gov/ozonedesignations/.

###

EPA changes smog classification for
LaPorte County, Indiana

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA131

CHICAGO (Sept. 16, 2004) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Administrator Mike Leavitt announced today that he has approved the ozone
nonattainment reclassification of LaPorte County, Ind., from moderate to the
next lower classification--marginal.

"Our action is guided in part by recognition that the air quality in your
communities is greatly influenced by pollution blowing across Lake Michigan,"
said Administrator Leavitt. "We will work with upwind communities to clean the
air for everyone's benefit."

Leavitt said the change means the area is expected to achieve cleaner air
sooner. While moderate areas must attain the national air quality standard for 8-
hour ozone by June 2010, marginal areas must meet the standard by June 2007.
Today's action is approval of a state request to reclassify LaPorte County. High
air pollution levels in the county are largely the result of emissions from upwind
areas in Indiana and Illinois. A marginal nonattainment classification will provide
the county with the necessary flexibility to address the transport problem without
implementing control programs that fail to target the true causes of the pollution
and will enable the area to achieve its clean air goals earlier.

EPA approved the request under a Clean Air Act provision that allows
reclassification of nonattainment areas if they are within 5 percent of a lower
nonattainment classification. The change also means that the areas will have
greater flexibility to select control measures that will be most effective in
reducing ozone levels in their respective areas. While the action requires early
attainment, areas will be subject to fewer mandatory emission reduction
programs.

More information on ozone designations is at www.epa.gov/ozonedesignations/

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EPA changes smog classification for
Muskegon county, Michigan

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA132

CHICAGO (Sept. 16, 2004) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Administrator Mike Leavitt announced today in Muskegon, Mich., that he has
approved the ozone nonattainment area reclassification of Muskegon County
from moderate to the next lower classification--marginal.

"Our action is guided in part by recognition that the air quality in your
communities is greatly influenced by pollution blowing across Lake Michigan,"
said Administrator Leavitt. "We will work with upwind communities to clean the
air for everyone's benefit."

Leavitt said the change means the area is expected to achieve cleaner air
sooner. While moderate areas must attain the national air quality standard for 8-
hour ozone by June 2010, marginal areas must meet the standard by June 2007.
Today's action is approval of a state request to reclassify Muskegon County.
High air pollution levels in Muskegon and other areas in western Michigan are
largely the result of emissions from upwind areas in Illinois, Indiana and
Wisconsin.

A marginal nonattainment classification will provide the area with the necessary
flexibility to address the transport problem without implementing control
programs that fail to target the causes of the problem. The classification will
establish controls in the area that are consistent with neighboring sections in
western Michigan.

EPA approved the request under a Clean Air Act provision that allows
reclassification of nonattainment areas if they are within 5 percent of a lower
nonattainment classification. The change also means that the areas will have
greater flexibility to select control measures that will be most effective in
reducing ozone levels in their respective areas. While the action requires early
attainment, areas will be subject to fewer mandatory emission reduction
programs.

More information on ozone designations is at www.epa.gov/ozonedesignations/
#

EPA changes smog classification for

Detroit

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA133

CHICAGO (Sept. 16, 2004) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Administrator Mike Leavitt announced today that he has approved the ozone nonattainment reclassification of the Detroit area from moderate to the next lower classification--marginal. This request has been approved because the Detroit area has shown it can achieve clean-air standards three years earlier than required under the new, more protective health-based air quality standard for ground-level ozone.

"This action recognizes the hard work of local and state leaders and their renewed pledge to employ innovative local emission control programs to ensure our clean-air milestones are met," said Administrator Leavitt.

While moderate areas must attain the national air quality standard for 8-hour ozone by June 2010, marginal areas must meet the standard by June 2007. As a result of this action, a motor vehicle inspection program will not be mandatory for now, but could be implemented at the state's discretion if progress toward the clean-air goal isn't fast enough.

The action is approval of a state request to reclassify the eight-county nonattainment area in southeast Michigan. The eight counties affected are Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Livingston, Lenawee, Monroe, St. Clair and Washtenaw.

EPA's decision was based on a demonstration that the area will be able to implement emission controls to attain the health-based ozone standard by 2007. The state has committed to engaging the public over the next several months to consider the range of available emission controls and selected measures to be implemented in order to reach attainment of the standard. Emission controls will be phased in starting in 2006.

EPA approved the request under a Clean Air Act provision that allows reclassification of nonattainment areas if they are within 5 percent of a lower nonattainment classification. The change also means that the areas will have greater flexibility to select control measures that will be most effective in reducing ozone levels in their respective areas. While the action requires early attainment, areas will be subject to fewer mandatory emission reduction programs, such as motor vehicle emissions testing.

#

EPA reaches agreement with Aquascape Designs; includes \$36,650 fine and sale stoppage

CONTACT:

Karen Thompson, (312) 353-8547

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA134

CHICAGO (Sept. 16, 2004) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 recently reached agreement with Aquascape Designs Inc., Batavia, Ill. Under the agreement, the company will pay a \$36,650 penalty for illegally selling and distributing seven unregistered pesticides.

The products, ADI S.A.B., ADI EcoBlast, Ecosystems Barley Pellets, Pond Balance, NP EcoBalance, NP EcoBalance Plus with Barley and ADI AquaClearer Bacteria made claims of algae control in ponds and water features but were not registered with EPA as required.

In June, EPA also ordered Aquascape Designs to stop selling, distributing or using the unregistered products S.A.B., AquaClearer, Supercharged AquaClearer and Barley Mats.

According to Karl Bremer, chief of Region 5's pesticides and toxics branch, "Consumers should make sure that any product with pesticidal claims is registered with EPA. Only then can they be certain that the product will not cause adverse effects on the environment or people."

EPA registers all pesticides and pesticide products under the federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act. Except for certain limited exemptions, no pesticide may be legally sold or used in the United States unless its label has an EPA registration number. It is also unlawful to use any registered pesticides in a manner other than that indicated on the product label.

###

EPA Cites J & J Cores for clean-air violations

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA135

CHICAGO (Sept. 20, 2004) U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has cited J & J Cores for alleged clean-air violations at the company's aluminum recovery plant at 22375 Oxford Township Road 105, Newcomerstown, Ohio.

EPA alleges that J & J Cores failed to comply with federal monitoring, recordkeeping, reporting and operating requirements for its sweat furnace.

These are preliminary findings of violations. To resolve them, 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 meet with EPA to discuss resolving the allegations.

"EPA's mission is to protect public health and the environment," said Acting Regional Administrator Bharat Mathur. "We will take whatever steps are needed to ensure compliance with the Clean Air Act."

#

EPA cites J. L. French for clean-air violations

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA136

CHICAGO (Sept. 20, 2004) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has cited J. L. French Corp. for alleged clean-air violations at the company's aluminum recovery plant at 4243 Gateway Drive, Sheboygan, Wis.

EPA alleges that J. L. French released more dioxins and furans than is allowed by federal regulations. In addition, EPA said the company failed to submit timely and accurate notification of its compliance status.

These are preliminary findings of violations. To resolve them, 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 meet with EPA to discuss resolving the allegations.

"EPA's mission is to protect public health and the environment," said Acting Regional Administrator Bharat Mathur. "We will take whatever steps are needed to ensure compliance with the Clean Air Act."

There is evidence that dioxins may cause liver damage and probably cause cancer in humans, and furans may cause cancer in humans.

###

EPA settles with Gas City for hazardous chemical reporting violations at 30 Illinois gas stations

CONTACT:

Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050

James Entzminger, (312) 886-4062

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA137

CHICAGO (Sept. 20, 2004) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 today announced a \$45,000 settlement with Gas City Ltd., headquartered in Frankfort, Ill., to address the company's failure to comply with hazardous chemical reporting requirements for 30 gas stations in Illinois.

EPA's enforcement action alleged that Gas City failed to disclose storage of more than 10,000 pounds of kerosene at each location. The concern originated with the Will County local emergency planning commission, which had requested that Gas City submit required chemical inventory forms for 15 gas stations in Will County for the years 2000 through 2002. The settlement resolves the company's violations at all 30 facilities.

The settlement covers facilities located in Alsip, Chicago, Evergreen Park, Frankfort, Joliet, Lansing, Lockport, Manteno, Mokena, Monee, Naperville, New Lenox, Orland Hills, Oswego, Palos Park, Posen, Riverdale, Romeoville, Schaumburg, Shorewood, Tinley Park, Warrenville and Willow Springs.

The Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act of 1986 requires facilities that store hazardous chemicals above certain quantities to provide annual notification to the state emergency response commission, the local emergency planning committee and the local fire department.

#

EPA awards \$32,256 in environmental education grants to three Michigan organizations

CONTACT:

Phillippa Cannon, (312) 353-6218

Megan Gavin, (312) 353-5282

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA139

CHICAGO (Sep. 22, 2004) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 recently awarded \$32,256 in grants to three Michigan organizations proposing innovative environmental education programs.

Receiving federal funds are Calhoun County Soil and Water District, Marshall; Copper Country Intermediate School District, Hancock; and Hiawatha Interpretive Association, Munising. The recipients were among 19 organizations in the six-state region splitting \$194,900 in grant money this year. More than 80 proposals were received from groups in the Region 5 states of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin.

"EPA is pleased to support the fine work of organizations that develop awareness and respect for the environment," said EPA Acting Regional Administrator Bharat Mathur.

The grants are awarded yearly under the National Environmental Education Act, which was passed in 1990 to stimulate environmental education by supporting design, demonstration and communication projects conceived by local organizations.

EPA has issued a request for proposals for the 2005 environmental education grants. Applications must be postmarked by November 15, 2004. The solicitation notice is available on EPA's web site at www.epa.gov/enviroed/grants.html.

MICHIGAN

- \$5,000 to Calhoun County Soil and Water District (13464 Preston Drive, Marshall), a Stream Ecology Workshop will be held for teachers in Albion and Battle Creek school districts. The workshop will provide teachers with knowledge, experience and tools enabling them to instruct their students on stream ecology concepts, surrounding land-use and water quality issues and watershed science. As a result, students will develop critical thinking skills to investigate the water quality issues in their watershed and develop a community service project to improve water quality while raising community awareness.

- \$24,756 to Copper Country Intermediate School District (809 Hecla St., Hancock), the project, Developing Environmentally Informed Scientists, Educators and Stewards for the Future will recruit and train Michigan Tech University students in two programs: an after-school environmental science class and a forest and pond ecology field trip. Approximately 600 K-8 students will be reached through the science class while 2,500 will be reached through the field trips.

- \$2,500 to Hiawatha Interpretive Association (400 E. Munising Ave., Munising), a raptor education program will be delivered to 200 5,6 and 7th grade students at a middle school in Munising. Increased knowledge of the effects of pollution, hunting, development and deforestation will enable students to make informed decisions about their own behavior when interacting with wildlife species and their habitats.

###

EPA Reaches agreement with Superior
Aluminum Alloys

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA140

CHICAGO (Sept. 21, 2004) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has reached an agreement with Superior Aluminum Alloys LLC on alleged violations of hazardous air pollutant regulations at the company's secondary aluminum production plant at 14214 Edgerton Road, New Haven, Ind. EPA assessed a \$65,000 penalty, and the company agreed to complete a \$34,000 environmental project.

"Superior has agreed to install equipment that will cut ozone-forming nitrogen oxide emissions from one of its furnaces by as much as 50 percent," said Acting Regional Administrator Bharat Mathur. "We're pleased because this project does more than the law requires."

The agreement resolves an EPA administrative complaint filed in December 2003 alleging that Superior released almost three times more dioxins and furans from its thermal chip dryer than are allowed.

There is evidence that dioxins may cause liver damage and probably cause cancer in humans, and furans may cause cancer in humans.

Nitrogen oxides contribute to the formation of ground-level ozone, or 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 and wheezing, shortness of breath and chest pain. People with asthma, children and the elderly are especially at risk, but these health concerns are important to everyone.

###

EPA awards \$23,000 in environmental education grants to two Minnesota organizations

CONTACT:

Phillippa Cannon, (312) 353-6218

Megan Gavin, (312) 353-5282

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA141

CHICAGO (Sep. 22, 2004) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 recently awarded \$23,000 in grants to two Minnesota organizations proposing innovative environmental education programs.

Receiving federal funds are the Initiative Foundation, Little Falls; and the Minnesota State Horticultural Society, Falcon Heights. The recipients were among 19 organizations in the six-state region splitting \$194,900 in grant money this year. More than 80 proposals were received from groups in the Region 5 states of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin.

"EPA is pleased to support the fine work of organizations that develop awareness and respect for the environment," said EPA Acting Regional Administrator Bharat Mathur.

The grants are awarded yearly under the National Environmental Education Act, which was passed in 1990 to stimulate environmental education by supporting design, demonstration and communication projects conceived by local organizations.

EPA has issued a request for proposals for the 2005 environmental education grants. Applications must be postmarked by November 15, 2004. The solicitation notice is available on EPA's web site at www.epa.gov/enviroed/grants.html.

MINNESOTA

- \$10,000 to Initiative Foundation(405 First St. S.E., Little Falls), to expand the Healthy Lakes and Rivers Partnership program model to new communities throughout the region. The program is designed to build the capacity of citizen leaders and local government officials in order to develop strategic water management plans and help the public make informed decisions regarding the natural environment around them. The goals of the program include: providing opportunities for shoreline property owners to network, work cooperatively, learn from one another and work towards healthier waters in Minnesota.

- \$13,000 to Minnesota State Horticultural Society (1755 Prior Ave. N., Falcon Heights), to offer the Healthy Soil, Healthy Food Healthy Me! program. The program is designed to teach kids that their health is dependent upon the health of our environment and upon the educated choices they make about our land and our food. Healthy Soil will cover soil, worms and composting while Healthy Food will cover beneficial insects and the important role insects play in pollination and planting seeds for food crops. The program will be disseminated through classes and demonstrations as well as articles in the Northern Gardener magazine.

#

MEDIA ADVISORY: EPA To brief news media on its acid rain progress report released today

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA142

CHICAGO (Sept. 22, 2004)

MEDIA ADVISORY: EPA To brief news media on its acid rain progress report released today

WHAT: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 will brief news media on the 2003 Acid Rain Progress Report released today. Regional and national air quality specialists will be available to answer questions about the report. The report is at www.epa.gov/acidrainreport.

WHO: Region 5 Acting Administrator Bharat Mathur and staff. Brian McLean, Director of EPA's Office of Atmospheric Programs.

