

EPA cites Wabash Environmental
Technologies for clean-air violations

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA190

CHICAGO (Dec. 16, 2003) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5
has cited Wabash Environmental Technologies LLC for alleged violations of
federal clean-air

regulations at the company's waste treatment facility, 1331 S. First St., Terre
Haute, Ind.

EPA alleges that Wabash failed to promptly submit an updated Clean Air Act
Title 5 application that provided supplementary facts or corrected information
related to changes at the company's facility.

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

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

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EPA Administrator Mike Leavitt ties rules
reducing power plant emissions to
Cleveland-area health issues

CONTACT:

Bill Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

Phillippa Cannon, (312) 353-6218

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA189

CHICAGO (Dec. 16, 2003) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Administrator Mike Leavitt told a Cleveland, Ohio, audience today that proposed
caps on power plant pollution would make the city a healthier place to live. Eight
counties in the Cleveland-Akron metropolitan area were recently identified as
having unhealthy air because of elevated
levels of ozone. Ozone is caused in part by emissions from coal-fired power
plants.

"We propose deep cuts in power plant emissions of sulfur dioxide (SO₂) and
nitrogen oxides (NO_x)," Leavitt said. "These cuts will help Cleveland and Akron
meet health standards for both ozone and particle pollution."

"In addition, I signed a proposed rule yesterday that would cut mercury
emissions by 70 percent," he added. "That's a critical health issue in areas like
this where consumption of local fish is a concern because of mercury
contamination."

Mercury rules proposed yesterday mark the first time the Agency has attempted
to regulate mercury emissions from power plants. Coal-fired electric power
plants are the largest source of human-caused mercury air emissions in the
United States, accounting for about 40 percent of total U.S. manmade mercury
emissions.

"We are calling for the largest single industry investment in any clean air
program in U.S. history," Leavitt said, speaking to a group of state and local
officials and business leaders at Burke Lakefront Airport. "By addressing all the
Clean Air Act requirements for power plants at one time, we also help maintain
affordable energy prices for American consumers."

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**MEDIA ADVISORY: EPA Administrator
Mike Leavitt to visit Cleveland to talk
about air quality & economic development**

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA188

CHICAGO (Dec. 15, 2003)

WHAT: EPA Administrator Mike Leavitt will introduce a pair of innovative clean air regulations that will bring Ohio the most rapid and significant air quality improvement in over a decade. Taken together, these new rules, which regulate sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxide and mercury (first time ever from coal-fired power plants) represent the largest single industry investment in any clean air program in U.S. history.

WHO: EPA Administrator Mike Leavitt, EPA Region 5 Administrator Tom Skinner and Ohio EPA Director Chris Jones.

WHEN: Tuesday, Dec. 16, at 10 a.m.

WHERE: Burke Lakefront Airport, a city-owned and -operated facility at 1501 N. Marginal Road. Take Interstate 90 to the E. Ninth Street exit, then go north through downtown toward Lake Erie, then go east on N. Marginal Road.

###

Detroit waste oil site cleanup completed

CONTACT:

Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050

Tom Martin, (312) 886-4273

Brian Kelly, (734) 692-7684

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA187

ATTN PHOTO EDITOR: Click on any of these digital photos from the Sybill Oil cleanup to see a larger image with caption.

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CHICAGO (Dec. 15, 2003) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 said today that cleanup at the Sybill Oil site, a used oil recycling facility in Detroit, is now complete. The \$1 million project, which began in July, was paid for by a group of companies including General Motors and Rouge Steel Co.

The site, at 111 Military Road, was brought to EPA's attention by the city of Detroit and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.

"EPA needed to take action because of the potential for hazardous run-off from the site reaching the Detroit River," said Regional Administrator Tom Skinner. "We and the other agencies also were concerned about flammable materials left at the site after Sybill sought bankruptcy protection in August 2001."

The cleanup, supervised by a Grosse Ile-based EPA Superfund emergency response team in consultation with MDEQ, included disposal of 26 above-ground storage tanks, 36 tons of bulk waste, 1 million gallons of waste liquids, more than 200 chemical drums and other containers, and a laboratory area. Throughout the project, air quality along the site border was monitored to ensure neighborhood safety. A few buildings and a water tower remain at the site.

Sybill operated from 1991 to 2001. During this time it was cited by the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department and MDEQ for air and wastewater discharge violations. Prior to Sybill, GM operated an oil processing plant at the site. GM was preceded by a Detroit municipal water treatment facility.

Prior to the current cleanup, in 2002, GM and Rouge Steel voluntarily removed and disposed of 1.3 million gallons of wastewater and waste oils from tanks and containment areas. In January 2003, EPA sealed off eight sewer drains to prevent releases of oil and upgraded locks and fences at the site.

The group of companies that paid for the cleanup includes General Motors, Rouge Steel, Ford Motor Co., Detroit Diesel Corp., all of whom sent used oil to the site for recycling, Sybill Inc., and the estate of V.V. Madias, the owner and operator of Sybill (also known as SRS Inc.). Under the terms of an administrative order on consent in which the group agreed to perform the work, EPA waived \$56,000 in investigative and emergency containment costs it had already spent on the site.

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EPA notifies upper Midwest states and tribes of areas with unhealthy air

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA183

CHICAGO (Dec. 4, 2003) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 today sent letters to states and tribes in the upper Midwest region naming areas EPA believes should be required to reduce emissions to meet ground-level ozone health standards. The region includes Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin. The EPA letters explain whether the agency agrees with boundary recommendations by the states and tribes for attainment and nonattainment areas for the national 8-hour ozone standard. Minnesota is the only state in the region where all areas are currently meeting the standard. "EPA's goal is clean, safe air for every American to breathe," said Regional Administrator Thomas Skinner. "Ozone is unhealthy to breathe especially for people with respiratory diseases and those who are active outdoors. EPA will work closely with states and tribes to develop plans to meet the new standard and protect public health."

The letters are part of a formal process that began in July when states and tribes sent updated boundary recommendations to EPA. The process plays an important role in letting the public know whether air quality in a given area is healthy. EPA issued the 8-hour ozone standard in 1997, based on information demonstrating that the 1-hour standard was inadequate for protecting public health. The new standard is based on 8-hour averages of ozone levels, which reflects a more realistic measure of people's exposure and is more protective of public health.

EPA may designate an area as nonattainment if it violated, or has contributed to violations, of the 8-hour standard over a three-year period. Those areas will be required to reduce emissions to meet the standard.

