

EPA: Northwest Indiana Now Meets Health-Based Soot Standard

CONTACT:

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For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA174

CHICAGO (December 30, 2002) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 announced today that northwest Indiana now meets the health-based, outdoor-air standard for inhalable airborne particles such as those found in soot, dust and ash.

EPA Regional Administrator Thomas V. Skinner signed the authorization redesignating the Lake County cities of Gary, East Chicago, Hammond and Whiting to attainment for particulates, bringing northwest Indiana into attainment for this air quality standard.

"All areas of Indiana now meet the health-based particulate standard," Skinner said. "This is an important achievement, and we congratulate Indiana for taking the steps needed to improve air quality for its citizens."

"This is a significant milestone in our fight for cleaner air in Indiana," said Governor Frank O'Bannon. "It represents 10 years of state and local governments working side-by-side with businesses to improve air quality for Hoosiers in northwest Indiana."

Indiana's Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Management, Lori F. Kaplan was delighted by EPA's redesignation but said, "our hard work has been rewarded, but there is still much to do. We look forward to continuing this important work with local government and businesses in northwest Indiana as well as throughout our state."

EPA attributed the improvement in air quality to federally enforceable state air pollution control regulations, including major regulations for steel mills and other sources that Indiana adopted in 1993 and EPA approved in 1995. These regulations were designed to attain the standards, and that goal has now been achieved.

EPA has also approved a state plan designed to ensure that northwest Indiana continues to meet the particulate standard. The plan requires the areas to consider the impacts of future activities on air quality and to manage those activities, making whatever changes are needed to keep the air clean.

In addition to standards for inhalable particles, EPA has also adopted standards for smaller airborne particles called fine particulate matter. EPA has not yet evaluated what areas are violating the fine particulate matter standard; however, Indiana's current data show that northwest Indiana will not meet the fine particulate standard. If EPA finds northwest Indiana is violating the standard, additional efforts would be needed to improve air quality.

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

A notice of the action will be published in the Federal Register and will be available at www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/EPA-AIR the same day it is published.

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EPA Holds Hearing on Proposed Land Ban

Exemption for EDS Wells

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For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA173

CHICAGO (Dec. 20, 2002) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 will hold an informational meeting and public hearing Jan. 8 at the Crowne Plaza Detroit, 8000 Merriman Road, Romulus, Mich., on its proposal to exempt Environmental Disposal Systems from federal restrictions on land disposal of hazardous waste for two commercial Class I injection wells in Romulus. If the exemption is granted, EDS may use the wells to dispose of regulated liquid hazardous waste.

The information session will be held from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. EPA officials will make a brief presentation and then answer questions. It will be immediately followed by a public hearing from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m., in which oral and written comments on the proposed exemption will be accepted. A court reporter will record all comments. A document responding to the comments will be issued when the final decision is announced.

Written comments may also be mailed. They should be postmarked on or before January 22, 2003, and sent to Sally Swanson, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (WU-16J), 77 West Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL 60604.

Background information on the proposed exemption is available at Romulus Public Library, 11121 Wayne Road; Taylor Community Library, 12303 Pardee Road; and Henry Ford Centennial Library, 16301 Michigan Ave., Dearborn.

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EPA Settles With Norquick Distributing for
Chemical Release Reporting Violations;
Includes \$162,625 Fine and Projects

CONTACT:

Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050

James Entzminger, (312) 886-4062

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA172

CHICAGO (Dec. 18, 2002) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has settled an administrative complaint against Norquick Distributing Co. Inc. for violation of federal laws on the reporting of a hazardous chemical release and two related emergency preparedness regulations. The company has agreed to pay a \$162,625 fine and complete a number of environmental projects.

In the complaint, which was filed in May 2002, EPA alleged that on January 12, 2000, at 7 a.m., 3,900 pounds of anhydrous ammonia was released from Norquick's refrigeration warehouse at 8440 N. Haggerty Road in Canton, Mich. The release occurred when a valve malfunctioned. Norquick employees were evacuated at the time of the incident. EPA computer modeling indicates that the ammonia plume may have traveled at least two miles from the plant.

Federal laws require facilities to immediately notify the National Response Center and state and local authorities about any ammonia release larger than 100 pounds. The company did not notify the NRC until about 11:45 a.m. In addition, Norquick never called the Michigan Emergency Response Commission or local authorities, and required incident follow-up reports were never provided to state and local authorities. Also, Norquick had not provided required hazardous chemical inventory forms to state and local authorities or the local fire department for 1997 to 1999. The investigation also determined that Norquick failed to submit a required risk management plan to EPA by June 1999.

In addition to the fine, Norquick agreed to complete environmental projects valued at \$70,310. These include a series of in-plant safety upgrades, such as installation of a new exhaust ventilation system in the ammonia storage room and reprogramming the computerized refrigeration system to enable a complete shutdown in the event of a release. The company will also donate \$23,500 in new emergency response equipment to the Canton Township Fire Department.

About Anhydrous Ammonia

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

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EPA Approves Ohio Power Plant Rules

CONTACT:

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(Ohio EPA) Linda Oros, (614) 728-0037

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA171

CHICAGO (December 16, 2002) -- U.S. Environmental Protection

Agency Region 5 has approved rules submitted by the state of Ohio requiring a 70 percent reduction in nitrogen oxide emissions from power plants and other large boilers in the state.

EPA Region 5 Administrator Thomas V. Skinner, who signed the approval, said, "We congratulate Ohio for developing this plan to cut an air pollutant that helps form ozone in Ohio."

Ohio EPA Director Christopher Jones said, "The new rules are a significant accomplishment. This plan will be a great benefit to Ohio citizens, who will breathe cleaner air, and experience less ozone pollution."

EPA required Ohio and 18 other states in the eastern part of the country, plus the District of Columbia, to regulate nitrogen oxide emissions from power plants. Ohio EPA's plan will reduce nitrogen oxide emissions from regulated utilities and industries in Ohio by about 120,000 tons annually, beginning in 2004.

The state's plan is a "cap-and-trade" program. It includes opportunities for plants to get budget allowances for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects. One percent of the trading budget will be set aside for facilities that cut their demand for electricity or that use wind, solar, biomass, and landfill methane gas as power sources.

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

A notice of the action will be published soon in the Federal Register and will be available at www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/EPA-AIR the same day it is published.

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MEDIA AVAILABILITY TODAY: EPA/MPCA

Liquid Waste Removal Under Way at St.

Paul

CONTACT:

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(MPCA) Mike Rafferty, (651) 297-8294

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA168

MEDIA AVAILABILITY TODAY: EPA Regional Administrator Tom Skinner and MPCA Commissioner Karen Studders will tour the site and hold a media availability at 1 p.m. Monday, Dec. 9. Workers in protective clothing and tanker trucks authorized to transport hazardous liquids are expected to be working at the site at that time. Reporters will not have full access to the site. A safe photography location will be designated.

CHICAGO (Dec. 9, 2002) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 and Minnesota Pollution Control Agency have begun removal of liquid hazardous waste from the former Electro Plating Engineering site, 45 and 55 West Ivy Ave., in St. Paul, Minn. Residents and businesses in the area can expect to see workers in protective clothing and tanker truck traffic at the site throughout the week.

The company ceased operations in April 2002. MPCA and the Ramsey County Department of Public Health requested EPA assistance in removing hazardous materials before the onset of winter. The primary environmental concern: disposal of 60,000 gallons of liquid stored in tanks, vats and containers inside two buildings.

There are no private wells in the area or risk to public water supplies. EPA and MPCA have confirmed nickel contamination beneath the two buildings. There is Dec. 9. that time. Reporters will

no soil exposure risk, however, unless the buildings are demolished and removed. Currently, there is a restriction on the deed for the property which calls for existing structures to remain in place or requires additional cleanup if the contaminated soil is disturbed.

On a separate track, EPA will pursue recovery of its costs from the responsible parties once the hazardous material has been removed.

MPCA has notified local residents about the project. For more information, call MPCA's Joe Henderson, (651) 297-8496.

###

Cleanup Complete at John Mercer Drum

Site; Meeting Dec. 18

CONTACT:

Bob Paulson, (312) 886-0272

Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA170

CHICAGO (Dec. 6, 2002) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 will host an informal public meeting to discuss the recently completed cleanup of the John Mercer Drum site in St. Albans Township, Ohio. The meeting will be Wednesday, Dec. 18, from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., at Alexandria Public Library, 10 Maple St., Alexandria.

A two-year cleanup, near the intersection of Hardscrabble and Battee Roads, was completed in September. A Chicago-based EPA Superfund emergency response team oversaw the removal and safe disposal of more than 900 industrial drums, 11,000 tons of solid paint-related hazardous waste, and 86,000 gallons of liquid paint-related hazardous waste.

A fact sheet will be available at the meeting. Site documents are on file at the Alexandria Library. For more information or a copy of the fact sheet, contact community involvement coordinator Bob Paulson, (800) 621-8431, ext. 60272, e-mail: paulson.robert@epa.gov.

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Media Advisory: EPA Regional
Administrator, MPCA Commissioner to
Tour St. Paul Cleanup Project, Dec. 9

CONTACT:

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(MPCA) Mike Rafferty, (651) 297-8294

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA169

CHICAGO (Dec. 6, 2002) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5

Administrator Tom Skinner and Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

Commissioner Karen Studders will tour the Electro Plating Engineering site in St.
Paul, Minn., at 1 p.m. Dec. 9. A media availability will follow immediately.

The property is an inactive metal plating facility at 45 and 55 West Ivy Ave. The
two agencies are supervising safe removal and disposal of 60,000 gallons of
liquid hazardous waste.

To get to the site: Take 35E to Maryland Avenue Exit. Go left (west) on Maryland
to Sylvan. Turn right (north) and take Sylvan to Ivy. Go left (west) at the corner
of Ivy and Sylvan.

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EPA Reaches Agreement with Poly-Carb

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA167

CHICAGO (Nov. 26, 2002) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has reached an agreement with Poly-Carb Inc. on alleged violations of the architectural coatings rule of the Clean Air Act. The violations occurred at the company's coating manufacturing plant, 33095 Bainbridge Rd., Solon, Ohio. EPA assessed a \$50,000 penalty.

The rule limits the volatile organic compound content of architectural coatings, including exterior and interior paints, industrial maintenance coatings, wood and roof coatings, and primer and traffic paints.

The agreement resolves an EPA complaint alleging that Poly-Carb made coatings with a higher VOC content than federal law allows.

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. Asthmatics, children and the elderly are especially at risk, but these health concerns are important to everyone.

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EPA Cites Fresh Mark for Chemical
Release Reporting Violations; Proposes
\$70,358 Fine

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James Entzminger, (312) 886-4062

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA165

CHICAGO (Nov. 25, 2002) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has filed an administrative complaint against Fresh Mark Inc. for violation of federal laws on the reporting of a hazardous chemical release. EPA has proposed a \$70,358 fine.

EPA alleges that on June 22, 2002, a broken refrigeration system valve released about 7,000 pounds of anhydrous ammonia from the company's sausage plant at 1600 Harmont Ave., N.E., in Canton, Ohio. The release lasted about three hours and the plant was evacuated at the time of the incident. EPA computer modeling indicates that the chemical plume drifted onto neighboring properties. Fresh Mark did not promptly notify its neighbors, nor did the company as required under federal laws promptly notify the National Response Center, the Ohio Emergency Response Commission or the Stark County emergency planning commission. The Canton fire department was notified about three hours into the incident and assisted in stopping the leak and dispersing the cloud of ammonia vapor.

Federal laws require facilities to immediately notify the National Response Center and state and local authorities about any anhydrous ammonia release larger than 100 pounds. In addition to the late notifications to the state and local authorities, the company failed to notify the NRC until more than 41 hours after the incident.

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

About Anhydrous Ammonia

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

###

Two Chicago Area Companies Honored for

Native Landscaping

CONTACT:

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Megan Gavin, (312) 353-5282

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA166

CHICAGO (Nov. 22, 2002) -- American NTN Bearing Manufacturing and Underwriters Laboratories are the first corporate winners of native landscaping awards for the Chicago area. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Chicago Wilderness made the announcement on Wednesday.

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

American NTN Bearing Manufacturing, at 1500 Holmes Rd. in Elgin, has restored four acres of its property to native tallgrass prairie. Currently, there are 42 native species planted, including bergamot, marsh blazing stars and wild columbine. The property's maintenance plan for 2003 includes a prairie burn.

Underwriters Laboratories, at 333 Pfingsten Rd. in Northbrook, converted seven acres of its property to native plants in 2002. In a two-acre portion along a lake on the property, weeds were replaced by native plants such as black-eyed susans, little bluestems, nodding onions and purple prairie clover. Also, in a five-acre area bordering the North Branch of the Chicago River, a strip of lawn was replaced with butterfly weed, hoary vervain, rattlesnake master and rough blazing stars. The company also plans to introduce white oak trees in this area to help absorb storm water run-off.

The two winners were honored in the corporate landscaping category, which was added for 2002 to the three-year-old native landscaping awards program. Additional winners, in the municipality and park district category, will be awarded in January 2003.

The announcement was made at the Chicago Wilderness Congress in Libertyville, Ill. Chicago Wilderness is an alliance of more than 150 public and private organizations working together to protect, restore, study and manage the natural ecosystems of the Chicago region. For more information: www.chicagowilderness.org.

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Agencies Take Emergency Action to Defend Against Asian Carp Invasion

CONTACT:

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For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA164

Emergency Funds Made Available to Protect the Great Lakes from Large, Invasive Fish

CHICAGO (November 18, 2002) —Three United States federal agencies, the International Joint Commission, and the Great Lakes Fishery Commission have joined together to defend against an invasive species threat to the Great Lakes region by providing emergency funds to help prevent the spread of Asian carp. The funds were made available to supply backup power hardware for an electrical barrier on the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal. This barrier is the first and currently, only line of defense against the Asian carp. These fish are extremely prolific, rapidly advancing their way up the Mississippi River toward the Great Lakes via the canal and threatening the biological integrity of the Great Lakes. The hardware will ensure that a power outage will not allow these carp to invade the Great Lakes. This action marks an unprecedented level of speed and cooperation by agencies and stakeholders as they respond in real time to the migration of this invasive species.

"The Great Lakes benefit millions of Americans and Canadians who rely on them for food, water, recreation, and livelihoods," said Ambassador Mary Beth West, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State. "If Asian carp migrate into the Great Lakes, they could significantly threaten this shared natural resource." Purchase and installation of backup power hardware for the electrical barrier is expected to cost \$300,000. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency provided \$150,000 for this purpose and the Corps of Engineers contributed in-kind services amounting to \$50,000. Working through the International Joint Commission and the Great Lakes Fishery Commission, the United States Department of State provided \$170,000 last August to assist in efforts to combat the carp migration, \$100,000 of which will be applied to the purchase backup power hardware. Asian carp are a significant threat to the Great Lakes because of their size, fecundity, and ability to consume large amounts of food. Asian carp can grow to 100 pounds and up to four feet long. They are well-suited to the climate of the Great Lakes region, which is similar to their native Eastern Hemisphere habitats. It is expected they would compete for food with the valuable sport and commercial fish. If they entered the system, they could become a dominant species in the Great Lakes.

Two species of Asian carp—the silver and the bighead carps—escaped into the Mississippi River from southern aquaculture facilities in the 1980s and significantly expanded their range during large floods in the early 1990s. Steadily, the carp have made their way northward, becoming the most abundant species in some areas of the Mississippi, out-competing native fish, and causing severe hardship to the people who fish the river. The Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal connects the Mississippi River to the Great Lakes. The canal feeds into the Des Plaines River; currently, the carp are in the Des Plaines River, approximately 50 miles from Lake Michigan.

G. Tracy Mehan, III, Assistant Administrator for Water at the Environmental Protection Agency, stated, "The specter of large, prolific Asian carp in the Great Lakes has motivated our coalition of government agencies to act swiftly. We have learned from hard experience the environmental and economic havoc caused in the Great Lakes by aquatic invasive species such as zebra mussels, sea lamprey, and round gobies. The latest threat from Asian carp underscores the serious problems posed by invasive species and the urgent need to prevent further introductions. The Great Lakes simply cannot afford another aquatic

invasion."

"Fortunately, we do have a first line of defense against the Asian carp invaders," said Brigadier General Steven R. Hawkins, commander of the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. "In April, 2002, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers completed construction of an electrical fish barrier. The barrier was designed as a demonstration project to study the effectiveness of preventing migration of species between the Mississippi and Great Lakes watersheds. The barrier uses electricity to repel fish and hopefully will prevent fish passage. Because the barrier relies on electricity, we were concerned that a simple power outage could allow Asian carp to sneak past. The emergency funds from the federal and binational partners have allowed the Corps to purchase the backup generator we need to ensure an unbroken supply of power to the barrier." To date, silver and bighead carp have not been sighted upstream of this barrier.

Agencies and stakeholders will continue to work to prevent the migration of Asian carp and other invasive species through the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal. Partners in this effort include: Chicago Mayor Richard Daley, Commonwealth Edison, the Council of Great Lakes Governors, the Dispersal Barrier Advisory Panel, the Great Lakes Fishery Commission, the Great Lakes Sportfishing Council, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, the International Joint Commission, the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, Midwest Generation, the Mississippi Interstate Cooperative Resource Association, the New York Department of Environmental Conservation, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Wisconsin Sea Grant, and other state, nongovernmental, and academic partners.

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EPA Proposes to Grant EDS an Exemption from Land Disposal Restrictions

CONTACT:

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For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA163

CHICAGO (Nov. 20, 2002) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has proposed exempting Environmental Disposal Systems of Birmingham, Mich., from federal restrictions on land disposal of hazardous waste for two commercial Class I injection wells in Romulus, Mich. If the exemption is granted, EDS may use the wells to dispose of regulated liquid hazardous waste. EPA will accept public comments on this proposal until January 17, 2003, and will hold both a public meeting and hearing in early January.

After reviewing EDS' petition for an exemption, EPA officials have concluded that it meets the requirements of the regulations and EDS can safely dispose of hazardous waste in the wells. EPA may withdraw the exemption if any conditions change.

Hazardous waste disposal wells are stringently regulated. EDS was required to demonstrate that, to a reasonable degree of certainty, the waste will be confined for as long as it remains hazardous and will not contaminate underground sources of drinking water. The waste will be confined in rock formations more than 3,000 feet below the Earth's surface.

Class I injection wells include wells used to dispose of liquid hazardous waste. The technology was borrowed from the oil and gas industry. These wells are drilled deep and there are enough confining layers of rock between the waste and underground sources of drinking water so they do not allow any fluid to escape to drinking water. Hazardous waste injection wells are subject to an exacting permitting program, monitored continuously for leaks and other changes and the results are reported monthly to EPA. Inspectors visit the sites several times each year.

###

EPA Reaches Agreement with Gerken

Materials

CONTACT:

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For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA161

CHICAGO (Nov. 13, 2002) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has reached an agreement with Gerken Materials Inc., 9-051 U.S. Rte. 24, Napoleon, Ohio, on clean-air violations at 17 company facilities in Ohio and Michigan that make asphalt, or crush or screen rocks. EPA assessed a \$90,470 penalty, and the company agreed to do environmental projects costing \$160,000. "This agreement will ensure cleaner, healthier air for people living near these facilities," said EPA Region 5 Administrator Thomas V. Skinner.

The agreement resolves an EPA complaint alleging violations at the facilities, including permit, recordkeeping, emissions and opacity violations. Opacity is the amount of light obscured by smoke and dust from a facility.

Environmental projects include performing air compliance audits and implementing compliance recordkeeping programs at all of Gerken's facilities, buying and installing pollution control equipment at some of its facilities and completing a paving project at one facility.

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 Ohio facilities affected by the agreement are in Sylvania, Napoleon, Swanton, Bluffton, Waterville, Flatrock, Paulding, Parkertown, West Milgrove, Rocky Ridge, Toledo, Custar and Port Clinton. Gerken's Monroe, Mich., facility was also affected.

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

###

EPA Reaches Agreement with Tamms

Industries

CONTACT:

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For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA160

CHICAGO (Nov. 8, 2002) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has reached an agreement with Tamms Industries Inc. for alleged violations of the architectural coatings rule of the Clean Air Act at the company's coating manufacturing plant, 3835 State Rd. 72, Kirkland, Ill. EPA assessed a \$50,000 penalty.

The rule limits the volatile organic compound content of architectural coatings, including exterior and interior paints, industrial maintenance coatings, wood and roof coatings, and primer and traffic paints.

The agreement resolves an EPA complaint alleging that Tamms made coatings with a higher VOC content than federal law allows.

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. Asthmatics, children and the elderly are especially at risk, but these health concerns are important to everyone.

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EPA Reaches Agreement with Barrel
Company

CONTACT:

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For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA159

CHICAGO (Nov. 7, 2002) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has reached an agreement with IFCO ICS Chicago Inc. (formerly Acme Barrel Co.) on alleged violations of clean-air regulations at the company's steel drum reconditioning plant, 2300 W. 13th St., Chicago. EPA assessed a \$25,000 penalty.

"This agreement will protect public health and the environment in the neighborhood by significantly cutting volatile organic compound and odor emissions from the plant," said EPA Region 5 Administrator Thomas V. Skinner. The agreement resolves an EPA complaint alleging IFCO failed to comply with an EPA request that the company test its drum furnace operation to see if it was capturing and destroying the required amounts of VOCs. EPA also charged IFCO with not keeping proper records of its VOC use and emissions.

As part of the agreement, IFCO agreed to install a permanent total enclosure around its drum furnace line. This enclosure will capture all VOC emissions and is the critical step in ensuring that IFCO complies with the Illinois VOC rules. 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. Asthmatics, children and the elderly are especially at risk, but these health concerns are important to everyone. The Chicago area does not meet national health-based standards for ozone.

###

EPA Settles with 7 Companies to Develop
Cleanup Plan for Portion of Tremont City
Landfill

CONTACT:

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Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA157

CHICAGO (Oct. 31, 2002) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has reached a settlement agreement with seven companies to perform an investigation and engineering study for a portion of the Tremont City Landfill, in Clark County, near Springfield, Ohio. The area, known as the barrel fill portion of the site, includes about 50,000 buried drums and related areas contaminated by the drums.

The agreement, called an administrative order on consent, requires the group to complete a comprehensive investigation of the barrel fill and to produce a set of cleanup alternatives that EPA will consider. On-site work for the investigation is expected to start in June 2003, following approval of the work plan by EPA in consultation with Ohio EPA.

The seven companies involved in the agreement are: Delphi Automotive Systems LLC, Franklin International Inc., General Motors Corp., International Paper Co., The Proctor & Gamble Co., PPG Industries Inc. and Worthington Cylinder Corp.

About the Site

The 80-acre Tremont City Landfill, 3108 Snyder-Domer Rd., in German Township, is about a mile west of Tremont City and 3.5 miles northwest of Springfield. The site includes a closed landfill, a closed waste transfer facility and the barrel fill area. The barrel fill covers about 8.5 acres in the northwest part of the site. The drums, which were disposed of at the site in the late 1970s, contain a variety of industrial wastes, bulk liquids and sludges.

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EPA Settles with Nortru on Hazardous

Waste Violations

CONTACT:

Karen Thompson, (312) 353-8547

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA152

CHICAGO (Oct. 30, 2002) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has reached agreement with Nortru Inc. for alleged hazardous-waste violations at three Detroit, Mich., facilities. The company will pay a \$225,000 fine. The complaint was filed in September against Nortru waste facilities located on Lycaste and Hillger streets in Detroit. It said Nortru violated the Resource Conservation Recovery Act and Clean Air Act air emissions standards as well as rules governing storage and record-keeping for hazardous wastes. In addition to the fine, Nortru is required to install new air pollution control devices on its container processing equipment and shut down other operations. Under RCRA, passed by Congress in 1976, EPA regulates hazardous waste from production to final disposal.

About Nortru, Inc.

Nortru is an industrial paint recycler based at 663 Lycaste Ave., Detroit.

About EPA

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

###

EPA Orders Buckeye Egg to Test

Emissions

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For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA156

CHICAGO (Oct. 29, 2002) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has ordered Buckeye Egg Farm L.P. to test for dust emissions from three of its Ohio egg production facilities.

EPA issued the order because of Buckeye's alleged failure to comply with a January 2001 EPA request for the company to do emission testing at the three facilities.

The facilities are: 11212 Croton Rd., Croton, Licking County; 11873 County Rd. 77, Harpster, Wyandot County; and 20279 County Rd. 245, Mt. Victory, Hardin County.

Buckeye has 60 days from the effective date of the order to do the testing and 30 days after completing the testing to submit a final report to EPA. The order was issued Oct. 10 and is effective 14 days after its receipt by Buckeye Egg.

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EPA Reaches Agreement with Steel
Dynamics

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For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA155

CHICAGO (Oct. 29, 2002) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has reached an agreement with Steel Dynamics Inc. on alleged Clean Air Act violations at the company's steel mill, 2601 County Rd. 700 East, Columbia City, Ind. EPA assessed a \$50,000 penalty, and the company agreed to do a \$100,000 environmental project.

"This environmental project will protect public health and the environment by removing lead paint from windows in the Ft. Wayne, Ind., area and paying for a lead poisoning case manager for Allen County," said EPA Region 5

Administrator Thomas V. Skinner. "We are pleased that the company has agreed to do this project that goes beyond what the law requires."

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 administrative complaint alleging Steel Dynamics began work on its plant before it got a permit to prevent significant deterioration of air quality.

Before new air pollution sources can be built or existing sources can be modified in areas that meet health-based standards for all pollutants, companies must get permits that restrict their emissions and prevent significant deterioration of air quality in those areas.

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NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS: EPA

Administrator Whitman's Trip to
Minneapolis Has Been Cancelled

CONTACT:

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For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA154

CHICAGO (Oct. 25, 2002) — EPA Administrator Christie Whitman's trip to
Minneapolis Monday, Oct. 28, has been cancelled.

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NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS: EPA

Administrator Whitman to Visit

Minneapolis School

Will Announce Grant to Minnesota

Department of Health to Improve Indoor

Air Quality in Minnesota Schools

CONTACT:

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

(Minneapolis Public Schools) Melissa Winter, (612) 668-0230

(Minnesota Dept. of Health) Doug Schulz, (651) 215-1303

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA153

CHICAGO (Oct. 24, 2002) — EPA Administrator Christie Whitman will be at the Lucey Craft Laney School in Minneapolis on Monday to present a \$40,000 grant to the Minnesota Department of Health. The grant will be used to help Minnesota schools improve indoor air quality by implementing EPA's Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools program.

What:

Tour of the Laney School, a showcase "green" school building, and presentation of Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools check to the Director of the Environmental Health Division of the Minnesota Department of Health.

When:Monday, Oct. 28, at 1:45 p.m.

Where:Lucy Craft Laney School at Cleveland Park, 3333 Penn Ave. North, Minneapolis, Minn.

Who:

EPA Administrator Christie Whitman, EPA Region 5 Administrator Tom Skinner, Director of the Environmental Health Division of the Minnesota Department of Health Pat Bloomgren, Laney School Principal Dr. Sandra Woods.

###

CMP Anodizing Agrees to \$14,951 Fine,
Resolves Hazardous Waste Violation
Complaint

CONTACT:

Karen Thompson, (312) 353-8547

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA151

CHICAGO (Oct. 24, 2002) — CMP Anodizing Inc. of Elk Grove Village, Ill., has agreed to pay a \$14,951 civil penalty to resolve hazardous waste violations alleged by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5.

EPA cited the company for several violations of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act. These violations were discovered during an EPA inspection last November. They include: hazardous waste stored in open containers, failure to conduct required inspections and assessments, failure to train personnel in hazardous waste handling procedures, failure to establish spill-prevention procedures, and improper record-keeping.

As part of the agreement, or consent order, CMP certifies that all violations have been corrected.

EPA regulates the safe handling, transportation, treatment and disposal of hazardous waste, from its origin to its final disposal.

About CMP Anodizing

CMP Anodizing is a metal plating business located at 1340 Howard St., Elk Grove Village, Ill.

###

PA to Co-sponsor Climate Change
Workshop at Crystal Mountain

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

Julie Magee, (312) 886-6063

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA150

CHICAGO (Oct. 22, 2002) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 will co-sponsor "Climate Change and Winter Tourism: What are the Potential Impacts and What We Can Do," a one-day workshop from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Nov. 8 at Crystal Mountain, 12500 Crystal Mountain Dr., Thompsonville, Mich. The workshop is the last of five regional workshops planned by EPA, Michigan State University, National Wildlife Federation and the Great Lakes Regional Climate Change Assessment Team. Their purpose is to stimulate discussion on climate change issues, encouraging more people to learn about current problems.