WHEN: Wednesday, Sept. 22, 1:10 p.m. CDT.

WHERE: Media representatives should call (866) 299-3188. The conference code is "3123532073."

Information on EPA's Acid Rain Program is at www.epa.gov/airmarkets/arp/.

###

EPA cites Trialco for clean-air violations

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA143

CHICAGO (Sept. 23, 2004) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has cited Trialco Inc. for alleged clean-air violations at the company's aluminum-recovery plant at 900 E. 14th St., Chicago Heights, Ill.

EPA alleges Trialco failed to comply with testing, operating, monitoring, notification, recordkeeping and reporting requirements of the Clean Air Act.

These are preliminary findings of violations. To resolve them, 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 meet with EPA to discuss resolving the allegations.

"EPA's mission is to protect public health and the environment," said Acting Regional Administrator Bharat Mathur. "We will take whatever steps are needed to ensure compliance with the Clean Air Act."

#

EPA cites Cognis for clean-air violations

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA144

CHICAGO (Sept. 23, 2004) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has cited Cognis Corp. for alleged violations of EPA regulations to protect stratospheric ozone at the company's specialty chemical plant at 4900 Estes Ave., Cincinnati, Ohio.

EPA alleges Cognis failed to repair chillers that leaked excessive amounts of ozone-depleting chlorofluorocarbon refrigerants, or CFCs. In addition, EPA said the company violated testing, retrofitting and retirement planning requirements for the chillers.

These are preliminary findings of violations. To resolve them, EPA may issue a compliance order, assess an administrative penalty or bring suit against the company. Cognis has 30 days from receipt of the notice to meet with EPA to discuss resolving the allegations.

"EPA's mission is to protect public health and the environment," said Acting Regional Administrator Bharat Mathur. "We will take whatever steps are needed to ensure compliance with the Clean Air Act."

When CFC refrigerants deplete the stratospheric ozone layer, dangerous amounts of cancer-causing ultraviolet rays from the sun strike the earth. Production of some of these chemicals was stopped in 1995, and federal law strictly controls their use and handling.

#

EPA orders Perma-Fix to comply with hazardous air-pollutant standards

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA145

CHICAGO (Sept. 27, 2004) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has ordered Perma-Fix of Dayton Inc. to comply with national emission standards for hazardous air pollutants and to apply for a Clean Air Act operating permit for its waste and recovery operation at 300 S. W. End Ave., Dayton, Ohio. "We have concluded, after months of technical discussion with Perma-Fix and extensive emissions modeling, that the company is a major emitter of hazardous air pollutants," said Acting Regional Administrator Bharat Mathur.

The order requires Perma-Fix to capture and control emissions from certain process equipment and to monitor and report information about the operation of their processes and emissions.

EPA cited Perma-Fix in January for failing to comply with federal clean-air regulations when it built a biological wastewater treatment operation at its facility. Specifically, EPA alleged that the company violated national emission standards for hazardous air pollutants and failed to submit a timely and complete Clean Air Act Title 5 operating permit application for the facility.

EPA said Perma-Fix presently manages hazardous waste and processes industrial wastewater, coolants, solid waste and used oil.

###

EPA proposes Superfund National
Priorities List sites in Danville, Ill., and
Copley and Moraine, Ohio

CONTACT:

Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA146

CHICAGO (Sept. 23, 2004) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has proposed three new sites in the Great Lakes states for addition to the Superfund National Priorities List. Hegeler Zinc, Danville, Ill., and two sites in Ohio, Copley Square Plaza, Copley, and South Dayton Dump & Landfill, Moraine, were among 14 new proposed sites across the United States named in today's Federal Register.

The National Priorities List guides EPA in determining which sites warrant further Federal action. Since Superfund's inception, cleanup at about 70 percent of NPL sites has been paid for or performed by potentially responsible parties held responsible for the contamination. For the newly listed or proposed sites, EPA does not expect to need significant construction funds for several years, until thorough investigations of the sites are completed.

The Hegeler Zinc site is a former zinc smelter in Vermilion County, about three miles south of Danville, Ill. The site includes 5-acre slag waste pile contaminated with heavy metals such as lead, arsenic and beryllium. A 2001 Illinois EPA study of the area confirmed lead and cadmium-contaminated soil in some residential areas. EPA is also concerned about an unnamed creek that flows through the site into Grape Creek, which ultimately connects with the Vermilion River. In May 2002, EPA installed a 6-foot fence at the site to prevent public access.

The Copley Square Plaza site is in Summit County, Ohio. The former Danton Dry Cleaners, which operated from 1963 to 1994, has been identified as a source of contamination. Past investigations by Ohio EPA have confirmed ground-water contamination from dry-cleaning solvents including tetrachloroethylene, or PCE.

The South Dayton Dump & Landfill is a 33-acre site in Montgomery County that operated as a landfill from 1941 to 1996. Past operations at the now-closed landfill have resulted in soil and ground-water contamination, which poses a threat to an underground drinking water aquifer and the Greater Miami River, which runs along the west side of the property.

There are now 68 sites proposed for the list and awaiting final EPA action, and 1,244 final sites on the NPL, including 158 federal facilities. Cleanup construction has been completed at 910 sites. More information is at www.epa.gov/superfund/sites/npl/current.htm.

###

EPA awards \$39,288 in grants to three Wisconsin organizations for environmental education projects

CONTACT:

Phillippa Cannon, (312) 353-6218

Megan Gavin, (312) 353-5282

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA147

CHICAGO (Sept. 27, 2004) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 recently awarded \$39,288 in grants to three Wisconsin organizations proposing innovative environmental education programs.

Receiving federal funds are the Biodiversity Project, Madison; University of Wisconsin-Madison Arboretum; and the Center for Land Use Education at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. The recipients were among 19 organizations in the six-state region splitting \$194,000 in grant money this year. More than 80 proposals were received from groups in the Region 5 states of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin.

"EPA is pleased to support the fine work of organizations that develop awareness and respect for the environment," said EPA Acting Regional Administrator Bharat Mathur.

The grants are awarded yearly under the National Environmental Education Act, which was passed in 1990 to stimulate environmental education by supporting design, demonstration and communication projects conceived by local organizations.

EPA has issued a request for proposals for the 2005 environmental education grants. Applications must be postmarked by November 15, 2004. The solicitation notice is available on EPA's web site at www.epa.gov/enviroed/grants.html.

WISCONSIN

- \$10,000 to Biodiversity Project(214 N. Henry St., Suite 201, Madison), will host a two-day retreat style meeting of leading organizations and agencies engaged in environmental education related to the Great Lakes. The retreat will share lessons learned in public education strategies from a pilot campaign in Wisconsin. Participants will collaborate on planning an expanded regional Great Lakes public education campaign and build partnerships to implement the campaign.

- \$24,288 to University of Wisconsin-Madison Arboretum (1207 Seminole Highway, Madison), plans to help students learn science inquiry (how to think and act like a scientist) by providing in-class support to K-12 teachers while engaging their students in inquiry related to ecological restoration on school grounds. The cornerstone of the program is a two-week multi-disciplinary summer institute where teams of teachers learn the process of ecological restoration and how to teach this to their students through hands-on activities.

- \$5,000 to Center for Land-Use Education at the University of Wisconsin- Stevens Point (800 Reserve St., Stevens Point), an online course for master's degree students in land-use environmental education will introduce current and aspiring educators to the concepts, issues, ideas, and available resources related to land use and have them adapt and create activities and lessons for specific land-use topics.

###

MEDIA ADVISORY: EPA Administrator Leavitt in Alpena, Mich., to gather information on Great Lakes issues and restoration

CONTACT:

Jeff Kelley, (312) 353-1159, (224) 420-0357 (cell)
Alex Rossman, (517) 316-2278 (The Nature Conservancy)
For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA148

CHICAGO (Sept. 23, 2004) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Mike Leavitt will be in Alpena, Mich., on Monday, Sept. 27, visiting The Nature Conservancy's Misery Bay site. This spring, he was asked to lead a task force to coordinate local, state and federal efforts to clean up the lakes. He has been touring the region to learn more about issues affecting the lakes.

3 p.m. Hiking tour of Misery Bay site

The tour will include the Lake Huron shoreline and also the property's wooded areas and marshes, which provide habitat for a number of bird species and plants. The trip will last about an hour. Administrator Leavitt will be accompanied by representatives of The Nature Conservancy and state and local officials.

Reporters and photographers are invited to accompany Administrator Leavitt on the hike. Outdoor clothing and footwear is recommended.

Getting to the site (from Alpena)

1. Head east onto N 2nd Ave.
2. Turn right onto E Lake St. (0.08 miles)
3. Turn left onto Ford Ave. (0.56 miles)
4. Turn right to stay on Ford Ave. (1.52 miles)
5. Ford Ave. becomes Misery Bay Rd. (3.44 miles)
6. Location is towards the end of Misery Bay Rd. Look for the white The Nature Conservancy truck that will be parked at the entrance.

###

Detroit River's "Black Lagoon" to be first
Great Lakes Legacy Act cleanup

CONTACT:

EPA - Phillippa Cannon, (312) 353-6218

MDEQ - Pat Spitzley, (517) 241-7397

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA151

Trenton, Mich. (Sept. 27, 2004) -- The Black Lagoon on the Detroit River in Trenton, Mich., will be the first contaminated sediment site to be cleaned up under the Great Lakes Legacy Act. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Mike Leavitt announced the joint project with Larry Arreguin of Governor Jennifer Granholm's Southeast Michigan office. Site preparation begins this week and the dredging will begin in mid-October. The project will be completed using \$4.2 million in Legacy Act funds and \$2.3 million from the Clean Michigan Initiative.

"Purging the Black Lagoon underscores our commitment to protecting the Great Lakes," Leavitt said. "Targeting this riverbed contamination means every drop of water flowing through here will be cleaner."

"The improved water quality of the Great Lakes and Michigan's lakes and streams continues to be a top priority for the Granholm Administration," said Michigan Dept. of Environmental Quality Director Steven E. Chester. "With 14 areas of concern within Michigan's borders alone, it is crucial that funding match our commitment to the restoration of these critical bodies of water."

Contaminated sediment in the lagoon is a source of pollution to the Detroit River and ultimately Lake Erie. EPA and MDEQ will remove approximately 90,000 cubic yards of sediment contaminated with mercury, PCBs, oil and grease, lead and zinc from the bottom of the lagoon. Mercury and PCBs are the leading causes of fish consumption advisories in the Great Lakes.

The cleanup is expected to be completed by mid-January. Once the sediment is removed, it will be disposed of in the Pointe Mouillee Confined Disposal Facility. The bottom of the lagoon will then be covered with sand and rock. The city of Trenton plans to redevelop the area including construction of a marina.

Congress passed and President Bush signed the Great Lakes Legacy Act in 2002. The Act authorizes \$270 million in funding over five years, beginning this year, to assist with the remediation of contaminated sediment in "areas of concern," toxic hot spots around the Great Lakes. The Black Lagoon was chosen as the first project to be funded because the type, amount and extent of the contaminants are well known and they are confined to one area making it possible to improve the environment quickly.

EPA and MDEQ received assistance with planning this cleanup from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the city of Trenton and the Greater Detroit American Heritage River Initiative.

The Detroit River is a 32-mile international connecting channel linking Lake St. Clair and the upper Great Lakes to Lake Erie. It has been identified as one of 42 areas of concern on the Great Lakes.

More information on this action, the Legacy Act and the Great Lakes is on EPA's Web site www.epa.gov/grtlakes.

#

EPA awards \$3.5 million to Indiana University to operate Great Lakes air monitoring network

CONTACT:

EPA - Phillippa Cannon, (312) 353-6218

IU - David Bricker, (812) 856-9035

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA152

CHICAGO (Sept. 29, 2004) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Great Lakes National Program Office has awarded \$3.5 million over five years to Indiana University in Bloomington and environmental scientists Ronald Hites and Ilora Basu to continue operating the U.S. portion of the Integrated Atmospheric Deposition Network (IADN), a U.S.- Canadian effort to monitor airborne pollutants in the Great Lakes.

The network is made up of 15 air monitoring stations around the Great Lakes in the United States and Canada. Air and precipitation samples are collected and analyzed by the university for pollutants such as polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) and DDT. Recently, the network has included dioxins and polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs) widely used as flame retardants among the pollutants monitored. The results are used to calculate the amount of these pollutants entering the Great Lakes.

Trends can be examined to measure the progress toward reducing pollution.

EPA is particularly concerned about persistent pollutants such as PCBs that stay in the lakes for a long time and build up in fish tissue. When people eat contaminated fish, the pollutants enter their bodies and can be harmful, especially to children and women of childbearing age. These bioaccumulative pollutants are the cause of fish consumption advisories for all of the Great Lakes.

Overall, not only can atmospheric monitoring tell if the air is getting cleaner, it can help improve understanding of how pollutants travel through the atmosphere.

Many of these pollutants can travel long distances in the air and end up far from their original sources. Air, water and precipitation samples are collected at five master sites and 10 satellite sites in the United States and Canada. Some of the sites are located in or near big cities such as Buffalo, Chicago, Detroit and Toronto. Last year a station was added in Cleveland. Other monitoring sites are in very remote areas such as the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Recent results from IADN monitoring have shown an "urban effect" where higher levels of PCBs are found near cities, but PCBs also have been recorded at Eagle Harbor on Lake Superior in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, a remote and seemingly pristine area. Even at low levels PCBs can be a significant source of pollution and affect the Great Lakes ecosystem.

For more information go to:

<http://www.epa.gov/grtlakes/glindicators/air/airb.html>

<http://www.epa.gov/waterscience/fish/>

<http://www.indiana.edu/~hiteslab/iadn/iadn.html>

<http://www.miles.ucs.indiana.edu/~iufot/news/page/normal/1614.html>

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MEDIA ADVISORY: Gladstone, Mich.,
cleanup completed; briefing at Bay De
Noc, Tues., Oct. 5, 11 a.m.

CONTACT:

Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA153

CHICAGO (Oct. 1, 2004) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has recently completed a \$1.8 million cleanup and containment of creosote contamination along the Little Bay de Noc shoreline in Gladstone, Mich.

A briefing on the project, including a walk-through of the new shoreline barrier and containment system, will be held at the site Tuesday, Oct. 5, at 11 a.m. EPA officials will be joined by Gladstone City Manager Brian Horst. Representatives from Michigan Department of Environmental Quality and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will also attend.