While EPA agrees with the majority of states' and tribes' recommendations, the agency has not concurred with every suggested boundary. In those instances, EPA has outlined the areas it believes should be designated nonattainment or attainment. States and tribes will have the opportunity to discuss the differences with EPA and to submit any new analyses to support their recommendations. EPA is scheduled to make final designations by April 15, 2004.

Once designations take effect, they also become important components of state and local governments' efforts to control ground-level ozone. EPA anticipates publishing a final rule in early 2004 that will outline the requirements that nonattainment areas must meet as they work to clean their air. Deadlines for meeting the 8-hour ozone standard will range from 2007 to 2021, depending on the severity of an area's ozone problem.

To read the state/tribal recommendations and EPA response letters, go to <http://www.epa.gov/ozonedesignations> .

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Xcel Energy to complete investigation at
Ashland/NSP Lakefront superfund site;
EPA, WDNR to supervise

CONTACT:

Bri Bill, (312) 353-6646

Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050

(WDNR) John Robinson, (715) 365-8976

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA182

CHICAGO (Nov. 17, 2003) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 said today that Xcel Energy has agreed to complete an ongoing investigation into the extent of contamination at the Ashland/Northern States Power Lakefront Superfund site, in Ashland, Wis. The information will then be used to develop a comprehensive cleanup plan.

All of Xcel's work will be supervised by EPA and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. The investigation, formally known as a remedial investigation/feasibility study, will encompass known areas of contamination at the site, as well as additional areas that may be identified during the work. It will build upon previous data collected by DNR and Xcel and is expected to include collection and analysis of soil, ground water, surface water and sediment samples in the area including and surrounding Kreher Park and Chequamegon Bay.

The investigation will help determine the volume of contamination and the pathways by which it moved from the land into the bay, and whether it is continuing to move into the bay. The project will also assess the risks the site poses to human and ecological health.

Next steps: EPA, DNR and Xcel will meet to review the existing data, then Xcel will submit a proposed work plan to the agencies. Once approved, the work will proceed under EPA and DNR oversight, with field work expected to begin by this winter.

Site information will be available online at www.epa.gov/region5/sites/ashland.

About the Site

The Ashland/NSP Lakefront site was named to EPA's Superfund National Priorities List in October 2002. It encompasses about 20 acres, and contains manufactured gas plant waste and possibly 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. 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. Sediment in adjacent Chequamegon Bay is also polluted, with portions of the bay closed to swimming and boating. Waste materials at the site include coal tar and oil, cinder ash, boiler slag, demolition debris and wood waste.

###

First Midwest Superfund "Reuse" Site to
Be Antioch High School Athletic Field

CONTACT:

Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050

Mike Joyce, (312) 353-5546

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA181

MEDIA BRIEFING, 1 P.M. TODAY: EPA representatives and other officials will hold a media briefing, along with a walk-through of the nearby energy production facility, today at 1 p.m. To get to the site from Chicago: Take 94 north to 173, then 173 west to McMillen Road (at the Allstate sign before the railroad tracks). Turn right and follow McMillen a short distance until you reach the EPA sign at the driveway to the site.

CHICAGO (Nov. 12, 2003) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 Administrator Tom Skinner, accompanied by local officials and representatives from Waste Management, today made the Midwest's first Superfund site "Ready for Reuse" declaration at the H.O.D. Landfill in Antioch, Ill.

About 30 acres of the cleaned-up and grass-covered H.O.D. Landfill, named a Superfund National Priorities List site in 1990, is being converted to a multi-use athletic field adjacent to Antioch Community High School. Methane gas extracted from the landfill is now being used to produce heat and electricity for the school. A wetland along one side of the site will be used for school science projects.

"To look at a garbage dump and see soccer and softball fields took tremendous foresight and creativity," said Skinner. "The many partners in this project have created something positive from what used to be a big negative for the community."

Numerous partner agencies and organizations played roles in the cleanup and reuse of the landfill. These include: Illinois EPA, Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, Village of Antioch, Antioch Township, Antioch Community High School District 117, United States Soccer Federation, Waste Management and ComEd.

About the Site The 121-acre H.O.D. Landfill Superfund site contains a 51-acre municipal and industrial landfill which operated from about 1963 to 1984. EPA selected a final cleanup plan for the site in September 1998. A series of cleanup activities were completed between August 2000 and August 2002. The area surrounding the site is a mix of agricultural, industrial and residential land uses.

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Media advisory: First midwest Superfund
"reuse" site to be Antioch High School
athletic field; press conference Nov. 12, 1
p.m.

CONTACT:

Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050

Mike Joyce, (312) 353-5546

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA180

CHICAGO (Nov. 10, 2003) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5
Administrator Tom Skinner, accompanied by local officials and representatives
from Waste Management, will make the Midwest's first Superfund site "Ready
for Reuse" declaration at 1 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 12, in Antioch, Ill.

About 30 acres of the cleaned-up and grass-covered H.O.D. Landfill, named a
Superfund National Priorities List site in 1990, is being converted to a multi-use
athletic field adjacent to Antioch Community High School. Methane gas
extracted from the landfill is now being used to produce heat and electricity for
the school. A wetland along one side of the site will be used for school science
projects.

The site tour includes a photo opportunity at the athletic field and a tour of the
energy production facility. Please dress warmly and wear comfortable shoes.

To get there from Chicago: Antioch is northwest of Waukegan, near the
Wisconsin state line. Take 94 north to 173, then 173 west to McMillen Road (at
the Allstate sign before the railroad tracks). Turn right and follow McMillen a
short distance until you reach the EPA sign at the driveway to the site.

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EPA cites BP Chemicals for clean-air violations

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA179

CHICAGO (Oct. 31, 2003) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has cited BP Chemicals Inc. for alleged clean-air violations at the company's chemical manufacturing complex at 1900 Ft. Amanda Road, Lima, Ohio. EPA proposed a \$156,200 penalty.

"We're alleging that BP started building a new plant before its permit went into effect," said EPA Region 5 Administrator Thomas V. Skinner. "Companies must get permits that restrict their emissions before they can build plants in areas that already meet air-quality standards."

Skinner said EPA is also alleging that a plant incinerator exceeded emission limits for gases containing nitrogen oxides.

BP Chemicals 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.

Nitrogen oxides contribute to the formation of ground-level ozone, or smog. Smog is formed when a mixture of air pollutants is baked in the hot summer sun. Smog can cause a variety of respiratory problems, including coughing, wheezing, shortness of breath and chest pain. Asthmatics, children and the elderly are especially at risk, but these health concerns are important to everyone.