Scientists, winter sports enthusiasts and leaders from the business and tourism communities will discuss the latest science of how projected climate change in the region is likely to affect winter recreation and tourism. The group will explore ways to address the issue.

The first climate change workshop, on Great Lakes water levels, was in Chicago in March 2001; the second, on Great Lakes water ecology, was in Milwaukee in June 2001; the third, on agriculture in the Great Lakes Region, was in East Lansing, Mich., in March 2002 and the fourth, on terrestrial ecosystems of the Great Lakes Region, was in Bloomington, Minn., in June 2002.

Additional information about the fifth workshop, including how to register, can be obtained at <http://www.geo.msu.edu/glra>. Information about climate change is at <http://www.epa.gov/globalwarming/>. For special needs or accommodations, please contact Jeanne Bisanz at (248) 851-2316.

###

EPA Holds Meeting on Cannelton
Superfund Site Progress and Re-use, Oct.
23, 5:30 p.m.

CONTACT:

Don de Blasio, (312) 886-4360

Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050

Rosita Clarke-Moreno, (312) 886-7251

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA149

CHICAGO (Oct. 17, 2002) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 will hold a public meeting Wed., Oct. 23, followed by an availability session to discuss issues related to the completed cleanup and potential re-uses of the Cannelton Inc. Superfund site in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. The meeting will be at Lincoln Elementary School, 810 East 5th Ave.

The public meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. and includes presentations by EPA, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality and the city of Sault Ste. Marie. An informal availability session begins at 6:30 p.m., allowing residents to discuss specific concerns with officials one-on-one. Representatives from Phelps Dodge, the current site owner, will also be available.

The Cannelton cleanup, completed in October 1999, included the excavation and off-site disposal of 33,000 tons of contaminated soils and tannery waste, as well as efforts to landscape and stabilize portions of the St. Marys River shoreline.

#

EPA Gives Companies 60 Days to Take
Action at Ellsworth Industrial Park Site

CONTACT:

Mike Joyce, (312) 353-5546

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

Maggie Carson, (217) 557-8138

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA148

CHICAGO (Oct. 17, 2002) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has given a group of companies, public entities, and individuals 60 days to provide a good faith offer to address ground water contamination in an unincorporated area near the Ellsworth Industrial Park site in Downers Grove, Ill.

EPA sent a letter on Oct. 15 requesting that the group conduct or finance an environmental site investigation and feasibility study, and perform interim steps that provide safe drinking water for residents affected by contamination.

Notification to potentially responsible parties is a required procedure under the federal Superfund law. Previously, in early August, 15 businesses and public entities in Downers Grove were notified of their status as potentially responsible parties. Most of the companies then sent representatives to a meeting Aug. 20 with EPA and its partner agencies, Illinois EPA and the Illinois Attorney General's office.

EPA's Oct. 15 letter was sent to 20 parties. The parties named for the first time in this letter are: Magnetek Inc., The Morey Corp., Principal Manufacturing Corp., RHI Holdings, and Mr. William Helwig.

Since July 2001, Illinois EPA has tested over 500 private wells in unincorporated Downers Grove for the presence of the industrial degreasing solvents trichloroethylene and tetrachlorethylene, commonly known as TCE and PCE. Of these, more than 200 were above the safe drinking water standard for one or both of the chemicals. The solvents were also detected in another 200 wells, but at levels considered to be safe.

EPA and Illinois EPA have also installed more than 40 monitoring wells in the area, collected ground water samples at 50 locations and taken soil borings at 90 locations. As a result of this investigation, the agencies have concluded that Ellsworth Industrial Park is the source of the ground water contamination.

Site documents are available at the Downers Grove Public Library, 1050 Curtiss St.

###

MEDIA ADVISORY: EPA Water Division
Director Will Join Friends of Fox River to
Test Water Quality on Oct. 18

CONTACT:

Phillippa Cannon, (312) 353-6218

Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA147

CHICAGO (Oct. 17, 2002) -- On October 18, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 Water Division Director and Naperville resident Jo-Lynn Traub will join Friends of the Fox River and students from area schools in testing water quality in the Fox River. The day has been declared National Water Monitoring Day to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Clean Water Act.

When: Friday, October 18, 10 a.m. to Noon

Where: Tekakwitha Woods Nature Center, 35W076 Villa Marie Rd, St. Charles.

The nature center is about 3.5 miles north of St. Charles. See Kane County Forest Preserves web site for map and directions (www.co.kane.il.us/Forest/fp/tekakwitha_woods.htm)

For more information on the Clean Water Act and National Water Monitoring Day, visit www.epa.gov/water/yearofcleanwater/monitoring.html

###

EPA and State Environmental Agencies
Issue State of the Waters Report for
Midwest

CONTACT:

Phillippa Cannon, (312) 353-6218

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA146

CHICAGO (Oct. 16, 2002) — To mark the 30th anniversary of the Clean Water Act on October 18, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and six midwest states have issued a report on their successes, goals and challenges for improving water quality in the region that includes Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin.

The region has an abundance of fresh water, including more than 350,000 miles of rivers and streams and 5.8 million acres of lakes. It encompasses the major watersheds of the Great Lakes and Mississippi, Ohio and Missouri Rivers.

Overall, water quality has been improving, but problems still persist. Among the goals identified in the report are maintaining and improving aquatic habitat and a healthy environment for aquatic creatures, fish that are safe to eat, and water that is safe to swim in and safe to drink.

Many Americans remember 30 years ago when the nation's waters were in crisis. Thanks largely to the Clean Water Act, our waterways are considerably cleaner and safer. This dramatic improvement was achieved through a combination of controls limiting the type and amount of pollution that could be discharged, strict enforcement of the law and an investment of over \$80 billion in federal funds to upgrade sewage treatment plants.

For a copy of the Regional State of the Waters report visit epa.gov/region5 or call EPA at 800-621-8431.

For more information on the 30th anniversary of the Clean Water Act and how to help protect local waterways, visit epa.gov/water/yearofcleanwater

###

Public Meetings on St. Regis Paper
Superfund Site Oct. 17; 2 p.m. and 6:30 p.
m.

CONTACT:

Don de Blasio, (312) 886-4360

Phillippa Cannon, (312) 353-6218

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA144

CHICAGO (Oct. 11, 2002) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5
will hold two public meetings regarding the St. Regis Paper Company Superfund
site in Cass Lake, Minn., on Oct. 17.

The first meeting will be 2 to 4 p.m.

at the Cass Lake Municipal Center,

330 Second St., N.W.

The second meeting will be from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.,

at the Palace Casino,

6280 Upper Cass Frontage Rd., N.W.

At both meetings, EPA officials will discuss sampling results and the next steps
related to the site. Representatives from the Agency for Toxic Substances and
Disease Registry (ATSDR) will also be at both meetings. ATSDR is the principal
federal public health agency that advises EPA about health concerns at
Superfund sites.

For special needs or accommodations, please contact community involvement
coordinator Don de Blasio, (800) 621-8431, Ext. 64360.

###

EPA Picks Cleanup Plan for Rockwell

International Site

CONTACT:

Dave Novak, (312) 886-7478

Phillippa Cannon, (312) 353-6218

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA143

CHICAGO (Oct. 9, 2002) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5

has selected the cleanup plan for the Rockwell International site in Allegan,

Mich. The Superfund site, which lies adjacent to the Kalamazoo River, is a

closed 30-acre manufacturing facility with significant PCB contamination.

The cleanup plan, projected to cost \$14 million to \$15 million and modified

based on public comment received this past summer, is outlined in a document

called a record of decision, signed by EPA on September 30. The plan details

the cleanup process for contaminated soil and pond sediment, ground water

contamination, and contaminated oil at the site and

some nearby properties. EPA is looking to a company responsible for significant

contamination, ArvinMeritor Inc., to implement the cleanup plan.

To provide for the broadest range of potential uses, soil at the site will be

cleaned to levels suitable for unrestricted commercial or industrial development,

including recreation. The former Rockwell Manufacturing building and foundation

will be removed to the extent necessary to clean the contamination beneath it.

Excavated materials will be shipped to

EPA-approved disposal facilities.

To address contaminated ground water at the site, a slurry wall – a below-

ground filter wall made of soil and a clay-like material called bentonite –will be

installed to surround the site and restrict ground water flow.

From 1901 to 1916, the site was owned by Allegan Mirror. Blood Brothers

Machine Co., an auto parts manufacturer, purchased the site in 1914. Through a

series of mergers, Rockwell International became the property owner in 1953

and operated there until 1996. Rockwell assembled automotive parts for large

vehicles and construction equipment at the site

until about 1988. In October 1997, Rockwell's automotive division became

Meritor Automotive. In July 2000, Meritor and Arvin Industries merged to form

ArvinMeritor.

Site documents are available at Allegan Public Library, 311 Hubbard St.

About polychlorinated biphenyls

PCBs are a group of toxic chemicals that were once widely used as industrial

coolants, insulators and lubricants. PCBs are of concern because they

concentrate in the environment and the food chain resulting in health hazards to

humans, fish and wildlife. Because of these dangers, the United States banned

the manufacture of new PCBs in 1976 and PCBs

still in use are strictly regulated.

###

EPA Cites Chicago Plating Company for
Violating Hazardous Waste Storage
Regulations

CONTACT:

Kären Thompson, (312) 353-8547

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA142

CHICAGO (Oct. 8, 2002) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has filed an administrative complaint against Nobert Plating Co. of Chicago for alleged hazardous waste violations. Region 5 is seeking a fine of up to \$27,500 for each day the company was in violation.

The infractions were discovered by EPA during an inspection March 29, 2001, at the company's Plant #1, 340 N. Ashland Ave. Companies such as Nobert are allowed to store hazardous waste for up to 90 days without a permit. Inspectors found materials that had been stored for more than 90 days without a permit, as well as improperly marked containers and hazardous waste stored in open containers. Nobert was also cited for failure to conduct required inspections.

EPA issued the complaint under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act.

Nobert has the right to request a formal hearing on the complaint, an informal meeting to discuss a settlement, or both.

About Nobert

Nobert employs about 50 people in metal plating operations at its Ashland Avenue location. The company serves customers in a variety of industries, and has been in business since 1967.

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.

###

DaimlerChrysler Agrees to \$144,000 Fine,
Resolves Hazardous Waste Violation
Complaint

CONTACT:

Karen Thompson, (312) 353-8547

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA141

CHICAGO (Oct. 8, 2002) -- DaimlerChrysler Corp. has agreed to pay a \$144,000 civil penalty to resolve an administrative complaint brought by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency regarding hazardous waste violations between December 1996 and September 2002.

EPA Region 5 cited the automaker for not having a system to detect and repair leaks in equipment used to paint vehicles at one of its Ohio facilities. The company uses a solvent to clean this equipment, and the solvent and resulting waste product are considered hazardous. DaimlerChrysler was also cited for not installing air emission controls on hazardous waste tanks, and for not assessing and inspecting the integrity of new tank systems.

In addition to the fine, DaimlerChrysler will correct the problems in the painting and waste storage systems.

The complaint was issued by EPA Region 5 under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act. EPA Regions 3 and 7 joined Region 5 in the agreement, which involves all eight of Daimle Chrysler's facilities in which vehicles are painted. The plants are located in Toledo, Ohio; Detroit, Mich.; Sterling Heights, Mich.; Warren, Mich.; Newark, Del.; Fenton, Mo.; and Belvidere, Ill. The Delaware facility is in Region 3 and the Missouri plant in Region 7. All others are in Region 5 states, as is the company's headquarters in Auburn Hills, Mich. EPA regulates the safe handling, transportation, treatment and disposal of hazardous waste, from its origin to its final disposal.

About EPA

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

###

EPA Modifies Industrial Excess Landfill

Cleanup Plan

CONTACT:

Dave Novak, (312) 886-7478

Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA140

CHICAGO (Oct. 7, 2002) — A number of changes have been made to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5's amended cleanup plan for the Industrial Excess Landfill in Uniontown, Ohio.

The document that specifies the changes is called a record of decision amendment. The original record of decision for IEL was signed in July 1989. An earlier amendment to this cleanup plan was signed in March 2000. Shortly after the amended plan was issued, the parties responsible for doing the cleanup work introduced their own proposed modifications to residents and government officials. Their proposed changes included reinforcing the existing soil cover with additional trees and vegetation and letting natural attenuation processes continue to degrade the contaminants on-site. EPA, with input from Ohio EPA and local officials, agreed the proposal merited consideration. A study that evaluated the proposal and other alternatives was completed in April 2002.

"EPA's decision to amend the IEL cleanup plan is based, ultimately, on two factors," said regional Superfund Director William Muno. "Ground water contaminant levels continue to decrease, with no indication that they are moving off-site. In addition, we found a general level of acceptance for the proposed changes by state and local governments, as well as residents who live near the landfill."

The modified plan was presented April 18, 2002, at a public meeting. More than 30 people offered formal comments at this meeting, in addition to more than 180 written comments EPA received. A document that summarizes EPA's responses to the issues raised will be available at two local information repositories within the next 10 days.

Key modifications accepted by EPA under the ROD amendment, in addition to the addition of the trees and vegetative cover, include:

- Continued natural attenuation of ground water contamination both on- and off-site;
- Continued monitoring of on- and off-site ground water and landfill gas;
- Upgrading the existing monitoring well network by installing new wells, and upgrading or abandoning others;
- Continued maintenance of the alternate water supply built for residents along North Cleveland Avenue in the late 1980s;
- Upgraded perimeter fencing;
- Deed restrictions on future uses of the site;
- Additional site investigation, including a site-wide landfill gas emissions study, investigation of benzene levels in the north-central portion of the landfill and an analysis of risk associated with anticipated future land use.

Site documents (including the response to comments due to arrive shortly) are available at the Lake Township Clerk's Office, 12360 Market North, and at the Hartville Branch Library, 411 East Maple St., both in Hartville. For more information, contact community involvement coordinator Dave Novak or remedial project manager Ross del Rosario, (800) 621-8431, extensions 6-7478 or 6-6195, respectively.

#

EPA Proposes Change to Cleanup Plan for
West Kl Avenue Landfill; Meeting Oct. 2, 7
P.M.

CONTACT:

Dave Novak, (312) 886-7478

Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA138

CHICAGO (Sept. 30, 2002) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has proposed a change to the cleanup plan for the West Kl Avenue Landfill Superfund site in Kalamazoo, Mich. A meeting to discuss the proposed change will be held Wednesday, Oct. 2, at 7 p.m. in Oshtemo Township Hall, 7275 W. Main St. Oral and written comments on the plan will be accepted at the meeting and throughout a formal 30-day public comment period which ends Oct. 16, 2002.

The 87-acre site, at the intersection of West Kl Avenue and 4th St., was established as a private dump about 1950, eventually becoming a commercial/ industrial landfill owned by Kalamazoo County. It was closed in 1979 because contamination was found in nearby water wells. In the early 1980s, the site was covered with a landfill cap. In 1982, it was placed on the Superfund National Priorities List. EPA selected a cleanup plan in 1990.

For special needs or accommodations at the meeting or for more information about the site, contact community involvement coordinator Dave Novak, (800) 621-8431, ext. 67478 or novak.dave@epa.gov. A fact sheet available from Novak will also be distributed at the Oct. 2 meeting. Site documents are on file at the Oshtemo Branch of the Kalamazoo Public Library, 7265 W. Main St.

#

EPA Awards \$50,000 Technical Assistance

Grants to Illinois, Michigan Community

Groups

CONTACT:

Susan Pastor, (312) 353-1325

Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA137

CHICAGO (Sept. 30, 2002) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has awarded a pair of \$50,000 technical assistance grants to community groups in Illinois and Michigan.

American Bottom Conservancy, East St. Louis, Ill., received one of the grants. It will be used to hire a technical advisor for the Sauget Area 1 Superfund site. The advisor will interpret technical data for the organization and act as a liaison between the group and EPA.

This is the first time an Illinois group has received a TAG. EPA Region 5 has awarded 22 grants since 1989 to community organizations in Indiana, Michigan, Ohio and Wisconsin.

A \$50,000 grant to help interpret technical data and act as a liaison to EPA was also awarded to Community Resources Development Inc., Mancelona, Mich., for the Tar Lake Superfund site. The group received its initial TAG in 1997. The current award is the group's fourth amendment to the 1997 grant, for a total of \$297,760.

###

Administradora de la EPA Christie
Whitman Reconoce los Esfuerzos de El
Milagro, Inc. para Reducir la
Contaminación Ambiental

CONTACT:

Phillippa Cannon, (312) 353-6218
Lina Younes (En Español) (202) 564-9924
For Immediate Release
No. 02-OPA139e

CHICAGO (30 de septiembre del 2002) -- La Administradora de la Agencia de Protección Ambiental (conocida por sus siglas en inglés, EPA), Christie Whitman reconoció hoy los esfuerzos de la fábrica elaboradora de productos de tortillas, El Milagro Inc. para reducir la contaminación ambiental. El Milagro, una compañía pequeña familiar, ha convertido 24 de sus camiones de entrega para que utilicen propano que es un combustible menos contaminante.

"Eso es bueno para el medio ambiente, el reducir la contaminación ambiental y el ayudar la respiración de millones de niños que padecen asthma", declaró la Administradora Whitman. "El Milagro ha visto de primera mano que las buenas prácticas ambientales también son buenas prácticas comerciales", dijo.

Combustibles alternos más limpios ayudan a reducir el dióxido de carbono y otras emisiones dañinas. También pueden ahorrarle dinero a la compañía. En área de Chicago, el costo del combustible propano puede ser entre 60 centavos y hasta un dólar menos por galón que el precio de la gasolina. El uso de propano también puede reducir los gastos de mantenimiento de los vehículos. El Milagro comenzó a convertir algunos vehículos de su flota a propano a fin de cumplir con las normas de aire limpio de la región de Chicago. La compañía descubrió que debido al precio menor del propano en comparación con la gasolina y al programa estatal de ahorros de combustibles alternos de Illinois para convertir el combustible de los camiones, también podía ahorrar dinero al operar los camiones utilizando el propano.

El Milagro es una de 25 compañías de Illinois que participan en el programa innovador de la Flota Verde del estado de Illinois. Dicho programa voluntario que comenzó en el 2001 fomenta a los negocios, agencias gubernamentales y organizaciones a mejorar la calidad del aire al comprometerse a utilizar combustibles alternos.

El área de Chicago no cumple con las normas de salud establecidas para el ozono a nivel de la tierra conocido comunmente como "smog". Los camiones y automóviles que queman gasolina emiten más contaminentes al aire que contribuyen a la formación del "smog" que aquellos que queman propano. El "smog" puede causar una variedad de problemas respiratorios. Aunque los niños asmáticos y los ancianos son más propensos a padecer esta condición, el interés en la salud es importante para todos.

Acerca de El Milagro Inc.

El Milagro Inc., Quality Tortilla Products, fue fundado en 1950 por Don Raúl López (fallecido) quien se trasladó a los Estados Unidos desde México en 1942. La compañía ha crecido de un pequeño negocio a tiempo parcial comunitario a uno de los principales negocios hispanos en el mediooeste de los Estados Unidos.

###

EPA Administrator Christie Whitman
Recognizes El Milagro Inc. for Efforts to
Reduce Air Pollution

CONTACT:

Phillippa Cannon, (312) 353-6218

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA139

CHICAGO (Sept. 30, 2002) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Administrator Christie Whitman today recognized the efforts of El Milagro Inc., a Chicago tortilla products manufacturer, to reduce air pollution. El Milagro, a family-owned small business, has converted 24 of its 32 delivery trucks to low-polluting propane.

"That's good for the environment--reducing air pollution and making it easier to breathe for the millions of children who suffer from asthma," said Administrator Whitman. "El Milagro has seen first hand that sound environmental practices are also sound business practices."

Cleaner alternative fuels help reduce carbon dioxide and other harmful emissions. They can also save a business money. The cost of propane fuel can be anywhere from 60 cents to a dollar less per gallon than gasoline in the Chicago area. The use of propane may also reduce vehicle maintenance costs. El Milagro began by converting a few vehicles in its fleet to propane in order to meet clean air regulations for the Chicago area. It discovered that, because of the lower price of propane compared to gasoline and the Illinois Alternate Fuels Rebate program for retrofitting the trucks, it could save money by operating propane-fueled trucks.

El Milagro is one of 25 Illinois businesses that participate in the State of Illinois' innovative Green Fleet program. Started in 2001, the voluntary program encourages businesses, government agencies and organizations to help improve air quality by committing to the use of alternative fuels.

The Chicago area does not meet the health-based standard for ground-level ozone (smog). Trucks and cars that burn gasoline emit more air pollutants that contribute to the formation of smog than those that burn propane. Smog can cause a variety of respiratory problems. Asthmatic children and the elderly are especially at risk, but these health concerns are important to everyone.

About El Milagro Inc.

El Milagro Inc., Quality Tortilla Products, was founded in 1950 by the late Don Raul Lopez who moved to the United States from Mexico in 1942. It has grown from a part-time neighborhood business into one of the leading Hispanic-owned businesses in the Midwest.

#

EPA Settles with Lakeside Foods for
Chemical Release Reporting Violations;
\$41,510 Fine

CONTACT:

Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050

Ruth McNamara, (312) 353-3193

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA136

CHICAGO (Sept. 27, 2002) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has settled an administrative complaint against Lakeside Foods Inc. for violation of federal laws on the reporting of a hazardous chemical release. The company has agreed to pay a \$41,510 fine.

In the complaint, which was filed in June 2002, EPA alleged that on June 24, 2001, at about 4 p.m., an estimated 2,957 pounds of ammonia was released from the food processor's facility at 500 Industrial Park Rd. in Brooten, Minn.

The release occurred following a maintenance project when two refrigeration pressure-relief valves on the facility's roof were mistakenly replaced with the wrong size models. EPA computer modeling indicated that the ammonia plume may have traveled beyond the facility's boundary, potentially endangering public health.

Federal laws require facilities to immediately notify the National Response Center and state and local authorities about any ammonia release larger than 100 pounds. Lakeside reported the release two hours after knowledge of the incident, and did not provide a written report to the Minnesota Emergency Response Commission until August 8, 2001, 45 days after the incident.

About Ammonia

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

###

Whitman Promotes Lead Poisoning
Prevention at Vistas Nuevas Head Start
Center in Detroit

CONTACT:

Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA131

CHICAGO (Sept. 26, 2002) — To recognize Children's Health Month and Hispanic Heritage Month, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Christie Whitman today visited a lead poisoning prevention workshop in Detroit, Mich.

Joining a group of Spanish-speaking parents at the Vistas Nuevas Head Start Center at Saints Peter & Paul Church, 3810 Gilbert, Whitman stressed the importance of raising parent and community awareness about the dangers of lead.

"More than one million children in America – and 18,000 in Detroit alone – suffer from lead poisoning," said Whitman. "EPA aims to eliminate childhood lead poisoning by 2010 with partners such as the Detroit Lead Partnership."

The Detroit Lead Partnership was formed with seed money from EPA. It coordinates activities that address childhood lead poisoning, bringing together federal, state and local agencies, academic institutions, community groups, schools and child care facilities.

#

EPA Orders WCI to Protect Migratory

Birds and Wildlife

CONTACT:

Phillippa Cannon, (312) 353-6218

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA134

CHICAGO (Sept. 26, 2002) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has ordered WCI Steel of Warren, Ohio, to protect migratory birds and other wildlife from oil waste found in retention ponds on its property.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service inspected the ponds on May 13, 2002, and found 34 dead animals including: 17 mourning doves, a junco, two nighthawks, seven ducks, a gull, three sparrows, a rock dove, a goose, a pigeon and three bats.

The inspection was prompted by a newspaper report that five Canada geese covered in oil were found at the WCI Steel site.

WCI was ordered to build barriers, and to set up audio and visual distractions that will discourage birds and other wildlife from entering the waste water ponds.

The company must also remove oily sludge on the bottom and sides of the ponds within 90 days.

Under federal law, EPA controls certain waste from production to final disposal and can issue immediate orders to protect human health and the environment.

###

EPA Settles with Safety-Kleen on
Hazardous Waste Violations; Includes
\$945,018 Fine

CONTACT:

Phillippa Cannon, (312) 353-6218

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA129

CHICAGO (Sept. 25, 2002) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has reached agreement with Safety-Kleen Systems Inc. for violations of federal rules on hazardous waste at its Hebron, Ohio, facility. The company admits the violations and will pay a \$945,018 penalty on approval by the bankruptcy court. The Hebron Safety-Kleen facility recycles used industrial solvents including mineral spirits and perchloroethylene. The violations, which occurred between Sept. 1, 1996, and Feb. 28, 2000, were failure to properly operate air emissions equipment on recycling machinery and failure to monitor pumps for air emissions regulated under the Resource Conservation Recovery Act (RCRA).

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

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MEDIA ADVISORY: EPA Administrator
Whitman Visits Detroit for Three Events,
Sept. 26.

CONTACT:

Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA130

CHICAGO (Sept. 25, 2002) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Administrator Christie Whitman will attend three events in Detroit, Mich., Sept.
26. Media are welcome at all three locations. Whitman will be accompanied by
EPA Region 5 Administrator Thomas Skinner.

12:00 p.m. Address Economic Club of Detroit at Cobo Convention Center, One
Washington Blvd, River end of Cobo Center, main level room W154.

1:30 p.m. Visit Lead Poisoning Prevention workshop, recognizing Children's
Health Month and Hispanic Heritage Month, Saints Peter & Paul Church, 3810
Gilbert.

2:45 p.m. Water testing with Lobbestael School fourth graders and Michigan
Secretary of State Candice Miller, Lake St. Clair Metropolitan Beach lifeguard
station.

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**MEDIA ADVISORY: EPA Administrator
Whitman to Attend Detroit Lead Poisoning
Prevention Workshop, Sept. 26, 1:30 P.M.**

CONTACT:

Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA128

**CHICAGO (Sept. 25, 2002) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Administrator Christie Whitman will visit a lead poisoning prevention workshop
for Spanish-speaking parents, Thursday, Sept. 26, at 1:30 p.m. The event, in
recognition of Children's Health Month and Hispanic Heritage Month, is hosted
by Vistas Nuevas Head Start Center and the Detroit Lead Partnership.**

What: Brief remarks regarding the importance of reducing children's exposure to
lead. EPA's Region 5 office in Chicago sponsors a number of Detroit-area
activities with other agencies and non-governmental organizations through the
Detroit Lead Partnership. An estimated 18,000 children in Detroit have some
level of lead poisoning. The incidence is disproportionately high in African-
American, Hispanic and Arab-American populations.

When: Thursday, Sept. 26, 1:30 p.m.

Where: Vistas Nuevas Head Start Center at Saints Peter & Paul Church, 3810
Gilbert, Detroit, Mich. (Vistas Nuevas is in the administrative building at the back
of the church complex.)

Who: EPA Administrator Christie Whitman, EPA Region 5 Administrator Thomas
Skinner, and representatives from Vistas Nuevas and the Detroit Lead
Partnership. The Children's Hospital of Michigan Pediatric Mobile Team Van,
which conducts children's blood-lead tests, will also be on hand.

Directions: Take I-94 toward Livernoise Ave., then Livernoise south, turn right
onto Clayton St., then right on Gilbert. The church is at the corner of Clayton and
Gilbert.

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ATENCION EDITORES: La Administradora
De EPA Christie Whitman Participara En El
Taller De Prevencion De Plomo En Detroit,
26 De Sept, 1:30 P.M.

CONTACT:

Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050

Lina Younes, (202) 564-9924 (en español)

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA128(e)

CHICAGO (25 DE SEPTIEMBRE DEL 2002) La administradora de la Agencia de Protección Ambiental de los Estados Unidos (conocida por sus siglas en inglés, EPA) Christie Whitman, hablará en un Taller para la Prevención del Plomo presentado a padres de habla hispana, este jueves 26 de septiembre, a 1:30 p.m. Este evento es presentado en reconocimiento del Mes de Salud para Niños y el Mes de la Herencia Hispana, por el Centro Vistas Nuevas Head Start y el Detroit Lead Partnership.

Qué:La Administradora hablará acerca de la importancia de reducir el contacto con el plomo por los niños. La oficina de EPA en la Región 5, en Chicago, patrocina un número de actividades en el área de Detroit con otras agencias y grupos no- gubernamentales a través del Detroit Lead Partnership. Un estimado de 18,000 niños en Detroit tienen algún nivel de envenenamiento de plomo. La incidencia es desproporcionadamente alta en poblaciones africanoamericanas, hispanas y árabeamericanas.

Cuándo:Jueves, 26 de septiembre, a 1:30 p.m.

Dónde:Centro de Vistas Nuevas Head Start, localizado en la Iglesia Saints Peter & Paul, 3810 Gilbert, Detroit, Mich. (El Centro de Vistas Nuevas está en el edificio administrativo en la parte trasera del complejo de la Iglesia.)