The site is across the street from the McDonald's at 2009 Lakeshore Drive.

#

EPA wraps up \$1.8 million Little Bay De

Noc, Gladstone, Mich., cleanup

CONTACT:

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

(Gladstone) Brian Horst, (906) 428-2311

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA154

Note to correspondents: Digital photos from the Little Bay de Noc cleanup are posted online at www.epa.gov/region5/news/news04/04opa154.htm (see below)

CHICAGO (Oct. 5, 2004) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has recently completed a \$1.8 million cleanup and containment of creosote contamination along the Little Bay de Noc shoreline in Gladstone, Mich.

The EPA-funded project began this past March. Michigan Department of Environmental Quality had requested EPA assistance after a resident reported an oily sheen on the bay. The cleanup was overseen by a Grosse Ile, Mich., Superfund emergency response team in consultation with MDEQ, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the city of Gladstone.

The project involved removal of about 4,900 tons of creosote-contaminated beach soil, on-site treatment of 1.3 million gallons of contaminated water and installation of a barrier-and-collection system to prevent the material from seeping into the bay, which is part of Lake Michigan.

EPA conducted extensive air monitoring during the cleanup to ensure hazardous emissions were not leaving the work area. Both Michigan Department of Community Health and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry found no air-related health concerns.

The tar-like material most likely came from the former MacGillis and Gibbs Co. property, northeast of the site, across Lakeshore Drive from the beach. The company operated from about 1943 to 1979. EPA believes that creosote from the company's wood-treating operations slowly moved, over a period of decades, from the MacGillis site under the road and then resurfaced on the beach. Today the former 45-acre industrial property has been subdivided into a number of parcels that include a gas station, a car wash, a restaurant and two condominium complexes.

Next steps: A partially-submerged, 275-foot steel barrier and a carbon-treatment filter system will remain in place at the shoreline. Operation and maintenance of the system has been turned over from EPA to MDEQ, which is now working on a cooperative agreement with the city to carry out the future maintenance work.

Creosote contamination has been identified at more than a dozen Superfund sites in the Great Lakes states. The material is typically derived from coal or wood tar, which can cause chemical burns, respiratory tract irritation, kidney or liver problems and, with long-term exposure, skin cancer. When dissolved in water, tar can also build up in plants and animals, affecting the food chain.

Site documents are available for review at the Gladstone School and Public Library, 3005 10th St. Residents with questions about the cleanup may call EPA community involvement coordinator Bob Paulson at (800) 621-8431, Ext. 60272 during business hours.

ATSDR ToxFAQs fact sheet for Creosote

Removal of creosote-contaminated soil. 5/7/04

larger image

Removal of Temporary Sheet

Wall, North Side of Trench.

8/31/2004

larger image

Installation of primary layer of

foam insulation complete.

9/16/04

larger image

Control shed, finishing gravel,
and rip-rap seawall visible.

Electricians complete control
shed connections. 9/18/2004

larger image

#

EPA cites Nufarm Americas for pesticide
export violations

CONTACT:

Karen Thompson, (312) 353-8547

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA155

CHICAGO (Oct. 1, 2004) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has filed an administrative complaint against Nufarm Americas Inc., Chicago Heights, Ill., for improperly exporting unregistered pesticide products. A \$33,000 penalty has been proposed.

In a six-count notice of violation, Nufarm, located at 220 East 17th St., was cited for exporting Atila 41% Herbicida-Fosfonico Glifosato, Marmina 6 D Herbicida Solucion Concentrada Acuosa, Marman 24-De 60 SL Marman Amina 6D and 2,4-D/Mecoprop Manufacturing Concentrate. The products were exported to Mexico, El Salvador and Canada.

In order to export pesticides unregistered in the United States, the exporter must, among other things, obtain a written acknowledgment that the purchaser understands the product is not registered and cannot be sold in the United States. Nufarm failed to do this. The violations were discovered during inspections in March, 2004.

EPA registers all pesticides and pesticide products under the federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act. Except for certain limited exemptions, no pesticide may be legally sold, distributed or exported from the United States unless its label has an EPA registration number.

Nufarm can request a hearing to discuss the charges.

###

EPA cites Von Roll for clean-air violations

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA156

CHICAGO (Oct. 4, 2004) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has filed an administrative complaint against Von Roll America Inc. for alleged clean-air violations at the company's commercial hazardous waste incinerator at 1250 St. George St., East Liverpool, Ohio. EPA has proposed a \$59,400 penalty.

EPA alleges Von Roll discharged more lead and cadmium from its incinerator than is allowed by the Clean Air Act during tests in December 2003 and in March 2004. The company has fixed the cause of the problem, and in an April 2004 test, emissions from the incinerator complied with the federal standard.

Von Roll 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 how to resolve the allegations.

Excessive exposure to lead may cause anemia, kidney disease, reproductive disorders, and neurological impairments such as seizures, mental retardation and behavioral disorders. Children and the unborn are especially susceptible to low doses of lead.

Exposure to cadmium may cause damage to the lungs, kidneys, liver, immune and nervous systems and the blood. Long-term inhalation of cadmium can increase the risk of lung cancer.

###

EPA cites BP Whiting refinery for clean-air violations

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA157

CHICAGO (Oct. 4, 2004) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has cited BP Products North America Inc. for alleged clean-air violations at the company's petroleum refinery at 2915 Indianapolis Blvd., Whiting, Ind.

EPA alleges that BP discharged more than twice as much lead and cadmium from its hazardous waste incinerator than is allowed by the Clean Air Act during a test in March 2004.

"EPA's mission is to protect public health and the environment," said Acting Regional Administrator Bharat Mathur. "We will take whatever steps are needed to ensure compliance with the Clean Air Act."

These are preliminary findings of violations. To resolve them, EPA may issue a compliance order, assess an administrative penalty or bring suit against the company. BP has 30 days from receipt of the notice to meet with EPA to discuss resolving the allegations.

Excessive exposure to lead may cause anemia, kidney disease, reproductive disorders, and neurological impairments such as seizures, mental retardation, and behavioral disorders. Children and the unborn are especially susceptible to low doses of lead.

Exposure to cadmium may cause damage to the lungs, kidneys, liver, immune and nervous systems and the blood. Long-term inhalation of cadmium can increase the risk of lung cancer.

#

EPA notifies Citation Corp. of clean-air violations

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA158

CHICAGO (Oct. 5, 2004) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has notified Citation Corp. of alleged clean-air violations at the company's aluminum recovery plant at 6378 U.S. Highway 6 West, Butler, Ind.

EPA alleges Citation violated federal regulations requiring planning, notification, testing and demonstration that its furnaces comply with emission limits for dioxins and furans.

"EPA's mission is to protect public health and the environment," said Acting Regional Administrator Bharat Mathur. "We will take whatever steps are needed to ensure compliance with the Clean Air Act."

These are preliminary findings of violations. To resolve them, 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 meet with EPA to discuss resolving the allegations.

#

EPA cites Allied Metal for clean-air violations

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA159

CHICAGO (Oct. 5, 2004) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has cited Allied Metal Co. for alleged clean-air violations at the company's aluminum recovery plant at 4528 W. Division St., Chicago, Ill.

EPA alleges Allied failed to comply with testing, monitoring, notification, recordkeeping, reporting and operating requirements of the Clean Air Act. EPA said the company submitted results of required tests for dioxins and furans more than 16 months late.

"EPA's mission is to protect public health and the environment," said Acting Regional Administrator Bharat Mathur. "We will take whatever steps are needed to ensure compliance with the Clean Air Act."

These are preliminary findings of violations. To resolve them, 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 meet with EPA to discuss resolving the allegations.

#

EPA reaches agreement with M.C.

Aluminum America

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA160

CHICAGO (Oct. 5, 2004) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has reached an agreement with M.C. Aluminum America Inc. on alleged clean-air violations at the company's aluminum recovery plant at 6875 S. Inwood Drive, Columbus, Ind. EPA assessed a \$90,000 penalty.

The agreement resolves an EPA finding in December 2003 alleging that M.C. Aluminum America had emitted more than five times the amount of dioxins and furans from one of its thermal chip dryers than is allowed by EPA regulations. EPA said tests done in May 2004 showed the dryer to be in compliance with the dioxin and furan emission limits.

There is evidence that dioxins may cause liver damage and probably cause cancer in humans, and furans may cause cancer in humans.

###

Media Advisory: EPA scientists share
environmental research with practical
applications

CONTACT:

Phillippa Cannon, (312) 353-6218

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA161

CHICAGO (Oct. 5, 2004) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency scientists will make presentations about several research projects that have applications outside the laboratory on Wednesday, Oct. 6, at EPA's regional office in Chicago, 77 W. Jackson Blvd., 12th floor, from 10 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. The presentations include "Using Today's Data to Close the Beach Today," a new tool to provide faster information about beach water contamination, and "Getting Mercury Out of Coal Combustion Gases," which is about new technologies for mercury removal from power plant flue gas. The full agenda is on EPA's Web site <http://epa.gov/region5/aboutr5/product-expo.htm>

#

EPA cites Aluminum Recovery
Technologies for clean-air violations

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA163

CHICAGO (Oct. 6, 2004) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has
filed an administrative complaint against Aluminum Recovery Technologies Inc.

for alleged clean-air violations at the company's aluminum recovery plant at
2170 Production Road, Kendallville, Ind. EPA proposed a \$150,000 penalty.

"We're alleging that ART released almost 18 times more dioxins and furans than
is allowed by federal regulations," said Acting Regional Administrator Bharat
Mathur. He said the excess emissions were discovered when tests were done in
April 2003.

ART made operational changes at the plant, and more testing was done in
November 2003. These tests showed compliance with dioxin and furan
regulations.

ART 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
how to resolve the allegations.

There is evidence that dioxins may cause liver damage and probably cause
cancer in humans, and furans may cause cancer in humans.

#

EPA cites B&B Metals for clean-air violations

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA164

CHICAGO (Oct. 6, 2004) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has cited B&B Metals for alleged clean-air violations at the company's aluminum recovery plant at 14520 Pioneer Road, Newton, Wis.

EPA alleges B&B Metals failed to comply with federal testing, notification, monitoring, reporting and recordkeeping requirements for its furnace. EPA said the company should have tested the furnace for dioxin and furan emissions.

"EPA's mission is to protect public health and the environment," said Acting Regional Administrator Bharat Mathur. "We will take whatever steps are needed to ensure compliance with the Clean Air Act."

These are preliminary findings of violations. To resolve them, 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 meet with EPA to discuss resolving the allegations.

#

EPA cites Cleveland Corp. for clean-air violations

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA165

CHICAGO (Oct. 6, 2004) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has cited Cleveland Corp. for alleged clean-air violations at the company's scrap and salvage facility at 42810 N. Greenbay Road, Zion, Ill.

EPA alleges that Cleveland Corp. failed to comply with federal testing, monitoring, notification, reporting, recordkeeping and operating requirements for its sweat furnace. EPA said the company should have tested its furnace for dioxin and furan emissions.

"EPA's mission is to protect public health and the environment," said Acting Regional Administrator Bharat Mathur. "We will take whatever steps are needed to ensure compliance with the Clean Air Act."

These are preliminary findings of violations. To resolve them, 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 meet with EPA to discuss resolving the allegations.

#

EPA cites GNW Aluminum for clean-air violations

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA166

CHICAGO (Oct. 18, 2004) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has cited GNW Aluminum for alleged clean-air violations at the company's aluminum recovery plant at 1356 Harrisburg Road, Alliance, Ohio.

EPA alleges GNW Aluminum failed to comply with federal operating, labeling, testing, notification, reporting and recordkeeping requirements for its smelting aluminum furnace. EPA said the company should have tested its furnace for dioxin and furan emissions.

"EPA's mission is to protect public health and the environment," said Acting Regional Administrator Bharat Mathur. "We will take whatever steps are needed to ensure compliance with the Clean Air Act."

These are preliminary findings of violations. To resolve them, 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 meet with EPA to discuss resolving the allegations.

#

State of the Lakes Ecosystem Conference

(SOLEC) Opens its Sixth Biennial Three-

Day Run

CONTACT:

SOLEC Conference Office, (416) 585-4980

U.S. EPA - Karen Thompson, (312) 353-8547

- Mike Basile, (716) 285-8842

Environment Canada - Jack Saunders, (416) 739-4785

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA167

TORONTO, Ontario (October 6, 2004) -- The complex, ever-changing Great Lakes ecosystem will be explored this week as U. S. and Canadian scientists and decision-makers from government, industry, environmental groups and academia meet at the Delta Chelsea Hotel in downtown Toronto for the sixth biennial State of the Lakes Ecosystem Conference. SOLEC runs from October 6-8, 2004.

Established in 1994 by Environment Canada and the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency, SOLEC reports on the state of the Great Lakes and on progress toward achieving the goal of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement: to restore and maintain the chemical, physical and biological integrity of the waters of the Great Lakes Basin ecosystem.

"Assessing the health of something as large and complex as the ecosystem of the Great Lakes Basin is a challenge," said Pradeep Khar,, Regional Director General of Environment Canada's Ontario Region. "Protecting the integrity of the Great Lakes Basin continues to be a top priority at every level of government in Canada and the U.S. The SOLEC indicators help us do this."

"The information shared and discussed at SOLEC is vital to making the right environmental management decisions for the Great Lakes," said Gary Gulezian, director of the U.S. Great Lakes National Program Office. "The success of this conference is a testimony to the priorities of our two great nations and to the thousands of individual Americans and Canadians who support this work."

The approximately 400 attendees at SOLEC 2004 will, for the first time, have the opportunity to preview information in the 2005 report prior to arriving in Toronto. This year's conference marks the introduction of nine groupings of the 81 Great Lakes indicators in relation to different issues: contamination; resource utilization; human health; land use and land cover; biotic communities; invasive species; coastal zones; aquatic habitats; and climate change.

Of these, reports will be presented on 57 of the indicators where there are data available for a report. This is up significantly from the 33 reports that were presented at SOLEC 2000 and the 43 reports presented at SOLEC 2002. These reports are used to assess the state of the Great Lakes now and into the future. Sessions scheduled over the three days will cover a wide range of topics on the Great Lakes as a whole and individually. The latest research reveals encouraging signs of improvement, as well as problems that could devastate the system for years. Some of the issues that will be explored include:

- Various mathematical models predict that climate change effects could affect the Great Lakes, possibly resulting in less water in the Lakes and Basin.
- Forests cover 27.8 million hectares, or about half (51 per cent) of the total land in the Great Lakes Basin. Total forest area appears to have increased across the Great Lakes Basin in recent decades, which should have positive effects on water quality and quantity.
- Lake sturgeon, which were abundant in the Great Lakes prior to European settlement, have seen their numbers severely depleted since the late 1800s due to overfishing and pollution. Lake Sturgeon have been absent or rare in waters where they once flourished, but are beginning to

be seen again. As tributaries become more cleaner, conditions become more favourable for its recovery.