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EPA recognizes Rochester Public Schools
for improving school air quality

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA178

CHICAGO (Oct. 28, 2003) -- Rochester Public Schools is the only Minnesota school district among 16 districts cited nationally by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for excellence in improving indoor air quality. The awards were made Oct. 27 at EPA's fourth annual Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools national symposium in Washington, D.C.

Since 1995, Rochester Public Schools has been able to maintain high standards of indoor air quality by implementing a major, 10-year maintenance plan. This plan helped the district make roof, window, carpet, floor tile and mechanical replacements and upgrades to keep buildings in good operating condition. Due to its proactive and well-planned preventive maintenance program, Rochester Public Schools has experienced no major indoor air quality problems.

"Good indoor air quality contributes to a good learning environment," said EPA Region 5 Administrator Thomas V. Skinner. "The Tools for Schools program is a common-sense guide to help prevent and solve the majority of indoor air problems affecting schools."

EPA's Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools program 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. EPA developed the voluntary Tools for Schools kit and program in 1995 in response to government studies highlighting deteriorating conditions of the nation's schools and the alarming rise in asthma cases, particularly among school and preschool age children.

The kit is a flexible, comprehensive resource designed to help school staff identify, resolve and prevent indoor air quality problems and is available to schools at no cost. Currently, an estimated 10,000 schools and school districts are using the program. More information is at www.epa.gov/iaq/schools/index.html. For more information on Rochester Public Schools, contact Art Pavlish, (507) 285-8773.

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EPA recognizes Ohio schools and individuals for work on improving school air quality

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA177

CHICAGO (Oct. 28, 2003) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has recognized two Ohio school districts and two Ohio citizens for their work in improving indoor air quality in Ohio schools. They are among 16 school districts and five individuals cited nationally. The awards were made Oct. 27 at EPA's fourth annual Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools national symposium in Washington, D.C.

Ohio school districts receiving awards are: Perkins Public Schools, Sandusky, and West Carrollton City Schools District, West Carrollton. EPA also named two individuals from Columbus for special achievement awards. They are John Gayetsky of the Ohio Department of Health and Barbara Johnson, a volunteer with Allergy and Asthma Network Mothers of Asthmatics Outreach Service.

"Good indoor air quality contributes to a good learning environment," said EPA Region 5 Administrator Thomas V. Skinner. "The Tools for Schools program is a common-sense guide to help prevent and solve the majority of indoor air problems affecting schools."

EPA's Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools program 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. The award winners used EPA's Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools kit in their efforts to improve indoor air quality. EPA developed the voluntary Tools for Schools kit and program in 1995 in response to government studies highlighting deteriorating conditions of the nation's schools and the alarming rise in asthma cases, particularly among school and preschool age children.

The kit is a flexible, comprehensive resource designed to help school staff identify, resolve and prevent indoor air quality problems and is available to schools at no cost. Currently, an estimated 10,000 schools and school districts are using the program. More information is at www.epa.gov/iaq/schools/.

OHIO INDOOR AIR QUALITY TOOLS FOR SCHOOLS 2003 AWARD WINNERS

Perkins Public Schools, Sandusky

An elementary school in Sandusky identified a mold contamination problem after a lengthy and thorough investigation. Students, parents and staff became frustrated during the lengthy investigation, and this led to mistrust and unfounded rumors in the school community. The district restored community and student trust by successfully remediating the mold, establishing an IAQ newsletter and opening IAQ committee meetings to the media. Perkins Public Schools cooperated with Erie County and the Ohio Department of Health to customize their walkthrough checklists and to adapt the IAQ Tools for Schools kit to their district. Contact: C. Eugene Kidwell, (419) 625-0484

West Carrollton City School District, West Carrollton

Starting with top management, West Carrollton City School District is fundamentally committed to good indoor air quality. The Board of Education established five district goals, one of which was "to continuously provide for a healthy/safe learning/working environment." The district follows up on each IAQ complaint by interviewing the complainant before and after the problem has been addressed. The results speak for themselves. One school experienced a 12.2 percent decrease in absenteeism in one year (8.6 percent district wide). West Carrollton is becoming known as a regional resource for IAQ management.

Contact: Dana Green, (937) 859-5121

John Gayetsky

John Gayetsky, an employee of the Ohio Department of Health, has been involved with the overhaul of Ohio's school environmental inspection protocol and has been a member of the Ohio school design manual advisory committee. He has worked to assure that Ohio schools are built and maintained to provide the best learning environment for Ohio's students. Contact: John Gayetsky, (614) 644-7630

Barbara Johnson

Barbara Johnson attended last year's symposium as a volunteer for the Allergy and Asthma Network Mothers of Asthmatics Outreach Service. She expected to implement the IAQ Tools for Schools program in her local school system. When she met significant resistance she did not give up but worked to help change attitudes in her community about indoor air quality in schools. Her creative thinking, determination and patience enabled her to bring her dream of IAQ Tools for Schools implementation closer to reality in her community. Contact: Barbara Johnson, (614) 279-1700

#

EPA update meeting on St. Regis Paper
site Nov. 4, 7 p.m.

CONTACT:

Don de Blasio, (312) 886-4360

Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA176

NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS:

EPA representatives and local officials will be available for a separate briefing session with media at 4 p.m. at Cass Lake Bena Elementary School, 15 Fourth St. NE, Cass Lake. Please arrive promptly.

CHICAGO (Oct. 27, 2003) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has scheduled a meeting to update residents on recent sampling results and upcoming cleanup activity in and around the St. Regis Paper Co. Superfund site. The meeting will be held Tues., Nov. 4, from 7 to 9 p.m., at the Cass Lake Bena Elementary School, 15 Fourth St. NE, in Cass Lake, Minn.

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

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

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

###

EPA cites American Progressive Circuits
for hazardous waste violations

CONTACT:

Karen Thompson, (312) 353-8547

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA175

CHICAGO (Oct. 24, 2003) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5
has filed a complaint against American Progressive Circuits Inc. of Addison, Ill.,
for alleged violations of the federal law governing hazardous waste and used oil.
The complaint proposes a penalty of up to \$27,500 per day for most of the
violations.

EPA cited American Progressive Circuits on six counts of violation of the
Resource Conservation and Recovery Act including failure to: have a hazardous
waste storage permit, conduct required inspections and assessments, train
personnel about hazardous waste handling procedures, establish spill-
prevention procedures and properly label a used oil container.