Quién:Administradora de EPA Christie Whitman, Administrador de la Región 5 de EPA, Thomas Skinner, representantes del Centro de Vista Nuevo y el Detroit Lead Partnership.

Direcciones:Tome el I-94 hacia Livernoise Ave., después siga hacia el sur en Livernoise, vire hacia la derecha en la calle Clayton St., siga hasta la calle Gilbert y vire a la derecha. La iglesia está en la esquina de las calles Clayton y Gilbert.

###

EPA, City of Chicago, and Railroads Unveil
New Environmentally Friendly Diesel Train
Technology

CONTACT:

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

(Chicago DOE) Mark Farina, (312) 744-5903

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA132

Chicago (Sep. 23, 2002) — Locomotives in Chicago will run cleaner because of new technology being installed through a joint partnership of the U.S.

Environmental Protection Agency, the City of Chicago Department of Environment, Kim Hotstart Mfg. Co., and the Burlington Northern Santa Fe and Wisconsin & Southern Railroads. Along with improved air quality, the equipment reduces noise and saves money by using less fuel.

An emission control device manufactured by Kim Hotstart has been installed on seven switch-yard and road locomotive engines. The device allows locomotives to be turned off during what are traditionally long periods of idling. This is possible because the smaller more efficient device ensures that critical fluids are not susceptible to freezing. It will reduce a variety of locomotive emissions, including nitrogen, hydrocarbons, carbon monoxide, particulate matter, carbon dioxide and air toxic emissions. Additionally, the device will greatly reduce the noise associated with idling trains.

The new technology was demonstrated for the news media today at the BNSF rail yard, 432 W. 14th St., Chicago. Speakers were EPA Region 5 Administrator Thomas V. Skinner, Chicago Environment Commissioner Marcia Jimenez, and BNSF Vice President - Mechanical and Value Engineering Craig Hill.

"This is the first EPA-funded project to reduce emissions and fuel consumption in locomotive engines," said EPA Regional Administrator Tom Skinner. "And we're pleased that it's being done here in Chicago — the historic railway hub of the nation."

"The City of Chicago is committed to finding ways to improve air quality through innovative projects like this one with diesel locomotives," said Environment Commissioner Marcia Jimenez. "This project is another example of Mayor Richard M. Daley's commitment to making Chicago and the region a leader in promoting 'green' technology for the benefit of both business and the environment."

A comparison estimate from Kim Hotstart of the Diesel Drive Heating System (DDHS) compared to a standard locomotive shows a dramatic reduction in fuel and oil consumption. A standard locomotive uses approximately 24,966 gallons of diesel fuel a year compared to 3,121 gallons using the new device. The annual fuel cost at idle for a standard locomotive is \$19,973 compared to \$2,497 with the DDHS.

In oil consumption, a standard locomotive uses approximately 250 gallons a year compared to the DDHS system using 31 gallons. The cost drops from \$1,650 a year to \$205.

Locomotive idling emissions on some diesel engines can be as high as 5 tons per year. This technology can potentially reduce those figures by up to 90 percent. As part of this project, EPA will be measuring actual emission reductions from the system. The Federal Railroad Administration will be assisting with the project by measuring noise reductions from the system.

###

EPA Cites Sausser Steel for PCB

Violations

CONTACT:

Karen Thompson, (312) 353-8547

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA126

CHICAGO (Sep. 23, 2002) —U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has filed an administrative complaint against Sausser Steel Co., for alleged violation of federal rules on PCBs. An \$82,500 penalty is proposed.

An EPA inspection on July 12, 2001, at the Findlay, Ohio, facility found violations of the storage, marking, disposal, record-keeping and notification requirements of the Toxic Substances Control Act.

Sausser was cited for not labeling a transformer containing PCBs, improper storage of PCBs, and failing to keep PCB records and notify EPA of its waste handling activities.

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

About Sausser Steel Co.

Sausser Steel is located at 230 Crystal Avenue in Findlay, Ohio.

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

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**MEDIA ADVISORY: EPA, Chicago Doe,
Railway and Technology Partners to
Demonstrate Energy-Saving, Pollution-
Cutting Technology for Diesel**

Locomotives

CONTACT:

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

(Chicago DOE) Mark Farina, (312) 744-5903

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA127

CHICAGO (Sept. 19, 2002) — Technology to reduce air and noise pollution from diesel locomotives will be demonstrated Sept. 23 by representatives of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the City of Chicago Department of Environment, Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway, Wisconsin Southern Railroad Co. and Kim Hotstart Co.

What: Media briefing and demonstration of technology that is being used in Chicago. The equipment cuts air and noise pollution from diesel locomotives parked at train stations, rail yards and other locations, and saves energy. The project is jointly funded by the project partners.

When: Monday, Sept. 23 at 2 p.m.

Where: BNSF rail yard, 432 W. 14th St., Chicago, Ill. Reporters will be met at the parking lot and escorted to the demonstration area.

Who: EPA Region 5 Administrator Thomas V. Skinner, Chicago Environment Commissioner Marcia Jimenez, BNSF Vice President - Mechanical and Value Engineering Craig Hill, Wisconsin Southern Railroad Chief Mechanical Officer David Hackbarth, and Kim Hotstart representatives Terry Judge and Lee Nelson.

Directions: To reach the yard from downtown, take State Street south to Roosevelt Road. Turn right on Roosevelt Road to Canal Street. Turn left on Canal Street. The parking lot entrance is just 30 feet from the corner of Roosevelt Road and Canal Street on the left side of Canal.

#

EPA Gives \$573,175 to Wisconsin Drinking Water Systems to Improve Security

CONTACT:

Phillippa Cannon, (312) 353-6218

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA125

CHICAGO (Sep. 18, 2002)—U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has given \$573,175 in grants to five Wisconsin drinking water systems to help improve security planning. Each utility received a grant of up to \$115,000.

"Ensuring that drinking water is clean and safe has long been a priority for EPA. Today, helping protect America's drinking water from terrorist attack has become one of our most important missions," said EPA Regional Administrator Tom Skinner. "These grants will ensure that the water Wisconsin families rely on is safe and secure."

The drinking water systems that received grants are:

- Green Bay Water Utility (\$115,000),
- Kenosha Water Utility (\$115,000),
- Madison (\$115,000),
- Milwaukee (\$113,175) and
- Racine Water and Wastewater Utility (\$115,000).

In response to the attacks of Sept. 11, EPA received a supplemental appropriation from Congress to improve the safety and security of the nation's water supply. The nearly \$90 million is intended to reduce the vulnerability of water utilities to terrorist attacks, and to help enhance their security and ability to respond to emergency situations.

Development of a vulnerability assessment is the highest priority activity under this grant program, since it is the first step in understanding where a utility can be damaged by terrorist attack. Funds may also be used for development of an emergency operations plan and to design security enhancements.

EPA has allocated \$53 million of the supplemental appropriation for security planning at large drinking water utilities. These systems serve more than 100,000 people each and provide drinking water to about half of Americans served by public water systems. To date, EPA has awarded more than 379 grants worth more than \$43 million.

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EPA Gives \$1,150,000 to Ohio Drinking Water Systems to Improve Security

CONTACT:

Phillippa Cannon, (312) 353-6218

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA124

CHICAGO (Sep. 18, 2002)—U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has given \$1,150,000 in grants to 10 Ohio drinking water systems to help improve security planning. Each utility received \$115,000.

"Ensuring that drinking water is clean and safe has long been a priority for EPA. Today, helping protect America's drinking water from terrorist attack has become one of our most important missions," said EPA Regional Administrator Tom Skinner. "These grants will ensure that the water Ohio families rely on is safe and secure."

The drinking water systems that received grants are:

- Akron,
- Avon Lake Municipal Utilities Department,
- Canton Water Department,
- Cincinnati,
- Cleveland,
- Dayton,
- Hamilton,
- Mahoning Valley Sanitary District,
- Montgomery County Sanitary Engineering and
- Toledo.

In response to the attacks of Sept. 11, EPA received a supplemental appropriation from Congress to improve the safety and security of the nation's water supply. The nearly \$90 million is intended to reduce the vulnerability of water utilities to terrorist attacks and to help enhance their security and ability to respond to emergency situations.

Development of a vulnerability assessment is the highest priority activity under this grant program since it is the first step in understanding where a utility can be damaged by terrorist attack. Funds may also be used for development of an emergency operations plan and to design security enhancements.

EPA has allocated \$53 million of the supplemental appropriation for security planning at large drinking water utilities. These systems serve more than 100,000 people each and provide drinking water to about half of Americans served by public water systems. To date, EPA has awarded more than 379 grants worth more than \$43 million.

###

EPA Gives \$1,685,000 to Illinois Drinking Water Systems to Improve Security

CONTACT:

Phillippa Cannon, (312) 353-6218

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA123

CHICAGO (Sep. 18, 2002)—U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has given \$1,685,000 in grants to 15 Illinois drinking water systems to help improve security planning. Each utility received a grant of up to \$115,000.

"Ensuring that drinking water is clean and safe has long been a priority for EPA. Today, helping protect America's drinking water from terrorist attack has become one of our most important missions," said EPA Regional Administrator Tom Skinner. "These grants will ensure that the water Illinois families rely on is safe and secure."

The drinking water systems receiving grants are:

- Aurora (\$115,000),
- Chicago (\$110,000),
- Central Lake County Joint Action Water Agency (\$115,000),
- Elgin (\$115,000),
- Evanston (\$115,000),
- Joliet (\$115,000),
- Melrose Park (\$115,000),
- Naperville (\$115,000),
- Northwest Water Commission (serving Arlington Heights, Buffalo Grove, Palatine and Wheeling \$99,000),
- Northwest Suburban Municipal Joint Action Water Agency (serving Elk Grove Village, Hanover Park, Hoffman Estates, Rolling Meadows, Schaumburg and Streamwood \$115,000),
- Oak Lawn (\$115,000),
- Rend Lake Conservancy District (\$96,000),
- Rockford (\$115,000),
- Springfield (\$115,000) and
- Wilmette (\$115,000).

In response to the attacks of Sept. 11, EPA received a supplemental appropriation from Congress to improve the safety and security of the nation's water supply. The nearly \$90 million is intended to reduce the vulnerability of water utilities to terrorist attacks and to help enhance their security and ability to respond to emergency situations.

Development of a vulnerability assessment is the highest priority activity under this grant program since it is the first step in understanding where a utility can be damaged by terrorist attack. Funds may also be used for development of an emergency operations plan and to design security enhancements.

EPA has allocated \$53 million of the supplemental appropriation for security planning at large drinking water utilities. These systems serve more than 100,000 people each and provide drinking water to about half of Americans served by public water systems. To date, EPA has awarded more than 379 grants worth more than \$43 million.

###

**MEDIA ADVISORY: EPA Administrator
Christie Whitman to Preview New Gardens
at Chicago Botanic Garden Sept. 16**

CONTACT:

EPA: Phillippa Cannon, (312) 353-6218

EPA: Steffanie Bell, (202) 564-6976

Chicago Botanic Garden: Sue Markgraf, (847) 835-6819

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA122

CHICAGO (Sep. 13, 2002) -- On Sept. 16, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Christie Whitman will preview the new Gardens of the Great Basin at Chicago Botanic Garden in Glencoe, Ill. An EPA grant helped fund shoreline restoration of the Great Basin which is part of the \$14 million, 14-acre expansion of the gardens. The new gardens will open to the public on Sept. 21.

What:

Media briefing on the new Gardens of the Great Basin followed by a tram tour of the shoreline areas and photo opportunity.

When:

Monday, Sept. 16 at 8:30 a.m.

Where:

Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe, Ill. Reporters should enter at Lake Cook Road entrance and park in Lot 1. Media will not be charged for parking, but should show I.D. After parking, go to the Information Desk in the Gateway Center. A Chicago Botanic Garden staff member will direct you to the McGinley Pavilion.

Who:

EPA Administrator Christie Whitman, Chicago Botanic Garden President and CEO Barbara Whitney Carr, Illinois EPA Director Renee Cipriano and EPA Regional Administrator Thomas Skinner.

Directions:The Chicago Botanic Garden is about 25 miles north of downtown Chicago. From downtown, follow the Edens Expressway (I-94) to U.S. Route 41, exit Lake Cook Road and travel one-half mile east to the Garden.

###

5-Year Review of Douglas Road Cleanup
under Way; Report Available in October

CONTACT:

Dion Novak, (312) 886-4737

Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA121

CHICAGO (Sept. 12, 2002) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 is currently in the midst of a formal five-year review of the cleanup at the Douglas Road Superfund site in Mishawaka, Ind. The project will be completed by the end of September. A report will be available to community residents in October.

The Superfund law requires technical reviews of site remedies at least every five years. The first phase of remedial cleanup construction at the site began in September 1997, triggering the five-year timetable.

The review will focus primarily on the performance of the ground water treatment system that became fully operational in March 2002. EPA is also inspecting the integrity of the 16-acre wetland (to filter contamination) and the multi-layer landfill cap installed at the site in 1999.

To learn more about the project or to provide EPA with new information, contact Dion Novak at EPA in Chicago, (800) 621-8431, ext. 64737, or novak.dion@epa.gov.

About the Site

The Douglas Road site was a mixed-use residential and commercial landfill from 1954 to 1979. An EPA investigation in 1994 revealed volatile and semi-volatile organic compounds, pesticides and heavy metals were migrating from the site.

###

EPA Settles with Honeywell for Chemical
Release Reporting Violations; \$36,000 Fine

CONTACT:

Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050

James Entzminger, (312) 886-4062

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA120

CHICAGO (Sept. 9, 2002) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5

has settled an administrative complaint against Honeywell International for
violation of federal laws on the reporting of hazardous chemical releases. The

company has agreed to pay a \$36,000 fine.

The complaint, which was filed March 29, 2002, is based on two separate
incidents. EPA alleged that fires on February 5, 1998, and December 17, 1999,
at Honeywell's tar plant at 1200 Zug Road, Detroit, Mich., resulted in the release
of coal tar. After the incident, the company failed to immediately notify the
National Response Center and the Michigan State Emergency Response
Commission. Honeywell also failed to provide written follow-up reports to the
Michigan SERC and the city of Detroit's local emergency planning committee
after the second fire. These reports are required as soon as practicable after
such incidents.

About Coal Tar

Coal tar contains the hazardous chemicals benzo(a)pyrene and dibenz(a,h)
anthracene, which when heated can evaporate into clouds, endangering public
health.

Both chemicals are suspected carcinogens. Prolonged exposure to coal tar
fumes, vapors or dust can cause irritation or burning to the eyes or respiratory
tract. Ingestion of coal tar may cause irritation to the gastrointestinal tract,
nausea and vomiting.

###

EPA Proposes Lammers Barrel Factory
Site for Superfund National Priorities List

CONTACT:

Bri Bill, (312) 353-6646

Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA117

CHICAGO (Sept. 6, 2002) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has proposed the Lammers Barrel Factory site in Beavercreek, Ohio, for addition to the National Priorities List of hazardous waste sites. Sites on the NPL are eligible for long-term cleanup under the Superfund program.

Lammers Barrel Factory was the only EPA Region 5 site proposed for the NPL. A total of seven sites nationally were proposed for the list. A total of 19 sites gained "final" status on the NPL, including the Ashland/Northern States Power Lakefront site in Ashland, Wis. The complete NPL announcement appears in the Sept. 5, 2002, Federal Register.

Currently, there are 1,238 final sites on the NPL and 62 proposed sites. A total of 818 NPL sites have reached construction completion status (the point at which only long-term site maintenance and monitoring remain to be completed). The primary purpose of the NPL is to guide the EPA in determining which sites warrant further investigation. Proposed sites must go through a public comment period before they can be finalized on the NPL.

Extensive Superfund information, including fact sheets about the Lammers Barrel and Ashland sites, is online at www.epa.gov/superfund.

About the Site

Lammers Barrel Factory, an abandoned two-acre property at 3930 E. Patterson Road, was a chemical recycling and barrel reconditioning facility from 1953 to 1969, when it was destroyed by a fire. Since 1985, EPA and Ohio EPA have taken numerous steps to deal with ground-water contamination at the site, including extension of municipal water lines to homes with contaminated wells. Little Beaver Creek runs through the middle of the site, which flows into the Little Miami River, a recreation and wildlife area. EPA's concerns include: addressing risks to drinking water and cleaning up contaminated soil, which is contributing to the groundwater risk.

Site documents are available for public review at the Beavercreek Library reference desk, 3618 Dayton-Xenia Road. For more information on the site or the comment period, contact EPA community involvement coordinator Bri Bill: (800) 621-8431, Ext. 36646, or bill.briana@epa.gov.

#

EPA Names Ashland/Northern States
Power Lakefront Site to National Priorities
List

CONTACT:

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

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

(WDNR) Jamie Dunn, (715) 635-4049

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA118

CHICAGO (Sept. 6, 2002) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has named the Ashland/Northern States Power site in Ashland, Wis., to the National Priorities List of Superfund hazardous waste sites.

Ashland/NSP was the only EPA Region 5 site among 19 named to the NPL nationally. Seven sites were proposed for the NPL, including one Region 5 site – Lammers Barrel Factory in Beavercreek, Ohio.

Currently, there are 1,238 final sites on the NPL and 62 proposed sites. A total of 818 NPL sites have reached construction completion status (the point at which only long-term site maintenance and monitoring remain to be completed).

Extensive Superfund information, including factsheets about the Ashland and Lammers Barrel sites, is online at www.epa.gov/superfund. The complete NPL announcement appears in the Sept. 5, 2002, Federal Register.

About the Site

The Ashland/NSP site encompasses about 20 acres, including manufactured gas plant waste and potentially other waste from industries that operated in the area. The long-closed manufactured gas plant, which operated from about 1885 to 1947, was on Xcel Energy (formerly Northern States Power) property at 301 Lakeshore Drive East (U.S. Highway 2).

Waste from the plant was disposed of at the site and has migrated off-site.

Contaminants have been found at the former plant site, in a nearby railroad corridor, a nearby city park and in the ground water beneath these properties.

About 10 acres of sediment in adjacent Chequamegon Bay are also polluted.

Portions of the bay have been closed to swimming and boating due to sediment contamination. The pollutants include coal tar, cinder ash, boiler slag, demolition debris and wood waste.

The site was proposed for addition to the NPL in December 2000, based on past investigations by Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and Xcel Energy.

A comprehensive site evaluation and engineering study, including cleanup options, will be developed in the near future. EPA and WDNR expect to determine a final site cleanup plan in late 2004.

#

EPA Cites Building Owners for 46
Violations of Lead-Based Paint Rules

CONTACT:

Karen Thompson (312) 353-8547

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA119

CHICAGO (September 6, 2002) —U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has filed a 46-count complaint against apartment building owners Ivan and Jadranka Mijic, for allegedly failing to warn their tenants that their homes may contain lead-based paint hazards. The properties are managed by Hyde Park Realty Company, 1743 1/2 E. 55th St., Chicago. A penalty of \$76,890 is proposed.

EPA and HUD cooperated in the investigation and development of this case and others. The complaint cites the Mijics, owners of properties at 7003-7009 S. Oglesby Avenue and 2345 and 2349 E. 70th St., Chicago, for 46 violations in 10 apartments.

Thomas Skinner, administrator of EPA Region 5 said, "By carrying out these enforcement actions, EPA is restating that protecting children's health from lead-based paint exposure is one of our highest priorities. To this end we will vigorously pursue compliance with this rule."

On March 6, 1996, EPA and HUD issued new rules to protect families, especially those with children, from hazards of lead-based paint in the home. Real estate companies and property owners must provide buyers or renters with a lead hazard information pamphlet, any information or reports concerning lead-based paint hazards in the property and a Lead Warning Statement to be signed by both parties. Sellers are required to provide purchasers an opportunity to conduct a lead-based paint evaluation.

According to the Chicago Department of Public Health, more than 12,000 children under the age of six were diagnosed with lead poisoning in 2001. Deteriorated lead paint is the most common source of lead exposure to children in the United States. About 75 per cent of the nation's housing built before 1978 contains lead-based paint. When properly managed, it poses little risk. If not maintained, even low levels of lead exposure can threaten the health of occupants, especially children and pregnant women. Adverse affects include learning disabilities, growth impairment and permanent damage to the brain, nervous system, hearing, vision and kidneys.

About EPA

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

###

EPA Awards \$15,000 to Michigan
Environmental Education Projects

CONTACT:

Megan Gavin, (312) 353-5282

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA116

CHICAGO (Sep. 5, 2002) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 recently awarded \$15,000 for environmental education projects in Michigan. The projects include educating residents of the Huron River watershed about stream ecology, teaching high school students how to test for biological contamination of waters around a popular recreation area and educating a tribe about radon. The recipients are Huron River Watershed in Ann Arbor, Lake Superior State University in Sault Ste. Marie and Nottawaseppi Huron Band of Potawatomi. This year, EPA is awarding \$190,000 to 23 recipients in the Midwest. More than 150 organizations competed for funds. As required by law, most of the awards are for grass-roots programs costing \$5,000 or less.

In the past 10 years, Region 5 has awarded more than \$1.5 million in educational grants to academic institutions, nonprofit groups, park districts and tribes in the Midwest.

EPA is awarding these funds under the 1990 National Environmental Education Act, which gives EPA the authority to support and create environmental education programs nationwide.

\$5,000 to Huron River Watershed (Ann Arbor)

The grant will help increase citizen involvement in river monitoring and protection. Residents will be educated about the impact they have on the quality of the Huron River. They will also learn basic tenets of stream ecology.

\$5,000 to Lake Superior State University (Sault Ste. Marie)

High school students and their teachers will work with Lake Superior State University environmental health students and faculty, and district health department staff. They will test for biological contamination of streams near Les Cheneaux Islands and recommend to regulators how the findings may affect human health.

\$5,000 to Nottawaseppi Huron Band of Potawatomi (Fulton)

By participating in a one-day bowling tournament, tribal membership will be educated about radon, its health effects and how it affects them. Eighty percent of the tribal membership lives in counties designated as having a moderate to high potential for radon above allowable levels.

###

EPA Awards \$46,238 to Wisconsin
Environmental Education Projects

CONTACT:

Megan Gavin, (312) 353-5282

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA115

CHICAGO (Sep. 4, 2002) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 recently awarded \$46,238 to support environmental education projects in Wisconsin, including an online directory of nature centers, classes about the Milwaukee River, teacher training and an environmental education conference.

Recipients are the Aldo Leopold Nature Center in Monona, the River Revitalization Foundation in Milwaukee, the Superior School District and the Wisconsin Association for Environmental Education in Stevens Point.

This year, EPA is awarding \$190,000 to 23 recipients in the Midwest. More than 150 organizations competed for funds. As required by law, most of the awards are for grass-roots programs costing \$5,000 or less.

In the past 10 years, Region 5 has awarded more than \$1.5 million in educational grants to academic institutions, nonprofit groups, park districts and tribes in the Midwest.

EPA is awarding these funds under the 1990 National Environmental Education Act, which gives EPA the authority to support and create environmental education programs nationwide.

\$20,273 to Aldo Leopold Nature Center (Monona)

A teachers' statewide online interactive directory will answer the question "Where do I go on a field trip?" The directory will provide links to nature center programs throughout Wisconsin. A teacher will be able to view an online map of Wisconsin, identify a geographic area of interest and click on that area to obtain a list of links to nature center programs.

\$9,865 to River Revitalization Foundation (Milwaukee)

The foundation will work toward increasing awareness and appreciation of the Milwaukee River among minority students in the Milwaukee Public School District. Over 300 students will be reached through the project.

\$11,100 to Superior School District

Eight teachers in grades 7-12 will work with 10 representatives from local businesses and government agencies. They will develop three classroom projects that integrate site-based learning into the district's environmental education curriculum. Prior to project design, teachers will visit community workplaces to learn about current environmental challenges, industry concerns and the academic skills needed for employment. An important goal of the project is to strengthen the school program through the development of partnerships.

\$5,000 to Wisconsin Association for Environmental Education (Stevens Point)

The Midwest Environmental Education Conference is an annual regional conference encompassing eight states: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio and Wisconsin. The goal is to assemble key environmental education leaders from each state to examine the current regional structure, and to explore the opportunities for increasing environmental education capacity on a regional scale.

###

EPA Awards \$64,152 for Ohio
Environmental Education Projects

CONTACT:

Megan Gavin, (312) 353-5282

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA114

CHICAGO (Sep. 4, 2002) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 recently awarded \$64,152 to support environmental education projects in Ohio, including a butterfly observation deck, lessons in integrated pest management for managers of child care centers, workshops on water pollution and virtual field trips to Lake Erie for students. The recipients are Clark Center Alternative School in Marietta, Environmental Health Watch in Cleveland, Geauga Soil and Water Conservation District in Burton, Ohio State University Research Foundation, and Public Broadcasting Foundation of Northwest Ohio.

This year, EPA is awarding \$190,000 to 23 recipients in the Midwest. More than 150 organizations competed for funds. As required by law, most of the awards are for grass-roots programs costing \$5,000 or less.

In the past 10 years, Region 5 has awarded more than \$1.5 million in educational grants to academic institutions, nonprofit groups, park districts and tribes in the Midwest.

EPA is awarding these funds under the 1990 National Environmental Education Act, which gives EPA the authority to support and create environmental education programs nationwide.

\$5,000 to Clark Center Alternative School (Marietta)

The grant will support the second phase of the butterfly exodus project. Students will plan, design and build an observation deck near an existing butterfly land lab. The deck will provide students, teachers and outlying school districts with the opportunity to conduct environmental workshops. Students will collaborate with teachers to plan and implement the first butterfly count.

\$25,000 to Environmental Health Watch (Cleveland)

Parents of children with asthma and managers of residential and child care buildings will learn how to adopt integrated pest management methods.

Educational sessions will be organized in cooperation with the neighborhood health centers and organizations of managers of residential buildings and child care centers.

\$5,000 to Geauga Soil and Water Conservation District

The district will present programs and plan events to educate the public on three concepts: the detrimental effect improper disposal of hazardous waste has on streams, rivers and lakes; watershed drainage and the important role Geauga County serves in water quality as home to the headwaters of four major rivers; and the role each individual plays in the understanding and prevention of all types of nonpoint source pollution.

\$21,762 to Ohio State University Research Foundation-F.T. Stone Laboratory (Columbus)

Stone Lab instructors will be able to reach mainland classrooms in underserved areas and bring them on a virtual field trip to Lake Erie while integrating lessons into their science curriculum. An interactive seminar series about Lake Erie issues will also be available to college students and the public.

\$7,390 to Public Broadcasting Foundation of Northwest Ohio (Toledo)

About 400 people are expected to participate in a series of 10 to 15 workshops where they will learn how geography, geology, farming practices and industrial activity affect the area's water supply, and what needs to be done to protect and improve it.

###

EPA Awards \$26,485 for Minnesota
Environmental Education Projects

CONTACT:

Megan Gavin, (312) 353-5282

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA113

CHICAGO (Sep. 5, 2002) U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 recently awarded \$26,485 to support environmental education projects in Minnesota. The projects include a water festival for fifth-graders, a workshop series about environmental issues in the Twin Cities area, a teacher-training workshop on bio-monitoring streams and an educational series about organic gardening. The recipients are Carver County, Eco Education in St. Paul, Minnesota State Horticultural Society and Prairie Country Resource Conservation and Development.

This year, EPA is awarding \$190,000 to 23 recipients in the Midwest. More than 150 organizations competed for funds. As required by law, most of the awards are for grass-roots programs costing \$5,000 or less.

In the past 10 years, Region 5 has awarded more than \$1.5 million in educational grants to academic institutions, nonprofit groups, park districts and tribes in the Midwest.

EPA is awarding these funds under the 1990 National Environmental Education Act, which gives EPA the authority to support and create environmental education programs nationwide.

\$5,000 to Carver County

A water festival will provide hands-on water education for 1,300 fifth-grade students in the Minneapolis-St. Paul metro area. The festival will give students the opportunity to learn about the water cycle, ground and surface water, ecology, wetlands and other related natural resources.

\$4,995 to Eco Education (St. Paul)

This project will provide environmental education in an urban area through a workshop series and the establishment of a support network for participants. A series of two-hour workshops will be held, along with one field trip, highlighting key environmental issues in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area.

\$12,000 to Minnesota State Horticultural Society

The Society will develop an educational series on organic gardening for Minnesota Green participants. Minnesota Green is a community outreach program which coordinates resources of horticultural-related organizations, state and local governments, and businesses to revitalize communities through plants. Feeding the soil, not the plants, embracing plant and community diversity, and working with the natural cycles in a garden are some of the basic principles of organic gardening that will be taught in the series.