- The value of coastal wetlands to the overall health of the Great Lakes is starting to be understood by scientists and managers, who have begun a series of programs to study and monitor them.

- Diporeia, or scud, a small, shrimp-like creature that lives near the bottom of the Great Lakes, is an important part of the food chain and is critical for the survival of many fish species. Its populations are in dramatic decline in most Great Lakes.

- As with many other areas in North America, some frog species, including the American toad, chorus frog, green frog and northern leopard frog are showing a decline in numbers in Great Lakes wetlands.

- Beach closures due to high bacteria counts continue to be a major issue throughout the basin. The number of beaches closed or posted against swimming has increased, but that is because of new monitoring programs and more sensitive procedures. The percentage of beaches posted or closed has not changed significantly since 2002, so the problem is not getting worse.

- Overall, the quality of our drinking water is good, thanks to current treatment technologies.

- Since the late 1970s, levels of historically regulated contaminants, such as PCB, DDT and mercury, have declined in most fish species monitored. We are watching for new contaminants like PBDE, a class of flame retardants.

The draft 2005 SOLEC report is available online at <http://www.SOLECRegistration.ca>.

###

EPA awards Great Cities grant to
Cleveland to assess lead hazards in
homes

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA168

CHICAGO (Oct. 13, 2004) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has kicked off its Great Cities Partnership Program in Cleveland by awarding the city a \$250,000 grant for its "Working Toward a Lead-Safe Cleveland" project that will focus on assessing lead hazards in homes to protect children's health. EPA's Acting Regional Administrator Bharat Mathur presented a \$250,000 check to Cleveland Mayor Jane Campbell today at the J. Glen Smith Health Center in the Glenville neighborhood.

"Glenville is one neighborhood where the city may use this grant to identify homes from which lead-based paint needs to be removed," Mathur said. He said once the homes are identified, the city has multiple options for addressing the problem.

October is national Children's Health Month, and this year's theme is "Protect Children Where They Live and Learn." Protecting the health of children from environmental risks is fundamental to EPA's mission. Lead poisoning may cause lowered intelligence, impaired language and hearing, hyperactivity, behavioral, and other adverse health problems for children. Some 434,000 children in the United States have elevated blood-lead levels.

The primary sources of lead exposure for most children are deteriorating lead-based paint and lead contaminated dust. The city of Cleveland, working in partnership with EPA and local community groups, has planned a project to reduce children's and families' exposure to lead in homes. Eliminating or reducing the risk for lead poisoning in homes is expected to result in reduced incidence of children with elevated blood-lead levels.

The Great Cities Partnership Program focuses on one major city in each of the six Region 5 states. The cities are Chicago, Cleveland, Detroit, Indianapolis, Milwaukee and Minneapolis.

The program is designed to help improve the quality of life, revitalize neighborhoods and communities, improve energy efficiency and restore the health of watersheds and ecosystems. EPA's goal is to achieve tangible environmental results in each of the six Great Cities in one year or less.

More information on EPA's program for protecting children from lead poisoning is at www.epa.gov/lead/.

###

Media Advisory: Federal funding
commitment announced for Great Lakes
Asian Carp barrier construction

CONTACT:

Phillippa Cannon, (312) 353-6218

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA169

CHICAGO (Oct. 13, 2004) — Representatives of the Great Lakes Federal Task Force, led by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Mike Leavitt, will be in Chicago on Wednesday, Oct. 13, to announce a federal funding commitment to construct the enhanced electric fish barrier in the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal. Large bighead and silver carp will be displayed.

When: 11a.m. C.D.T. Wednesday, Oct. 13.

Where: The far north end of Grant Park on the shore of the Chicago River. To get there, take Randolph Street all the way east to DuSable Harbor. Turn left just after passing under Lake Shore Drive and then veer left following the sign for "DuSable Harbor Parking." Park toward the far end of the parking lot, then walk a short distance east to the event location.

Who: EPA Administrator Mike Leavitt; U.S. Corps of Engineers Assistant Secretary John Paul Woodley; Illinois Department of Natural Resources Director Joel Brunsvold; Chicago Department of Environment Director Marcia Jiminez; and Ohio EPA Director Chris Jones for the Council of Great Lakes Governors.

#

EPA wraps up Griffith, Ind., Superfund
cleanup; open house 3 to 5 p.m., Wed. Oct.

20

CONTACT:

Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA170

CHICAGO (Oct. 13, 2004) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 recently completed its cleanup of the American Chemical Service Inc. Superfund site in Griffith, Ind.

An open house, including guided tours of the project by EPA and Indiana Department of Environmental Management officials, is scheduled for 3 to 5 p. m. , Wednesday, Oct. 20, at the Griffith Town Hall, 111 North Broad St. Shuttle buses will take people to the site beginning at 3 p.m.

The final phase of cleanup began in early 2001, with a projected end date of mid-2005. However, a recent inspection of the site by EPA and IDEM showed there is no need for additional work. ACS recycled chemicals from 1958 to 1975, when it stopped using two disposal areas on the property and covered them. These chemicals contaminated the ground water underneath the plant.

The cleanup marks the 920th cleanup construction completion of about 1,300 sites on the Superfund National Priority List.

For more information or special accommodations, contact EPA community involvement coordinator Janet Pope, (312) 353-0628.

###

EPA renews EDS permits

CONTACT:

Phillippa Cannon, (312) 353-6218

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA172

CHICAGO (Oct. 18, 2004) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has renewed underground injection control permits for two commercial hazardous waste injection wells owned by Environmental Disposal Systems Inc. in Romulus, Mich. The original permits were issued in April 1998 and expired in October 2003.

The permits allow EDS to dispose of liquid waste by injecting it into the two wells. The waste will include diluted acids, spent solvents and landfill drainage as well as a variety of nonhazardous materials. The average daily volume of waste injected will be approximately 240,000 gallons and the maximum injection pressure allowed will be 765 pounds per square inch.

New conditions in the permits include changes to the waste analysis plan, the injection rate and pressure, the plugging plan, and limitations on the injection of several kinds of hazardous waste. These conditions were added to reflect more precise information known about the wells after they were constructed and to make the permits consistent with the recently approved exemption to the federal ban on the land disposal of hazardous waste.

EPA reviewed and responded to 118 comments on the draft permits. In response to one of the comments, EPA requested additional computer modeling by EDS to consider that the layer of underground rock confining the waste thins significantly about 45 miles to the northeast of the wells. The additional modeling confirmed that the area of review is appropriate, that is, it is large enough that pressure beyond the area is too low to force injected waste up into sources of drinking water through any conduit, such as an old unplugged well. EDS was required to show that there were no known conduits within the area of review. Therefore, no changes to the permits were required.

The permits, a summary of responses to comments received, the index of the administrative record and other documents related to the EDS wells are available for review at the following libraries: Eshleman Library, Henry Ford Community College, 5101 Evergreen Road, Dearborn; Romulus Public Library, 11121 Wayne Road; and Taylor Community Library, 12303 Pardee Road. A more extensive record is available for review at EPA regional offices in Chicago. Any person who filed a comment on the draft permits or participated in the June 29 public hearing may petition the Environmental Appeals Board to review any condition of the final decisions.

To read the permits, other official documents and for more information about EPA's underground injection control program, visit EPA's Web site at www.epa.gov/r5water/uic/uic.htm

###

EPA reaches agreement with Ashland Inc.
on hazardous waste violations; includes
\$650,000 fine and cleanup order

CONTACT:

Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050

Karen Thompson, (312) 353-8547

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA174

CHICAGO (Oct. 20, 2004) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5
has reached agreement with Ashland Inc. on alleged past failure to carry out a
hazardous waste order at its 1800 Glenrose Ave. site in Lansing, Mich. A
\$650,000 penalty was levied and has been paid.

Ashland, which assumed liabilities of the former Ashland Chemical Inc., and
EPA resolved allegations of failure to properly implement an earlier EPA order to
pump ground water and to prevent release and migration of hazardous waste
from the facility into the environment, including the Grand River or the Saginaw
Formation.

The required ground-water collection system was meant to begin removing
contaminants, reduce or eliminate off-site flow of contaminants and provide
initial aquifer restoration. At times the system did not reach specified pumping
rates or did not pump at all. The violations have been corrected.

EPA and Ashland agreed that Ashland must, in addition to paying the civil
penalty, maintain proper ground-water pumping rates and provide EPA with bi-
monthly reports on ground water extracted.

Ashland has installed a new ground-water pumping system at the site. EPA and
Ashland continue to negotiate long-term corrective action to remove risks from
hazardous waste used in previous operations at the site.

#

EPA cites CSN for clean-air violations

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA175

CHICAGO (Oct. 21, 2004) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has cited Companhia Siderurgica Nacional LLC for alleged clean-air violations at the company's steel plant at 455 W. Industrial Dr., Terre Haute, Ind.

EPA alleges CSN emitted more hydrochloric acid from its steel pickle line than is allowed by federal regulations during a test done in March 2003. Newly processed stainless steel is pickled, or bathed in hydrochloric acid, to remove its outer layer and improve its corrosion resistance.

"EPA's mission is to protect public health and the environment," said Acting Regional Administrator Bharat Mathur. "We will take whatever steps are needed to ensure compliance with the Clean Air Act."

These are preliminary findings of violations. To resolve them, 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 meet with EPA to discuss resolving the allegations.

Hydrochloric acid is corrosive to the eyes, skin and mucous membranes.

Inhalation may cause coughing, hoarseness, inflammation and ulceration of the respiratory tract, and chest pain.

#

EPA to hold open house on cleanup of
former Koppers Wood-Treating site

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA176

CHICAGO (Oct. 21, 2004) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5
will hold an open house on the cleanup of the former Koppers Wood-Treating
Co. site from 5 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 27, at Thomas Elementary School,
1025 Wall St., Carbondale, Ill.

The former Koppers site, now owned by Beazer East Inc. of Pittsburgh, Pa., is at
1555 N. Marion St., in northeastern Carbondale. Cleanup work, which began last
spring at the site, includes projects to address contamination in nearby Glade
Creek and in soil to safely seal contamination and other waste left at the site.
Plans are being made to limit access to the site and for long-term testing of
ground water.

No formal presentations will be made at the open house. Stations will be set up
around the room for residents to view cleanup plans, pick up handouts and to
meet informally with project staff. Staff from EPA, Illinois EPA, Illinois
Department of Health and Beazer East Inc. will be available to listen to
concerns, answer questions and explain the cleanup process.

Information about the site is available at the Carbondale Public Library, 405 W.
Main St. Documents include Final Decision and Response to Comments (EPA,
June 2004), Statement of Basis (August 2003) and Public Health Assessment
(IDPH, March 2001).

For more information, contact EPA Community Involvement Coordinator Bri Bill
at (312) 353-6646, (800) 621-8431, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays, bill.

briana@epa.gov.

###

Media Advisory: EPA joins students from
Kenwood Academy to sample Chicago
River

CONTACT:

Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA177

CHICAGO (Oct. 21, 2004) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5
Water Division director Jo-Lynn Traub will join students from Chicago's Kenwood
Academy and Friends of the Chicago River in an event to celebrate World Water
Monitoring Day. The students will take samples of the Chicago River in Miami
Woods Forest Preserve in Morton Grove, Ill., at 10 a.m., Friday, Oct. 22.

World Water Monitoring Day provides youth and their families the opportunity to
get involved and learn about the health of local watersheds. More information
about EPA's water monitoring activities is at www.epa.gov/owow/monitoring

Directions: The Miami Woods Forest Preserve is near the intersection of Lehigh
and Dempster roads in Morton Grove. Students will be meeting and entering the
forest preserve at the "hole in the fence" behind Frank's Nursery in the Prairie
View Shopping Center, 6821 Dempster. From Interstate 94, exit at Dempster
West and continue westward to Waukegan Rd. The shopping center is on the
south side of Dempster at the intersection with Waukegan Rd.

###

EPA cites Mercury Marine for clean-air violations

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA178

CHICAGO (Oct. 26, 2004) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has cited Mercury Marine for alleged clean-air violations at the company's aluminum recovery plant at W6250 Pioneer Road, Fond du Lac, Wis.

EPA alleges that Mercury Marine failed to comply with federal operating, planning, notification, reporting, testing and recordkeeping requirements for its plant. EPA said the company should have tested for dioxin and furan emissions.

"EPA's mission is to protect public health and the environment," said Acting Regional Administrator Bharat Mathur. "We will take whatever steps are needed to ensure compliance with the Clean Air Act."

These are preliminary findings of violations. To resolve them, 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 meet with EPA to discuss resolving the allegations.

#

EPA reaches agreement with 3M on clean-air violations

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA179

CHICAGO (Oct. 26, 2004) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has reached an agreement with 3M Co. on alleged clean-air violations at the company's chemical plant at 22614 Route 84 N., Cordova, Ill. EPA assessed a \$27,500 penalty, and the company agreed to complete a \$135,000 environmental project.

"3M has agreed to protect the health of its neighbors in the Cordova area by installing equipment that will cut its annual toluene releases by at least 10 tons," said Acting Regional Administrator Bharat Mathur. "We're pleased because this project does more than the law requires."

The agreement resolves an EPA administrative complaint alleging, among other things, that 3M failed to adequately test, monitor and keep records of emissions of hazardous air pollutants, including methanol, toluene and methyl ethyl ketone from pharmaceutical manufacturing operations at the plant.

Under a separate agreement with EPA, 3M will test air pollution control equipment and wastewater streams at the plant to assure compliance with Clean Air Act regulations.

Short-term exposure to high concentrations of methyl ethyl ketone can irritate the eyes, nose and throat and cause headache, nausea, central nervous system depression and skin problems. Limited information is available on chronic effects of methyl ethyl ketone in humans from inhalation exposure.

Long-term exposure to low-to-moderate levels of toluene can cause tiredness, confusion, weakness, memory loss, nausea and loss of appetite, and hearing loss.