EPA regulates hazardous waste from its production to final disposal. The
company can request a settlement conference or hearing.

About American Progressive Circuits Inc.

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

###

EPA files hazardous waste storage
complaint against three GM plants in Ohio,
Michigan

CONTACT:

Karen Thompson, (312) 353-8547

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA174

CHICAGO (Oct. 23, 2003) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5
last week filed an administrative complaint against General Motors Automotive-
North America for alleged hazardous waste violations at three auto assembly
plants in Pontiac and Lake Orion, Mich., and Moraine, Ohio.

The complaint was issued under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
for violations related to the storage of hazardous waste from paint spray booths
at the three facilities. EPA, during an inspection with the Michigan Department of
Environmental Quality, discovered the Pontiac and Lake Orion violations in
March 2001 and January 2003. The Moraine, Ohio, inspection took place in April
2001.

GM did not assess, monitor or keep records on the integrity of tank systems, did
not have secondary containment systems and did not comply with other
hazardous waste air emission requirements, according to the complaint. The
assembly plants are located at: Pontiac, 2100 S. Opdyke Road; Orion, 4555
Giddings Road; Moraine, 2601 W. Stroop Road.

Under federal law, EPA regulates hazardous waste from its generation to final
disposal. GM may request a hearing within 30 days.

#

EPA names Isabella Reservation
wastewater treatment plant among best-
operated in nation

CONTACT:

Phillippa Cannon, (312) 353-6218

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA173

CHICAGO (Oct. 23, 2003) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has awarded the Saginaw Chippewa tribe's Isabella reservation wastewater treatment plant first place in the small advanced treatment category of the 2003 Operation and Maintenance Excellence Awards. The reservation is near Mt. Pleasant, Mich. The Saginaw Chippewa is the first Indian tribe to receive a national operation and maintenance award. The plant was also among six wastewater treatment plants to be honored for excellence at a regional level. The plant was recognized for its excellent compliance record and for removing 99 percent of biochemical oxygen demand, suspended solids, ammonia and phosphorus. In addition, the plant's staff provides training to other tribes and has worked with the tribal casino to resolve a problem of excessive grease reaching the treatment plant. The plant also has a strong public education program, providing tours and training to local high school students.

The regional and national awards will be presented on Wednesday, Oct. 29, at 10 a.m. at the treatment facility, 7375 E. Tomah Road.

###

EPA awards \$5 million for 17 clean school

bus projects

CONTACT:

John Millett, (202) 564-7842

Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA170

DAYTON (Oct. 22, 2003) -- A new \$5 million national program to fund projects that reduce children's exposure to school bus diesel exhaust was announced today by Acting EPA Administrator Marianne Horinko.

Horinko made the announcement, accompanied by local officials, at the Southview Children and Family Center, 25 Thorpe Rd., in Dayton, Ohio. The Dayton Regional Air Pollution Control Agency, one of 17 grantees announced today, will receive \$67,975 to fund a joint demonstration project with the Montgomery County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities. The project involves 33 school buses, serving nine school districts, which will be retrofitted with diesel oxidation catalysts that reduce pollution from bus exhaust. The Dayton air pollution agency will contribute \$19,450 in matching funds. Another Ohio community, the Cleveland Municipal School District, was among the grantees. The school district, under the ongoing Cleveland Air Toxics Project, will receive \$250,000 (\$13,503 local match) to retrofit 36 buses.

"Our goal is that by 2010, every school bus in America will be a 'clean bus,' emitting less pollution," said Horinko. "Cleaner buses and cleaner air mean fewer respiratory ailments, fewer school days lost to illness and a brighter, healthier future for all our kids."

The grants are part of EPA's Clean School Bus USA initiative. The effort aims to reduce children's exposure to diesel exhaust across the United States by: (1) encouraging policies and practices to eliminate unnecessary school bus idling; (2) installing effective emission control systems on newer buses; and (3) replacing the oldest buses in the fleet with new ones.

"EPA received 120 applications for projects. We picked 17 that offered opportunities to highlight innovative solutions we could share with school districts and pollution control agencies throughout the nation," said Horinko.

"Some like the Dayton project involve retrofitting buses, while others entail a switch to ultra-low-sulfur diesel fuel. And there are other projects that provide funds to purchase new buses that are up to six times cleaner than the older models they replace."

The 17 projects selected provide a total of \$4.7 million in matching funds for projects in the following 14 states: Massachusetts, Maine, New York, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Mississippi, Illinois, Ohio, Texas, Colorado, Utah, Arizona, California, and Washington. More information about Clean School Bus USA and the complete list of grantees is available online at <http://www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus>.

About Diesel Oxidation Catalysts

Diesel oxidation catalysts, which will be used in the Dayton Clean School Bus USA project, are devices that use a chemical process to break down pollutants in the exhaust stream into less harmful components. For example, emissions of particulate matter, a regulated air pollutant, can be reduced by at least 20 percent. The devices, which cost \$1,000 to \$2,000, can be installed on any new or used bus that runs on regular diesel fuel.

###

EPA Administrator to Make National
Children's Health Announcement in
Dayton, Ohio, Noon, Oct. 22

CONTACT:

Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA169

CHICAGO (Oct. 21, 2003) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Acting
Administrator Marianne Horinko will make a national announcement about a new
\$5 million EPA children's health initiative in Dayton, Ohio, Wednesday at noon,
at the Southview Children and Family Center, 25 Thorpe Dr. (Intersection of
Wilmington and Thorpe.) Local officials will also be available.

Please arrive promptly. For more information, call Mick Hans, EPA Region 5
press office, (312) 353-5050.

###

Meeting on Fox River Cleanup Agreement

Oct. 29, 7 P.M., Neenah Public Library

CONTACT:

Susan Pastor, (312) 353-1325

Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA172

CHICAGO (Oct. 21, 2003) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 and the U.S. Department of Justice will host a meeting to provide information and answer questions about a recent \$50 million settlement with two paper companies to pay for cleanup of the Little Lake Butte des Morts section of Wisconsin's Lower Fox River. The meeting will be Wednesday, Oct. 29, 7 p.m., at the Neenah Public Library, 240 E. Wisconsin Ave.

The legal agreement, called a consent decree, was announced Oct. 1. The parties to the agreement include EPA, DOJ, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, WTM I (formerly Wisconsin Tissue) and P.H. Glatfelter Co.