\$4,490 to Prairie Country Resource Conservation and Development
(Montevideo)

A two-day workshop will be held to teach 18 teachers bio-monitoring methods and techniques. Staff will conduct follow-up sessions with the teachers in their classrooms and in the field to help establish regular monitoring sites and help with the identification of macroinvertebrates; such as mosquitoes, bloodworms and dragon flies.

#

EPA Awards \$14,770 to Indiana
Environmental Education Projects

CONTACT:

Megan Gavin, (312) 353-5282

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA112

CHICAGO (Sep. 4, 2002) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 recently awarded \$14,770 for environmental education projects in Indiana. The projects include a course on urban environmental issues for college students, an environmental summer camp and teacher training. The recipients are Calumet College of St. Joseph in Whiting, Friends of the Indiana Dunes in Beverly Shores and Rensselaer Central Middle School.

This year, EPA is awarding \$190,000 to 23 recipients in the Midwest. More than 150 organizations competed for funds. As required by law, most of the awards are for grass-roots programs costing \$5,000 or less.

In the past 10 years, Region 5 has awarded more than \$1.5 million in educational grants to academic institutions, nonprofit groups, park districts and tribes in the Midwest.

EPA is awarding these funds under the 1990 National Environmental Education Act, which gives EPA the authority to support and create environmental education programs nationwide.

\$5,000 to Calumet College of St. Joseph (Whiting)

A new course entitled "Urban Environmental Issues in Northwest Indiana" will enhance the existing urban studies program. The goal is to encourage nontraditional, minority students to pursue careers in urban environmental management. The course will encourage students to make informed decisions and take responsible action on environmental issues by developing critical thinking and problem-solving skills

\$4,775 to Friends of the Indiana Dunes

Friends of the Indiana Dunes, Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore and Indiana Dunes Environmental Learning Center are partnering to sponsor, organize and expand the annual Junior Rangers Summer Biodiversity Camp. During the camp, youth ages 9-13 will visit a variety of park ecosystems, as well as restore a prairie, collect seeds, remove invasive species, monitor water and explore partnerships with industry.

\$4,995 to Rensselaer Central Middle School

"Everyday Science" will be a multi-disciplinary program for more than 40 teachers (K-12). The goal is to broaden the education of elementary school children to include environmental studies. Through an in-service training, teachers will identify goals and objectives that will lead to student-implemented stewardship projects.

###

EPA Awards \$23,355 to Illinois
Environmental Education Projects

CONTACT:

Megan Gavin, (312) 353-5282

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA111

CHICAGO (Sep. 4, 2002) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 recently awarded \$23,355 to environmental education projects in Illinois, including teacher training workshops and activities for middle school students.

The recipients are Lake County Forest Preserve District, Lake Michigan Federation, Wheaton Park District and Windy City Earth Force.

This year, EPA is awarding \$190,000 to 23 recipients in the Midwest. More than 150 organizations competed for funds. As required by law, most of the awards are for grass-roots programs costing \$5,000 or less.

In the past 10 years, Region 5 has awarded more than \$1.5 million in educational grants to academic institutions, nonprofit groups, park districts and tribes in the Midwest.

EPA is awarding these funds under the 1990 National Environmental Education Act, which gives EPA the authority to support and create environmental education programs nationwide.

\$5,000 to Lake County Forest Preserve District

The district will conduct a five-day ecosystem investigation workshop for third through eighth grade teachers highlighting three of the major ecosystem types in Illinois. The purpose of the workshop is to connect teachers with content and resources to strengthen their curricula dealing with ecosystems.

\$4,900 to Lake Michigan Federation (Chicago)

Approximately 35 teachers will be trained to use the "Great Lakes in My World" curriculum (K-8). The curriculum is being revised to align with state learning standards and education reform, and will include problem-solving, project-based learning, interdisciplinary and real-world learning experiences. Training will take place through in-service workshops.

\$3,455 to Wheaton Park District

Forging partnerships between environmental educators and preschools in suburbia, naturalists will work with approximately 20 preschool teachers and curriculum development professionals to refine the "Wetlands Wonders" program. The goal is to help educate teachers on how to provide nature-based programs in the classroom and at a natural area. The project has the potential to introduce experiential environmental education to as many as 400 preschoolers and their teachers.

\$10,000 to Windy City Earth Force (Chicago)

Windy City Earth Force, along with the Grand Calumet Task Force and Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, will develop activities for approximately 100 students from grades five through nine to prepare them for a community action project on an environmental issue of their choice.

#

EPA Reaches Agreement with Parenti &

Rafaelli

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA110

CHICAGO (Aug. 29, 2002) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has reached an agreement with Parenti & Rafaelli Ltd. on alleged violations of federally enforceable state clean-air regulations at the company's furniture manufacturing plant, 215 E. Prospect Ave., Mount Prospect, Ill. EPA assessed a \$45,000 penalty.

The agreement resolves an EPA administrative complaint filed Dec. 10, 2001, alleging that Parenti & Rafaelli failed to comply with state requirements that prohibit wood furniture manufacturers from using coatings that exceed volatile organic compound limits. VOCs are contaminants that evaporate easily into the air.

"If the Chicago metropolitan area is going to meet the health-based standard for smog, we have to bring companies that emit too many VOCs into compliance with the law," said Region 5 Administrator Thomas V. Skinner.

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. Asthmatics, children and the elderly are especially at risk, but these health effects are of concern to everyone.

#

EPA Settles with Crystal Cabinet on
Hazardous Waste Violations

CONTACT:

Karen Thompson, (312) 353-8547

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA109

CHICAGO (Aug. 29, 2002) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has settled with Crystal Cabinet Works Inc. of Princeton, Minn., on alleged hazardous waste violations. The company will pay a \$36,890 penalty.

Crystal Cabinet will also improve its employee safety training and record-keeping. In addition, the company will certify its compliance with hazardous waste regulations and that it determined if its waste is hazardous based on ignitability.

A fire at the company prompted a May 2001 EPA inspection that revealed that Crystal Cabinet had failed to properly identify and manage hazardous waste at its facility.

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

About Crystal Cabinet Works

Crystal Cabinet Works operates a 430,000-square-foot custom cabinet manufacturing facility at 1100 Crystal Drive, Princeton, Minn.

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.

#

Little Menomonee River Cleanup to Begin;

Meeting Aug. 28, 7 P.M.

CONTACT:

Susan Pastor, (312) 353-1325

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA104

EDITOR'S NOTE: A media availability with representatives from EPA and WDNR will precede the public meeting, from 6 to 6:30 p.m. Please arrive promptly.

CHICAGO (Aug. 20, 2002) — Kerr-McGee Chemical will reroute a 1.2-mile segment of Milwaukee's Little Menomonee River to a new channel this fall to allow for the removal of contaminated sediment. The project addresses the first of five segments, totaling about six miles, that will be rerouted as part of the cleanup at the Moss-American Superfund site on Milwaukee's northwest side.

A public meeting to discuss the river project and overall site cleanup progress will be at 7 p.m., Aug. 28, at the Hilton Garden Hotel, 11600 W. Park Place.

Representatives from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources will make presentations and respond to questions.

The project will take several years to complete. At times, area residents can expect to see construction vehicle traffic and workers in required protective clothing along the river between Brown Deer and Bradley Roads.

The sediment contains high levels of cancer-causing polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, or CPAHs. Kerr-McGee Chemical, which is doing the work under oversight by EPA and the DNR, will restore any disturbed vegetation and ecological habitat, and stabilize the new river channel.

The complete Superfund site includes the former Moss-American wood treatment facility at the southeast corner of Brown Deer and Granville Roads, as well as the floodplain along the portion of the river to be excavated. Moss-American operated from 1921 to 1976.

Separate from the river project, the soil cleanup at the former factory site is complete. This effort involved low-energy heat treatment of 137,200 tons of soil between May 2001 and February 2002. (The lower-energy process results in significantly fewer hazardous byproducts than traditional incineration.) The treated soil is now stored on site and will likely be used for future redevelopment of the property.

For more information about the project, or special needs or accommodations at the public meeting, contact community involvement coordinator Susan Pastor, (312) 353-1325.

###

EPA Cites City of Detroit for Clean-Air

Violations

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA103

CHICAGO (August 16, 2002) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has filed an administrative complaint against the city of Detroit's department of public works for alleged violations of federal regulations on asbestos, a hazardous air pollutant. EPA proposed a \$49,500 penalty.

EPA alleges the city of Detroit did not follow proper asbestos-removal procedures when city-owned properties were demolished at 12750 W. Grand River, 14845 Mack Ave., 21231 Fenkell St., 22351 Fenkell St., and 8042 Michigan Ave. Specifically, the city failed to give EPA prior written notification, to adequately remove all regulated asbestos-containing material before demolition, and to wet the material after removal.

The city 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.

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.

#

EPA Recognizes Schools in Midwest
Region for Indoor Air Quality Programs

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA102

CHICAGO (August 13, 2002) — School districts in Ohio and Illinois, and an Ohio school, are among 21 winners of U.S. Environmental Protection Agency awards for improving indoor air quality. The awards were made at ceremonies Thursday, Aug. 8, at EPA's third annual Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools symposium in Washington, D.C.

The Region 5 award winners are: Huber Heights City Schools, Huber Heights, Ohio; Delaware Joint Vocational School, Delaware, Ohio; and East Dubuque Community Unit School District No.119, East Dubuque, Ill.

"Good indoor air quality contributes to a favorable learning environment," said EPA Administrator Christie Whitman. "The Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools program is a common-sense guide to help prevent and solve the majority of indoor air problems affecting many of our nation's schools."

EPA's annual Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools symposium brings school officials, nurses, teachers, facility managers, parents and others together to raise awareness about 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. More information on EPA's Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools program and the symposium is available at www.epa.gov/iaq/schools/index.html.

###

EPA: Some Mich. Drinking Water Systems

May Be Allowed to Use Alternative

Methods to Reduce Lead and Copper

CONTACT:

CONTACT:Phillippa Cannon, (312) 353-6218

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA101

CHICAGO (Aug. 9, 2002) — Some Michigan drinking water systems may be allowed to use alternative methods to reduce lead and copper under a proposal by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5. EPA is seeking comments on its proposal to issue a variance from federal lead and copper regulations for drinking water to non-transient, non-community water systems such as schools or daycare centers that supply their own drinking water.

If granted the variance, these systems will be allowed to replace plumbing fixtures and flush water lines on a regular basis to minimize lead and copper levels. Regulations now require installing corrosion control treatment.

A copy of the proposed variance is available for review at www.epa.gov/region5/water/notices.htm or by calling Miguel Del Toral at EPA's regional office at (312) 886-5253.

Comments should be postmarked by Sept. 5, 2002, and sent to Ground Water and Drinking Water Branch (WG -15J), U.S. EPA Region 5, 77 West Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL 60604-3590. Comments may also be faxed to Miguel Del Toral at (312) 886-6171 or e-mailed to deltoral.miguel@epa.gov.

###

EPA Sends Notice of Potential Liability

Letters to Downers Grove Businesses

CONTACT:

(EPA) Mike Joyce, (312) 353-5546 (Illinois EPA)

Maggie Carson, (217) 557-8138

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA098

CHICAGO (Aug. 5, 2002) - Fifteen businesses or public entities in Downers

Grove, Ill., are being told they may be at least partly liable for groundwater

contamination in an unincorporated area near the Ellsworth Industrial Park.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 sent letters Friday to each

affected business. The letter asks representatives of the businesses to meet

with EPA, Illinois EPA and the Illinois Attorney General on August 20. Following

this meeting, EPA will be available to meet with each business individually to

discuss further investigation and control of contamination from their properties.

Notification to potentially responsible parties is a required procedure under the

federal Superfund law.

"Issuing these 'notice letters' is an important step toward a thorough

investigation and cleanup of this contamination," said regional Superfund

director William Muno. "The Superfund law is based on the idea that the polluter

should pay for whatever remedy is required. In this case, we are first looking to

the generators of the waste to conduct a more detailed investigation and

ultimately, the cleanup."

"This is a turning point that the affected homeowners have been waiting for,"

said Illinois EPA Director Renee Cipriano. "A cooperative spirit in combining the

resources of the state and federal agencies has been instrumental in this

ongoing effort."

Since July 2001, Illinois EPA has tested over 500 private wells in unincorporated

Downers Grove for the presence of the industrial degreasing solvents

trichloroethylene (TCE) and tetrachloroethylene (PCE). Of these, more than 200

were above the safe drinking water standard for one or both of the chemicals.

The solvents were also detected in another 200 wells, but at levels considered to

be safe.

EPA and Illinois EPA have also installed more than 40 monitoring wells in the

area, collected groundwater samples at 50 locations and taken soil borings at 90

locations. As a result of this investigation, the agencies have concluded that

Ellsworth Industrial Park is the source of the groundwater contamination. A final

investigation report is expected to be released in late August.

The letters were sent to businesses that used solvents in their operations or

where groundwater and/or soil sampling has detected solvent contamination.

These include: Ames Supply Co.; Arrow Gear; Bison Gear & Engineering Co.;

Downers Grove Sanitary District; Fusibond; Liberty Copper & Wire; Lindy

Manufacturing Co.; Magnetrol International Inc.; Molex; Precision Brand

Products Inc.; Rexnord Corp.; Scot Inc.; Suburban Self Storage; Tricon

Industries Inc.; and White Lake Building Corporation.

Local officials and representatives of both environmental agencies will be

available Wednesday, Sept. 4, at 6:30 p.m., in Downers Grove Village Hall, 801

Burlington Ave., to discuss the latest findings of the investigation. For more

information, contact community involvement coordinators Mike Joyce (EPA; 312

353-5546) or Carol Fuller (Illinois EPA; 217 524-8807).

###

EPA Awards Superfund Redevelopment

Grant to Elkhart, Indiana

CONTACT:

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

(EPA) Stuart Hill, (312) 886-0689

(City of Elkhart), Ray Balough, (574) 294-5471, ext. 242

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA100

CHICAGO (Aug. 7, 2002) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has awarded a \$40,000 Superfund Redevelopment Grant to the city of Elkhart, Ind. Nationally, 19 communities received a total of \$1.2 million. The grants provide communities with resources to assist in developing plans for reusing formerly contaminated Superfund hazardous waste sites.

Elkhart will use the grant to develop a reuse plan for the HIMCO Dump site on the city's northwest side. The funds will also help the city pursue discussions with citizens and developers about uses for the site, including a possible recreational facility. The site, which will be managed through the city's brownfield program, is included in the proposed Elkhart Aeroplex Business Park. "The Superfund Redevelopment Initiative makes it possible for communities to have a strong voice in local land use decisions that affect them," said Region 5 Administrator Tom Skinner. "EPA is committed to the cleanup and reuse of contaminated property across the country to make communities safer and provide an engine that drives economic rebirth."

The 60-acre site was mixed-use landfill from 1960 to 1976. Past environmental concerns include open waste trenches, and present concerns include groundwater contamination. EPA is currently re-evaluating its 1993 cleanup plan for the site, based on new data.

"I am delighted that our city has received this help from the federal government," said Mayor Dave Miller. "Now we can move ahead on this long-standing issue we inherited years ago. This commercially strategic property near the airport has great potential and we look forward to putting the site to its highest and best use." Elsewhere in Indiana, EPA awarded \$75,000 to the city of Gary for redevelopment work at four Superfund sites where cleanup has been, or is nearly, completed. Lake Sandy Jo is a 40-acre site within Gary's Empowerment Zone. It is close to a residential area as well as the Borman Expressway. The MIDCO I and II sites, totaling about 11 acres, are within the Airport Development Zone and have potential commercial uses. The 17-acre Ninth Avenue Dump site is near the Cline Avenue business district. The grant will be used to conduct community outreach and produce a redevelopment plan, including a market analysis.

To date, more than 300 hazardous waste sites have been redeveloped nationally. Among the new uses are retail stores, office buildings, transportation centers and sports complexes. Some have also been used for recreation, including hiking trails, bike paths, and parks, as well as ecological purposes, such as wildlife preserves and wetlands.

###

EPA Reaches Agreement with Joyner's Die
Casting & Plating on Hazardous Waste
Violations

CONTACT:

Karen Thompson (312) 353-8547

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA097

CHICAGO (July 31, 2002) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 and Joyner's Die Casting & Plating, Inc., Brooklyn Park, Minn., recently reached agreement on hazardous waste violations. The company will pay a \$20,000 fine and undertake an environmental project costing at least \$100,000.

Joyner's will install and operate a system to eliminate about 230 pounds of copper, zinc, chrome and cyanide per year from the wastewater it discharges into the local sewerage system and treatment plant.

The company, which generates a large quantity of waste, was cited in April 2001 for failing to identify the contents of a certain container as hazardous. The company also failed to properly treat, store and dispose of hazardous waste, and to file a report with EPA and Minnesota Pollution Control Agency on the transportation of hazardous waste to another site.

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

About Joyner's

Joyner's is a die casting and plating company located at 7801 Xylon, Ave., Brooklyn Park, Minn.

#

EPA Cites Eight Companies for Clean-air

Violations

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA096

CHICAGO (July 30, 2002) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 notified eight companies and organizations from April through June 2002 that it believes they violated federal or federally enforceable 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 Steve Rothblatt, acting director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. “We will take whatever steps are needed to ensure compliance with the Clean Air Act.”

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

COMPANIES RECEIVING FOVs

BP Chemicals Inc.

Fort Amanda Rd.

Lima, Ohio

EPA alleges BP Chemicals started construction of its butanediol plant before the effective date of a final permit to prevent significant deterioration of air quality.

Companies must get these permits, which, among other things, require installing best available control technology to limit emissions of air pollutants and prevent deterioration of air quality before new air pollution sources can be built, or existing sources modified, in areas that meet air quality standards. In addition, EPA alleges the company exceeded emission limits for nitrogen oxides and used wrong test methods to show compliance.

Kevin Vuilleumier, (312) 886-6188

Christine Liszewski, (312) 886-4670

Bunge Milling

Formerly Lauhoff Grain Co.

321 E. North St.

Danville, Ill.

EPA alleges Bunge Milling made two major expansions to its soybean extraction process without first getting permits to prevent significant deterioration of air quality. Companies must get these permits that restrict their emissions and prevent deterioration of air quality before new air pollution sources can be built, or existing sources modified, in areas that meet air quality standards. In addition, Bunge failed to submit a timely and complete Title 5 permit application with information about these expansions.

Morgan Jencius, (312) 886-2407

Mary McAuliffe, (312) 886-6237

City of Wyandotte

2555 Van Alstyne

Wyandotte, Mich.

EPA alleges that the City of Wyandotte’s 2001 nitrogen oxide compliance assessment report shows that the city violated the acid rain nitrogen oxides emission reduction program at one of its water supply service coal-fired boiler units.

Kathy Triantafillou, (312) 353-4293

Cynthia King, (312) 886-6831

COMPANIES RECEIVING NOVs

BP Chemicals Inc.

Fort Amanda Rd.

Lima, Ohio

EPA alleges BP Chemicals started construction of its butanediol plant before the effective date of a final permit to prevent significant deterioration of air quality.

Companies must get these permits, which, among other things, require installing best available control technology to limit emissions of air pollutants and prevent deterioration of air quality before new air pollution sources can be built, or existing sources modified, in areas that meet air quality standards.

Kevin Vuilleumier, (312) 886-6188

Christine Liszewski, (312) 886-4670

Youngstown Thermal LP.

205 N. Ave.

Youngstown, Ohio

EPA alleges that Youngstown Thermal Energy violated clean-air requirements for particulates (dust, smoke, ash) at its steam supply plant. In addition, it failed to comply with planning, reporting, testing and operating requirements in its permit.

Nathan Frank, (312) 886-3850

Susan Prout, (312) 353-1029

Cargill Inc.

1503 Wabash Ave.

Lafayette, Ind.

EPA alleges that Cargill expanded and operated its plant, significantly increasing volatile organic compound emissions, without first getting a permit to prevent significant deterioration of air quality. Companies must get these permits that restrict their emissions and prevent deterioration of air quality before new air pollution sources can be built, or existing sources modified, in areas that meet air quality standards.

Sarah Graham, (312) 886-6797

Mary McAuliffe, (312) 886-6237

Kent State University

Terrace Drive

Kent, Ohio

EPA alleges Kent State University failed to submit a timely application for a permit to operate one of three new boilers at its heating plant.

Greg Chomycia, (312) 353-8217

Christine Liszewski, (312) 886-4670

Indiana Harbor Coke Co.

3210 Watling St.

East Chicago, Ind.

Ispat Inland Steel Co.

3210 Watling St.

East Chicago, Ind.

Cokenergy Inc.

801 E. 86th Ave.

Merrillville, Ind.

EPA alleges Indiana Harbor Coke, Ispat Inland Steel and Cokenergy made major modifications to their Ispat Inland integrated steel mill, 3210 Watling St., East Chicago, Ind., a major source of sulfur dioxide emissions, by adding a heat recovery coal carbonization unit that emits additional sulfur dioxide, without first getting required permits that would limit their emissions. The plant is in Lake County, Ind., an area that does not meet national health-based outdoor air standards for sulfur dioxide.

Kushal Som, (312) 353-5792

Mary McAuliffe, (312) 886-6237
Wheeling Pittsburgh Steel-Stuebenville North
S. Third St.
Steubenville, Ohio

EPA alleges Wheeling Pittsburgh Steel failed to comply with emission limits on opacity, or the amount of light obscured by particulates, as well as limits on hydrogen sulfide.

Tom Williams, (312) 886-0814

###

EPA Proposes Final Cleanup Plan for
Aircraft Components Site; Public Meeting

July 31

CONTACT:

Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050

Don de Blasio, (312) 886-4360

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA095

CHICAGO (July 26, 2002) — A final cleanup plan for the chemically contaminated part of the Aircraft Components Superfund Site in Benton Harbor, Mich., will be presented at a public meeting, July 31, 6 p.m., at the Benton Harbor Public Library, 213 East Wall St. A formal hearing with opportunities for public comments will follow the meeting, from 6:30 to 7:30 pm. The public comment period on the proposal ends August 23, 2002.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5, working with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, recently evaluated three options for cleaning up the part of the site designated as Operable Unit 2. Operable Unit 1 is the radiological cleanup, involving areas where World War II-era aircraft gauges marked with paint containing radium-226 were stored.

Although EPA's recommended plan, at \$3.5 million, is the most expensive of the three, it uses a new technique that may clean the groundwater in two to four years instead of the estimated 20 years using conventional methods. The proposed EPA work at Operable Unit 2 is expected to be the final cleanup activity at the site. The project would likely begin in early 2004.

The proposal includes excavation and off-site disposal of up to two feet of contaminated soil, plus excavation of a limited amount of contaminated sediment in both the Paw Paw River and a small wetland on the property. The new technique will clean up volatile organic compound contamination in the site's groundwater without first pumping it out of the ground. This method enhances the ability of naturally occurring bacteria to consume the contaminants while the water is still in the ground.

Residents who cannot attend the public meeting and hearing may send comments until August 23 to Kevin Adler, Remedial Project Manager, U.S. EPA Region 5, Superfund Division (SR-6J), 77 West Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL 60604, fax (312) 353-5541 or adler.kevin@epa.gov. For special needs or accommodations, please contact community involvement coordinator Don deBlasio, (800) 621-8431, ext. 64360 or deblasio.don@epa.gov. A fact sheet on the plan will be distributed at the meeting. It is also available from Adler or de Blasio. Additional EPA site information is available at Benton Harbor Public Library.

On a separate track from EPA's proposed plan for Operable Unit 2, EPA's radiological cleanup at Operable Unit 1 is expected to begin in September. Recent news reports have mistakenly indicated that \$1.5 million in funding for this work has not been approved. EPA anticipates full approval for this work in September after it completes a final review to determine if any potentially responsible parties can or should contribute funds toward the cleanup.

About the Site

The 17-acre site at 671 North Shore Dr. in Benton Township is near a residential area and bordered to the south by the Paw Paw River. The site was placed on the Superfund National Priority List in 1996. From 1997 to 1999, EPA, in consultation with MDEQ, removed the bulk of radioactive materials from the site.

###

EPA Cites CVS for Asbestos Violations

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA094

CHICAGO (July 26, 2002) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has filed an administrative complaint against CVS Corp., 1920 Enterprise Parkway, Twinsburg, Ohio, for alleged violations of federal regulations on asbestos, a hazardous air pollutant. EPA proposed a \$54,200 penalty.

The alleged violations took place at a demolition site at 6659 E. Main St., Reynoldsburg, Ohio, which CVS had bought to build a drugstore.

Allegations in the 12-count complaint include failure to perform a thorough inspection of the property for asbestos, provide proper notifications to the state of Ohio, remove all regulated asbestos-containing material before demolition, and properly dispose of asbestos-containing waste.

CVS has filed an answer to the complaint and asked for a hearing. It may request an informal conference with EPA at any time to discuss how to resolve the allegations.

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

###

United States Announces Clean Water Act
Settlement with City of Anderson, Indiana

CONTACT:

US Department of Justice, (202) 514-2007

US Environmental Protection Agency Region 5, (312) 353-6218

For Immediate Release

No. DOJ 02-409

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Department of Justice, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the state of Indiana today announced a settlement which requires the City of Anderson, Ind. to spend millions to improve the city's sewer system and wastewater treatment plant and to pay a \$250,000 fine. Those improvements will significantly reduce pollution discharged to the White River and will improve overall water quality in the river. The settlement resolves a lawsuit alleging multiple violations of the Clean Water Act by Anderson.

The settlement with the city complements an earlier settlement relating to a massive fish kill in the White River. Guide Corporation caused that fish kill by discharging toxic pollutants from its automotive parts production facility in Anderson through the city's sewer system. As part of a June 2001 settlement with the United States and the state of Indiana, Guide agreed to pay \$6 million for fish restocking and other restoration projects in and along the White River. The river restoration work being funded by that settlement is ongoing. Today's settlement with Anderson will help promote that restoration effort, both by reducing pollutant discharges to the White River and by improving oversight of industrial dischargers like Guide.

"Like settlements the Justice Department has reached with other communities, this agreement requires Anderson to comply with the law by improving its outdated sewer system and treatment plant," said Tom Sansonetti, Assistant Attorney General of the Justice Department's Environment and Natural Resources Division. "The sewer system improvements required by the settlement will significantly reduce pollution discharged to the White River and will accelerate its recovery."

The White River flows past Anderson before passing through the city of Indianapolis. Regulations and permits issued by EPA and the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) require Anderson to collect and treat the city's municipal sewage and industrial wastewater before it is discharged to the White River. According to the complaint filed with today's settlement, Anderson illegally discharged untreated and partially treated sewage to the river. The complaint also asserts that Anderson failed to oversee industrial users of its sewer system, as required by law.

Under today's settlement, Anderson will take immediate action to optimize the operation of its existing sewer system and wastewater treatment plant. Anderson also commits to prepare a plan for sewer system and treatment plant improvements to control sewage discharge on a long-term basis, and to construct whatever improvements are needed. EPA believes that improvements such as increased wastewater storage or treatment capacity will probably be required, and may ultimately cost more than \$20 million. The city will also adopt a tighter program to manage industrial wastewater discharges to its sewer system, as part of the settlement.

"Anderson's commitment to control discharges of raw sewage and upgrade its entire sewer system will have immediate benefits for the White River and long term benefits for the community," said EPA Regional Administrator Thomas Skinner.

The settlement with Anderson was reached through negotiations conducted by EPA, IDEM, the Indiana Attorney General's Office and the Department of Justice. EPA and IDEM will oversee Anderson's compliance with the settlement agreement.

The settlement agreement was filed today with the U.S. District Court in Indianapolis and is subject to a 30-day public comment period.

#

EPA Cites Transtechnology Components
for Hazardous Waste Export Violations

CONTACT:

Karen Thompson (312) 353-8547

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA087

CHICAGO (Jul. 16, 2002) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has filed a complaint against TransTechnology Engineered Components of Massillon, Ohio, for alleged hazardous waste violations. EPA is proposing a \$44,440 penalty.

TransTechnology was cited for failure to comply with hazardous waste export regulations, including shipping excessive quantities to Canada and failing to file a timely report with EPA in 2001. The violations were discovered during an import-export records review.

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

About TransTechnology Engineered Components

TransTechnology, located at 240 4th St., N.W., produces spring and stainless steel parts for the auto industry.

About EPA

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

###

EPA Cites Cosmed of Illinois for Clean-air

Violations

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA086

CHICAGO (July 16, 2002) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has filed an administrative complaint against Cosmed of Illinois for alleged clean-air violations at its medical equipment sterilization plant, 1160 Northpoint Blvd., Waukegan, Ill. EPA proposed a \$132,000 penalty.

"We're alleging Cosmed of Illinois violated national emissions standards for the hazardous air pollutant ethylene oxide, which is used to sterilize medical products," said Steve Rothblatt, acting director of the regional Air and Radiation Division.