Long-term exposure to methanol may result in eye irritation, headache, giddiness, sleeplessness, gastric and visual disturbances, and blindness.

###

EPA reaches agreement with Miller

Compressing

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA180

CHICAGO (Oct. 26, 2004) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has reached an agreement with Miller Compressing Co. on alleged clean-air violations at the company's aluminum recovery plant at 1640 W. Bruce St., Milwaukee, Wis. EPA assessed an \$18,000 penalty, and the company agreed to complete a \$70,000 environmental project.

"Miller Compressing has agreed to protect the health of its neighbors in Milwaukee by paving almost 38,000 square feet at its plant to cut dust emissions by 8,575 pounds a year," said Acting Regional Administrator Bharat Mathur. "We are pleased because this project does more than the law requires."

The agreement resolves an administrative complaint alleging that Miller Compressing failed to meet federal planning, testing, reporting, notification and recordkeeping requirements related to dioxin and furan emissions on time.

There is evidence that dioxins may cause liver damage and probably cause cancer in humans, and furans may cause cancer in humans.

#

Media Advisory: John G. Shedd Aquarium
named Coastal Ecosystem Learning
Center; Ceremony with EPA, Chicago
DOE, Thursday, Oct. 28, 10 a.m.

CONTACT:

(EPA) Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050
(Shedd) Roger Germann, (312) 692-3265
(Coastal America), Marguerite Duffy, (202) 401-9923

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA181

CHICAGO (Oct. 26, 2004) -- Chicago's John G. Shedd Aquarium will be designated as the 17th national Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center in a ceremony Thursday, Oct. 28, at 10 a.m.

James L. Connaughton, chairman of the White House Council on Environmental Quality and chairman of Coastal America, will present the designation. Gary Gulezian, director of EPA's Great Lakes National Program Office and Marcia Jimenez, commissioner of Chicago's Department of Environment, will also attend. Chicago area congressional representatives, and state and local officials are also expected.

Becoming a Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center offers a variety of new resources to the Shedd, including expert speakers, educational resources and exhibit materials. The national network of learning centers was created in 1996 by Coastal America, a partnership of 12 federal agencies with common goals regarding the preservation of our coastal environment.

Directions: The Shedd Aquarium is at 1200 S. Lake Shore Drive in Chicago. Please arrive at the rear south entrance. The ceremony will be in the Phelps Auditorium.

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John G. Shedd Aquarium designated a
Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center

CONTACT:

(Coastal America) Marguerite Duffy, (202) 401-9923

(Shedd) Roger Germann, (312) 692-3265

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

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA182

CHICAGO (Oct. 28, 2004) -- In a ceremony today, Coastal America designated Chicago's John G. Shedd Aquarium a Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center. This prestigious national designation was presented to the Aquarium by James L. Connaughton, chairman of the White House Council on Environmental Quality and chairman of Coastal America.

Coastal America is a partnership of 12 federal agencies, working to protect, preserve and restore America's coastal resources and watersheds. EPA, one of the partner agencies, leads the team supporting Shedd's Learning Center.

"I am delighted that Shedd Aquarium has joined the Coastal America partnership," said Connaughton. "Shedd provides a window into the depths of marine life around the world. By making us better students, Shedd's educational tools are making us better stewards of our oceans, coasts and Great Lakes."

The Coastal America Learning Center network was established in 1996.

Becoming a Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center offers many resources to Shedd Aquarium, including time aboard research vessels, expert speakers, educational publications and workshops for the public. Shedd is the 17th designated Learning Center, and the first on the Great Lakes.

"We are extremely pleased to receive this designation and to strengthen our federal partnerships while working to protect our national treasure the Great Lakes," said Shedd's Chief Executive Officer Ted Beattie. "This comes at a perfect time because Shedd is increasing our own efforts to make the public aware of Great Lakes issues that touch their lives." Beattie also serves as a member of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy.

To learn more about Coastal America, see www.coastalamerica.gov.

#

EPA cites Grainger for clean-air violations

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA183

CHICAGO (Oct. 28, 2004) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has filed an administrative complaint against W.W. Grainger Inc. for alleged violations of federal clean-air regulations designed to protect the stratospheric ozone layer. The company has a facilities-maintenance products distribution center at 100 Grainger Road, Lake Forest, Ill.

"We're proposing a \$368,547 penalty and alleging, among other things, that Grainger sold banned products made with an ozone-depleting substance," said Acting Regional Administrator Bharat Mathur.

The company sells some products containing dichlorofluoroethane—a chlorofluorocarbon or CFC—including a wheel chock that EPA alleges is banned from sale or distribution and aerosol dispensers of cleaning fluids for electronic or photographic equipment.

EPA said Grainger failed to display proper notification where products containing the ozone-depleting substance were sold. In addition, EPA alleges the company sold products containing the ozone-depleting substance to unqualified purchasers and to purchasers failing to show proof that they were qualified purchasers. Federal regulations require that products containing ozone-depleting substances be sold only to commercial buyers.

EPA said Grainger has remedied the violations by stopping the sale of its wheel chock, posting proper notifications and eliminating sales to non-commercial buyers.

Chlorofluorocarbons 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 Reaches agreement with Morgan

Advanced Ceramics

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA184

CHICAGO (Oct. 28, 2004) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5

has reached an agreement with Morgan Advanced Ceramics Inc. on alleged clean-air violations at the company's manufacturing plant at 232 Forbes Road, Bedford, Ohio. EPA assessed a \$133,342 penalty.

The agreement resolves EPA allegations that Morgan operated degreasers that use perchloroethylene, a hazardous air pollutant, to clean parts without getting required permits. In addition, EPA alleged that perchloroethylene emissions from the degreasers exceeded federal limits.

"Morgan responded to our allegations promptly and has taken steps to address all of our concerns," said Acting Regional Administrator Bharat Mathur.

Hazardous air pollutants may cause serious health effects including birth defects and cancer. They may also cause harmful environmental and ecological effects.

#

EPA intends to delegate authority to
Wisconsin for federal drinking water rules

CONTACT:

Phillippa Cannon, (312) 353-6218

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA187

CHICAGO (Oct. 28, 2004) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5
intends to delegate authority to Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for
certain federal drinking water rules. The rules govern the definition of a public
water system, Consumer Confidence reports, interim enhanced surface water
treatment, disinfection/disinfectant byproducts and the authority to assess
administrative penalties when water systems violate regulations.

To be delegated authority, Wisconsin's rules must be at least as stringent as
federal rules. Notice of the proposal was published in the Federal Register on
Monday, Oct. 18.

Anyone who objects to the delegation of authority may request a public hearing
by writing to Joseph Janczy, U.S. EPA (WG-15J), 77 W. Jackson Blvd.,
Chicago, IL 60604, or e-mailing him atjanczy.joseph@epa.gov by Nov. 17.

#

EPA cites Elyria Recycling for clean-air violations

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA188

CHICAGO (Nov. 2, 2004) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has cited Elyria Recycling Co. for alleged violations of EPA regulations to protect stratospheric ozone at the company's scrap processing facility at 800 Infirmary Road, Elyria, Ohio.

EPA alleges Elyria Recycling failed to recover refrigerants containing ozone-depleting chlorofluorocarbons from appliances or to verify if they had been removed before disposal. In addition, EPA said the company failed to keep copies of signed statements verifying CFC removal for at least three years.

"EPA's mission is to protect public health and the environment," said Acting Regional Administrator Bharat Mathur. "We will take whatever steps are needed to ensure compliance with the Clean Air Act."

These are preliminary findings of violations. To resolve them, EPA may issue a compliance order, assess an administrative penalty or bring suit against the company. Elyria Recycling has 30 days from receipt of the notice to meet with EPA to discuss resolving the allegations.

When CFC refrigerants deplete the stratospheric ozone layer, dangerous amounts of cancer-causing ultraviolet rays from the sun strike the earth.

Production of some of these chemicals was stopped in 1995, and federal law strictly controls their use and handling.

#

EPA reaches \$150,000 settlement with Ivan Zugalj resolving violations of lead-based paint disclosure rules

CONTACT:

Karen Thompson, (312) 353-8547

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA189

CHICAGO (Nov. 1, 2004) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has settled a complaint against Chicago landlord Ivan Zugalj for allegedly failing to warn tenants that their homes may contain lead-based paint hazards. Zugalj, an owner of apartment buildings on Chicago's south side, will pay a \$150,000 penalty.

The complaint was a result of joint investigations by EPA and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development into compliance by Chicago area landlords with federal laws that require them to notify tenants about the presence of lead-based paint and its hazards. Information and technical expertise was provided by the Chicago Department of Public Health.

EPA's 213-count complaint involved a total of 45 apartment units in buildings located at 7331- 7339 S. Coles Ave., 2025-2035 E. 72nd St., 2050-2060 E. 72nd Pl., and 7250 South Shore Drive.

Investigations showed that Zugalj failed to disclose lead-based paint hazards to tenants and provide copies of lead-based paint hazard orders he received from CDPH. The orders resulted from the department's investigations of lead-poisoned children residing in Zugalj's properties.

Bharat Mathur, acting regional administrator, said, "These enforcement actions demonstrate that protecting children from lead-based paint exposure is one of EPA's highest priorities. To this end we vigorously pursue compliance with this rule."

The disclosure rule was issued in 1996 by EPA and HUD 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 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 lead-based paint was banned. According to the CDPH, more than 6,800 Chicago children under the age of six were diagnosed with lead poisoning in 2003. Anne Evens, director of the childhood lead poisoning prevention program at the department said, "This announcement is an important step in protecting children from exposure to lead-based paint. CDPH appreciates the enforcement efforts of EPA Region 5 and HUD. Landlords should take notice and work proactively to remove lead-based paint hazards from their properties in order to eliminate childhood lead poisoning."

Deteriorated lead-based 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 it is not maintained, even low levels of lead exposure can threaten people's health, especially children and pregnant women. The effects of lead poisoning include learning disabilities, growth impairment, and permanent damage to the brain, nervous system, hearing, vision and kidneys.

###

EPA cites Pickens Plastics for clean-air violations

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA190

CHICAGO (Nov. 2, 2004) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has cited Pickens Plastics Inc. for alleged clean-air violations at the company's plastic composite plants at 149 S. Cucumber St., Jefferson, Ohio, and at 4212 Anne Ave., Ashtabula, Ohio.

EPA alleges that both plants allowed emissions of volatile organic compounds to exceed limits in their state operating permits. EPA said styrene and acetone are the pollutants released.

"EPA's mission is to protect public health and the environment," said Acting Regional Administrator Bharat Mathur. "We will take whatever steps are needed to ensure compliance with the Clean Air Act."

These are preliminary findings of violations. To resolve them, EPA may issue a compliance order, assess an administrative penalty or bring suit against the company. EPA met with Pickens Oct. 21 to discuss resolving the allegations and the discussions are continuing.

Breathing high levels of styrene for a short time can cause nervous system effects such as depression, concentration problems, muscle weakness, tiredness and nausea.

Breathing moderate-to-high levels of acetone for short periods of time can cause nose, throat, lung and eye irritation; headaches; light-headedness; confusion; nausea and vomiting.

#

EPA proposes cleanup plan for Celotex
Superfund site; public meeting Nov. 9

CONTACT:

Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050

Joe Munoz, (312) 8867935

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA191

CHICAGO (Nov. 3, 2004) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has proposed a plan to complete the cleanup of the Celotex Corp. Superfund site at 2800 S. Sacramento Ave. in Chicago. A meeting to explain the plan and accept public comments will be held 7 9 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 9, at West Side Technical Institute, 2800 S. Western Ave.

Celotex produced asphalt roofing products at the site from about 1918 to 1982. Currently, 22 of 24 acres at the site are covered with gravel. EPA considered eight cleanup options to address the remaining contamination. The proposed plan calls for covering the two remaining acres, testing nearby yards and removing soil from some residences. Based on public comments, EPA may revise the cleanup plan.

The public can also make written comments on the proposed plan until Nov. 26. Comments may be sent to EPA Community Involvement Coordinator Joe Munoz at munoz.joe@epa.gov, or by mail to Munoz at U.S. EPA Region 5 (P-19J), 77 W. Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL 60604. A fact sheet will be available at the meeting or can be obtained from Munoz via e-mail or by calling (312) 886-7935. Those who need special accommodations at the meeting should call Munoz by Nov. 4.

###

EPA cites ISG Cleveland for clean-air violations

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA192

CHICAGO (Nov. 3, 2004) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has cited ISG Cleveland Inc. (formerly LTV Steel Co. Inc.) for alleged clean-air violations at the company's iron and steel production plant at 3060 Eggers Road, Cleveland, Ohio.

EPA alleges that ISG violated state requirements that visible smoke emissions not exceed 20 percent opacity the amount of light obscured by the smoke. EPA said the smoke came from two basic oxygen furnaces on the west side of the plant.

"EPA's mission is to protect public health and the environment," said Acting Regional Administrator Bharat Mathur. "We will take whatever steps are needed to ensure compliance with the Clean Air Act."

These are preliminary findings of violations. To resolve them, EPA may issue a compliance order, assess an administrative penalty or bring suit against the company. ISG has 30 days from receipt of the notice to meet with EPA to discuss resolving the allegations.

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

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EPA cites Spectro Alloys for clean-air violations

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA193

CHICAGO (Nov. 3, 2004) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has filed an administrative complaint against Spectro Alloys Corp. for alleged clean-air violations at the company's aluminum recovery plant at 13220 Doyle Path Road, Rosemount, Minn.

"We're proposing a \$247,578 penalty and alleging, among other things, that Spectro emitted excessive amounts of dioxins and furans and hydrochloric acid from its furnaces and scrap dryers," said Acting Regional Administrator Bharat Mathur.

Spectro 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 how to resolve the allegations.

EPA said Spectro has made operational changes and done testing that shows it is now in compliance with regulations covering emissions from its furnaces and scrap dryers. It has also fixed other problems identified in the complaint, including data recording device failures.

There is evidence that dioxins may cause liver damage and probably cause cancer in humans, and furans may cause cancer in humans.

Hydrochloric acid is corrosive to the eyes, skin and mucous membranes.

Inhalation may cause coughing, hoarseness, inflammation and ulceration of the respiratory tract, and chest pain.

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EPA cites Degussa Engineered Carbons
for clean-air violations

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA194

CHICAGO (Nov. 4, 2004) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has filed an administrative complaint against Degussa Engineered Carbons LP for alleged clean-air violations at the company's carbon black plant at 11135 State Rte. 7, Belpre, Ohio.