For more information or special accommodations, contact EPA Community Involvement Coordinator Susan Pastor, (312) 353-1325 or pastor.susan@epa.gov.

###

EPA Selects Michigan Youth for
President's Environmental Youth Award

CONTACT:

Megan Gavin, (312) 353-5282

Jeff Kelley, (312) 353-1159

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA171

CHICAGO (Oct 21., 2003) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has selected Nicholas Ekladyous of Imlay City, Mich., as regional winner of the President's Environmental Youth Award. Winners from each of EPA's 10 Regions were recognized at a ceremony in Washington, D.C., on Oct. 21, 2003. For his project, "A Home for Wildlife," 11-year-old Nicholas transformed his 9-acre backyard into a wildlife habitat certified by the National Wildlife Federation. He plans to open his Webster Road Wildlife Habitat for tours from two local elementary schools. The results of the project can be seen on its own Web site, www.isacae.com. Nicholas attends Imlay City Middle School.

"Nick's project shows that anyone can make a difference when it comes to protecting the environment," said Regional Administrator Thomas V. Skinner.

"We received many outstanding entries and I commend all participants for their efforts as our future environmental leaders."

EPA also recognized these finalists:

First runner-up: "The Path of Discovery," an interpretive nature trail to educate the public, organized by Girl Scouts Roxana Capper (Granville, Ohio); Kristina Dennis (Nashport, Ohio); and Valerie Cooper and Erin Mobley (both of Hebron, Ohio). The girls worked tirelessly pulling out invasive plants, clearing the trail, and creating and installing bird houses and interpretive signs. A grand opening ceremony for the trail was held in April 2002.

Second runner-up: Emma Ferioli, Alyse Reaume, Katelynn Sexton, and Katie White all of South Rockwood, Mich., planted trees and built and hung birdhouses in local parks. They worked with the village along with community businesses to obtain donations. More than 80 students from Girl Scout Troops and Cub Scout Packs volunteered to help plant the trees. As a result of their efforts the girls received the Girl Scout Bronze Award.

The President's Environmental Youth Awards program is a national contest sponsored annually by EPA to honor creative environmental projects developed and carried out by elementary and high school students. Today's awards recognized projects completed during the 2002 school year.

#

EPA Approves ESSROC Hazardous Waste

Permit

CONTACT:

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

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

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA168

CHICAGO (Oct. 17, 2003) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has issued a final permit to ESSROC Cement Corp., allowing the company to burn hazardous waste in its cement kilns.

The facility, at 3084 W. County Road in Logansport, Ind., stores hazardous waste in fuel tanks and containers, then burns the waste to produce cement.

The EPA permit sets limits (331.8 lbs./minute) on the amount of hazardous waste that can be burned in each unit and requires the use of an automatic waste feed cut-off system that stops the waste from entering the kilns if operating conditions are not met.

EPA is satisfied that the permit conditions will protect people and the environment.

Copies of the permits and EPA's response to public comments are available in the reference section of the Logansport-Cass County Public Library, 616 E. Broadway, Logansport, Ind.

###

Meeting on Muncie Library Mercury
Cleanup at Library, Oct. 21, 5 - 7 P.M.

CONTACT:

Don de Blasio, (312) 886-4360

Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050

(IDEM) Keri McGrath, (317) 232-8512

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA167

MEDIA AVAILABILITY OCT. 21, 10 A.M.: EPA, IDEM and local officials will discuss the cleanup and consumer-oriented safe mercury handling practices with media, Tuesday morning, Oct. 21, from 10 to 12 noon, at the Kennedy Library, 1700 W. McGalliard Rd., Muncie.

CHICAGO (Oct. 17, 2003) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 and its partner health and emergency response agencies will host a public availability session to provide information about the recent mercury contamination incident at Muncie, Ind.'s, Kennedy Library.

The informal open house-style meeting will be Tuesday, Oct. 21, from 5 to 7 p. m., at the library, 1700 W. McGalliard Rd. Representatives will be on hand from the government agencies including the Delaware County Health Department, Delaware County Emergency Management Agency, East Central Indiana Solid Waste District, Indiana Department of Environmental Management, EPA and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (part of the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention).

The officials, as well as library representatives, will all be available to discuss the incident, safe mercury handling practices and related health questions. Fact sheets on mercury cleanup and disposal will also be available.

A Chicago-based EPA Superfund emergency response team recently completed a \$70,000 cleanup at the library, which led to the building's temporary closure.

For more information or special needs or accommodations, such as interpreters, contact EPA Community Involvement Coordinator Don de Blasio, (312) 886-4360 or deblasio.don@epa.gov.

###

EPA Settles with Traverse City Cherry Growers; \$45,000 Fine and Project

CONTACT:

Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050

James Entzminger, (312) 886-4062

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA166

CHICAGO (Oct. 17, 2003) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has settled an administrative complaint against Cherry Growers Inc. of Traverse City, Mich., for violation of federal laws on the reporting of a hazardous chemical release and failure to report the on-site storage of hazardous chemicals. The settlement includes a \$45,000 fine and an environmental project valued at \$10,256.

In its complaint, EPA alleged that on July 13, 2002, at 11:45 a.m., a forklift punctured a refrigeration system pipe containing anhydrous ammonia at Cherry Growers' storage facility, 9440 Center Highway. Several local fire departments responded and knocked down the release with water. When the ammonia mixed with water, about 3,080 pounds of ammonium hydroxide was created. The water and chemical mixture washed out a doorway and into a floor drain at the facility, which emptied into a nearby drain field.

Federal laws require facilities to immediately notify the National Response Center and state and local authorities about any ammonium hydroxide release larger than 1,000 pounds. Cherry Growers notified the NRC and the Michigan Emergency Response Commission on July 15 at 10 a.m., approximately 46 hours after the incident. The Leelanau County emergency coordinator was notified about two hours after the federal and state agencies. The facility had not, when it was cited for this violation on June 6, 2003, submitted a required written follow-up report.

In its investigation of the incident, EPA also discovered that Cherry Growers had failed to file the required 1999, 2000, and 2001 hazardous chemical storage notifications with state and local authorities. These violations, which were a factor in the settlement discussions, have since been corrected.

The environmental project requires Cherry Growers to purchase new emergency response equipment for the Traverse City Fire Department, including a decontamination unit, two hazardous materials-handling suits and telecommunications equipment.

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. Overexposure to ammonium hydroxide may cause tissue damage to the skin, eyes and gastrointestinal system.