Specifically, the complaint alleges the company failed to test its emissions control equipment to see that it was working properly, install a continuous emissions monitoring system, and keep records documenting compliance with emissions standards.

Cosmed has filed an answer to the complaint and requested a hearing. EPA and Cosmed are scheduling a meeting to discuss the allegations and how to resolve them.

Exposure to ethylene oxide can cause irritation of the eyes, skin and mucous membranes, as well as brain and nerve function problems.

#

New EPA Data Shows Dramatic Air Quality Improvements in Midwest from Clear Skies Initiative

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA083

CHICAGO (Jul. 1, 2002) — The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency today released new information demonstrating the dramatic clean air benefits of President Bush's Clear Skies Initiative. Clear Skies will require America's power plants to reduce air pollution by an average of 70 percent.

The new analytical data released today shows what effect that nationwide reduction will have on air quality, water quality, and public health in each region of the country. The results are striking: Every part of the country where power plants contribute significantly to air pollution — most notably, the northeast, southeast and midwest — will see vast improvements in air quality.

Many cities and towns will meet air quality standards for the first time in years. Specifically for EPA's Region 5 which comprises Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin, Clear Skies, by 2020, is projected to reduce sulfur dioxide emissions from power generators by 62 percent, nitrogen oxide emissions by 74 percent and mercury emissions by 63 percent over today's levels.

On February 14 of this year President Bush announced the ambitious Clear Skies initiative, which sets strict mandatory emissions caps for three of the most harmful air pollutants — sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxide and mercury — by setting mandatory emissions caps. Clear Skies will eliminate 35 million more tons of these pollutants in the next decade than the current Clean Air Act. EPA used sophisticated computer modeling techniques to specifically identify improvements in local and regional air and water quality that will occur as a result of the stringent caps imposed by the President's plan.

"This information now clearly demonstrates the magnitude of the health and environmental benefits the President's Clear Skies proposal will deliver. Clear Skies will enable most of the country to meet national air quality standards. This new data shows that we can improve the quality of the air we breathe and achieve these results faster, at less cost to consumers, and in a way that makes sense for the environment, for industry, and for the health of the American people," said EPA Administrator Christie Whitman.

EPA Region 5 Administrator Thomas V. Skinner said, "Clear Skies is, by far, the most aggressive action ever proposed by a President to reduce emissions from power plants. If implemented, this proposal will make significant cuts in emissions that help produce ozone, which has reached unhealthy levels in the region in recent days."

The annual health benefits of Clear Skies in Region 5 by 2020 include:

- approximately 2,500 fewer premature deaths,
- over 1,500 fewer cases of chronic bronchitis,
- over 2,000 fewer hospitalizations/emergency room visits, and
- approximately 50,000 fewer asthma attacks.

It is estimated that Region 5 would see approximately \$19 billion in benefits by 2020 from the reductions of fine particles alone. Six counties (home to approximately 2 million people) in Region 5 would come into attainment with the fine particle standard under Clear Skies by 2010 (beyond expectations from existing programs). By 2020, 12 counties (home to approximately 5 million people) would come into attainment with the fine particle standard under Clear Skies (beyond expectations from existing programs).

Clear Skies will cost effectively achieve emission reductions, and is not projected to significantly impact retail electricity prices in Region 5. Electricity

prices are projected to remain below the national average.

Clear Skies will increase the number of coal-fired power plants in Region 5 that have installed pollution controls to reduce emissions. By 2010, 67 percent of Region 5's coal-fired generation will come from coal units with emission controls and by 2020, 81 percent of their coal-fired generation will come from units that have installed clean coal controls.

Today's release of information marks the culmination of months of rigorous modeling and thorough analysis. EPA has completed state of the art modeling of emissions, air quality, deposition and water quality based on the latest available data to project the effects of Clear Skies as accurately as possible. Significantly, this information is available at the regional level as well as nationally, enabling a more clear assessment of the benefits of Clear Skies to human health and the environment in different parts of the country. EPA expects to release additional information, including information on mercury deposition, in the near future.

The Clear Skies initiative builds upon other important provisions of the existing Clean Air Act, including those that protect public health by ensuring that local air quality standards are maintained. The National Ambient Air Quality Standards require state and federal action to protect citizens from potential localized problems (so-called "hot spots"). In the few areas of the country where reducing power plant emissions alone will not enable counties to meet national air quality standards, state and federal agencies will work together to reduce air pollution from other sources until air quality standards are met. The Clear Skies Initiative draws from the lessons learned from the 1990 Clean Air Act's acid rain program to bring cleaner, healthier air to all Americans at an affordable price.

More region-specific information on the Clear Skies Initiative is available on the EPA Clear Skies web site at www.epa.gov/clearskies

#

EPA Begins \$7 Million Cleanup at Little

Scioto River Site

CONTACT:

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

(Marion Chamber of Commerce) Pam Hall, (740) 382-2181

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA080

CHICAGO (June 26, 2002) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has begun a projected three-year, \$7 million to \$10 million cleanup of polluted sediment in the Little Scioto River in Marion, Ohio. The sediment was contaminated by the Baker Wood Preserving Co., a wood treatment plant that operated from the 1890s to 1960s. A separate EPA cleanup has been under way at the Baker Wood property, a few blocks east of the river, since 1998. The project, expected to be paid for by EPA using Oil Pollution Act funds, aims to remove up to 40,000 cubic yards of material (about 60,000 tons) from the 0.5-mile North Rockswale Ditch and a 3.5-mile stretch of the Little Scioto River, which flows south toward Columbus 40 miles away. EPA believes chemical waste from Baker Wood, which used creosote and other petroleum byproducts to pressure-treat wood, was discharged directly from the plant to the sewers that drain into the ditch and the river.

EPA has mobilized equipment in recent weeks and will begin clearing and excavating the ditch after the July 4 weekend. Ditch work is expected to run through August. After that, EPA will establish a series of 200- to 400-foot long "cells" in the river, which will be drained prior to sediment removal. The excavated material will be laid out to dry on a de-watering pad and then shipped to an appropriate disposal facility. The river portion of the cleanup will take about 12 months, spread over two full construction seasons. Area businesses and residents can expect to see increased truck traffic and workers in protective clothing over the course of the project.

Work at the former Baker Wood plant site has been temporarily halted while the river excavation begins. The plant property is one-half mile northwest of downtown Marion at the corner of Holland Road and Kenton Street (State Route 309). To date, 3,000 tons of contaminated soil have been excavated, treated with a mixture of water and liquid fertilizer, and staged for off-site disposal. Following further data analysis this summer, EPA will determine its next steps. Numerous government agencies, as well as public and private organizations have been actively involved in site research and analysis, and logistical support, that led to this cleanup project. In addition to EPA, these include: Ohio EPA, City of Marion, Marion County Commissioners, Marion Chamber of Commerce, Marion County's Envisioning organization, and Marion CAN DO!, an economic development organization. Private entities involved in the Little Scioto Cleanup Fund that paid for initial site analysis include: Marion General Hospital, Ohio American Water and Verizon.

A fact sheet will be sent to area residents in the next few weeks. Official documents relative to the site are at the Marion Public Library, 445 East Church St. For information contact community involvement coordinator Susan Pastor, (800) 621-8431, ext 31325 or pastor.susan@epa.gov.

NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS: A media briefing featuring EPA's site team, Marion Mayor Jack Kellogg and local officials will be held today at 10:30 a.m. The site command post is at 2100 Marion Agosta Road, just west of the Whirlpool facility and the municipal water treatment plant on State Route 95.

###

EPA Cleanup Begins at Little Scioto River
Site; Briefing June 26, 10:30 A.M.

CONTACT:

Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA079

CHICAGO (June 24, 2002) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 and Marion, Ohio, Mayor Jack Kellogg will hold a media briefing Wednesday, June 26, at 10:30 a.m. announcing the start of a \$7 million to \$10 million cleanup of contaminated sediment in the Little Scioto River.

Who: EPA's site team, Marion Mayor Jack Kellogg and local officials.

When: 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, June 26, 2002.

Where: EPA's Little Scioto River site command post at 2100 Marion Agosta Road. The site is just west of the Whirlpool facility and the municipal water treatment plant on State Route 95.

What: Start of a projected two-year cleanup effort, beginning with the 0.5-mile North Rockswale Ditch before proceeding in the fall to a 3.5-mile stretch of Little Scioto River sediment. Reaching this milestone involved extensive cooperation among government agencies and local non-profit organizations. EPA officials will demonstrate how an oil sheen is created at the river surface. Construction equipment will also be visible.

###

EPA: Great Lakes Toxics Reduction Goals
on Target

CONTACT:

Phillippa Cannon, (312) 353-6218

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA078

Chicago (June 19, 2002) – Nearly all the goals for reducing toxic substances in the Great Lakes will be met or exceeded in the next five years, U.S.

Environmental Protection Agency's Great Lakes National Program Office announced today. The ten-year targets were set in 1997 by the Great Lakes Binational Toxics Reduction Strategy.

The encouraging report, presented at a recent meeting of U.S. and Canadian officials and stakeholders from the Great Lakes region, showed air emissions of mercury in the U.S. declined by more than 40 percent between 1990 and 2001.

Also, at least 30 percent of PCB-containing transformers in use in 1994 have been safely disposed of, and, because of stronger pollution controls, there has been a 70 percent reduction in dioxin emissions since 1987.

"Significant reduction of persistent toxic substances in the Great Lakes cannot be achieved through government efforts alone," said Thomas V. Skinner, National Program Manager for the Great Lakes and Region 5 Administrator.

"The Great Lakes Binational Toxics Reduction Strategy is an example of a successful partnership among government, industry and nongovernmental organizations on both sides of the border that have a shared commitment to solving a difficult environmental problem."

In 1997, the U.S. and Canada committed to virtually eliminate persistent toxic substances entering the Great Lakes basin. These include chlordane, DDT, PCBs, mercury and dioxins as well as other toxic substances. These substances may have widespread, long-term adverse effects on fish and wildlife in the Great Lakes ecosystem. Strategy partners decided to expand its scope to studying the environmental impact of individual actions such as open garbage burning, which accounts for a significant amount of uncontrolled airborne pollution, especially in remote areas. In addition, there will be a greater emphasis on outreach to involve more partners.

For a full progress report go to <http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/bns>, or contact Ted Smith, (312) 353-6571, smith.edwin@epa.gov to obtain a copy of the report. The next stakeholder meeting will be held in November 2002 in Chicago.

The mission of EPA's Great Lakes National Program Office is to restore and protect the physical, chemical and biological integrity of the Great Lakes.

#

EPA to Co-sponsor Climate Change
Workshop at Minnesota Valley Wildlife
Refuge

CONTACT:

Karen Thompson, (312) 353-8547

Julie Magee, (312) 886-6063

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA077

CHICAGO (June 19, 2002) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 will co-sponsor "Climate Change and Terrestrial Ecosystems of the Great Lakes Region: The Potential Impacts and What We Can Do," a one-day workshop from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. June 21 at the Minnesota Valley Wildlife Refuge, 3815 E. 80th St., Bloomington, Minn.

The workshop is the fourth of five regional workshops planned by EPA, Michigan State University, National Wildlife Federation and the Great Lakes Regional Climate Change Assessment Team to engage people in addressing climate change issues. Minnesota Pollution Control Agency will also co-sponsor this workshop.

Speakers will address challenges facing foresters, park managers, timber industry leaders, hunters, and waterfowl and wetland conservation organizations. Panel discussions will provide a forum for stakeholders to discuss the potential effects of climate change as well as appropriate response strategies and policy options.

The first climate change workshop, on Great Lakes water levels, was held in Chicago in March 2001; the second, on Great Lakes water ecology, was held in Milwaukee in June 2001; and the third, on agriculture in the Great Lakes Region, was held in East Lansing, Mich., in March 2002.

Additional information about the fourth workshop, including how to register can be obtained at www.geo.msu.edu/gltra. Information about climate change is at www.epa.gov/globalwarming/. For special needs or accommodations, please contact Jodi Lehmann at (952) 858-0702.

#

EPA Awards \$150,000 Grant to Toledo

Children's Hospital

CONTACT:

Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

(Toledo Children's Hospital) Colleen Grubb, (419) 291-4081

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA076

CHICAGO (June 20, 2002) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has awarded a \$150,000 grant to Toledo Children's Hospital, Toledo, Ohio, for a pilot project to help in the fight against childhood asthma. The grant is one of two EPA has made this year. The other went to Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York City.

"We are pleased to be working with the Toledo Children's Hospital in its efforts to improve the quality of life for children with asthma," said EPA Region 5 Administrator Thomas V. Skinner. "This project will help families control asthma triggers in their homes and reduce their impact on children."

Toledo Children's Hospital will do in-home environmental asthma education and management for 80 children and their families. It will work with the families to find asthma triggers such as secondhand smoke, cockroaches, dust mites, mold and pet dander.

Children receiving asthma education and home assessments should experience fewer emergency room visits, hospitalizations and asthma attacks, and they should require less frequent rescue medication.

EPA started this competitive grant program to ensure that asthma is managed comprehensively, including proper medical care and avoiding asthma triggers. Data indicate that the Toledo area has an asthma incidence rate that is higher than the national average. In 1999, asthma was the second leading cause for hospitalizations at Toledo Children's Hospital and the cause of 792 emergency room visits.

For more information about asthma and asthma triggers, visit www.epa.gov/asthma or call (800) 315-8056.

About Toledo Children's Hospital

Toledo Children's Hospital founded its Pediatric Pulmonary Center to address asthma and other pulmonary diseases. The center serves 23 counties in northwestern Ohio and southeastern Michigan. Each year, the center has some 2,500 visits from children with asthma.

###

EPA to Lead \$2 Million Intensive Study of

Lake Erie's

Recent Scientific Mysteries

CONTACT:

Phillippa Cannon, (312) 353-6218

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA075

(Photo/video opportunity EPA scientists will be available to talk to reporters from 10 a.m. to noon, Monday, June 17 aboard the RV Lake Guardian. The ship is docked at the Federal Marine Terminal, 103 Erieside Street, Cleveland.)

CHICAGO (June 14, 2002) Unexplained biological changes in the Lake Erie ecosystem will be the focus of a \$2 million study beginning June 17. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Great Lakes National Program Office, Environment Canada and scientists from more than 20 universities and institutes will participate in the study, which launches from Cleveland, Ohio, aboard EPA's RV Lake Guardian research vessel.

The ship will serve as a base for the summer-long field season of this two-year project to solve the puzzle of trend changes in Lake Erie's central basin since 1990. Researchers will be looking at three patterns that are inconsistent with the usual dynamics of lake functions. They will explore:

- why chlorophyll is at historically low levels.
- why phosphorus is increasing in Lake Erie water, when the amount of phosphorus going into the lake is not increasing.
- why there is a "dead zone," an area essentially devoid of oxygen, in the summer.

"We have tracked Lake Erie for decades and thought we had a good historical understanding of what to expect now and in the future," said Thomas Skinner, Region 5 Administrator and Great Lakes National Program Manager. "But the recent discovery of sudden biological changes, which could have long-term effects on the ecosystem, prompted this all-out investigation."

The study will bring together experts in the biology and chemistry of lakes to look at the possibility that zebra mussels or other invading species, an increase in ultraviolet light, or that a variety of chemicals may be changing the workings of the lake.

About EPA

Founded in 1970, EPA is responsible for protecting the environment and human health. The Agency enforces air, water and land disposal laws and ensures that designated health standards are met. The EPA Great Lakes National Program Office's mission is to restore and protect the physical, chemical and biological integrity of the Great Lakes.

###

EPA Begins Status Review of
Oconomowoc Electroplating Site

CONTACT:

Susan Pastor, (312) 353-1325

Steve Padovani, (312) 353-6755

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA074

CHICAGO (June 13, 2002) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has begun a status review of the past five years of activity at the Oconomowoc Electroplating Company Superfund Site in Ashippun, Wis. A complete technical report is expected to be available by August 2002.

The Superfund law requires reviews at least every five years of sites where cleanup work is complete but hazardous waste remains managed on-site, or where groundwater is still in the process of being cleaned up.

The new review is EPA's second status report for the Oconomowoc site; the first five-year review was issued in September 1997. The 1997 review concluded that the cleanup of soil and sediment had been completed as planned. It also recommended that the groundwater pump-and-treatment system, built in 1996, continue operation until cleanup goals for groundwater are attained.

The new five-year review will examine the groundwater treatment system to ensure that it continues to protect human health and the environment, to look for ways to make the system more efficient and to determine if cleanup goals can be reached sooner. When EPA announced its cleanup plan, or record of decision, for the site in 1990, cleanup completion was expected to take more than 30 years. Modifications to the groundwater treatment system, however, may shorten the time needed by about 10 years, or 2012.

Area residents who want to know more about the site's history or current condition, or who have questions about the status review process may contact community involvement coordinator Susan Pastor at (800) 621-8431, ext. 31325, or pastor.susan@epa.gov. If there is sufficient interest, a public meeting may also be scheduled.

About the Site

The Oconomowoc Electroplating Company operated from 1957 to 1990, using a variety of metals, chemicals and organic compounds in its production processes. Untreated waste water was discharged into nearby wetlands and Davy Creek, as well as two unlined lagoons at the site. Contaminants from all of these sources infiltrated the groundwater beneath and around the site. An \$11 million Superfund effort between 1992 and 1995 included the removal and disposal of the lagoons, on-site buildings and 2,600 tons of contaminated soil. Site documents are available for review at Ashippun Town Hall, located at the intersection of Routes O and P.

###

EPA Administrator Awards Water Security

Grants to Four Illinois Utilities

CONTACT:

Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050

Phillippa Cannon, (312) 353-6218

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA072

CHICAGO (June 7, 2002) — EPA Administrator Christie Whitman today announced that four Illinois water systems are among the first to receive water security grants, part of \$53 million to help large drinking-water utilities across the nation assess their vulnerabilities. Checks are being sent to Elgin (\$115,000), Naperville (\$115,000), Rend Lake Conservancy District in Benton (\$96,000) and Wilmette (\$115,000). It is expected that in upcoming weeks, approximately 400 grants will be provided to assist utilities with security planning.

"Shortly after the terrorist attacks of September 11, EPA redoubled efforts already underway to promote security at America's 168,000 public drinking-water facilities," said Whitman. "These grants will help ensure that the water people rely on is safe and secure."

EPA will also work with states, tribes and other appropriate organizations to further develop and disseminate tools to support security efforts at small and medium drinking-water and wastewater systems.

In response to the attacks of Sept. 11, EPA received a supplemental appropriation from Congress to improve the safety and security of the nation's water supply. The nearly \$90 million is intended to reduce the vulnerability of water utilities to terrorist attacks and to help enhance their security and ability to respond to emergency situations.

EPA has allocated \$53 million for security planning at large drinking-water utilities. These utilities serve more than 100,000 people each and provide

EPA News Release 02-OPA072: EPA Administrator Awards Water Security Grants to Four Illinois Utilities drinking water to about half of Americans served by public water systems. To date, a total of 384 grant applications have been received. Each award will be up to \$115,000. Any remaining funds will be directed to other security planning needs.

Developing a vulnerability assessment is the highest priority activity under this grant program, since it is the first step in understanding where a utility can be damaged by terrorist attack. Funds may also be used for developing emergency operations plans and designing security enhancements, or a combination of these efforts.

In addition to the funding discussed by Whitman today, EPA has taken numerous steps to work with utilities to protect the nation's water supply. In October, Whitman formed a Water Protection Task Force. The agency has also provided information about steps utilities can take to protect their water sources and physical infrastructure, including pumping stations, treatment facilities and computer systems.

In addition, EPA worked with Sandia National Labs, a leading security research facility to develop training materials for water companies so they can conduct thorough assessments of their vulnerabilities and determine how to minimize them. Since November 2001, the effort has provided security training to thousands of drinking-water security managers.

In cooperation with the FBI, EPA also has advised local law enforcement agencies across the country of steps they can take to watch for possible threats to water systems. The agency also continues to work with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and others to improve understanding of how to best counteract chemical or biological agents in water.

###

EPA CITES Norquick Distributing for
Chemical Release Reporting Violations;

Proposes \$341,265 Fine

CONTACT:

Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050

James Entzminger, (312) 886-4062

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA071

CHICAGO (June 5, 2002) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has filed an administrative complaint against Norquick Distributing Co. Inc. for violation of federal laws on the reporting of a hazardous chemical release and two related emergency preparedness regulations. EPA has proposed a \$341,265 fine.

EPA alleges that on January 12, 2000, at 7 a.m., 3,900 pounds of anhydrous ammonia was released from Norquick's refrigeration warehouse at 8440 N. Haggerty Road in Canton, Mich. The release occurred when a valve malfunctioned, and broke while being repaired. EPA computer modeling indicates that the ammonia plume would have traveled at least two miles from the plant at the time of the incident. Though Norquick employees were evacuated, residents within a few hundred feet of the facility were not made aware of the situation.

Federal laws require facilities to immediately notify the National Response Center and state and local authorities about any ammonia release larger than 100 pounds. The company did not notify the NRC until about 11:45 a.m. In addition, Norquick never called the Michigan Emergency Response Commission or local authorities and required incident follow-up reports were never provided to state and local authorities. In addition, Norquick had not provided required hazardous chemical inventory forms to state and local authorities or the local fire department for 1997 to 1999. The investigation also determined that Norquick failed to submit a required risk management plan to EPA by June 1999.

About Anhydrous Ammonia

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

#

EPA, Environment Canada Announce Two-
Year Progress Reports for Lakes Michigan
and Superior

CONTACT:

Phillippa Cannon, (312) 353-6218

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA070

CHICAGO (May 31, 2002) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Environment Canada has announced that progress reports on Lakewide Management Plans (LaMPs) for Lakes Michigan and Superior are available. The LaMPs, originally released in April 2000, are strategic ecosystem management plans for the lakes. They outline the environmental status of each lake, highlight successes, identify problems and propose solutions. An update on the Lake Huron Initiative has also been completed.

The 2002 Progress Report on Lake Superior focuses on progress in achieving zero discharge of nine critical pollutants, habitat restoration and the development of broad ecosystem goals. The Lake Michigan report specifies activities that must be undertaken in order for the lake's water quality to be rated good by 2020 and includes preliminary results from the Lake Michigan Mass Balance Project. An additional Lake Michigan document, "Habitat and Land Use Management Toolbox," will be issued at the same time as the report. The Lake Huron Initiative reports on dredging of contaminated sediments and other cleanup activities in Saginaw Bay, environmental indicators and the development of a geographic information system to better manage habitat along the lake's tributaries.

Links to the reports are on EPA's Great Lakes Web site www.epa.gov/grtlakes/lakes.html, or call EPA at 800-621-8431 to get copies.

#

EPA Settles with Elco Corp. For Chemical Release Violations; Includes Fine and Projects

CONTACT:

Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050

James Entzminger, (312) 886-4062

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA068

CHICAGO (May 23, 2002) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has settled an administrative complaint with Elco Corp. of Cleveland, Ohio, for violation of federal laws on the reporting of hazardous chemical releases. The company will pay a civil penalty of \$7,648 and pay for two environmental projects valued at \$84,741.

EPA alleged that on October 18, 2000, at about 5:45 p.m., Elco, which manufactures lubricating oils and plastic pipes, failed to promptly report the release of 79 pounds of chlorine from its facility at 1000 Belt Line Rd., Cleveland. The hazardous chemical release occurred when an overheated plug on a one-ton chlorine container failed.

All releases of more than 10 pounds of chlorine must be promptly reported to the National Response Center and to state and local emergency planning committees. Elco officials reported the incident to all three authorities October 19, 2000, between 8:30 a.m. and 9:30 a.m., about 15 hours after they became aware of the situation. At the time of the incident, the Cleveland Fire Department was notified and they evacuated two neighboring facilities.

The settlement includes two supplemental environmental projects valued at \$84,741. The first project (cost: \$44,741), a redesign of the chlorine handling system, was initiated by Elco in response to the incident. The revamped system eliminates the need to heat the chlorine and convert it to a gas. Instead the chlorine remains in liquid form, thus preventing future airborne releases. For the second project (cost: \$40,000), Elco's facility in Ashtabula, Ohio, will build a 25-by-50-foot secondary containment system around its acid storage tanks and move its existing hydrochloric acid scrubber into this area.

About Chlorine

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

###

EPA Cites Poly-Carb for Clean Air Act

Violations

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA001

CHICAGO (May 17, 2002) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has filed an administrative complaint against Poly-Carb Inc., 33095 Bainbridge Rd., Cleveland, Ohio, for alleged violations of the architectural coatings rule of the Clean Air Act. EPA proposed an \$89,486 penalty.

"We're alleging that Poly-Carb made and sold architectural coatings that contained more volatile organic compounds than the rule allows," said Steve Rothblatt, acting director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "VOCs can cause smog levels that violate air quality standards."

Poly-Carb has 30 days from receipt of the complaint to file an answer and request a hearing. It may request an informal meeting to discuss the allegations and how to resolve them any time.

Volatile organic compounds combine with other chemicals in the air on warm, sunny days and form ground-level ozone (smog). Smog can cause breathing problems, reduced lung function, eye irritation, stuffy nose, and reduced resistance to colds and other infections. Ozone can also aggravate asthma and speed up the aging of lung tissue.

About EPA

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

###

EPA Settles with Petco Petroleum for
Clean Water Act Violations; Includes
\$15,000 Fine and Project

CONTACT:

Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050

Karen Vendl, (312) 886-7194

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA066

CHICAGO (May 17, 2002) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has settled an administrative complaint with Petco Petroleum Corp. and Bergman Oil & Gas Inc., both of Hinsdale, Ill., for violation of the oil pollution provisions of the Clean Water Act. Under the consent order and final agreement, the companies – Jay Douglas Bergman is president of both – will pay a \$15,000 fine and spend \$72,050 on an environmental project.

EPA alleged that the companies were jointly responsible for discharging 175 to 195 barrels of crude oil into a tributary of Snow Creek, near Dix, Ill., on July 15 or 16, 1999. Snow Creek flows into Rend Lake, which flows into the Big Muddy River, which empties into the Mississippi River.

The Clean Water Act prohibits the discharge of oil in harmful quantities to navigable waters of the United States, or adjoining shorelines. Illinois Department of Natural Resources has rated Snow Creek as high-quality habitat for aquatic organisms.

The companies operate a saltwater injection facility near Dix, where saltwater is separated from crude oil from nearby production wells and disposed of by pumping it underground. EPA believes the release occurred when the pumping system failed and oil overflowed, ultimately spilling into the Snow Creek tributary, about 100 feet away. The alarm system also failed to operate properly. The supplemental environmental project requires the companies to install a new oil field shut-down system at the Dix facility, relocate and install new crude oil/saltwater separator tanks and replace the transfer piping that carries the oil to the injection facility. They must also build a secondary containment system between the injection facility and the Snow Creek tributary to prevent a release from reaching the tributary should the new shut-down system fail.

#

EPA Cites Foremost Farms for Chemical
Release Violations; Proposes \$140,050

Fine

CONTACT:

Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050

Ruth McNamara, (312) 353-3193

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA065

CHICAGO (May 15, 2002) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has filed an administrative complaint against Foremost Farms USA for violation of federal laws on the reporting of a hazardous chemical release. EPA has proposed a \$140,050 fine.

EPA alleges that on October 11, 2000, at about 8:30 a.m., 600 pounds of ammonia was released from a Foremost food processing facility at 501 S. Pine Street in Reedsburg, Wis. The release occurred after a scheduled power outage in which the city of Reedsburg performed some unrelated transformer maintenance work. When power was restored at Foremost, the refrigeration system over-pressurized, triggering the release of ammonia. Because it was a windy day, the ammonia then drifted over the neighboring Grede Foundry facility. Employees at Grede, in turn, thought they had an internal problem and called the Reedsburg Fire Department. A short time later, Foremost became aware of and corrected the problem.

Foremost failed to notify the National Response Center and the Wisconsin State Emergency Response Board until October 12 at 11:30 a.m., about 27 hours after the incident. Sauk County Local Emergency Planning Committee received notification about 2 p.m. on October 12. In addition, as of January 15, 2001, Foremost had not yet provided a required written followup report to state or local authorities.

Federal laws require facilities to immediately notify the National Response Center and state and local authorities about any ammonia release larger than 100 pounds.

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

About Ammonia

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

#

EPA Reaches Agreement with GM Delphi on Cleanup Plan

CONTACT:

(media) Kären Thompson, (312) 353-8547

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA063

CHICAGO (May. 13, 2002) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 and General Motors-Delphi Energy and Engine Management recently reached agreement on an order for GM-Delphi to investigate and clean up hazardous waste from its Anderson, Ind., facility. The company will pay a \$41,096 penalty.