"We're proposing a \$1,549,971 penalty and alleging that Degussa used a raw material with a higher sulfur content than was permitted, and emitted more sulfur dioxide than was permitted," said Acting Regional Administrator Bharat Mathur. He said Degussa also failed to report its excessive emissions.

Degussa has filed an answer to the complaint and requested a hearing. It may request an informal conference with EPA at any time to discuss how to resolve the allegations.

Carbon black is a powdery compound made primarily from petroleum and used to make such things as tires, printing ink, paint and plastic.

Exposure to sulfur dioxide can impair breathing, aggravate existing respiratory diseases like bronchitis and reduce the ability of the lungs to clear foreign particles. Sulfur dioxide can also cause acid rain and contribute to fine particle pollution. Children, the elderly and people with existing heart and lung conditions are most sensitive to sulfur dioxide.

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EPA reaches agreement with Aexcel on
clean-air violations

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA195

CHICAGO (Nov. 4, 2004) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has reached an agreement with Aexcel Corp., 7373 Production Dr., Mentor, Ohio, on alleged violations of federal architectural coating rules. Architectural coatings are paints and similar coverings used on building exteriors, pavements and curbs.

EPA assessed a \$20,000 penalty and the company agreed to complete a \$51,000 environmental project.

"Aexcel will reformulate 34 of its coating products to reduce smog-causing volatile organic compounds by 25,000 pounds per year," said Acting Regional Administrator Bharat Mathur. "Smog can cause serious health problems especially for children and the elderly."

Mathur said EPA is encouraging manufacturers of architectural coatings to contact EPA if they believe they have violations before EPA investigates their plants. He said self-disclosure is taken into consideration when penalties are assessed.

Companies that believe they have violations should contact George Czerniak, chief of the regional air enforcement branch, at (312) 353-2088. Self-disclosure information is at www.epa.gov/compliance/incentives/auditing/auditpolicy.html.

EPA's agreement with Aexcel resolves allegations that the company made coatings that exceeded limits on VOCs and did not correctly label its products. Volatile organic compounds contribute to the formation of ground-level ozone, or 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. People with asthma, children and the elderly are especially at risk, but these health concerns are important to everyone.

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EPA: Erler Industries agrees to EPA order
to install air pollution control devices

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA196

CHICAGO (Nov. 9, 2004) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has issued an administrative consent order to Erler Industries Inc. It requires Erler to install air pollution control devices to destroy volatile organic compound emissions, including some classified as hazardous, from the company's coating facility. Operations affected are at 418 Stockwell St., 71 Hayden Pike and 125 W. Hayden Pike in North Vernon, Ind.

"Erler anticipated our order and recently installed three thermal oxidizers that will cut VOC emissions by about 250 tons a year," said Acting Regional Administrator Bharat Mathur.

EPA told Erler in June that it believed the company had exceeded emission limits on VOCs, releasing more than 20 tons a year over the cap. At the same time, EPA alleged that Erler had violated the Clean Air Act by failing to comply with monitoring, recordkeeping and reporting requirements that would have properly characterized emissions from the plants.

Volatile organic compounds contribute to the formation of ground-level ozone or 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. People with asthma, children and the elderly are especially at risk, but these health concerns are important to everyone.

Hazardous air pollutants may cause serious health effects including birth defects and cancer. They may also cause harmful environmental and ecological effects.

###

Grand Rapids Superfund site primed for

new uses

CONTACT:

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

(Grand Rapids) Tom Zelinski, (616) 456-4233

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA200

MEDIA BRIEFING TODAY: A briefing with Grand Rapids Mayor Heartwell and EPA officials will be held today at 11:30 a.m. at the Butterworth #2 Landfill. The site is on Butterworth Street, west of Market Street, immediately south of the Coca-Cola bottling plant.

CHICAGO (Nov. 10, 2004) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency today designated a Grand Rapids Superfund site as ready to "Return to Use." Grand Rapids Mayor George Heartwell joined EPA Superfund director Mike Cook at the Butterworth #2 Landfill, 1500 Butterworth St., in a media briefing to mark the milestone.

A Superfund National Priorities List cleanup at the Butterworth site was completed in 2000. Recently, in a demonstration project, EPA and Grand Rapids officials worked together to remove barriers to redevelopment of the property.

"Around the country, there are hundreds of sites just like Butterworth," said Cook. "The landfill has been cleaned up and it's safe, but there were aspects of the remedy that made it difficult to move ahead with redevelopment. Now, in a true collaboration with the community, we've re-evaluated many of the property restrictions on the site and the city is exploring a mix of recreational uses."

The 120-acre Butterworth #2 Landfill was named a Superfund National Priorities List site in 1983. The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality participated in the cleanup effort with EPA and local partners. A four-foot-thick cap is now installed over most of the site area.

Steps have already been taken to open the area to recreational uses. A temporary dirt road established during the cleanup has been paved and connects to an existing path through an entry point at the northwest corner of the site off Butterworth St. Soon a new 250-foot trail will be built at the southwest corner of the site, connecting to another existing path and allowing bicyclists and skaters to go from one end of the site to the other. Using the in-kind services of an EPA landscape design consultant, the city parks department is evaluating a range of additional ideas for the site, which may include interpretive walks, picnic areas, an archery range and a concert venue.

"We are thrilled at the opportunity to turn a liability into an amenity," said Mayor Heartwell. "An outreach effort to generate public input into future plans for the Butterworth site will be getting under way in the months ahead."

A similar effort is under way at another cleaned-up Superfund site in the Grand Rapids area. The 72-acre Kentwood Landfill, in nearby Kentwood, Mich., closed nearly 30 years ago and is now being evaluated by local officials for recreational use.

EPA has facilitated return-to-use efforts at other Superfund sites. A model example is the H.O.D. Landfill in Antioch, Ill. At H.O.D., the former landfill has been converted to soccer fields, and methane gas from the landfill is being used to provide electricity and generate heat for a high school next to the site.

###

Sampling at Evansville soil contamination site to begin in late November

CONTACT:

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

(IDEM) Amy Hartsock, (317) 233-4927

(Evansville) Carolyn Rusk, (812) 436-7823

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA201

CHICAGO (Nov. 10, 2004) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5

will begin a comprehensive investigation to determine the scope and extent of

lead-contaminated soil in an Evansville neighborhood in late November.

In July 2004, roughly 250 acres of the Jacobsville neighborhood was designated

a Superfund National Priorities List site. Sites on the list are eligible for further

investigation and cleanup under the federal Superfund program. Indiana

Department of Environmental Management and Evansville's Department of

Metropolitan Development will assist EPA in the investigation.

The contamination came to light a few years ago during a smaller cleanup in the

area. In 2000-2001, in support of an EPA cleanup effort at the Evansville Plating

Works (which is near, but not part of the Jacobsville site) IDEM collected soil

samples in the area, many of which showed lead levels high enough to warrant

the Superfund attention now under way.

The new sampling effort is set for the week of Nov. 29-Dec. 3. Because EPA first

needs to confirm the levels of naturally occurring lead in the area, soil samples

will be collected from a broader area than the Jacobsville Neighborhood

Superfund site boundaries. The area will likely include about 120 separate

residential or commercial properties.

In the weeks ahead, EPA staff with global positioning system equipment and

antennas may be seen marking off the grid to determine which properties need

to be sampled. Five soil samples will be collected from each residential yard and

commercial property involved in the investigation. EPA will contact residents and

property owners for permission before any soil samples are collected. The

samples taken will be very small, with no damage to the yards.

Once the sampling and follow-up laboratory analysis is completed, EPA and

IDEM will present a range of cleanup alternatives to the community.

At least four long-closed businesses likely contributed lead contamination to the

area: Blount Plow Works (horse-drawn plows; c. 1880s to 1940s), Advance

Stove Works (stoves; c. 1900 to 1950s), Newton-Kelsay (draft animal harness

parts; c. 1900 to 1950s) and Sharpes Shot Works (lead shot; c. 1878 to

unknown date).

Site documents are available for public review at EPA's records center in

Chicago and at IDEM headquarters, 100 N. Senate Ave. in Indianapolis. A local

information repository will be established soon. For more information about the

site, contact EPA Community Involvement Coordinator Yolanda Bouchee: (800)

621-8431, Ext. 33209 (business hours only), or bouchee.yolanda@epa.gov.

#

EPA cites Youngstown Thermal Energy for clean-air violations

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA202

CHICAGO (Nov. 10, 2004) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has filed an administrative complaint against Youngstown Thermal Energy Corp. for alleged clean-air violations at the company's steam supply plant at 205 N. Ave., Youngstown, Ohio. EPA is proposing a \$25,000 penalty.

EPA alleges that Youngstown Thermal Energy violated clean-air requirements for particulates (smoke, ash, dust) and failed to comply with reporting, testing and operating requirements in its state operating permit.

Companies have 30 days from receipt of complaints to file an answer and request a hearing. Youngstown Thermal Energy received the complaint on September 30. EPA said Youngstown Thermal Energy has requested an extension. It may request an informal conference with EPA at any time to discuss how to resolve the allegations.

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

###

EPA cites Pharmacia for clean-air violations

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA203

CHICAGO (Nov. 10, 2004) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has cited Pharmacia & Upjohn Co. for alleged violations of federal hazardous air pollutant regulations at the company's chemical plant at 7000 Portage Road, Kalamazoo, Mich.

EPA alleges that Pharmacia, a subsidiary of Pfizer Inc., failed to comply with federal leak detection and repair regulations at the plant. Specifically, the company failed to take required steps to monitor, control and repair leaks of hazardous chemicals from valves and connectors.

"EPA's mission is to protect public health and the environment," said Acting Regional Administrator Bharat Mathur. "We will take whatever steps are needed to ensure compliance with the Clean Air Act."

These are preliminary findings of violations. To resolve them, EPA may issue a compliance order, assess an administrative penalty or bring suit against the company. Pharmacia has 30 days from receipt of the notice to meet with EPA to discuss resolving the allegations.

Hazardous air pollutants may cause serious health effects including birth defects and cancer. They may also cause harmful environmental and ecological effects.

###

EPA reaches agreements with Tower
Industries on clean-air violations

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA204

CHICAGO (Nov. 10, 2004) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has reached separate agreements with Tower Industries LLC on alleged violations of federal and state clean-air regulations at two company plastics plants in Massillon, Ohio. The plants are at 655 Third St. N.W. and 2101 S. Ninth St. S.W.

EPA issued a consent agreement and final order on the Third Street plant and assessed a \$1,500 penalty. EPA issued an administrative consent order on the Ninth Street plant, and Tower agreed to bring the facility into compliance with regulations within one year.

In December 2003, Tower closed its Third Street plant and moved to its new facility on Ninth Street. In May, EPA cited Tower for operating its new plant, a major source of hazardous air pollutants, without getting a state permit.

In addition, EPA alleged that the new Tower plant exceeded emission limits for hazardous air pollutants and that the company did not get a determination of control technology requirements and give proper notifications for the plant.

EPA said Tower violated state regulations at the Third Street plant by failing to maintain daily records and to submit annual reports to the local health authority. Hazardous air pollutants may cause serious health effects including birth defects and cancer. They may also cause harmful environmental and ecological effects.

###

EPA reaches agreement with Viking Paints
on clean-air violations

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA205

CHICAGO (Nov. 15, 2004) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has reached an agreement with Viking Paints Inc., 100 W. 78th St., Richfield, Minn., on alleged violations of federal architectural coating rules. Architectural coatings are paints and similar coverings used on building exteriors, pavements and curbs. EPA assessed a \$39,035 penalty.

The agreement resolves EPA allegations that Viking did not properly label its coatings and sold coatings that exceed volatile organic compound content limits without paying exceedance fees. EPA said Viking has stopped production of coatings that violated the regulation.

EPA is encouraging manufacturers of architectural coatings to contact EPA if they believe they have violations before EPA investigates their plants. Self-disclosure is taken into consideration when penalties are assessed.

Companies that believe they have violations should contact George Czerniak, chief of the regional air enforcement branch, at (312) 353-2088. Self-disclosure information is at www.epa.gov/compliance/incentives/auditing/auditpolicy.html. Volatile organic compounds contribute to the formation of ground-level ozone, or 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. People with asthma, children and the elderly are especially at risk, but these health concerns are important to everyone.

###

EPA reaches agreement with Carbit Paint
on clean-air violations

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA206

CHICAGO (Nov. 15, 2004) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has reached an agreement with Carbit Paint Co., 927 W. Blackhawk St., Chicago, on alleged violations of federal architectural coating rules. Architectural coatings are paints and similar coverings used on building exteriors, pavements and curbs. EPA assessed a \$33,000 penalty.

The agreement resolves EPA allegations that Carbit failed to submit timely notification to EPA and exceeded volatile organic compound limits for some of its coatings without paying exceedance fees. Carbit has agreed not to produce any coatings found in violation until they have been reformulated to meet standards.

EPA is encouraging manufacturers of architectural coatings to contact EPA if they believe they have violations before EPA investigates their plants. Self-disclosure is taken into consideration when penalties are assessed.

Companies that believe they have violations should contact George Czerniak, chief of the regional air enforcement branch, at (312) 353-2088. Self-disclosure information is at www.epa.gov/compliance/incentives/auditing/auditpolicy.html. Volatile organic compounds contribute to the formation of ground-level ozone, or 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. People with asthma, children and the elderly are especially at risk, but these health concerns are important to everyone.

###

EPA reaches agreement with Lymtal on
clean-air violations

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA207

CHICAGO (Nov. 15, 2004) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5
has reached an agreement with LymTal International Inc., 4150 S. Lapeer Road,
Lake Orion, Mich., on alleged violations of architectural coating rules.

Architectural coatings are paints and similar coverings used on building
exteriors, pavements and curbs. EPA assessed a \$53,400 penalty.

The agreement resolves an EPA allegation that LymTal failed to submit proper
notification to EPA, failed to properly label the volatile organic compound content
of its coatings and exceeded the VOC limit on one of its coatings without paying
exceedance fees.

EPA is encouraging manufacturers of architectural coatings to contact EPA if
they believe they have violations before EPA investigates their plants. Self-
disclosure is taken into consideration when penalties are assessed.

Companies that believe they have violations should contact George Czerniak,
chief of the regional air enforcement branch, at (312) 353-2088. Self-disclosure
information is at www.epa.gov/compliance/incentives/auditing/auditpolicy.html.
Volatile organic compounds contribute to the formation of ground-level ozone, or
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. People with asthma,
children and the elderly are especially at risk, but these health concerns are
important to everyone.