###

EPA Cites American Packaging Corp. For
Hazardous Waste Violations

CONTACT:

Kären Thompson, (312) 353-8547

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA165

CHICAGO (Oct. 15, 2003) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has filed an administrative complaint against American Packaging Corp. of Columbus, Wis., for alleged hazardous waste violations. A \$122,179 penalty is proposed.

The complaint charges that the company's printing facility at 850 W. James St. violated requirements for permitting and control of air emissions under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act. EPA inspections determined that equipment at American Packaging was not properly marked and monitored for leaks, and maintenance and operation of hazardous waste storage tanks was inadequate.

Under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, EPA regulates hazardous waste from its production to final disposal. American Packaging can request a hearing on the charges.

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 Wins RCRA Judgement Against Dearborn Refining; Includes \$1.25 Million Penalty and Cleanup

CONTACT:

Kären Thompson, (312) 353-8547

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA164

CHICAGO (Oct. 15, 2003) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 recently announced that an administrative judge has issued an initial ruling finding Dearborn Refining Co., Dearborn, Mich., in violation of eight counts of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, the federal law governing hazardous waste and used oil. A \$1.25 million penalty and a cleanup order were issued by the court.

“This is just one part of our larger effort to protect and clean up the Detroit and Rouge watersheds,” said Region 5 Administrator Thomas V. Skinner. “We will continue to vigorously seek out companies like Dearborn Refining that disregard environmental regulations.”

EPA filed a civil action against Dearborn Refining in September 2001 for failing to follow used-oil management regulations including:

- inadequate secondary containment system (dikes, berms, retaining walls, floors) for its above-ground storage tanks;
- unlabeled tanks and containers;
- rusting and deteriorating containers;
- inadequate internal communications system for employees;
- inadequate contingency plan;
- emergency equipment not properly located;
- inadequate used oil analysis plans; and
- no permit for storage or disposal of hazardous waste.

Dearborn Refining has appealed the decision to the Environmental Appeals Board. EPA Region 5 has filed a brief in response to the appeal.

About Dearborn Refining Company

Dearborn Refining Co. blends and markets used and virgin oil into lubricating and metal-working products at its approximately 6-acre facility at 3901 Wyoming Ave., Dearborn, Mich.

###

EPA cites BASF for clean-air violations

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA163

CHICAGO (Oct. 9, 2003) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has cited BASF Corp. for alleged violations of EPA regulations to protect stratospheric ozone at the company's polystyrene production plant, 25846 S.W. Frontage Road, Channahon, Ill.

EPA alleges BASF failed to repair appliances that leaked excessive amounts of stratospheric ozone-depleting chlorofluorocarbon refrigerants, or "CFCs," and failed to retrofit or retire equipment that failed follow-up tests. In addition, the company violated planning, testing, notification and certification requirements. These are preliminary findings of violations. To resolve them, EPA may issue a compliance order, assess an administrative penalty or bring suit against the company. BASF has 30 days from receipt of the notice to hold a meeting with EPA to discuss the allegations and how to resolve them.

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

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

#

EPA Reaches Agreement with Meyer on Clean-air Violations

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA162

CHICAGO (Oct. 7, 2003) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has reached an agreement with Meyer Industrial Container LLC (formerly ICS-Chicago LLC) on alleged clean-air violations at the company's drum reconditioning plant, 610 W. 81st St., Chicago, Ill. EPA assessed a \$25,600 penalty, and the company agreed to a \$286,500 environmental project.

"Meyer has agreed to install a thermal oxidizer at the plant to destroy volatile organic compound emissions from its coating operations," said EPA Region 5 Administrator Thomas V. Skinner. "We're pleased that Meyer has agreed to this project as it does more than 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 EPA complaint filed at the same time alleging that Meyer failed to comply with federally enforceable state testing and recordkeeping regulations.

Volatile organic compounds contribute to the formation of ground-level ozone, or smog. Smog is formed when a mixture of air pollutants is baked in the hot summer sun. Smog can cause a variety of respiratory problems, including coughing, wheezing, shortness of breath and chest pain. People with asthma, children and the elderly are especially at risk, but these health concerns are important to everyone.

###

EPA settles with CCMS Associates and William Montgomery for destroying Sault Ste. Marie wetlands

CONTACT:

Phillippa Cannon, (312) 353-6218

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA160

CHICAGO (Oct. 3, 2003) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has settled with CCMS Associates Inc. and William E. Montgomery for allegedly illegally filling in 9 acres of wetlands near the intersection of Marquette Avenue and Seymour Street in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. They will pay a \$30,000 fine and must construct 18.5 acres of replacement wetlands by September 2004.

EPA alleged that in 1997, without first obtaining a permit, CCMS and Montgomery filled in wetlands near drains that lead to Mission Creek that flows into St. Mary's River, identified by EPA as an impaired waterway.

Wetlands are environmentally valuable because they filter pollutants from water, recharge water supplies, reduce flood risks and provide fish and wildlife habitat.

Wetlands include marshes, swamps, bogs and similar areas between water and dry land.

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 and issues fines in two Wis.

Wetlands cases

CONTACT:

Phillippa Cannon, (312) 353-6218

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA159

CHICAGO (Oct. 3, 2003) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 recently settled two administrative cases and issued fines for the illegal fill of wetlands in Waukesha and Dane counties in Wisconsin.

EPA settled with Jerald L. Wuhrman and Hillcrest Development and Building Inc., Jupiter, Fla., for placing peat and road construction materials into about 12 acres of wetlands next to a tributary of the Fox River in Waukesha without obtaining a permit. The site is now known as the Hillcrest Business Center.

Wuhrman and Hillcrest will pay a \$15,000 fine and also place \$50,000 in an escrow account to enable the Waukesha County Parks Department to restore about 30 acres of wetlands next to the Fox River on an abandoned sod farm known as the Hintz parcel.

EPA also settled with Steve and Tammy Knaus and Sun Prairie Sand and Gravel for \$39,125 for filling in 3 acres of wetlands next to a tributary of Token Creek, part of the Lake Mendota Priority Watershed project, in Sun Prairie. They restored the damaged wetlands in 2002.

Wetlands are environmentally valuable because they filter pollutants from water, recharge water supplies, reduce flood risks and provide fish and wildlife habitat.

Wetlands include marshes, swamps, bogs and similar areas between water and dry land.