The order also requires GM-Delphi to:

- continue cleanup of soil and groundwater contamination on its property;
 - determine the nature and extent of hazardous waste releases from the facility;
 - identify and evaluate corrective actions necessary to contain wastes on the site;
 - assure EPA that all human exposures to contamination are under control;
- and
- implement the EPA-approved plan in a timely manner.

The 220-acre GM-Delphi site is known to have significant amounts of trichloroethylene (TCE) in the soil and groundwater.

Under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, passed by Congress in 1976, EPA regulates hazardous wastes from their production to final disposal. Documentation of the investigation and cleanup by GM-Delphi will be available to the public. There will also be opportunities to comment on the EPA-approved plan to protect human health and the environment from hazardous waste releases at the Anderson facility.

About GM Delphi

General Motors-Delphi Energy and Engine Management Systems formerly manufactured electrical components for the automotive industry at its facility at 2401 Columbus Ave., Anderson, Ind.

About EPA

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

###

EPA Cites Honeywell for Chemical Release
Reporting Violations; Proposes \$144,468
Fine

CONTACT:

Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050

James Entzminger, (312) 886-4062

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA064

CHICAGO (May 10, 2002) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 filed an administrative complaint against Honeywell International for violation of federal laws on the reporting of hazardous chemical releases. EPA proposed a \$144,469 fine.

The complaint is based on two separate incidents. On February 5, 1998, at about 10:30 p.m., Honeywell's tar plant at 1200 Zug Road, Detroit, Mich., suffered a fire that resulted in the release of 7,000 to 8,000 gallons of coal tar. Coal tar contains the hazardous chemicals benzo(a)pyrene and dibenz(a,h)anthracene, which when heated can volatilize into clouds, endangering public health. Federal laws require immediate notification to the National Response Center, the state emergency response commission and the local emergency planning committee – in this case, the Detroit Fire Department. The facility notified the NRC and the state emergency response commission about 9:00 a.m. the following morning. In addition, required written follow-up reports to the state emergency response commission and the local emergency planning committee were also filed late, seven days after the incident.

The second incident, also involving a fire and about 4,500 pounds of coal tar, occurred on December 17, 1999, at about 5:50 p.m. The NRC and state emergency response commission were notified at least two hours late. Written follow-up reports to the state emergency response commission and the local emergency planning committee were also filed late, 35 days after the incident.

About Benzo(a)pyrene and Dibenz(a,h)anthracene

Both chemicals are suspected carcinogens. Prolonged exposure to coal tar fumes, vapors or dust can cause irritation or burning to the eyes or respiratory tract. Ingestion of coal tar may cause irritation to the gastrointestinal tract, nausea and vomiting.

###

EPA, Ohio EPA Reach Agreement with
AEP Gavin Plant

CONTACT:

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

Jim Leach (OEPA), (614) 728-0041

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA062

CHICAGO (May 8, 2002) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and American Electric Power have signed a cooperative agreement to control emissions of sulfuric acid and other air pollutants from AEP's General Gavin plant, Cheshire, Ohio.

"This voluntary agreement is an important step," said EPA Region 5 Administrator Thomas V. Skinner. "AEP has agreed to take the necessary actions to control emissions from its Cheshire plant. We will continue to monitor the situation closely, in case further actions become necessary."

"Implementation of AEP's recent agreement with the town of Cheshire will resolve some, but not all of the issues at the facility," said Skinner. "Today's agreement goes further, and protects the health of all the people living in the area."

"Ohio EPA and U.S. EPA have worked closely together during this past year to arrive at solutions to the problems experienced by the citizens of Cheshire," said Ohio EPA Director Christopher Jones. "We are committed to continue this joint working relationship in the implementation of this agreement with AEP."

"Although this agreement represents a key step in emission control at AEP's Gavin facility," Jones stated, "Ohio EPA will continue its role in the oversight of the facility's operations to ensure ongoing compliance with all applicable regulatory requirements."

The Gavin plant is an electric generating station with two units, each capable of generating 1300 megawatts. Last summer, the units emitted sulfuric acid that polluted air in the Cheshire area after AEP installed a new pollution control system — called selective catalytic reduction — designed to cut nitrogen oxide emissions.

In an effort to fix the problem, AEP has agreed not to operate the SCR system at one of its units during 2002 and to install, operate and monitor equipment that will inject magnesium hydroxide, water and calcium hydroxide to reduce sulfuric acid emissions from the second unit.

AEP, which is now using high sulfur coal, has also agreed to stockpile low sulfur coal before it starts operating its SCR. If the injections fail to control the sulfuric acid emissions, AEP will promptly switch to low sulfur coal or implement any other equally effective short term measure. It will also develop and submit a longer term corrective action plan to meet emissions standards.

The company has agreed to continue to evaluate alternative sulfuric acid control strategies, including sorbent additives, catalyst changes to reduce the sulfuric acid conversion rate, application of wet electrostatic precipitator technology and use of low sulfur coal. It will do stack testing and outdoor air monitoring. In addition, it will submit regular reports to EPA and Ohio EPA. The agreement will expire in three years.

###

EPA Orders Further Investigation of Lammers Barrel Factory Site

CONTACT:

Bri Bill, (312) 3536646

Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA060

CHICAGO (May 6, 2002) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has signed an administrative order on consent requiring 20 potentially responsible parties to further investigate soil and ground-water contamination at the Lammers Barrel Factory site in Beaver Creek, Ohio.

A public meeting in which area residents can ask questions of EPA, Ohio EPA and local government representatives will be announced in the next few weeks.

The responsible parties are expected to submit a preliminary work plan for the effort, called a remedial investigation/feasibility study, by July 2002. Ground-water sampling by EPA and Ohio EPA has been conducted at the site since 1985. In 1986 and 2000, selected homes were taken off private well water and connected to municipal water lines.

The potentially responsible parties that signed the order are:

- Alcoa Inc. on behalf of Alcoa Building Products, Inc. (formerly known as Stolle Corporation)
- Borden Inc. for Columbus Coated Fabrics
- BP Products North America Inc.
- Chemcentral Corporation
- C.P. Inc.
- Copeland Corporation
- DaimlerChrysler Corporation
- Ford Motor Company
- General Electric Company
- General Motors Corporation
- The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company (f/k/a Goodyear Tire)
- International Truck and Engine Corporation (f/k/a International Harvester Company)
- Lamson & Sessions
- United Technologies Corporation on behalf of Lear Corporation Automotive Systems (f/k/a Sheller-Globe Corporation)
- Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing Company
- PPG Industries, Inc.
- ArvinMeritor Inc. on behalf of Roll Coater Inc.
- The Sherwin Williams Company (Lowe/Pratt & Lambert)
- Sunoco Inc. (R&M) (f/k/a Sun Oil Co.)
- Anthony Kohnen

About the Site

The Lammers Barrel Factory, an abandoned two-acre property at 3930 E. Patterson Road, was a chemical recycling and barrel reconditioning facility from 1953 to 1969, when it was destroyed by a fire. Little Beaver Creek runs through the middle of the site and flows into the Little Miami River, a recreation and wildlife area. Site documents are available for review at the Beaver Creek Library reference desk, 3618 Dayton-Xenia Road.

###

NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS: EPA

Administrator Whitman to Make
Brownfields Grant Announcement in
Oakland County, May 3, 12:30 p.m.

CONTACT:

Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050

Dave Ryan, (202) 564-7827

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA061

CHICAGO (May 2, 2002) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Administrator Christie Whitman will join local officials for a national
announcement naming the recipients of new brownfields revolving loan fund
pilot grants in Farmington Hills, Mich., Friday, May 3, 2002 at 12:30 p.m.

Who:

EPA Administrator Christie Whitman
Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson
U.S. Representative Joe Knollenberg
U.S. Representative Mike Rogers

When:

12:30 p.m., Friday, May 3, 2002

Where:

"The Triangle," at the intersection of Northwestern
Highway and Orchard Lake Rd., Farmington Hills, Mich.

What:

Announce new brownfields revolving loan fund pilot grant
recipients. States, communities and economic
development consortiums use the revolving loan funds to
facilitate cleanup of industrial or commercial sites where
expansion or redevelopment is complicated by real or
perceived environmental contamination. Since 1993,
EPA has provided more than \$200 million in brownfield
grants.

#

EPA Holds Free Seminars on Marina Fuel
Spills Rules in Traverse City May 6,
Detroit May 7

CONTACT:

Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050

Dr. Barbara Carr, (312) 886-7187

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA056

CHICAGO (May 1, 2002) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 will hold a pair of free seminars next week for marina operators on how to comply with regulations to prevent fuel spills in Michigan. The seminars will be Monday, May 6, 1 to 5 p.m., U.S. Coast Guard Air Station, 1175 Airport Ave., Traverse City, and Tuesday, May 7, 1 to 5 p.m., U.S. Coast Guard Marine Safety Office, 110 Mount Elliott St., Detroit.

Pre-registration is encouraged, but not required. For the Traverse City seminar, contact Dr. Shitien Yang, (312) 886-0850, or yang.shitien@epa.gov. For the Detroit seminar, contact Ting Wu, (312) 886-7178 or wu.ting@epa.gov.

Helping marina operators better understand their responsibilities in reducing and preventing oil spills to the Great Lakes will be the focus of the seminar.

Speakers from EPA, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality and the U. S. Coast Guard will cover practical ways to maintain and operate marinas while minimizing fuel spills.

All facilities that store more than 660 gallons of fuel in a single container or more than 1,320 gallons total, are covered by the regulations. Beyond marina operators, this group includes facilities such as quick oil-changers, food processors, paint and chemical manufacturers and airports.

Information to help marina operators determine if they are required to have a spill prevention, control and countermeasures plan, as well as an easy-to-use sample plan, is at www.epa.gov/region5oil/marinas.

###

EPA Settles with Precise Finishing on Hazardous Waste Violations

CONTACT:

(media) Kären Thompson, (312) 353-8547

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA059

CHICAGO (Apr. 29, 2002) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has reached an agreement with Precise Finishing Inc., on hazardous waste violations. A \$10,450 penalty will be paid.

EPA cited Precise Finishing for failing to have federal and state permits to store and manage hazardous wastes. An April 2001 inspection by EPA found waste water sludge and trichloroethylene waste being stored without proper labeling and a permit. The company has since complied.

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

About Precise Finishing

Precise Finishing electroplates parts with various metals at its facility at 2842 Birch, Franklin Park, Ill.

About EPA

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

###

EPA Orders Henkel Surface Technologies
to Clean up Hazardous Waste at Morenci,
Mich., Facility

CONTACT:

Kären Thompson, (312) 353-8547

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA058

CHICAGO (Apr. 29, 2002) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5
has ordered Henkel Surface Technologies to investigate and clean up
hazardous wastes at its former specialty chemical manufacturing facility in
Morenci, Mich.

Under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, EPA has ordered Henkel
to:

- determine the nature and extent of hazardous waste releases from the
facility;
- identify and evaluate corrective actions necessary to prevent movement
of hazardous wastes from the facility, especially into Bean Creek; and
- implement the EPA-approved plan in a timely manner.

In May 2000, EPA offered Henkel a voluntary corrective action agreement for
cleanup at the site but the parties were unable to come to an understanding.

About Henkel Surface Technologies

Henkel is a manufacturer of chemical specialty products for metal cleaning and
treating, metal drawing compounds, lubricants and rust inhibitors. It is located on
10 acres at 322 W. Main St., Morenci, Mich.

#

EPA Administrator Whitman Addresses

Environmental Council of States

Reception

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA057

Discusses Environmental Partnerships With States,
President's Clear Skies Initiative and Signs
Memorandums of Agreement with Colorado, Virginia
and Massachusetts, Announces Agreement with
Texas

CHICAGO (April 24, 2002) — EPA Administrator Christie Whitman tonight spoke to members of the Environmental Council of States (ECOS) at the Monona Terrace Convention Center in Madison, Wis. Whitman stressed the importance of partnerships between the federal government and states when addressing environmental issues and highlighted successes of the past year in areas like brownfields, increased commitments to watersheds, and partnership development.

Whitman also talked about the President's Clear Skies Initiative, a plan to set mandatory cuts in the emissions of three major pollutants from power plants that will, over the next decade, remove a total of 35 million more tons of nitrogen oxide, sulfur dioxide and mercury from the air than will be eliminated by the current Clean Air Act.

During the event Administrator Whitman discussed EPA's National Environmental Performance Track program, announced the signing of a memorandum of agreement with Texas, and signed memorandums of agreement with Colorado, Virginia and Massachusetts. The states participating in the MOAs offer their own state innovations programs which are similar in nature to EPA's Performance Track program. These MOAs will make it easier for members of each program to avail themselves of the benefits offered by both programs. A similar agreement has been signed previously with Texas. Whitman will recognize Texas during a ceremonial signing of that state's MOA with EPA. In addition, Whitman announced a new innovation strategy, "Innovating for Better Environmental Results" which provides a strategic framework for all of EPA's innovation driven programs. It calls for EPA to strengthen its partnership with states and tribes, to focus innovation efforts on a set of high priority problems, to diversify environmental protection tools and approaches, and to create a more innovation- friendly culture within the Agency.

The Environmental Council of the States is the national non-profit, non-partisan association of state and territorial environmental commissioners. ECOS' mission is to champion the role of states in environmental management; provide for the exchange of ideas, views and experiences among states; foster cooperation and coordination in environmental management; and articulate state positions to Congress, federal agencies and the public on environmental issues.

Attached (About PDF , 5pp, 44K) is a copy of the Administrator's remarks.

#

EPA Administrator Visits University of
Wisconsin Children's Hospital

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA055

Discusses Health and Environmental Benefits of
President's Clear Skies Plan

CHICAGO (April 24, 2002) — EPA Administrator Christie Whitman today visited the University of Wisconsin Children's Hospital where she discussed the President's Clear Skies Initiative and learned about the hospital's asthma research program.

"At EPA, we want to help protect kids with asthma from those environmental risks that can make their asthma worse," said Whitman. "There are few things more important than the air we breathe, and there is nothing more important than doing everything we reasonably can to ensure that it is clean and healthy. That is why President Bush recently announced the Clear Skies proposal that will significantly improve air quality in America."

"Clear Skies will achieve larger, faster, and more certain emissions reductions than are possible under the Clean Air Act," said Whitman. "We will get these important environmental results without unnecessary court battles, without risking American jobs, and without threatening our economy. More important, these reductions will eliminate millions of tons of pollution from our air, stop tens of thousands of asthma attacks before they happen, and unveil miles of smog covered vistas at our national parks."

University of Wisconsin Children's Hospital is engaged in a community project that seeks to explain why some young children develop full-blown asthma and others don't. Expectant parents with a history of asthma have been recruited through clinics, physicians and an array of organizations throughout the greater Madison area to take part in the program.

The President's Clear Skies initiative will set mandatory cuts in the emissions of three major pollutants from power plants and will, over the next decade, remove a total of 35 million more tons of nitrogen oxide, sulfur dioxide and mercury from the air than will be eliminated by the current Clean Air Act. At the same time, Americans will experience tens of thousands fewer cases of asthma and other chronic respiratory problems.

Clear Skies will achieve these reductions more quickly and with greater certainty than under current law and is modeled on the Acid Rain Trading Program, the most successful clean air program in history, having achieved more tons of pollution reduction than all other 1990 Clean Air Act programs combined.

For more information on the President's initiatives, please visit www.whitehouse.gov

or www.epa.gov .

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Note to Correspondents: EPA
Administrator Whitman to Speak at
Environmental Council of States

Reception

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA054

CHICAGO (April 23, 2002) — EPA Administrator Christie Whitman will be at the Monona Terrace Convention Center in Madison Wednesday evening to speak to members of the Environmental Council of States (ECOS). Whitman will talk about environmental partnerships between the federal government and states and will discuss various environmental issues. Among those issues is the President's Clear Skies Initiative, a plan to set mandatory cuts in the emissions of three major pollutants from power plants that will, over the next decade, remove a total of 35 million more tons of nitrogen oxide, sulfur dioxide and mercury from the air than will be eliminated by the current Clean Air Act. Whitman will also talk to members about EPA's National Environmental Performance Track program, announce the signing of a memorandum of agreement with Texas, and sign memorandums of agreement with Colorado, Virginia and Massachusetts.

Who:

EPA Administrator Christie Whitman

When:

6:00 p.m. Wednesday, April 24, 2002

Where:

Monona Convention Center

Rand Terrace East

615 E. Washington Ave.

Madison, Wis.

What:

Discuss federal and state partnerships, Clear Skies and EPA's National Environmental Performance Track program, announce signing of a memorandum of agreement with Texas, and sign memorandums of agreement with Colorado, Virginia and Massachusetts.

The Environmental Council of the States is the national non-profit, non-partisan association of state and territorial environmental commissioners. ECOS mission is to champion the role of states in environmental management; provide for the exchange of ideas, views and experiences among states; foster cooperation and coordination in environmental management; and articulate state positions to Congress, federal agencies and the public on environmental issues.

EPA's National Environmental Performance Track program is designed to motivate and reward top environmental performance. Since the program's launch in summer 2000, 280 facilities have been accepted as participants. Through a systematic approach to managing environmental responsibilities, taking extra steps to reduce and prevent pollution, and being good corporate neighbors, these facilities are leading the way to environmental excellence while saving money and improving their productivity.

###

Note to Correspondents: EPA
Administrator Whitman to Tour University
of Wisconsin Children's Hospital Asthma
Unit

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA053

Will Discuss Health and Environmental Benefits of
President's Clear Skies Initiative

CHICAGO (April 23, 2002) — EPA Administrator Christie Whitman will be at the
University of Wisconsin Children's Hospital Asthma Unit in Madison on
Wednesday to discuss the President's Clear Skies Initiative and get an update
on the hospital's asthma research program.

Who:

EPA Administrator Christie Whitman

Regional Administrator Thomas V. Skinner

Dr. Phillip Farrell, Dean, University of Wisconsin Medical
School

Dr. William Busse, Director, University of Wisconsin
Asthma Allergy Clinical Research Center

When:

3:00 p.m. Wednesday, April 24, 2002

Where:

University of Wisconsin Children's Hospital

600 Highland Ave.

Madison, Wis.

Media will be met at the hospital clinic entrance next to
the parking ramp and escorted to the press conference.

What:

Discuss President's Clear Skies plan and a University of
Wisconsin Children's Hospital community project to help
determine the causes of childhood asthma.

The University of Wisconsin Children's Hospital is engaged in a community
project that seeks to explain why some young children develop full-blown
asthma and others don't. Expectant parents with a history of asthma have been
recruited through clinics, physicians and an array of organizations throughout
the greater Madison area to take part in the program. A family involved in the
study will be at the event to meet with Administrator Whitman and to talk to the
media about their involvement.

The President's Clear Skies initiative will set mandatory cuts in the emissions of
three major pollutants from power plants and will, over the next decade, remove
a total of 35 million more tons of nitrogen oxide, sulfur dioxide and mercury from
the air than will be eliminated by the current Clean Air Act. At the same time,
Americans will experience tens of thousands fewer cases of asthma and other
chronic respiratory problems.

#

EPA Names Regional President's
Environmental Youth Award Winners

CONTACT:

Megan Gavin, (312) 353-5282

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA052

CHICAGO (April 18, 2002)— U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 today announced the regional winners of the President's Environmental Youth Awards for the 2001 school year. Winning projects from all 10 EPA regions were recognized at a White House ceremony.

"The entrants from Region 5 exemplified the best of the American spirit, embracing challenge with ingenuity and enthusiasm," said EPA Region 5 Administrator Tom Skinner. "First place winners Patty and Betsy Williams showed an outstanding commitment to clean up and beautify their neighborhood park."

Patty and Betsy Williams of Glen Ellyn, Ill., first place winners, have a goal to create an outdoor education center at Churchill Park in Glen Ellyn. They have initiated and implemented a variety of projects from developing books that show plant, bird and tree identification to creating a sign at the entrance to the park. They have started a prairie plant education program for the park with the support of the Glen Ellyn Park District. The Williams sisters have adopted this park and have seen the results of their hard work.

EPA also recognized these finalists:

First runner-up: Grant Shepard of Oak Park, Ill., who initiated "Habitat Triad," a project to improve the land, air and water in his community. He improved the land by helping to restore a 300-acre oak savanna and prairie. By cycling 1,800 miles a year he has helped to prevent carbon dioxide from entering the atmosphere. As an ECO-WATCH volunteer, he is trained to biologically monitor streams and rivers.

Second runner-up: Kelly Ottis of Jerseyville, Ill., designed a study to learn which of three methods is the most effective in removing oil in a simulated oil spill. She concluded that bioremediation – using an oil degrading microbial solution – removed oil the most effectively.

Third runner-up: Jason Hoellwarth of Chicago, Ill., set out to determine whether state water pollution standards should be established for phosphates and nitrates based on results of a controlled laboratory experiment.

The President's Environmental Youth Awards program is a national contest, sponsored annually by EPA. The program honors creative environmental projects developed and carried out by elementary and high school students.

#

EPA, HUD Cite Four Chicago Apartment Owners for 373 Violations of Lead-Based Paint Rules

CONTACT:

EPA-Kären Thompson, (312) 353-8547
HUD-Anne Scherrieb, (312) 353-6236 Ext. 2666
For Immediate Release
No. 02-OPA051

CHICAGO (April 10, 2002) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has filed civil complaints, on behalf of EPA and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, against four Chicago-area apartment building owners for allegedly failing to warn their tenants that their homes may contain lead-based paint hazards. The properties are managed by Hyde Park Realty Company Inc., 1743 ½ E. 55th St., Chicago. A combined penalty of nearly \$400,000 is proposed for 373 violations in 75 apartment units.

EPA and HUD cooperated in the investigation and development of these cases. The complaints cite the following:

- Harpoon Partnership, 1743 E. 55th St., Chicago, for 45 violations in nine apartment units. Proposed penalty is \$56,980.
- Meljenko Protega, 2863 E. Bending Creek, Crete, Ill., for 92 violations in 19 apartment units. Proposed penalty is \$102,410.
- Josip Tudor, 410 Buffalo, Calumet City, Ill., for 106 violations in 21 apartment units. Proposed penalty is \$154,440.
- Henry Maglio, 3263 Louise Court, Lansing, Ill., for 130 violations in 26 apartment units. Proposed penalty is \$83,380.

Phyllis Reed, chief of the regional Pesticides and Toxics Branch said, "By carrying out these enforcement actions, EPA is restating that protecting children's health from lead-based paint exposure is one of our highest priorities. To this end we will vigorously pursue compliance with this rule."

"This should send a message to all landlords that they have a responsibility to warn their tenants of potentially dangerous lead," said Dr. David Jacobs, director of HUD's Office of Lead Hazard Control. "There can be no greater priority than protecting the health and safety of children."

According to the Chicago Department of Public Health, more than 15,000 children under the age of six were diagnosed with lead poisoning in 2000.

Background on Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard Act of 1992

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

In January 2002, EPA and HUD signed a landmark settlement with Denver-based Apartment Investment and Management Co. (AIMCO). Under terms of the agreement, AIMCO paid a fine of \$129,580 and agreed to test for and clean up lead hazards in more than 130,000 units in 42 states and the District of Columbia.

In addition, EPA, HUD and the Department of Justice have taken enforcement actions affecting more than 28,000 apartments in 26 cases around the country, resulting in \$348,350 in civil penalties, \$358,750 directed to community-based projects to reduce lead poisoning and commitments by landlords to pay nearly \$19 million to address lead-based paint hazards in the affected units.

Lead exposure causes reduced IQ, learning disabilities, development delays, reduced height, poor hearing and a host of other health problems in young children. Many of these effects are thought to be irreversible.

At higher levels, lead can damage a child's kidneys and central nervous system

and cause anemia, coma, convulsions and even death. Nearly one million of the nation's 22 million children under the age of six have blood lead levels high enough to impair their ability to think, concentrate and learn.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports childhood lead poisoning remains one of the most widespread childhood diseases. In areas with older housing occupied by low-income families, 27 percent of all children are still lead poisoned. While average blood lead levels have declined over the past decade, one in six low-income children living in older housing are lead poisoned.

###

EPA Holds Free Seminar on Marina Fuel Spills Rules in Cleveland, April 9, 9:00 a.m.

CONTACT:

Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050

Dr. Barbara Carr, (312) 886-7187

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA049

CHICAGO (April 3, 2002) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 will hold a free seminar for marina operators on how to comply with regulations to prevent fuel spills Tuesday, April 9, 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., at the Cleveland Watercraft Office, 8701 Lakeshore Blvd., N.E., Cleveland, Ohio.

The goal of the seminar is to reduce and prevent fuel spills at marinas on the Great Lakes. Pre-registration is encouraged, but not required, by logging online at www.epa.gov/region5oil/marinas (go to Special Events) or by calling Bob McCoy, (312) 886-0185.

Helping marina operators better understand their responsibilities will be the focus of the seminar. Speakers from EPA, Ohio EPA and the U.S. Coast Guard will cover practical ways to maintain and operate marinas while minimizing fuel spills. The Web site for registration includes information to help marina operators determine if they are required to have a spill prevention, control and countermeasures plan, as well as an easy-to-use sample plan.

All facilities that store more than 660 gallons of fuel in a single container or more than 1,320 gallons total, are covered by the regulations. Beyond marina operators, this group includes facilities such as quick oil-changers, food processors, paint and chemical manufacturers and airports.

Another EPA-sponsored seminar will be held in Sandusky, Ohio, April 8, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., at Sandusky Holiday Inn, 5513 Milan Road.

To get to the Cleveland Watercraft Office Exit off I-90 at Martin Luther King Dr. and go north (toward the water). Follow the road as it curves to the right and exit at the first driveway on the left. The Watercraft Office shares a building with the Cleveland Lakefront State Park Office.

###

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CONTACT:

Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050

Dr. Barbara Carr, (312) 886-7187

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA048

CHICAGO (April 3, 2002) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 will hold a free seminar for marina operators on how to comply with regulations to prevent fuel spills Monday, April 8, 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., at the Sandusky Holiday Inn, 5513 Milan Road, Sandusky, Ohio.

The goal of the seminar is to reduce and prevent fuel spills at marinas on the Great Lakes. Pre-registration is encouraged, but not required, by logging online at www.epa.gov/region5oil/marinas (go to Special Events) or by calling Bob McCoy, (312) 886-0185.

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Another EPA-sponsored seminar will be held in Cleveland, April 9, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., at the Cleveland Watercraft Office, 8701 Lakeshore Blvd.

###

EPA Settles with Gopher Resource for
Hazardous Waste Violations

CONTACT:

(media) Kären Thompson, (312) 353-8547

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA047

CHICAGO (Apr. 2, 2002) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 recently signed an agreement with Gopher Resource Corp., settling violations of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act. A \$49,830 penalty will be paid. EPA cited Gopher Resource for failing to store and manage hazardous waste properly, as required by its state permit. Discovered during a 1999 inspection, the infractions included failure to record weekly inspections and maintain proper aisle space. Gopher Resource also failed to notify EPA about a leak, repairs and lead tracking in a containment building, as required by its federal permit.

About Gopher Resource Corp.

Gopher Resource is a secondary lead smelter and refiner, located at 3385 South Highway 149, Eagan, Minn.

About EPA

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

###

EPA Administrator Christie Whitman
Announces U.S. Policy Committee Plan for
the Great Lakes

Highlights President's Clear Skies Plan

CONTACT:

Phillippa Cannon (312) 353-6218

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA046

CHICAGO (April 2, 2002) — The Great Lakes U.S. Policy Committee, including the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, today unveiled an ambitious new plan to protect and restore the Great Lakes: Great Lakes Strategy 2002—A Plan for the New Millennium. EPA Administrator Christie Whitman announced the plan during a visit to Muskegon, Mich. Whitman also discussed the President's Clear Skies initiative — an aggressive, mandatory initiative that will dramatically cut power plant emissions of three of the worst air pollutants and improve the health of the Great Lakes ecosystem and the people who live in the Great Lakes region.

"Since President Bush and I took office, we have been highlighting the need to use partnerships to solve the environmental challenges we face. Thanks to the work of a great partnership, today is an exciting day for the health and safety of the Great Lakes," said Administrator Whitman. "The Great Lakes Strategy that we have developed is a perfect example of what we can accomplish by working together toward a common goal."

"The Great Lakes are American treasures — home to residents from 8 states and home away from home for vacationers and visitors from across the country," Whitman said. "The Great Lakes Strategy, and the aggressive goals it sets, will provide a framework for specific actions to protect and restore the lakes over the next several years."