###

EPA reaches agreement with Nelson Paint
on clean-air violations

CONTACT:

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For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA208

CHICAGO (Nov. 16, 2004) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has reached an agreement with Nelson Paint Co., One Nelson Drive, Kingsford, Mich., on alleged violations of federal architectural coating rules. Architectural coatings are paints and similar coverings used on building exteriors, pavements and curbs. EPA assessed a \$28,600 penalty.

The agreement resolves EPA allegations that Nelson failed to give proper notification to EPA, improperly labeled its architectural coating containers and exceeded volatile organic compound limits. Nelson achieved compliance with the coating standards in April and agreed to reduce the VOC content of its architectural coatings.

EPA is encouraging manufacturers of architectural coatings to contact EPA if they believe they have violations before EPA investigates their plants. Self-disclosure is taken into consideration when penalties are assessed.

Companies that believe they have violations should contact George Czerniak, chief of the regional air enforcement branch, at (312) 353-2088. Self-disclosure information is at www.epa.gov/compliance/incentives/auditingpolicy.html.

Volatile organic compounds contribute to the formation of ground-level ozone, or 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. People with asthma, children and the elderly are especially at risk, but these health concerns are important to everyone.

###

EPA reaches agreement with Mule-Hide on
clean-air violations

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA209

CHICAGO (Nov. 16, 2004) - U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has reached an agreement with Mule-Hide Products Co. Inc., 2924 Wyetta Drive, Beloit, Wis., on alleged violations of federal architectural coating rules. Architectural coatings are paints and similar coverings used on building exteriors, pavements and curbs. EPA assessed a \$22,000 penalty.

The agreement resolves EPA allegations that Mule-Hide violated standards by failing to submit proper notification to EPA and by labeling its architectural coating containers with incorrect volatile organic compound content. EPA said Mule-Hide came into compliance with the standards in April.

EPA is encouraging manufacturers of architectural coatings to contact EPA if they believe they have violations before EPA investigates their plants. Self-disclosure is taken into consideration when penalties are assessed.

Companies that believe they have violations should contact George Czerniak, chief of the regional air enforcement branch, at (312) 353-2088. Self-disclosure information is at www.epa.gov/compliance/incentives/auditingpolicy.html.

Volatile organic compounds contribute to the formation of ground-level ozone, or 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. People with asthma, children and the elderly are especially at risk, but these health problems are important to everyone.

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EPA Cites M & M Drying for clean-air violations

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA210

CHICAGO (Nov. 16, 2004) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has filed an administrative complaint against M & M Drying Ltd. for alleged clean-air violations at the company's aluminum recovery plant at 4125 Mahoning Road N.E., Canton, Ohio.

"We're proposing a \$144,000 penalty and alleging that M & M Drying failed to test for dioxins and furans at its thermal chip dryer and failed to notify EPA of its compliance status," said Acting Regional Administrator Bharat Mathur.

M & M Drying has received the complaint and is in informal discussions with EPA on how to resolve the allegations.

There is evidence that dioxins and furans may cause liver damage and probably cause cancer in humans.

#

EPA Region 5 enforcement highlights for

FY 2004

CONTACT:

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Dave Deegan, (202) 564-7839

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA211

EPA Region 5 enforcement highlights: nationally, FY2004 enforcement secures cleanups worth a record \$4.8 billion and will stop one billion pounds of pollution

CHICAGO (Nov. 15, 2004) -- EPA enforcement actions concluded in fiscal year 2004 will reduce a projected one billion pounds of pollution and require cleanups estimated to total a record \$4.8 billion significant increases from last year.

Almost every other annual measure of the Agency's enforcement and compliance activity such as the number of inspections (up 11 percent from FY 2003) and investigations (up 32 percent from FY 2003) surpassed or kept pace with previous years, indicating continued progress in deterring violations of the nation's environmental laws and reflecting an emphasis on environmental benefits and compliance.

"EPA's enforcement strategy is focused on what matters most: achieving real environmental improvements that benefit everyone," said Tom Skinner, EPA Acting Assistant Administrator for the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance. "We are getting significant, real-world pollution reductions through mechanisms like injunctive relief pushing companies to install more effective pollution controls - and supplemental environmental projects, which improve the environment and public health both nationwide and close to home."

Highlights of cases in Region 5 Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin include:

Ace Ethanol, Wisconsin

EPA and U.S. Department of Justice settled a case against Ace Ethanol in December 2003 for alleged violations of the Prevention of Significant Deterioration provisions of the Clean Air Act, as well as other sections of the act, such as the New Source Performance Standards and National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants. Ace's ethanol dry mill processes corn into ethanol. This facility is one of 75 ethanol plants in the United States. Ace is required to install a thermal oxidizer to achieve 95 percent destruction of volatile organic compounds. The oxidizer will also reduce particulate matter and carbon monoxide. Compliance with NSPS and NESHAPs will also be required, along with appropriate compliance testing, monitoring and record-keeping. The estimated cost of these compliance measures is over \$1 million. Ace agreed to pay a \$337,609 civil penalty to the state of Wisconsin.

RT Automotive, Michigan

George C. Singleton of Clinton, Mich., owner of RT Automotive, was sentenced in February 2004 to serve 37 months in prison and pay \$84,000 in restitution for illegal disposal of paint wastes containing flammable materials. He was previously convicted of conspiring to violate the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act and on three counts of violating RCRA. In 1998, the defendant entered into an agreement with an auto salvage yard to dispose of approximately 70 drums of paint wastes containing ignitable materials. In August 1998, Singleton directed the illegal disposal of the wastes, which were placed in an abandoned trailer in an open field in Van Buren Township, Mich. Two police officers and four firefighters required medical evaluation because of exposure to fumes after approaching the trailer.

Crown E.G Inc., Indiana

Crown E.G. Inc., an environmental consulting firm that supervised the wastewater treatment facility at the Guide Corp. automotive signal

manufacturing facility in Anderson, Ind., pleaded guilty and was sentenced on June 29, 2004, in Indianapolis for negligently violating the Clean Water Act. Crown will pay a \$100,000 fine, serve five years probation and develop a comprehensive environmental compliance and education program. In September 1999, Guide Corp. closed an electro-plating facility at its Anderson plant and sent electroplating chemicals and wastes to its on-site facility for treatment, where large quantities of treatment chemicals were added under Crown's supervision. In December 1999, approximately 1.6 million gallons of water contaminated with the by-products of the treatment chemicals was discharged into the Anderson sewer system, which ultimately discharges into the White River, killing approximately 100 tons of fish.

David Van Dyke, Indiana

David Van Dyke, who was the certified operator of the Warsaw, Ind., Wastewater Treatment Plant, was sentenced on Nov. 18, 2003, to serve 46 months in prison followed by one year of supervised release for his conviction on three counts of violating the Clean Water Act. The Warsaw Wastewater Treatment Plant discharges into Walnut Creek, a tributary of the Tippecanoe River. Van Dyke altered and falsified a lab report submitted to the Indiana Department of Environmental Management. He also falsified records of the sewage plant's weekly limit for carbonaceous biological oxygen demand, ammonia, total suspended solids and E. coli bacteria. Rather than pay for sludge disposal, the defendant ordered that sludge be recirculated within the plant. This killed the plant's biological treatment system, leading to the release of untreated sewage into the creek, which killed thousands of fish in Walnut Creek between late July and early August 2002. Approximately 22,000 cubic yards of sewage sludge remains in Walnut Creek as a result of the improper operation of the facility.

In addition to the record environmental benefit and cleanup figures resulting from Agency actions during FY 2004, EPA estimates that 3.4 million cubic yards of contaminated soil and sediment and 9.5 million cubic yards of groundwater will be cleaned up, 1,300 acres of wetlands will be protected, and the drinking water of 4 million Americans will comply with EPA standards. Of the 4,257 cases concluded by EPA in FY 2004, 83 percent resulted in actions to bring facilities into compliance with environmental laws.

More information about EPA's enforcement program is available online at www.epa.gov/compliance/planning/results/press/2004eoy/

###

EPA recognizes Columbus hospitality for energy efficiency and environmental leadership

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA212

CHICAGO (Nov. 18, 2004) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has recognized Columbus Hospitality, 33 Nationwide Blvd., Columbus, Ohio, as one of 18 organizations nationwide named as Energy Star Leaders for demonstrating superior energy management and environmental leadership. EPA said Columbus Hospitality earned the recognition by achieving a superior energy efficiency rating for each of its buildings measured by EPA's energy performance rating system. It has cut its annual energy consumption by an estimated 480,000 kilowatt hours, and its initial investment of \$30,800 has resulted in an annual cost savings of about \$30,000.

"We congratulate Columbus Hospitality for reducing air pollution through increased energy efficiency," said Acting Regional Administrator Bharat Mathur. "This is good for public health and the environment and saves the company money."

Columbus Hospitality joined Energy Star in 2000 as a partner and immediately began a complete renovation with the goal of making its hotels as energy-efficient as possible.

- Lights were upgraded to use energy-efficient compact fluorescent light bulbs.
- High-efficiency air conditioning units were installed in guest rooms.
- High-efficiency pumps replaced most water circulation pumps.
- Occupancy sensors for lights and heating, ventilation and air-conditioning units were installed in offices and guest rooms.
- Water-saving showerheads, toilets and sinks were installed.
- Energy-efficient television sets, VCRs, fax and copy machines were used in rooms.

Energy Star partners who show continuous improvement in energy-efficiency not just in individual buildings, but organization-wide qualify for EPA's new Energy Star Leaders recognition. EPA's energy performance system provides an objective, standardized approach for measuring the efficiency of a building on a 100-point scale. Buildings that score 75 or better are recognized as top energy performers in the nation and earn the Energy Star label.

EPA and the U.S. Department of Energy introduced Energy Star in 1992 as a voluntary, market-based partnership to cut air pollution by increasing energy efficiency. Today, Energy Star offers businesses and consumers energy efficient solutions to save energy and money and help protect the environment for future generations. More than 8,000 organizations have become Energy Star partners and are committed to improving the energy efficiency of businesses, products and homes.

More information is at www.energystar.gov. or call toll-free 1-888-STAR-YES.

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EPA to discuss possible Great Lakes
Legacy Act funding for Cannelton cleanup

CONTACT:

Phillippa Cannon, (312) 353-6218

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA214

CHICAGO (Nov. 23, 2004) -- At the Nov. 30 meeting of the St. Marys River Binational Public Advisory Council, EPA will discuss the possible use of Great Lakes Legacy Act funds to partly pay for the cleanup of contaminated sediment at the Cannelton Superfund site in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. Phelps-Dodge Corp., owner of the Cannelton site, will make a presentation about the proposed cleanup. The meeting will take place from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Cisler Center at Lake Superior State University, 650 W. Easterday Ave., Sault Ste. Marie. EPA is reviewing the project as a possible recipient of funds under the Act which authorizes \$270 million in funding over the next five years to assist with the cleanup of contaminated sediment in "areas of concern," toxic hot spots around the Great Lakes.

#

Update meeting on Rose Township
Superfund site, Dec. 6, 6 p.m.

CONTACT:

Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA215

CHICAGO (Nov. 26, 2004) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 will host an informal meeting Monday, Dec. 6, to update area residents on its investigation of ground water contamination near the Rose Township Superfund site. The meeting is at 6 p.m., at Rose Township Hall, 204 Franklin St., Holly, Mich.

An EPA-supervised cleanup of the 110-acre site on Demode Road in rural Oakland County was completed in 1996. A ground-water extraction and treatment system and a soil-vapor extraction system have operated since then. New data from a scheduled review of site conditions in June 2002 suggested that some off-site ground water contamination is not being captured. In 2003, the private parties performing the cleanup installed new ground-water monitoring wells at the northeast boundary of the site and found contamination moving off the site. This fall, additional wells were installed farther to the northeast to find out how far the ground water contamination has moved. The purpose of the Dec. 6 meeting is to discuss the results from the new off-site wells and residential well monitoring.

From about 1966 to 1970, the site was used as an unauthorized dump site for paint and chemical waste from Detroit-area industries.

For more information or special accommodations at the meeting, contact EPA community involvement coordinator Cheryl Allen, (800) 621-8431, Ext. 36196, or allen.cheryl@epa.gov.

###

Cabinet Members, Governors, Mayors and Tribal Representatives Will Convene in Chicago on Dec. 3 to Sign Great Lakes Declaration

CONTACT:

Rich Hood 202-564-4355 / hood.rich@epa.gov

RSVP: Phill Loosli 202-564-7969 / loosli.phillip@epa.gov

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA216

Chicago (Nov.30,2004)-- Dozens of government officials and Tribal representatives will convene in Chicago to sign a Great Lakes Declaration and a framework document for the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration. Officials in attendance will include members of President Bush's cabinet, United States senators and congressmen, state senators and representatives, and Great Lakes governors, Tribes, and mayors.

The Great Lakes Declaration is an intergovernmental pledge of support for the development of a strategy to further protect and restore the Great Lakes through the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration process. The Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Framework Document outlines the process for developing a Great Lakes restoration and protection strategy.

WHO: Confirmed Attendees Include:

- EPA Administrator Mike Leavitt,
- Secretary Tom Ridge,
- Jim Connaughton,
- Governor George Pataki,
- Governor Jim Doyle,
- Governor Bob Taft,
- Governor Rod Blagojevich,
- Senator Richard Durbin,
- Congressman Vernon Ehlers,
- Congresswoman Judy Biggert,
- Congressman Mark Kirk,
- Congressman Rahm Emanuel,
- Congresswoman Janice Schakowsky,
- Congressman Thaddeus McCotter,
- Frank Ettawageshik, Chairman, Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians and fifteen other Tribal leaders,
- Mayor Richard Daley (Chicago, Ill.),
- Mayor Scott King (Gary, Ind.)
- Mayor Jerry Irby (Marquette, Mich.),
- Mayor George Heartwell (Grand Rapids, Mich.),
- Mayor Herb Bergson (Duluth, Minn.),
- Mayor Jack Ford (Toledo, Ohio),
- Mayor Richard E. Filippi (Erie, Pa.),
- Mayor Tom Barrett (Milwaukee, Wis.),
- Mayor Gary Becker (Racine, Wis.),
- Mayor Dave Ross (Superior, Wis.), and others.