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 Clay County and Thad Shidler for destroying part of Briley Creek and wetlands

CONTACT:

Phillippa Cannon, (312) 353-6218

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA158

CHICAGO (Oct. 3, 2003) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has settled with Clay County, Ind., and Thad Shidler for destroying part of Briley Creek and wetlands next to it. The county has agreed to pay \$10,000 and place an additional \$5,000 in an account to manage replacement wetlands.

EPA alleged that in November 1997, without first obtaining a permit, Shidler excavated and channelized about one mile of Briley Creek and placed about 4,000 cubic yards of the dredged material into about 3 acres of adjacent wetlands. The creek drains into the Eel River, identified as an impaired waterway by EPA and the Indiana Department of Environmental Management. In 1999, EPA ordered the parties to restore the channelized creek and affected wetlands. The restoration was completed in 2002. The parties also agreed that by June 15, 2004, they would restore forested wetlands at another site owned by Shidler that had been converted to agricultural use and place it in a conservation easement.

Wetlands are environmentally valuable because they filter pollutants from water, recharge water supplies, reduce flood risks and provide fish and wildlife habitat. Wetlands include marshes, swamps, bogs and similar areas between water and dry land.

###

EPA Names Lammers Barrel Factory Site
to Superfund National Priorities List

CONTACT:

Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050

Briana Bill, (312) 353-6646

Rosita Clarke-Moreno, (312) 886-7251

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA154

CHICAGO (Oct. 2, 2003) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has named the Lammers Barrel Factory site in Beavercreek, Ohio, to the Superfund National Priorities List of hazardous waste sites. Sites on the list are eligible for further investigation and cleanup under the federal Superfund program.

A total of 12 sites were named to the NPL. One other site, Mattheissen and Hegeler Zinc Co. in LaSalle, Ill., is in EPA Region 5. The NPL now contains 1,245 sites. As of Sept. 29, 2003, cleanup construction has been completed at 886 sites and is underway at 377 sites.

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. Most recently, in spring 2003, EPA supervised the collection of drinking water well samples from about 50 properties near the site. Ground water, soil and creek sediment samples are also now being analyzed to determine the direction the chemical contamination may be moving and to see if the sediment poses a danger to people or animals who come in contact with it.

###

EPA, WDNR and Two Paper Mills Sign
Agreement for \$60 Million Cleanup at Fox
River Site

CONTACT:

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

(WDNR) Bruce Baker, (608) 266-1902

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA156

CHICAGO (Oct. 1, 2003) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources have signed an agreement with WTM I (formerly Wisconsin Tissue) and P.H. Glatfelter Co. under which the companies will clean up PCB-contaminated sediment in the Little Lake Butte des Morts section of the Lower Fox River. This section of the Lower Fox River, between Lake Winnebago and Appleton, is known as Operable Unit 1.

“This consent decree requires the two paper mills to perform the cleanup work outlined in the January 2003 record of decision,” said EPA Regional Administrator Tom Skinner. “It’s a strong commitment by the mills and it bodes well for additional agreements that address the rest of the contamination.”

In addition to performing the cleanup, the companies will be required to pay \$3 million for natural resource damages and \$1.05 million as partial reimbursement of costs incurred by EPA, WDNR and the U.S. Department of the Interior.

The Little Lake Butte des Morts cleanup plan calls for dredging an estimated 784,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediment. Water will be drained from the material, with the water then treated and returned to the river. The dried sediment will be transported to an engineered landfill for permanent disposal. Detailed engineering design work for the cleanup has already begun under an earlier agreement with WTM I.

EPA and WDNR have estimated the cost of the Little Lake Butte des Mort cleanup work at \$61.7 million, plus \$4.5 million for long-term monitoring. Savings may result from contributions and cooperation by local municipalities. WTM I and Glatfelter would pay for the work using a specially-dedicated fund that would ultimately hold more than \$60 million. The fund would include \$50 million from WTM I and Glatfelter, plus \$10 million available under a prior settlement with Appleton Paper and NCR, plus interest earned on the money placed in the fund. Even if the fund is not sufficient to finance completion of the cleanup at OU1, the agreement reserves EPA’s and WDNR’s rights to require WTM I and Glatfelter to perform or pay for the continuation and completion of the work.

The agreement does not address cleanup work that will be required in the downstream portions of the river and Green Bay, known as operable units 2 through 5. EPA and WDNR are in ongoing discussions with the paper companies concerning that cleanup work.

The terms of the OU1 agreement are contained in a proposed consent decree that will be lodged today with the U.S. District Court in Milwaukee. A 30-day public comment period will begin soon. A public meeting will be held Wed., Oct. 29, from 7 to 9 p.m., at the Neenah Public Library, 240 E. Wisconsin St.

Information on the Fox River cleanup can be found in public library reference sections in Appleton, Green Bay, Oneida, Oshkosh and Sturgeon Bay.

Information is also online at www.epa.gov/region5/sites/foxriver and www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/wm/lowerfox.

#

EPA Settles with Shieldalloy Metallurgical
on Hazardous Waste Violations; Includes
\$70,703 Fine

CONTACT:

Kären Thompson, (312) 353-8547

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA153

CHICAGO (Oct. 1, 2003) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5
and Shieldalloy Metallurgical Corp. have agreed to a \$70,703 penalty to resolve
alleged hazardous waste violations.

The company failed to maintain and operate its Cambridge, Ohio, facility to
minimize the possibility of hazardous releases. EPA inspections in 1999 and
2000 found hazardous waste stored improperly in leaking, open and unmarked
containers. Shieldalloy also failed to conduct weekly safety inspections and carry
out the provisions of an emergency spill contingency plan.

The facility, located off State Route 209 South, produces metal alloys from used
petroleum refinery catalysts.

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

#

EPA renews technical assistance grants to
pair of Michigan community groups

CONTACT:

Susan Pastor, (312) 353-1325

Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA152

CHICAGO (Sept. 29, 2003) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5's Superfund Division recently renewed \$50,000 technical assistance grants to the Kalamazoo River Watershed Council (Kalamazoo, Mich.) and the Pine River Superfund Task Force (St. Louis, Mich.).

The grants may be used to pay for technical advisors, who help interpret technical data for the organizations and act as liaisons between the groups and EPA at Superfund sites. The Kalamazoo group is concerned with the Allied Paper/Kalamazoo River site. The St. Louis organization is concerned with the Velsicol/Pine River site. Both sites are on EPA's Superfund National Priorities List.