The Great Lakes Strategy addresses the most serious problems in the lakes such as contaminated sediments, invasive species, loss of habitat and fish that are unsafe to eat. It establishes several ambitious goals, including cleaning up all 31 polluted harbors on the U.S. side of the lakes, designated as "areas of concern," by 2025; reducing concentrations of PCBs in lake trout and walleye by 25 percent in five years; and having 90 percent of Great Lakes beaches clean enough to be open 95 percent of the season by the end of the decade.

"We're raising the bar because our Great Lakes deserve nothing less," said Michigan Department of Environmental Quality Director Russell Harding.

"Reaching these bold goals demands unwavering resolve on the part of all stakeholders. I am confident that the past decade's successes will inspire us to take our commitment to the next level. The Great Lakes are truly a global treasure and the parties represented here today will exercise their stewardship with vigor and passion."

The strategy was created by the U.S. Policy Committee, a partnership of senior environmental officials from federal, state and tribal agencies. In addition to EPA, the committee has representatives from the eight Great Lakes states, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Geological Survey, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, U.S. Forest Service, Great Lakes Fishery Commission and more than 30 tribal governments.

The Great Lakes are the largest body of fresh water in the world, supplying drinking water to more than 30 million people. There are more than 600 beaches on the U.S. shores.

During her visit Whitman also talked about the President's Clear Skies Plan. The President's initiative will, using mandatory reductions, over the next decade, remove a total of 35 million more tons of nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide and

mercury from the air than will be eliminated by the current Clean Air Act. At the same time Americans will experience tens of thousands fewer cases of asthma and other chronic respiratory afflictions.

Clear Skies will achieve these reductions more quickly and with greater certainty than under current law and is modeled on the Acid Rain Trading Program, the most successful clean air program in history, having achieved more tons of pollution reduction than all other 1990 Clean Air Act programs combined.

The Great Lakes strategy can be found online at www.epa.gov/grtlakes/gls/. For more information on the President's initiatives, please visit www.whitehouse.gov or www.epa.gov

###

EPA Sets June 1 Deadline for Twin Cities'
Residents to Request Property Inspection

CONTACT:

Stuart Hill, (312) 886-0689

Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA044

CHICAGO (April 1, 2002) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has set June 1, 2002, as the final date for Minneapolis-St. Paul residents to request an inspection of their outdoor property for asbestos-containing vermiculite material.

Interested residents who have not yet participated must request a visual inspection of their property during the next 60 days. The inspections, and any required cleanups, will be completed at no cost to the homeowner or tenant. The third and final year of EPA's cleanup of residential properties, primarily in Minneapolis' Logan Park neighborhood, will begin later this spring, as weather conditions permit.

The cleanup effort is the result of investigations into the manufacture of home insulating products at the former Western Minerals Products plant, 1720 Madison Street, N.E., and 1815 Jefferson Street, N.E., Minneapolis. The plant closed in the late 1980s. By-products of the manufacturing process were frequently made available to area residents over several decades and used as fill for gardens, pot holes and alleys.

A total of 76 residences were cleaned during 2000 and 2001, with 58 additional cleanups already scheduled for 2002. EPA currently has a waiting list of about 60 residents who have requested inspections of their outdoor property.

How to request an inspection

Twin Cities' residents who believe asbestos-containing vermiculite materials may be on their property and have not yet had (or scheduled) an inspection, should leave a message for EPA at (612) 706-0615. EPA will have staff at the telephone number, and on-site near the corner of Jefferson and 18th Streets, when cleanup and inspections begin later this spring.

#

EPA Holds Public Meeting and Hearing in
Green Bay on Proposed Storm-Water
Permits for Indian Country

CONTACT:

Phillippa Cannon, (312) 353-6218

Don de Blasio, (312) 886-4360

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA043

CHICAGO (Apr. 1, 2002) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 will hold a public meeting and hearing on April 4 in Green Bay, Wis., to discuss a proposed permit that would cover storm-water discharges from construction sites in Indian country in Wisconsin. The meeting is scheduled from 2 to 4 p.m., followed by a hearing from 6 to 8 p.m., at Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary, 1660 East Shore Drive. The hearing may end sooner if all comments have been heard from those present.

EPA is responsible for implementing the Clean Water Act in Indian country, unless the agency has expressly authorized another government entity to do so. The proposed permit would authorize discharges of storm water associated with clearing, grading and excavation activities. It would require effective erosion control and storm-water management plans. Discharges must comply with applicable water quality standards.

The proposed permit is designed to be consistent with EPA's construction general permit, which includes requirements for small construction sites between 1 and 5 acres) that become effective March 10, 2003. It is also consistent with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources storm water general permit.

Comments should be postmarked by April 12, or, if sent through e-mail, received by midnight April 12, and sent to:

U.S. EPA Region 5

W-16J

Attention: Brian Bell, Permit Writer

77 West Jackson Blvd.

Chicago, IL 60604

fax number (312) 886-7804

e-mail bell.brianc@epa.gov

EPA's proposed general storm-water permit was published in the Federal Register on December 21, 2001 (66 FR 65957.) Copies of the Federal Register notice may be reviewed at

www.epa.gov/region5/water/npdestek/npdcfrp.htm, the environmental offices of the 11 Wisconsin tribes and at the following Wisconsin public library systems:

Madison Public Library (nine facilities)

Milwaukee Public Library (13 facilities)

Green Bay Public Library (nine facilities)

Marathon County Public Library - Wausau (one facility)

###

EPA to Hold Public Meetings on GM

Bedford

CONTACT:

(media) Leo Rosales, (312) 353-6198

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA040

CHICAGO (Apr. 1, 2002) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 will hold two public meetings to discuss the PCB investigation and cleanup at the GM Bedford Powertrain site. The meetings will be from 1-3 p.m. and 5-7 p.m., Thursday, April 4, at the Bedford Public Library, 1323 K St., Bedford, Ind.

EPA representatives will be joined by representatives from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management, the Indiana State Department of Health and the federal Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry.

Experts will explain results of sampling activities and outline plans for future investigations, as well as answer questions about exposure and health concerns. Attendees will be provided names and phone numbers for further information as the process continues.

About GM Bedford

GM Bedford is a 150-acre foundry that produces aluminum casings, pistons and engine blocks. The facility was first constructed in the early 1900s as a limestone milling operation. It was purchased by the U.S. government in 1942 and operated by GM to produce aircraft engines. GM purchased the facility after World War II.

###

EPA Holds Free Seminar on Fuel Spills
Rules in Port Washington, Wis., April 2, 1
p.m.

CONTACT:

Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050

Dr. Barbara Carr, (312) 886-7187

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA042

CHICAGO (March 28, 2002) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 will hold a free seminar on how to comply with regulations to prevent fuel spills Tuesday, April 2, 1 to 5 p.m., at the city of Port Washington Police Department community room, 365 N. Wisconsin St., Port Washington, Wis.

The goal of the seminar is to reduce and prevent fuel spills in the Great Lakes.

Pre-registration notification is encouraged, but not required, by logging online at www.epa.gov/region5oil/marinas (go to Special Events) or by calling Bob

McCoy, (312) 886-0185.

Helping boat owners and marina managers better understand their responsibilities will be a focus of the seminar. Speakers from EPA, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Coast Guard will cover practical ways to maintain, operate and refuel boats while minimizing fuel spills. The Web site for registration includes information to help boaters and marinas determine if they are required to have a spill prevention, control and countermeasures plan, as well as an easy-to-use sample plan.

All facilities that store more than 660 gallons of fuel in a single container or more than 1,320 gallons total, are covered by the regulations. Beyond boaters and marina managers, this group includes facilities such as quick oil-changers, food processors, paint and chemical manufacturers and airport operators.

Other EPA fuel spill prevention seminars in Chicago, Detroit and Ohio will be announced soon.

#

EPA Reaches Agreement with Pole Zero

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA041

CHICAGO (March 28, 2002) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has reached an agreement with Pole Zero Corp. that resolves an EPA administrative complaint alleging that the company violated clean-air regulations at its radio frequency filter plant, 5530 Union Centre Drive, West Chester, Ohio. EPA assessed a \$17,500 penalty, and the company agreed to do a \$75,000 environmental project.

"This environmental project will protect public health and the environment by cutting hazardous air pollutant emissions from a solvent cleaner," said Bharat Mathur, director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "We are pleased that Pole Zero is willing to do this supplemental project that goes beyond what the law requires."

Pole Zero operates a batch vapor cleaning degreaser at the plant that uses trichloroethylene, a hazardous air pollutant, as a solvent. The project will replace the existing cleaner with a water-based system, or one that is at least as environmentally beneficial as the water-based system.

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

The EPA complaint, filed in June 2001, alleged that Pole Zero installed the degreaser without first getting a state installation permit and without meeting the control requirements for the degreaser. An Ohio EPA inspection on June 20, 2000, found that the refrigeration device designed to cool the solvent in Pole Zero's degreaser failed to achieve the required temperature. In addition, the company failed to comply with reporting and record keeping requirements. Breathing small amounts of trichloroethylene for short periods may cause headaches, lung irritation, dizziness, poor coordination and difficulty in concentrating. Breathing it for long periods may cause nerve, lung, kidney and liver damage.

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.

#

New Water Treatment System Set to Begin
Operating at Mishawaka, Ind., Superfund
Site

CONTACT:

(EPA) Leo Rosales, (312) 353-6198

(City of Mishawaka) Gary West, (219) 258-1619

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA039

CHICAGO (March 26, 2002) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 and the city of Mishawaka, Ind., have signed an agreement to operate a newly built water treatment system that addresses ground-water contamination from the Douglas Road Landfill Superfund site. The system is expected to be fully operational by the end of April 2002.

A \$6 million cleanup of the site, on Douglas Road between Grape Road and State Route 23, was completed in April 2001. Along with the ground-water treatment system, the project included the construction of a 16-acre wetland to filter contamination and installation of a multi-layer landfill cap. In addition, in 1996 about 100 homes that were previously on well water were connected to the municipal water supply to prevent exposure to contaminated ground water.

"Getting the treatment system up and running marks the final step in the permanent environmental recovery of this site," said EPA Regional Administrator Tom Skinner. "Much credit goes to the city of Mishawaka, the Michiana Area Council of Government, and the Friends of Juday Creek for working with EPA and the Indiana Department of Environmental Management to refine and enhance the cleanup plan every step of the way."

"This was a real problem property that had been polluted and abandoned by a defunct company," said Mishawaka Mayor Robert Beutter. "Rather than fashion three different projects that fit the separate objectives of EPA, IDEM and the city, we took input from the neighbors and really created a solution that works best for all involved."

About the Site

The 16-acre Douglas Road site was a mixed-use residential and commercial landfill from 1954 to 1979. An EPA investigation in 1994 revealed volatile and semi-volatile organic compounds, pesticides and heavy metals were migrating from the site.

Editor's Note: Media who wish to view the water treatment system may call EPA remedial project manager Dion Novak at (312) 886-4737 to arrange a tour.

#

Delta, OH, Creek Area to Be Sampled for
Lead Contamination Next Week

CONTACT:

Susan Pastor, (312) 353-1325

Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA038

CHICAGO (March 22, 2002) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 and Ohio EPA will begin sampling property along Bad Creek near Superior Street in Delta, Ohio, for possible lead contamination next week. During a period from the 1950's to 1980's, the sampling area may have received foundry sand for use as fill material from the former Eagle-Picher Industries facility at 202 Van Buren St. The property is now owned by the Bunting Bearings Corp.

The project may begin as soon as Monday, March 25, weather permitting, and will take a few days. Follow-up laboratory analysis will take a few more weeks with results expected in May. Residents near the site may see drilling equipment and workers wearing protective clothing.

The sand is dark brown to black in color and may contain high levels of lead that could pose a health risk.

During April-May 2001, EPA investigated four Delta residential areas, one of which required cleanup. Earlier, in late 1999 and early 2000, about a dozen residential yards near the Van Buren St. plant required extensive excavation and replacement landscaping. During early 2000, EPA also supervised a cleanup of the lead-contaminated soil that was easily accessible in and around the plant property. Significant amounts of the foundry sand remain at the plant under paved areas and buildings. Eagle-Picher will begin to remove the material this spring under EPA oversight.

EPA has not ruled out the possibility that other properties may have received the material. Delta area residents with information about additional foundry sand areas or questions about the project may call EPA's Susan Pastor at (800) 621-8431, Ext. 31325 or Ohio EPA's Ron Nabors at (419) 373-3147.

###

EPA to Co-Sponsor Climate Change
Workshop at Michigan State University

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA001

CHICAGO (March 19, 2002) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will co-sponsor "Climate Change and Agriculture in the Great Lakes Region: The Potential Impacts and What We Can Do," a one-day workshop from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. March 22 at the Kellogg Center, Michigan State University, East Lansing. The workshop is the third of five regional workshops planned by EPA, Michigan State University and the Great Lakes Regional Assessment Team to engage people in addressing climate change issues.

Scientists from the entire Great Lakes region will share research and discuss topics affecting agriculture, with emphasis on climate change and agricultural economics. Farmers, risk managers, wind energy developers and representatives from leading agricultural corporations will explore the role climate plays in their respective industries. Panel discussions will follow the presentations and participants will have an opportunity to ask questions.

Speakers include: Andy Bootsma, Eastern Cereal and Oil Seed Research Center; Jeff Andresen, MSU; Murt McLeod, Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc.; Peter Sousounis, MSU; Mike Grover, Cargill; Steve Smiley, Bay Energy Services; Doug Welsch, Fenn Valley Vineyards; Jim Nugent, Northwest Michigan Horticulture Agent; and Roy Black, MSU.

The first workshop, on Great Lakes water levels, was held in Chicago in March 2001, and the second, on Great Lakes water ecology, was held in Milwaukee in June 2001.

Additional information about the third workshop and how to register can be obtained at www.geo.msu.edu/glra

, or by calling Jeanne Bisanz

at Michigan State University (248) 851-2316. More information about climate change is at www.epa.gov/globalwarming .

#

EPA Cites Fleming Companies for
Chemical Release Violations; Proposes
\$113,097 Fine

CONTACT:

Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050

Ruth McNamara, (312) 353-3193

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA035

CHICAGO (March 13, 2002) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 filed an administrative complaint against Fleming Companies Inc. for violation of federal laws on the reporting of a hazardous chemical release. EPA proposed a \$113,097 fine.

EPA alleges that on August 15, 2000, at about 6:30 p.m., Fleming's food distribution facility at 3501 Marshall Street in Minneapolis accidentally released about 750 pounds of anhydrous ammonia when a refrigeration system malfunctioned. The National Response Center was not notified for more than 24 hours. As of March 16, 2001, the Minnesota Emergency Response Commission still had not been notified of the release. In addition, a written follow-up report, required as soon as practicable after the event, was never filed with the National Response Center or state emergency response commission.

Federal laws require facilities to immediately notify the National Response Center, as well as the state emergency response commission, about any anhydrous ammonia release larger than 100 pounds.

About Anhydrous Ammonia

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

#

EPA Holds Workshop on Kalamazoo River
Superfund Project, March 14, 7 P.M

CONTACT:

Stuart Hill, (312) 886-0689

Don de Blasio, (312) 886-4360

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA034

CHICAGO (March 1, 2002) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 will hold a public workshop for residents interested in the Kalamazoo River Superfund Project, Thursday, March 14, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Kalamazoo Holiday Inn, 2747 South 11th St., Kalamazoo.

The Kalamazoo River Project is the cleanup of an 85-mile stretch of the river from Saugatuck to about 10 miles east of Battle Creek, near Sunrise Heights.

EPA seeks an open discussion on how to communicate effectively to the community and be responsive to its concerns. This will be the first of several workshops held in communities in the project area.

At the meeting, EPA representatives will ask participants to make suggestions on improving the ongoing communication processes, including when, where and how often to hold meetings, what types of information are most useful, and where local information repositories should be established.

For more information, contact community involvement coordinator Stuart Hill, (312 886-0689, hill.stuart@epa.gov) or Don de Blasio (312 886-4360, deblasio.don@epa.gov).

About the Project

Since the 1860s, the Kalamazoo River has been used as a power source for paper mills and for waste disposal by mills and communities along the river. In July 2001, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality formally requested that EPA take the lead on cleanup activities. The project is also known as the Allied Paper Inc., Portage Creek or Kalamazoo River Superfund site.

###

EPA Cites Eight Companies for Clean-Air

Violations

CONTACT:

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

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA033

CHICAGO (Feb. 28, 2002) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 notified eight companies in December and January that it believes they violated federal or federally enforceable 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 the allegations and how to resolve them.

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

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

COMPANIES RECEIVING FOVs

Sun Oil Co.

1819 Woodville Road

Oregon, Ohio

EPA alleges the Sun Oil refinery violated federal regulations by failing to adequately control benzene emissions from benzene-containing waste and volatile organic compounds at the refinery.

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

Legal Contact: William Wagner, (312) 886-4684

Sun Oil Co.

1819 Woodville Road

Oregon, Ohio

EPA alleges Sun Oil violated federal new source performance standards for petroleum refineries by failing to comply with emission limits as well as requirements for monitoring, reporting and recordkeeping, and good engineering practices for minimizing emissions. EPA also alleges Sun Oil violated federal new source review by failing to comply with permitting, off-setting and control requirements of the Clean Air Act.

Technical Contact: Kevin Vuilleumier, (312) 886-6188

Legal Contact: William Wagner, (312) 886-4684

Essroc Materials Inc.

U.S. Highway 31

Speed, Ind.

EPA alleges Essroc failed to comply with limits on opacity – or the amount of light obscured by particulates (smoke, dust, ash) – at its cement kiln No. 2 and at its raw mill and that it violated reporting and good-operating practice requirements of the general provisions of new source performance standards.

Technical Contact: Bonnie Bush, (312) 353-6684

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

IFCO ICS – Chicago Inc.

2300 W. 13th St.

Chicago, Ill.

EPA alleges IFCO violated federal clean-air regulations by failing to comply with an EPA request that the company test its drum furnace operation to see if it was capturing and destroying the required amounts of volatile organic compounds.

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

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

American Iron Oxide Co. (AMROX)

6300 U.S. Highway 12

Portage, Ind.

EPA alleges AMROX failed to comply with federal permit requirements and exceeded emission standards for hydrochloric acid regeneration plants.

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

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

CEMEX

16000 Bells Bay Road

Charlevoix, Mich.

EPA alleges that CEMEX failed to maintain or operate air pollution control devices at its cement plant in a manner consistent with good air pollution control practices. This caused visible emissions of particulates (smoke, dust, ash) from the plant that exceeded limits on opacity, the amount of light obscured by particulates.

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

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

Sun Oil Co.

1819 Woodville Road

Oregon, Ohio

EPA alleges Sun Oil failed to comply with federally enforceable state clean-air regulations, including federally approved new source review requirements.

Alleged violations include permitting, off-setting and control requirements.

Technical Contact: Kevin Vuilleumier, (312) 886-6188

Legal Contact: William Wagner, (312) 886-4684

Marblehead Lime Co.

Buffington Station

North Clark Road at Lake Michigan

Gary, Ind.

EPA alleges Marblehead Lime violated federally enforceable state sulfur dioxide standards by failing to vent its five rotary lime kilns from stacks that meet height requirements.

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

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

Vemco Inc.

dba Venture Grand Rapids

5050 Kendrick Drive SE

Grand Rapids, Mich.

EPA alleges Venture Grand Rapids violated federally enforceable state clean-air regulations by exceeding volatile organic compound emissions allowed by its permit at the company's plastic automobile parts coating plant.

Technical Contact: Tanya Boomer, (312) 353-4145

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

International Mill Service Inc.

U.S. Steel Gary Works

1 N. Broadway

Gary, Ind.

EPA alleges International Mill Service failed to comply with federally enforceable state clean-air regulations at the company's iron and steel slag processing facility.

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

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

CEMEX

16000 Bells Bay Road

Charlevoix, Mich.

EPA alleges Cemex failed to comply with federally enforceable state clean-air regulations by installing three dust collectors at its cement plant before it got a permit.

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

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

IFCO ICS – Chicago Inc.

2300 W. 13th St.

Chicago, Ill.

EPA alleges IFCO violated federally enforceable state clean-air regulations by coating drums with a material that contained greater than allowable amounts of volatile organic compounds. In addition, IFCO was cited for not properly testing VOC content of coatings, for not keeping proper records of VOC use and emissions, and for not testing its drum furnace for VOC emissions.

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

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

###

EPA Approves Permit for Sun Pipe Line

CONTACT:

Phillippa Cannon, (312) 353-6218

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA032

CHICAGO (Feb. 27, 2002) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has approved a Class 1 nonhazardous injection well permit for Sun Pipe Line of Philadelphia. The permit allows the company to construct a deep well at Inkster Road and I-94 in Romulus, Mich., to inject brine (saltwater) into the Mt. Simon geologic formation.

Sun Pipe Line will produce brine when it enlarges caverns for the storage of liquified petroleum gas. The permit includes safeguards to ensure that hazardous wastes are not injected, including requirements that the company do additional analysis of any brine it may extract from the Mt. Simon formation. The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality recently denied the company's application for an extraction well permit.

The approval of an injection well permit for Sun Pipe Line does not affect any other pending permit applications to EPA in the area.

The final permit can be reviewed on EPA's Web site: www.epa.gov/r5water/uic/uichot.htm It will also be available at the Romulus Public Library, 11121 Wayne Road, and the Taylor Community Library, 12303 Pardee.

Underground injection control permits are designed to protect underground sources of drinking water from contamination.

About EPA

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

###

EPA Reaches Agreement with Ashta
Chemicals; Includes \$239,800 Penalty

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA031

CHICAGO (Feb. 28, 2002) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has reached an agreement with Ashta Chemicals Inc. that resolves an EPA administrative complaint alleging the company violated clean-air and pesticide regulations.

The alleged violations occurred at the company's chemical manufacturing plant, 3509 Middle Road, Ashtabula, Ohio. EPA assessed a \$239,800 penalty.

EPA's complaint alleged that the Ashta plant failed to comply with emission limits on particulates (smoke, ash, dust), properly operate its emission-controls, meet installation permit conditions, maintain hydrogen boiler stack discharge temperatures, and use required air-pollution control technology.

In addition, EPA alleged Ashta produced a pesticide in an unregistered establishment, kept incomplete records, distributed false, misleading and misbranded pesticide products, and failed to submit annual pesticide reports for three years.

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

About EPA

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

###

EPA Administrator to Visit Wisconsin to
Highlight New Climate Leaders Program

CONTACT:

(Media) Dave Ryan, (202) 564-7827

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA030

Tours SC Johnson Facility, Program Part of
Administration's Climate Strategy

CHICAGO (Feb. 21, 2002) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Administrator Christie Whitman was in Wisconsin today to highlight a key component of the Administration's new climate policy, Climate Leaders. During her visit, Whitman toured SC Johnson's Waxdale Manufacturing Plant. SC Johnson is one of the charter members in the Climate Leaders program. The new voluntary partnership challenges businesses to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and provides a significant opportunity to achieve the greenhouse gas intensity reductions set forth in the Administration's new policy.

"As you may know, President Bush announced an aggressive new climate change policy last week that will reduce the greenhouse gas intensity of the U.S. economy by 18 percent in the next 10 years," said Administrator Whitman. "This policy will increase America's commitment to climate science and technology, and includes new incentives for businesses that invest in cleaner technologies and sensible greenhouse gas mitigation and sequestration strategies."

"By highlighting the work of good corporate neighbors through the Climate Leaders program, it will be easy for citizens and consumers to know which companies are doing their share for the environment and to make decisions based upon that information," said Whitman. "By participating in this program promising to meet a higher standard than other companies in their sector these companies are showing true leadership as environmental stewards. By working with EPA to develop a long term, comprehensive strategy for their entire operation, they will identify a number of cost effective emissions reduction opportunities. They are proving that doing what is good for the environment is also good for business."

Charter members, including SC Johnson, have committed to complete a corporate wide greenhouse gas inventory and work with EPA to set an emissions reduction target. These companies represent a diverse group of energy intensive and service oriented companies.

In the coming months, the Administration will aggressively pursue additional corporate partners representing a wide spectrum of the U.S. economy.

The Climate Leaders Charter Partners are:

- FPL Group Inc. (Juno Beach, Fla.)
- General Motors Corp. (Detroit, Mich.)
- Holcim (US) Inc. (Dundee, Mich.)
- Interface Inc. (Atlanta, Ga.)
- Lockheed Martin (Bethesda, Md.)
- Miller Brewing Co. (Milwaukee, Wis.)
- Norm Thompson Outfitters (Portland, Ore.)
- SC Johnson & Son Inc. (Racine, Wis.)
- Cinergy Corp. (Cincinnati, Ohio)
- PSEG (Newark, N.J.)

Climate Leaders Partners work with EPA to develop corporate wide greenhouse gas emissions inventories and set aggressive, long term reduction goals.

Partners develop their greenhouse gas inventory using the Climate Leaders' Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory Protocol. Companies report emissions of the six major greenhouse gases from all major on site emissions of greenhouse gases and emissions related to the electricity they purchase. Companies may also report emissions and reductions from a number of other activities including

investments in offset projects. The Climate Leaders Protocol is based on an existing protocol developed by the World Resources Institute and World Council for Sustainable Development.

After Partners complete their greenhouse gas inventory, EPA will work closely with them to develop a customized emissions reduction target. These targets must be aggressive long term targets that exceed business as usual performance for the Partner's sector.

For more information on Climate Leaders, contact Cynthia Cummis at 202-564-3480.

###

Note To Correspondents: EPA
Administrator to Visit Wisconsin to
Highlight New Climate Leaders Program

CONTACT:

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

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA029

NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS: EPA ADMINISTRATOR TO VISIT
WISCONSIN TO HIGHLIGHT NEW CLIMATE LEADERS PROGRAM

Tours SC Johnson Facility, Program Part of Administration's Climate Strategy

CHICAGO (Feb. 20, 2002) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Administrator Christie Whitman will be in Wisconsin Thursday to highlight a key component of the Administration's new climate policy, Climate Leaders. This new voluntary partnership challenges business to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and provides a significant opportunity to achieve the greenhouse gas intensity reductions set forth in the Administration's new policy.

Whitman will tour SC Johnson's Waxdale Manufacturing Plant. SC Johnson is one of the charter members in the Climate Leaders program.

WHO: EPA Administrator Christie Whitman

WHAT: Tour facility and give remarks about EPA's new Climate Leaders program

WHEN: Thursday, Feb. 21, 2002, 1:00 p.m.

WHERE: SC Johnson's Waxdale Manufacturing Plant

2512 Willow Road

Sturtevant, Wis.

###

EPA Reaches Agreement with Technisand

CONTACT:

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

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

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

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA028

CHICAGO (Feb. 19, 2002) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has reached an agreement with TechniSand Inc. on alleged clean air violations at the company's sand processing plant, 3840 Livingston Road, Bridgman, Mich. The agreement includes a \$28,192 penalty and two supplemental environmental projects costing \$124,500. It resolves an administrative complaint filed last August alleging TechniSand violated limits on particulate (dust) emissions.

"TechniSand will buy and install new pollution control equipment and pave roads and parking areas at the plant," said EPA Region 5 Administrator Thomas V. Skinner. "This will significantly cut dust emissions from the plant, meaning cleaner, healthier air for Bridgman residents."

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

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

###

EPA Reaches Agreement with Hutchinson

Utilities Commission

CONTACT:

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

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

(Legal) Terence W. Stanuch, (312) 886-8044

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA027

CHICAGO (Feb. 19, 2002) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has reached an agreement with Hutchinson Utilities Commission on alleged violations of federal clean air regulations at the commission's electric generating station, 225 Michigan St., Hutchinson, Minn. EPA assessed a \$39,000 penalty.

"This agreement resolves an administrative complaint that we filed against Hutchinson Utilities last April for violating federal acid rain regulations," said EPA Region 5 Administrator Thomas V. Skinner. Skinner said the commission was cited for not meeting planning, monitoring, record keeping and reporting requirements.

Regulated emissions include sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxide and carbon dioxide.

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

Nitrogen dioxide can irritate the lungs and lower resistance to respiratory infections. Nitrogen oxides contribute to formation of ground level ozone (smog) and acid rain.

Build up of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere has been linked to the warming of the Earth's atmosphere.

#

Media Advisory: EPA Cosponsors
Conference on Vanishing Ephemeral
Wetlands

CONTACT:

Phillippa Cannon, (312) 353-6218

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA026

CHICAGO (Feb. 15, 2002) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 will cosponsor a two-day conference in Chicago about vanishing ephemeral wetlands in the Midwest. These wetlands, also known as vernal pools and seasonal ponds, hold water in the spring and early summer or after heavy rains. They provide habitat and food for amphibians, reptiles and migrating birds. Many of them are disappearing in the Midwest.

Other sponsors are the Center for Reptile and Amphibian Conservation and Management, the Conservation Foundation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation, and the Declining Amphibian Population Task Force.