Additional Invitees Include: Other cabinet members, Great Lakes governors, United States senators and representatives, Tribal leaders, and mayors.

WHAT:Great Lakes Regional Collaboration meeting and signing of the Great Lakes Declaration document

WHEN: Friday, Dec. 3, 2004, 9:30 am to 12:15 pm. Check in begins at 7:30 a.m.

WHERE:

Hilton Chicago Hotel - International Ballroom

720 South Michigan Ave.

Chicago, Ill. 60605

312-922-4400

CALL IN OPTION: If you are unable to attend but would like to listen to the meeting, contact Phill Loosli at the number listed above.

###

EPA cites Kikkoman Foods for clean-air violations

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA218

CHICAGO (Dec. 2, 2004) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has cited Kikkoman Foods Inc. for alleged clean-air violations at the company's food-processing plant at Highway 14 and Six Corners Road, Walworth, Wis.

EPA alleges Kikkoman built and operated a spray dryer without getting state construction and operating permits and is operating the equipment without controlling volatile organic compound emissions.

"EPA's mission is to protect public health and the environment," said Acting Regional Administrator Bharat Mathur. "We will take whatever steps are needed to ensure compliance with the Clean Air Act."

These are preliminary findings of violations. To resolve them, EPA may issue a compliance order, assess an administrative penalty or bring suit against the company. Kikkoman has 30 days from receipt of the notice to meet with EPA to discuss resolving the allegations.

Volatile organic compounds contribute to the formation of ground-level ozone, or 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. People with asthma, children and the elderly are especially at risk, but these health concerns are important to everyone.

#

EPA Recognizes Milwaukee Public
Schools for improving school air quality

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA219

CHICAGO (Dec. 3, 2004) -- One Wisconsin school district--Milwaukee Public Schools--is among 12 school districts cited nationally by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for excellence in improving indoor air quality. The awards were made Dec. 2 at EPA's 5th Annual Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools National Symposium in Washington, D.C.

"We congratulate Milwaukee Public Schools for providing good indoor air quality for its students," said EPA Region 5 Acting Administrator Bharat Mathur. "Good indoor air quality contributes to a good learning environment."

Milwaukee Public Schools is a large urban school district with aging facilities. The district established an air quality committee in 1996 and was an early adopter of EPA's Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools program, a common-sense guide to help prevent or solve the majority of indoor air problems affecting schools. From a successful initial emphasis on technical issues and facility maintenance procedures such as regular mold testing, MPS has branched out and is now working with classroom teachers and other education professionals. Teachers in 10 schools have been enthusiastically participating in a classroom survey pilot program in conjunction with Fight Asthma Milwaukee.

EPA's Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools program brings school officials, nurses, teachers, facility managers and parents together to raise awareness of indoor air quality and the potential negative effect poor indoor air quality can have on children's health. All of the schools receiving awards used EPA's Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools kit to improve indoor air quality.

EPA developed the voluntary Tools for Schools kit and program in 1995 in response to government studies highlighting deteriorating conditions in the nation's schools and the alarming rise in asthma cases, particularly among school and preschool-age children.

The kit is a flexible, comprehensive resource designed to help school staff identify, resolve and prevent indoor air quality problems and is available to schools at no cost. Currently, an estimated 10,000 schools and school districts are using the program. More information is at www.epa.gov/iaq/schools/. For more information on Milwaukee Public Schools, contact Robert Helminiak, (414) 475-8057.

#

EPA recognizes two Minnesota school districts for improving school air quality

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA220

CHICAGO (Dec. 3, 2004) -- Two Minnesota school districts Elk River and Mankato are among 12 cited nationally by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for excellence in improving indoor air quality. The awards were made Dec. 2 at EPA's 5th Annual Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools National Symposium in Washington, D.C.

"We congratulate these two Minnesota school districts for providing good indoor air quality for their students," said Region 5 Acting Administrator Bharat Mathur.

"Good indoor air quality contributes to a good learning environment."

The Elk River District has spent more than \$20 million over the past 10 years to improve indoor air quality and maintain healthy schools. In recent years, Elk River has emphasized research and resource development. Its efforts were the subject of a University of Minnesota study that measured carbon dioxide reduction and health effects of good ventilation. The district created a guidebook for school board members. Its efforts have helped spread positive practices well beyond Elk River.

Mankato Public Schools has engaged its entire staff in identifying and resolving indoor air quality issues. The district sends an annual survey to each employee to draw attention to situations that have not yet generated complaints or illness. Training is thorough. All administrators receive an annual overview of the program and front line personnel get detailed updates.

EPA's Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools program brings school officials, nurses, teachers, facility managers and parents together to raise awareness about indoor air quality and the potential negative effect of poor indoor air quality on children's health. All of the schools receiving awards used EPA's Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools kit to improve indoor air quality.

EPA developed the voluntary Tools for Schools kit and program in 1995 in response to government studies highlighting deteriorating conditions in the nation's schools and the alarming rise in asthma cases, particularly among school-and preschool-age children.

The kit is a flexible, comprehensive resource designed to help school staff identify, resolve or prevent indoor air quality problems and is available to schools at no cost. Currently, an estimated 10,000 schools and school districts are using the program. More information is at www.epa.gov/iaq/schools/index.html. For more information on Elk River Area Schools, contact Dr. Ron Bratlie, (763) 241-3402. For more information on Mankato Area Public Schools, contact Joel Meixl, (507) 345-5311.

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EPA, DNR slate public meeting on Hog
Island, Newton Creek cleanup December
15

CONTACT:

Bri Bill, (312) 353-6646

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA221

CHICAGO (Dec. 9, 2004) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5
and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources will hold a public meeting on a
proposed cleanup of contaminated sediment (mud) around Hog Island Inlet and
a portion of Newton Creek near Superior, Wis.

The meeting will start with an open house at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 15, at
the Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College conference center, 600 N. 21st St.,
Superior. Presentations and a question-and-answer session will follow at 6:30 p.
m. Staff from both agencies will be available to outline cleanup options and to
listen to the public's comments on the proposed cleanup plan.

The proposed plan calls for digging up and disposing of 50,000 cubic yards of
petroleum-contaminated sediment from part of Newton Creek and Hog Island
Inlet. A layer of clean rocks would stabilize the creek bed and pier. The banks of
the creek and inlet would be landscaped to prevent erosion thereby creating a
healthier habitat for fish and other aquatic life and a safer place for recreation.
If EPA approves the project for funding, Great Lakes Legacy Act money would
be used. The act authorized \$270 million over five years to clean up
contaminated sediment in Great Lakes hot spots called "areas of concern."

Work could begin in early February and last about two months.

###

EPA names Illinois counties that do not meet new, health-based soot standard

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA223

EPA names Illinois counties that do not meet new, health-based soot standard
CHICAGO (Dec. 17, 2004) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency said today that nine Illinois counties and parts of three other counties in the state do not meet the new, health-based outdoor air quality standard for fine particles (soot). The counties are: Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry, Will, Madison, Monroe, St. Clair and parts of Grundy, Kendall and Randolph.

"I think of our clean air history as a relay where a baton is passed from generation to generation and from Administration to Administration. This Administration has made a commitment to accelerate our clean air progress so that all Americans live healthier, longer, more productive and prosperous lives," said EPA Administrator Mike Leavitt in a letter to Gov. Rod Blagojevich.

"We take the first of those important steps today, identifying the areas in your state that do not meet the fine particle standards. Those parts of your state will require more actions to achieve a common goal of cleaner, healthier air," Leavitt said.

The counties failing to meet the new standard, called nonattainment areas, have or contribute to, fine particle levels higher than allowed under EPA's national air quality standard. The standard is designed to protect the public from exposure to these tiny particles that are 2.5 microns or smaller, or about 1/30th the size of a human hair.

Today's designations start a planning process for states to identify measures needed to meet the health standard. EPA will be working with the states and others to achieve this clean-air goal.

Fine particles have been associated with a range of serious adverse health effects, including aggravation of lung disease, asthma attacks and heart problems. EPA believes that airborne fine particles cause tens of thousands of premature deaths across the United States each year. In addition, exposure to fine particles results in tens of thousands of hospitalizations as well as millions of sick days and doctor visits.

More information is at www.epa.gov/pmdesignations.

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EPA names Indiana counties that do not meet new, health-based soot standard

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA224

CHICAGO (Dec. 17, 2004) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency said today that 14 Indiana counties and parts of five other counties in the state do not meet the new, health-based outdoor air quality standard for fine particles (soot).

The counties are: Lake, Porter, Elkhart, St. Joseph, Vanderburgh, Warrick, Hamilton, Hendricks, Johnson, Marion, Morgan, Dubois, Clark, Floyd and parts of Dearborn, Gibson, Pike, Spencer and Jefferson.

"I think of our clean air history as a relay where a baton is passed from generation to generation and from Administration to Administration. This Administration has made a commitment to accelerate our clean air progress so that all Americans live healthier, longer, more productive and prosperous lives," said EPA Administrator Mike Leavitt in a letter to Gov. Joseph Kernan.

"We take the first of those important steps today, identifying the areas in your state that do not meet the fine particle standards. Those parts of your state will require more actions to achieve a common goal of cleaner, healthier air," Leavitt said.

The counties failing to meet the new standard, called nonattainment areas, have or contribute to fine particle levels higher than allowed under EPA's national air quality standard. The standard is designed to protect the public from exposure to these tiny particles that are 2.5 microns or smaller, or about 1/30th the size of a human hair.

Today's designations start a planning process for states to identify measures needed to meet the health standard. EPA will be working with the states and others to achieve this clean-air goal.

Fine particles have been associated with a range of serious adverse health effects, including aggravation of lung disease, asthma attacks and heart problems. EPA believes that airborne fine particles cause tens of thousands of premature deaths across the United States each year. In addition, exposure to fine particles results in tens of thousands of hospitalizations as well as millions of sick days and doctor visits.

More information is at www.epa.gov/pmdesignations.

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EPA names Ohio counties that do not meet new, health-based soot standard

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA225

CHICAGO (Dec. 17, 2004) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency said today that 28 Ohio counties and parts of four other counties in the state do not meet the new, health-based outdoor air quality standard for fine particles (soot).

The counties are: Stark, Butler, Clermont, Hamilton, Warren, Cuyahoga, Lake, Lorain, Medina, Portage, Summit, Delaware, Fairfield, Franklin, Licking, Clark, Greene, Montgomery, Lawrence, Scioto, Washington, Jefferson, Lucas, Wood, Belmont, Columbiana, Mahoning, Trumbull and parts of Ashtabula, Coshocton, Adams and Gallia.

"I think of our clean air history as a relay where a baton is passed from generation to generation and from Administration to Administration. This Administration has made a commitment to accelerate our clean air progress so that all Americans live healthier, longer, more productive and prosperous lives," said EPA Administrator Mike Leavitt in a letter to Gov. Bob Taft.

"We take the first of those important steps today, identifying the areas in your state that do not meet the fine particle standards. Those parts of your state will require more actions to achieve a common goal of cleaner, healthier air," Leavitt said.

The counties failing to meet the new standard, called nonattainment areas, have or contribute to, fine particle levels higher than allowed under EPA's national air quality standard. The standard is designed to protect the public from exposure to these tiny particles that are 2.5 microns or smaller, or about 1/30th the size of a human hair.

Today's designations start a planning process for states to identify measures needed to meet the health standard. EPA will be working with the states and others to achieve this clean-air goal.

Fine particles have been associated with a range of serious adverse health effects, including aggravation of lung disease, asthma attacks and heart problems. EPA believes that airborne fine particles cause tens of thousands of premature deaths across the United States each year. In addition, exposure to fine particles results in tens of thousands of hospitalizations as well as millions of sick days and doctor visits.

More information is at www.epa.gov/pmdesignations.

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EPA names Michigan counties that do not meet new, health-based soot standard

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA226

CHICAGO (Dec. 17, 2004) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency said today that seven Michigan counties do not meet the new, health-based outdoor air quality standard for fine particles (soot).

The counties are: Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, St. Clair, Washtenaw and Wayne.

"I think of our clean air history as a relay where a baton is passed from generation to generation and from Administration to Administration. This Administration has made a commitment to accelerate our clean air progress so that all Americans can live healthier, longer, more productive and prosperous lives," said EPA Administrator Mike Leavitt in a letter to Gov. Jennifer Granholm. "We take the first of those important steps today, identifying the areas in your state that do not meet the fine particle standards. Those parts of your state will require more actions to achieve a common goal of cleaner, healthier air," Leavitt said.

The counties failing to meet the new standard, called nonattainment areas, have or contribute to fine particle levels higher than allowed under EPA's national air quality standard. The standard is designed to protect the public from exposure to these tiny particles that are 2.5 microns or smaller, or about 1/30th the size of a human hair.

Today's designations start a planning process for states to identify measures needed to meet the health standard. EPA will be working with the states and others to achieve this clean-air goal.

Fine particles have been associated with a range of serious adverse health effects, including aggravation of lung disease, asthma attacks and heart problems. EPA believes that airborne fine particles cause tens of thousands of premature deaths across the United States each year. In addition, exposure to fine particles results in tens of thousands of hospitalizations as well as millions of sick days and doctor visits.

More information is at www.epa.gov/pmdesignations.

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EPA cites Coca-Cola Bottling of Wisconsin
for failure to file and implement risk plan;
proposes \$121,137 fine

CONTACT:

Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050

For Immediate Release

No. 04-OPA227

CHICAGO (Dec. 21, 2004) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has filed an administrative complaint against Hondo Inc., doing business as Coca-Cola Bottling Company of Wisconsin. The company allegedly violated the Clean Air Act by not filing and implementing a risk management plan. EPA proposed a \$121,137 fine. The facility is located at 11800 West Brown Deer Rd. in Milwaukee.

Facilities with certain amounts of hazardous materials are required to file a risk management plan with EPA. In this case, EPA alleges the facility owned and operated a process involving more than 10,000 pounds of anhydrous ammonia from June 21, 1999, when the facility was required to submit an RMP, to August 29, 2004, when the amount of anhydrous ammonia in the process was lowered to less than 10,000 pounds.

Risk management plans inform EPA and its partner response agencies of hazardous materials stored at facilities, along with potential public health and environmental impacts in the event of an accidental release.

Anhydrous ammonia, which is commonly used in commercial refrigeration systems, may be fatal if inhaled for long periods of time. It causes burns to the skin and irritation to eyes, nose and throat.

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