When: Feb. 20 and 21, 2002, from 8 a.m. to 5:20 p.m.

Where: Chicago Hilton and Towers, 720 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago

Who: National experts on ephemeral wetlands.

The conference agenda is posted on EPA's web site at www.epa.gov/region5/water/ephemeralwetlands/agenda.htm

###

EPA Seeks Public Comment on Dow
Hazardous Waste Treatment Variance,
Public Hearing Feb. 20

CONTACT:

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

(technical) Gregory Rudloff, (312) 886-0455

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA025

CHICAGO (Feb. 14, 2002) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 will hold a public hearing on a proposed Resource Conservation and Recovery Act hazardous waste treatment variance for Dow Chemical Co., Midland, Mich. The hearing will be at 7 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 20, at the Midland Center for the Arts lecture room, 1801 W. St. Andrews Road.

EPA, in coordination with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, proposes to approve a variance to Dow's hazardous waste treatment plan to allow for disposal of contaminated sludge in a landfill instead of burning it. The sludge is being removed from treatment ponds at the plant as a result of federal and state court orders.

EPA will accept public comments on the proposed variance until March 4. To review the records, visit the Grace A. Dow Memorial Library, 1710 W. St. Andrews St., Midland. To comment write to Greg Rudloff at EPA Region 5 (DW-8J), 77 W. Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL. 60604, phone (312) 886-0455 or e-mail rudloff.gregory@epa.gov.

About Dow Chemical

Dow's 1,900-acre Midland plant is the site of manufacturing, research and development, and marketing of plastics, agricultural chemicals, and other natural and manmade chemicals.

###

EPA Selects LDM Technologies for
Environmental Leadership Program

CONTACT:

Luke Hester 202-564-7818

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA023

CHICAGO (Feb. 13, 2002) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced that LDM Technologies, Inc. in Byesville, Ohio, is among 32 new members accepted into the National Environmental Performance Track program.

Launched just 18 months ago, Performance Track now has 280 members who are recognized for their achievements, as well as for a commitment to top environmental management and to continuously improving their environmental performance.

"Through Performance Track, EPA recognizes and rewards businesses and public facilities that demonstrate strong environmental performance beyond current requirements," said EPA Administrator Christie Whitman. "While building a collaborative relationship with EPA, Performance Track participants realize environmental results beyond what could be achieved through regulation and enforcement alone. Their efforts will be of significant help as we look towards our ultimate goal: cleaner air, purer water and better protected land."

The National Environmental Performance Track was designed by the EPA to recognize and encourage top environmental performers -- those companies and communities that voluntarily go beyond compliance with regulatory requirements to attain levels of environmental performance that benefit the environment, people and communities.

Building on previous innovation programs with states, businesses, and community and environmental groups, Performance Track emphasizes continuous environmental improvement, effective state/EPA relationships, and the need to inform and involve citizens and communities.

The newest Performance Track members have made environmental commitments to reduce water consumption, reduce emissions of particulate matter, increase recycling and reduce total solid waste. Members agree to meet these commitments within the next three years.

The new members add their efforts to the already substantial commitments made by existing members. So far, over their initial three years of participation, for example, Performance Track facilities are committed to reducing solid waste by 225 million pounds; lowering emissions of greenhouse gases by 26 million pounds; recycling or reusing more than five million pounds of materials; and reducing emissions of volatile organic compounds by 98,000 pounds.

Performance Track's member facilities represent both small businesses and large companies from the chemical, electronic, automotive, dry cleaning and pharmaceutical industries, among others.

###

EPA Selects Borg Warner for
Environmental Leadership Program

CONTACT:

Luke Hester 202-564-7818

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA022

CHICAGO (Feb. 13, 2002) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced that Borg Warner Air/Fluid Systems in Dixon, Ill, is among 32 new members accepted into the National Environmental Performance Track program.

Launched just 18 months ago, Performance Track now has 280 members who are recognized for their achievements, as well as for a commitment to top environmental management and to continuously improving their environmental performance.

"Through Performance Track, EPA recognizes and rewards businesses and public facilities that demonstrate strong environmental performance beyond current requirements," said EPA Administrator Christie Whitman. "While building a collaborative relationship with EPA, Performance Track participants realize environmental results beyond what could be achieved through regulation and enforcement alone. Their efforts will be of significant help as we look towards our ultimate goal: cleaner air, purer water and better protected land."

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Performance Track's member facilities represent both small businesses and large companies from the chemical, electronic, automotive, dry cleaning and pharmaceutical industries, among others.

###

EPA Selects Epic Resins for
Environmental Leadership Program

CONTACT:

Luke Hester 202-564-7818

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA021

CHICAGO (Feb. 13, 2002) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced that Epic Resins in Palmyra, Wisc., is among 32 new members accepted into the National Environmental Performance Track program. Launched just 18 months ago, Performance Track now has 280 members who are recognized for their achievements, as well as for a commitment to top environmental management and to continuously improving their environmental performance.

"Through Performance Track, EPA recognizes and rewards businesses and public facilities that demonstrate strong environmental performance beyond current requirements," said EPA Administrator Christie Whitman. "While building a collaborative relationship with EPA, Performance Track participants realize environmental results beyond what could be achieved through regulation and enforcement alone. Their efforts will be of significant help as we look towards our ultimate goal: cleaner air, purer water and better protected land."

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The newest Performance Track members have made environmental commitments to reduce water consumption, reduce emissions of particulate matter, increase recycling and reduce total solid waste. Members agree to meet these commitments within the next three years.

The new members add their efforts to the already substantial commitments made by existing members. So far, over their initial three years of participation, for example, Performance Track facilities are committed to reducing solid waste by 225 million pounds; lowering emissions of greenhouse gases by 26 million pounds; recycling or reusing more than five million pounds of materials; and reducing emissions of volatile organic compounds by 98,000 pounds.

Performance Track's member facilities represent both small businesses and large companies from the chemical, electronic, automotive, dry cleaning and pharmaceutical industries, among others.

###

EPA Selects Indiana Companies for
Environmental Leadership Program

CONTACT:

Luke Hester 202-564-7818

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA020

CHICAGO (Feb. 13, 2002) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced that four Indiana companies are among 32 new members accepted into the National Environmental Performance Track program. They are Digital Audio Disc Corporation in Terre Haute, Nishikawa Standard Company New Haven Facility in Fort Wayne, Tetra Pak Materials, LP in Fort Wayne and Tetra Pak Processing Systems Americas, Inc. in Greenwood.

Launched just 18 months ago, Performance Track now has 280 members who are recognized for their achievements, as well as for a commitment to top environmental management and to continuously improving their environmental performance.

"Through Performance Track, EPA recognizes and rewards businesses and public facilities that demonstrate strong environmental performance beyond current requirements," said EPA Administrator Christie Whitman. "While building a collaborative relationship with EPA, Performance Track participants realize environmental results beyond what could be achieved through regulation and enforcement alone. Their efforts will be of significant help as we look towards our ultimate goal: cleaner air, purer water and better protected land."

The National Environmental Performance Track was designed by EPA to recognize and encourage top environmental performers -- those companies and communities that voluntarily go beyond compliance with regulatory requirements to attain levels of environmental performance that benefit the environment, people and communities.

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The newest Performance Track members have made environmental commitments to reduce water consumption, reduce emissions of particulate matter, increase recycling and reduce total solid waste. Members agree to meet these commitments within the next three years.

The new members add their efforts to the already substantial commitments made by existing members. So far, over their initial three years of participation, for example, Performance Track facilities are committed to reducing solid waste by 225 million pounds; lowering emissions of greenhouse gases by 26 million pounds; recycling or reusing more than five million pounds of materials; and reducing emissions of volatile organic compounds by 98,000 pounds.

Performance Track's member facilities represent both small businesses and large companies from the chemical, electronic, automotive, dry cleaning and pharmaceutical industries, among others.

#

EPA Awards \$50,000 Technical Assistance
Grant to Dayton Community Group

CONTACT:

Susan Pastor, (312) 353-1325

Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA019

CHICAGO (Feb. 8, 2002) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5

awarded a \$50,000 technical assistance grant to the Old North Dayton

Neighborhood Association, a community organization in Dayton, Ohio.

The grant will be used to hire a technical advisor for the Valleycrest Landfill

Superfund site. The advisor will interpret technical data for the organization and

act as a liaison between the group and EPA.

Since 1989, EPA Region 5 has awarded 22 technical assistance grants to

community organizations in Indiana, Michigan, Ohio and Wisconsin.

###

EPA Orders Investigation of Contaminated
Site in Hillsboro, Ill.

CONTACT:

Zenny Sadlon, (312) 886-6682

Dion Novak, (312) 886-4737

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA018

CHICAGO (Feb. 6, 2002) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has signed a consent order with T.L. Diamond and Company Inc., Sherwin-Williams Co. and Eagle-Picher Industries to investigate and assess the extent of contamination at the Eagle-Zinc Co. site in Hillsboro, Ill. The 133-acre site is at the intersection of Smith Road and Industrial Park Drive.

Under the order, T.L. Diamond and Sherwin-Williams will provide an investigation report called a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study that includes cleanup options for the site. The investigation will also assess contamination migrating away from the site.

T.L. Diamond has operated a zinc oxide smelting facility at the site since 1984. Sherwin-Williams owned the facility from about 1980 to 1984. Eagle-Picher Industries owned the site from about 1919 to 1980, with manufacturing operations that also included sulfuric acid production. Eagle-Picher's contribution to the investigation is strictly financial; the company will contribute funds set aside during bankruptcy proceedings in 1996.

Currently there are about 15 piles of potentially hazardous residue from zinc oxide processing that must be investigated and evaluated for cleanup. Site soils, sediments, ground-water and surface water will also be investigated. Previously some site analysis was conducted by T.L. Diamond under Illinois EPA supervision.

A workplan for the investigation is expected to be completed in April, with field work proceeding in the summer and fall. The investigation should be completed in 2003. EPA, in consultation with Illinois EPA, will then propose a formal cleanup plan for the site and solicit public comments.

#

EPA Approves Water Quality Standards
for the Fond Du Lac Band of the
Minnesota Chippewa Tribe

CONTACT:

Phillippa Cannon, (312) 353-6218

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA017

CHICAGO (Feb. 8, 2002) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has approved water quality standards for the Fond du Lac Band of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, the first tribe in Minnesota to have federally approved standards.

Water quality standards are important because they describe the desired quality for particular bodies of water and also are a means of ensuring that such quality is attained. They also serve as a basis for decisions on Federal licenses or permits to discharge to waterways. The standards are the basis for certain discharge limits in the permits.

The Fond du Lac reservation is near Cloquet, Minn., about 20 miles west of Duluth, Minn., near Lake Superior. The boundaries of the reservation encompass nearly 101,000 acres of mostly forested land and 108 bodies of water. The St. Louis River, the largest tributary on the U.S. side of Lake Superior, drains almost 90 percent of the reservation. Around 828 acres are wild rice waters which provide excellent wildlife habitat along with supporting an important traditional food source. Other lakes and streams provide subsistence fishing and recreation.

#

EPA Cites Williams Businessman for
Violations of the Clean Water Act; Orders
Restoration of Wetlands

CONTACT:

Phillippa Cannon, (312) 353-6218

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA016

CHICAGO (Feb. 5, 2002) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 recently ordered Gary L. Bailey of Williams, Minn., to stop any unauthorized discharges into wetlands or tributaries of the Winter Road River and submit a plan for restoring wetlands disturbed by road building, ditch digging and other activities over the past 10 years.

"Mr. Bailey has been warned by both state and federal agencies that his construction activities not only will harm many acres of pristine forested wetlands in Lake of the Woods County, but pollute nearby streams as well," said Jo-Lynn Traub, regional Water Division director. "He has chosen to continue his unauthorized activities regardless of the impact on the environment."

EPA alleges that Bailey's road construction activities from March 1990 through 2001 resulted in the discharge of soils into more than 14 acres of wetlands next to tributaries of the Winter Road River, a tributary of the Rainy River, which in turn is a tributary of Lake of the Woods, an international boundary water of the United States and Canada. He never obtained the required permits for these activities.

EPA also alleges that between 1980 and 2000, Bailey excavated about 20 miles of ditches that discharge water containing nutrients, sediments, silt and solids into tributaries of the Winter Road River. In addition, his ditch and road construction activities disturbed soils, resulting in erosion during heavy rainstorms and the discharge of storm water containing pollutants to the river or its tributaries. He never obtained discharge or storm water permits to discharge pollutants into waterways.

Storm water permits for construction activities require erosion control during construction and implementation of pollution prevention plans. Both of these requirements prevent the discharge of pollutants from construction sites due to erosion.

About Gary L. Bailey

Gary L. Bailey is a businessman who owns several parcels of property in Lake of the Woods County, Minn. He has fenced in about 600 acres of his property to use as an elk ranch.

In October 1999, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) notified Bailey that construction of roads and ditches in wetlands without a permit violated the Clean Water Act. Despite that notification, he constructed additional roads and ditches in wetlands during 2000.

In June 2000, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) ordered Bailey to cease and desist any activity draining or filling wetlands on portions of his property. In July 2001, MDNR ordered him to totally restore specified roads and ditches and install ditch plugs at seven specified sites.

Again, in July 2001, USACE notified him that he was in violation of the Clean Water Act. The Corps ordered him to cease and desist further unauthorized discharges into wetlands or waters of the United States.

EPA inspected the Bailey property in October 2001, accompanied by the Lake of the Woods County Soil and Water Conservation District, MDNR and USACE.

That inspection verified that Bailey was in violation of the Clean Water Act.

Wetlands include marshes, swamps, bogs and similar areas between water and dry land. They are among the most environmentally beneficial types of areas.

They filter pollutants and provide erosion and flood control. They also harbor unique soils and plants that provide food and habitat for fish and wildlife.

###

EPA Settles with Union Electric Company
for Chemical Release Violations, Includes
Fine and Project

CONTACT:

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

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

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA015

CHICAGO (Feb. 1, 2002) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 settled an administrative complaint with Union Electric Company, also known as AmerenUE, in Venice, Ill. (near East St. Louis), for violation of federal laws on the reporting of a hazardous chemical release. The company will pay a civil penalty of \$14,824 and pay for an environmental project valued at \$15,050.

EPA's alleged that on Dec. 27, 2000 the facility at 701 Main St. failed to promptly report a 5,973-pound release of ferric sulfate. The chemical poured onto the ground when a pipe connected to a storage tank developed a stress crack. The release did not leave the facility boundaries.

All releases of ferric sulfate above 1,000 pounds must be reported promptly to the National Response Center and to the state and local emergency planning committees. The incident was eventually reported more than four hours after the release.

In addition to the civil penalty, the settlement includes a supplemental environmental project: Union Electric will purchase hazardous material response equipment, including a decontamination shelter, six temperature-regulated cooling vests and 100 gallons of fire-suppressing foam. The equipment will be donated to the Madison County local emergency planning committee.

About Ferric Sulfate

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

###

EPA Settles with John Morrell And
Company for Chemical Release Violation,
Includes Fine and Projects

CONTACT:

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

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

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA014

CHICAGO (Feb. 1, 2002) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 settled an administrative complaint with John Morrell and Company in Springdale, Ohio, for violation of federal laws on the reporting of hazardous chemical releases. The company will pay a civil penalty of \$20,811 and pay for environmental projects valued at \$253,411.

EPA alleged that on Oct. 22, 2000, Morrell failed to promptly report a 3,000-pound release of anhydrous ammonia from a 30,000-pound refrigeration system at its pork processing plant, 801 E. Kemper Road in Hamilton County.

All releases of anhydrous ammonia above 100 pounds must be promptly reported to the National Response Center and to the state and local emergency planning committees.

Morrell reported the incident about four hours after knowledge of the situation and to the Ohio emergency response planning commission about 31 hours later. The company never notified the Hamilton County emergency planning committee.

The settlement includes a supplemental environmental project valued at \$253,411. Morrell will replace seven smokehouse-flavoring generators with a new super-heated smoke generator. The company will also purchase seven water scrubbers. The new equipment is designed to remove more than 80 percent of the volatile organic compounds and formaldehyde and more 90 percent of the hydrocarbon pollution currently being emitted from Morrell's smoke generators.

About Anhydrous Ammonia

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

###

EPA Cites Barrel Company For Clean-Air

Violations

CONTACT:

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

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA013

CHICAGO (Jan. 30, 2002) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has cited IFCO ICS Chicago Inc. (formerly Acme Barrel Co.) for alleged violation of clean air regulations at the company's steel drum reconditioning plant, 2300 W. 13th St., Chicago.

"We cited IFCO because it coated drums with a material that contained greater than the allowable amounts of volatile organic compounds," said Bharat Mathur, director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "The company didn't properly test the VOC content of coatings, keep proper records of VOC use and emissions, or test its drum furnace for VOC emissions."

The action is a preliminary finding of violations. To resolve it, EPA may issue a compliance order, assess an administrative penalty or bring suit against the company. IFCO will have 30 days to request a meeting with EPA to discuss the allegations and how to resolve them.

Volatile organic compounds contribute to the formation of ground level ozone (smog). Smog is formed when a mixture of air pollutants is baked in the hot summer sun. Smog can cause a variety of respiratory problems, including coughing, wheezing, shortness of breath and chest pain. Asthmatics, children and the elderly are especially at risk, but these health concerns are important to everyone.

"By allowing excess VOC emissions and odors into the environment, IFCO interfered with the enjoyment of life and property," added Mathur.

About EPA

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

###

EPA Reaches Agreement with Balkema

CONTACT:

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

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

(Legal) Susan Tennenbaum, (312) 886-0273

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA012

CHICAGO (Jan. 30, 2002) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has reached an agreement with Balkema Excavating Inc. that resolves an EPA administrative complaint alleging that the company violated federal and state clean air regulations. EPA assessed a \$60,500 penalty.

The alleged violations occurred at two company sand and gravel processing plants. The plants are the Midway Aggregates Plant and the Climax Portable Plant, both at 15600 E. Michigan Ave., Climax, Mich.

"Our contention is that Balkema didn't have the proper installation and operating permits when it built the plants," said Bharat Mathur, director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "They also violated notification and testing requirements."

About EPA

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

###

EPA Reaches Agreement with Dynachem

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

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA011

CHICAGO (Jan. 29, 2002) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5

has reached an agreement with Dynachem Inc. that resolves an EPA administrative complaint alleging that the company violated the national emission standards for hazardous organic air pollutants.

The alleged violations occurred at the company's chemical manufacturing plant, Maple Grove Road, Georgetown, Ill. EPA assessed a \$5,000 penalty.

"Our contention is that Dynachem failed to comply with instrument calibration and leak detection requirements," said Bharat Mathur, director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "As part of the agreement, they have purchased and installed a portable toxic vapor analyzer to detect leaks."

About Dynachem Inc.

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

###

EPA Reaches Agreement with Mayville

Limestone

CONTACT:

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

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA008

CHICAGO (Jan. 28, 2002) U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has reached an agreement with Mayville Limestone Inc. on alleged violations of clean air regulations at the company's limestone processing plant, W 2848 State Highway 33, Mayville, Wis.

The agreement resolves an administrative complaint filed at the same time, and includes a \$36,686 penalty and a \$115,000 supplemental environmental project. The complaint alleges violations of particulate (dust) emission limits, as well as testing, recordkeeping and notification requirements.

"I am pleased that Mayville Limestone is willing to do a supplemental project that goes beyond what is required by the law," said EPA Region 5 Administrator Thomas V. Skinner. "This will significantly reduce dust from the plant, meaning cleaner, healthier air for Mayville residents."

As its environmental project, the company has agreed to purchase, install and operate new spray bars designed to minimize emissions. The company will also buy a water truck for spraying to prevent blowing dust.

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

#

EPA Awards \$200,000 to Brownfields
Communities in Cincinnati, Gary, Ind. for
Job Training

CONTACT:

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

(Technical) Linda Morgan, (312) 886-4747

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA007

CHICAGO (January 16, 2002) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recently awarded \$200,000 in grants to provide environmental job training at brownfields sites in Cincinnati and Gary, Ind.

Often found in economically distressed areas, Brownfields are abandoned or underutilized properties that can be returned to productive economic use.

With its grant, the city of Cincinnati aims to provide 75 community residents with skills to participate in ongoing brownfields assessment and cleanup projects.

The training program includes units on health and safety, emergency response, innovative remediation technologies, and lead abatement. For more information, contact Juanita Howard, (513) 357-2841.

The city of Gary, which has an unemployment rate of 14 percent, plans to train 160 residents living in designated empowerment and airport development zones with its grant. The city also has a first-source hiring ordinance that requires environmental contractors to hire local residents. The training program includes units on health and safety, construction trades, innovative remediation technologies, and lead and asbestos abatement. For more information, contact Mary Mulligan, (219) 882-3000.

The grants, formally known as Job Training Demonstration Pilot Projects, are used to teach environmental-cleanup job skills to individuals living in low-income areas near brownfield sites over a two-year period. Many of the individuals who successfully complete the training program go on to pursue careers with environmental firms and organizations.

Ten grants, totaling \$2 million, were awarded in nine states and Washington, D. C., in late December. The Cincinnati and Gary, Ind., grants were the only ones in EPA Region 5. Since 1993, EPA has awarded more than \$200 million nationally under a variety of brownfields grant programs to cities, counties, tribes, states, non-profit organizations and educational institutions. Brownfields job training efforts, started in 1998, have been established in 23 states and Puerto Rico. For more brownfields information visit www.epa.gov/brownfields/.

###

EPA and Michigan Agree to Protect Water
Quality from Manure Runoff

CONTACT:

Phillippa Cannon, (312) 353-6218

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA005

CHICAGO (Jan. 14, 2002) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has reached an agreement with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality on protecting public health and waterways from manure and other wastes from concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs).

"The bottom line is that this agreement will result in an improved environment," said EPA Regional Administrator Thomas Skinner. "And we reached a good balance between regulatory and voluntary approaches to environmental protection. The plan calls for proactive steps to inspect CAFOs and determine whether they are meeting clean water requirements," Skinner said. "At the same time, it addresses concerns expressed by livestock and poultry producers." Under the plan, MDEQ will work with Michigan citizens to issue a Clean Water Act general permit for CAFOs with 1,000 or more animal units. MDEQ will require facilities to be covered by the permit if they discharge or have discharged wastes to waterways. CAFOs that have not had a discharge can elect to participate in the Michigan Environmental Assurance Program or apply for coverage under the general permit by notifying MDEQ.

Like site-specific permits, general permits include standards of performance and management practices that protect water quality. They also include monitoring and reporting requirements so EPA, MDEQ and citizens know that CAFOs are meeting clean-water standards.

"Michigan has already developed an exemplary voluntary program to control pollution at smaller facilities that are not regulated by the Clean Water Act," Skinner added.

Under the Clean Water Act, animal feeding operations are considered to be CAFOs if they have 1,000 or more animal units, which is equivalent to 1,000 beef cattle, 700 dairy cattle, 2,500 hogs, 55,000 turkeys or 30,000 egg-laying chickens.

###

EPA Cites Milsolv for Hazardous Waste

Violation

CONTACT:

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

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

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA004

CHICAGO (Jan. 10, 2002) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 recently filed a complaint against Milsolv Minnesota Corp. for alleged violation of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act. A \$358,678 fine is proposed.

In the complaint, EPA alleges that the Milsolv facility, 2340 Rose Place, Roseville, Minn., treated hazardous waste without a permit for the years 1998-2000. The waste treatment violation was first discovered by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and Ramsey County in March 1999.

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

About Milsolv

Milsolv, headquartered in Menominee, Wis., treats and distributes products made from chemicals.

#

EPA Seeks Public Comment on Premcor
Cleanup Plan, Public Hearing January 22

CONTACT:

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

(technical) Thomas Matheson, (312) 886-7569

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA003

CHICAGO (Jan. 10, 2002) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 will hold a public hearing on a proposed permit change for the Premcor Refining Group-BP Products North America refinery in Lima, Ohio. The hearing will be from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 22, at the Apollo Career Center, 3325 Shawnee Road, Lima.

EPA proposes to modify the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act permit held by BP/Premcor to allow for cleanup of contaminated soils and ground water at the facility, 1150 S. Metcalf St. The permit modification requires that BP/Premcor conduct corrective actions and identify proposed methods of cleanup. EPA will accept public comments on the draft permit until February 18. To review the permit modification, visit the Lima Public Library, 650 W. Market St., or write to Thomas Matheson at EPA Region 5, (DW8J) 77 W. Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL 60604, (312) 886-7569, or e-mail to matheson.thomas@epa.gov.

###

EPA Holds Meetings and Public Hearing
on Proposed Storm-Water Permits for
Indian Country

CONTACT:

Phillippa Cannon, (312) 353-6218

Don de Blasio, (312) 886-4360

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA002

CHICAGO (Jan. 4, 2002) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 will hold meetings and a public hearing in January to discuss a proposed permit that would cover storm-water discharges from construction sites in Indian country in Wisconsin. EPA is responsible for implementing the Clean Water Act in Indian country, unless the agency has expressly authorized another government entity to do so.

The meetings are scheduled as follows:

- January 9, 1 to 3 p.m., University of Wisconsin, Kellner Hall, Room 2120, 975 University Avenue, Madison, WI;

- January 17, 5 to 7 p.m., Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary, 1660 East Shore Drive, Green Bay, WI;

- January 29, 2 to 4 p.m., Marathon County Public Library, Wausau Room, 300 First St., Wausau, WI.

The public hearing will be held January 29, 6 to 8 p.m., at Marathon County Public Library. If the library is closed because of bad weather, the public meeting and hearing will be held on February 5.

The proposed permit would authorize discharges of storm water associated with clearing, grading and excavation activities. It would require effective erosion control and storm-water management plans. Discharges must comply with applicable water quality standards.

The proposed permit is designed to be consistent with EPA's construction general permit. Permit coverage will be extended to small construction sites (between 1 and 5 acres), become effective March 10, 2003. It is also consistent with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources storm water general permit which covers construction outside Indian country.

Comments should be postmarked by February 5, or, if sent through e-mail, received by midnight February 5, and sent to:

U.S. EPA Region 5

W-16J

Attention: Brian Bell, Permit Writer

77 W. Jackson Blvd.

Chicago, IL 60604

fax number (312) 886-7804

e-mail bell.brianc@epa.gov

EPA's general storm-water permit was published in the Federal Register on June 2, 1997 (proposed general permit 62 FR 29785) and February 17, 1998 (final general permit 63 FR 7858.)

The Federal Register notice of the proposed action was published December 21, 2001. Copies of the notice can be reviewed at the environmental offices of the 11 Wisconsin tribes and at the following Wisconsin public library systems:

- Madison Public Library (nine facilities)

- Milwaukee Public Library (13 facilities)

- Green Bay Public Library (nine facilities)

- Marathon County Public Library - Wausau (one facility)

It also can be viewed at <http://www.epa.gov/fedregstr/EPA-WATER/2001/December/Day-21/w31492.htm>

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Note to editors: A news media briefing will be held January 9 at 11:15 a.m. at the

University of Wisconsin's Kellner Hall. Similar briefings will be scheduled preceding the public meetings in Green Bay and Wausau.

#

EPA Settles with VTC for Chemical
Reporting Violations, Includes \$36,800

Fine Plus Projects

CONTACT:

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

(Technical) Ruth McNamara, (312) 353-3193

For Immediate Release

No. 02-OPA001

CHICAGO (Jan. 3, 2002) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 settled an administrative complaint with VTC Inc. (now doing business as PolarFab LLC) in Bloomington, Minn., for alleged violation of federal laws requiring the disclosure of stored hazardous chemicals. The company will pay a civil penalty of \$36,800 and perform six environmental projects costing \$105,353. EPA's December 2000 complaint alleged that VTC, a semi-conductor manufacturer at 2800 Old Shakopee Road, failed to disclose to the State Emergency Response Commission and the Bloomington Fire Department the storage of six hazardous chemicals during calendar years 1997 and 1998. Previously, in November 1996, VTC paid a \$34,000 penalty to resolve similar chemical reporting violations for 1995 and 1996.

Federal law requires facilities to report quantities of certain hazardous chemicals stored on-site to authorities, including state and local emergency response commissions. The chemicals that VTC failed to report are chlorine, hydrogen fluoride, nitrogen, oxygen, propane and sulfuric acid.

"All told, more than 120,930 pounds of hazardous chemicals were not reported to the appropriate agencies," said Regional Administrator Tom Skinner. "When facilities fail to disclose the materials they have on-site, emergency responders may not be able to respond as safely or effectively to an accidental release." The six supplemental environmental projects are designed to reduce air and water pollution emissions from the facility. The projects range from installation of new equipment that reduces chemical discharges to storm sewers to reducing the amount of sulfuric acid used in manufacturing.

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