This is the fourth grant award for the Kalamazoo group, following a \$50,000 grant in May 2000, a \$10,000 grant in May 2002 and a \$50,000 grant in March 2003. The Pine River group previously received a \$50,000 grant in April 1999. Since 1989, Region 5 has awarded technical assistance grants to 28 community organizations in the Great Lakes states, totaling more than \$2 million.

###

EPA Names Almond, Wis., Waste Water
Treatment Plant among Best-Operated in
Region

CONTACT:

Phillippa Cannon, (312) 353-6218

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA151

CHICAGO (Sep. 23, 2003) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has awarded the Almond, Wis., waste water treatment plant first place in the small, non-discharging category of the 2003 Regional Operation and Maintenance Excellence Awards. It is one of six treatment plants to receive awards this year in the Region 5 states of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin.

The Almond plant was recognized for its outstanding efforts in pollutant removal, lowering costs and reducing user fees, and for its outstanding system maintenance program. The plant operates spray irrigation on a seasonal basis during summer months. During the rest of the year, waste water is stored in a series of lagoons. The system does not generate sludge or discharge to a waterway. It serves 460 people.

EPA will present the award at 5 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 24, at the American Legion Hall, 1401 Division St.

###

EPA cites Kohl's Food Stores for chemical release reporting violations; proposes \$207,350 fine

CONTACT:

Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050

Ruth McNamara, (312) 353-3193

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA150

CHICAGO (Sept. 17, 2003) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has filed an administrative complaint against Kohl's Food Stores Inc. at 11100 W. Burleigh St. in Milwaukee, Wis., for violation of federal laws on the reporting of a hazardous chemical release. EPA has proposed a \$207,350 fine.

EPA alleges that on Sept. 10, 2002, at about 6:30 a.m., there was a release of 3,800 pounds of anhydrous ammonia at the facility. The release occurred when a refrigeration system pressure relief valve failed. A vapor cloud caused several businesses to be evacuated and delayed nearby railroad traffic. Some of the ammonia washed into storm water drains that flow into to the Menomonee River. Federal laws require facilities to immediately notify the National Response Center, state and local authorities about all anhydrous ammonia releases greater than 100 pounds. Though Kohl's reported the incident to the Wisconsin State

Emergency Response Commission 75 minutes after the release began, the NRC was not advised until 14 days later on Sept. 24, and the Milwaukee County Local Emergency Planning Commission was not notified as of Nov. 21, 2002 when EPA checked to see if the notification had been made. A written follow-up report, required as soon as practicable, was filed 90 days after the release with the state and local agencies.

Under federal emergency response laws, facilities cited may request a meeting with EPA within 30 days to discuss the allegations and the 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.

###

EPA cites Eramet for clean-air violations

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA149

CHICAGO (Sept. 12, 2003) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has cited Eramet Marietta Inc. for alleged violations of federal clean-air regulations at the company's ferromanganese and silicomanganese production plant, State Route 7, Marietta, Ohio.

EPA alleges that an Eramet submerged arc furnace that produces silicomanganese alloy emitted more particulate matter during a June stack test than is allowed by EPA regulations.

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

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

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

#

EPA offers more time for comments on

EDS wells

CONTACT:

Phillippa Cannon, (312) 353-6218

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA148

CHICAGO (Sept. 8, 2003) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has announced that, because of a new development, it is providing more time to comment on its proposed decision to grant Environmental Disposal Systems Inc. (EDS) an exemption from federal restrictions on the land disposal of hazardous waste for two injection wells in Romulus, Mich.

About two weeks after the formal public comment period closed May 16, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality issued a permit allowing Sunoco Partners Marketing and Terminals L.P. to extract fluid from the Mt. Simon formation. This is the same geologic formation that EDS plans to use to contain injected hazardous waste. The planned Sunoco well would be one-half mile from the EDS wells. When EPA proposed to grant an exemption to EDS, MDEQ had previously denied Sunoco's permit, so EPA did not consider the effects of an extraction well.

EPA will accept written comments until Oct. 6, although comments must be limited to the effect of the new state permit to Sunoco for an extraction well. EPA will respond to all comments, including those previously submitted, when it issues a final determination on the matter. Comments should be sent to: Charles T. Elly, Branch Chief, Underground Injection Control Branch, U.S. EPA (WU-16J), 77 W.Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL 60604 or e-mailed to elly.charles@epa.gov.

Additional information concerning the basis for reopening the comment period is

###

EPA awards Wisconsin environmental education grants

CONTACT:

Megan Gavin, (312) 353-5282

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA146

CHICAGO (Sep. 4, 2003) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 recently awarded \$12,636 in grants to a pair of Wisconsin organizations proposing innovative environmental education programs.

Receiving federal funds are the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point and the Waterloo School District. The recipients were among 20 organizations in Region 5 splitting \$198,700 in grant money this year. More than 100 proposals were received from groups in the Region 5 states of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin.

"The competition for educational grants is fierce, so congratulations go out to all the recipients," said Region 5 Administrator Thomas V. Skinner. "EPA considers education critical to maintaining the progress we've seen in protecting our environment."

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

###

WISCONSIN

\$4,839 to University of Wisconsin Stevens Point, Treehaven Field Station

(2100 Main St., Stevens Point). Youth from the Tomahawk and Lac Du Flambeau tribes will work together to create a coalition that identifies riparian forest management issues, monitors environmental factors and analyzes data.

The coalition created by Treehaven also carries out a community support action plan. Goals include increasing student and teacher awareness of the components necessary for a healthy riparian ecosystem, bolstering knowledge of scientific sampling techniques and encouraging community involvement in environmental preservation.

\$7,797 to Waterloo School District (813 N. Monroe St., Waterloo). High school students will restore a shoreline habitat damaged when an unsafe dam on the Maunasha River was removed. The students will learn how to design a habitat and then seed and grow some of the plants for restoration. They also will build an interpretive walking path along the shoreline for community education and conduct soil and water sampling during the project. The high school students will pass on their knowledge in field trips with middle- and elementary-school pupils.

###

EPA awards Ohio environmental education grants

CONTACT:

Megan Gavin, (312) 353-5282

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA145

CHICAGO (Sep. 4, 2003) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 recently awarded \$27,285 in grants to a pair of Ohio organizations proposing innovative environmental education programs.

Receiving federal funds are the Licking Heights School District, Summit Station, and Youngstown State University, Youngstown. The recipients were among 20 organizations in Region 5 splitting \$198,700 in grant money this year. More than 100 proposals were received from groups in the Region 5 states of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin.

"The competition for educational grants is fierce, so congratulations go out to all the recipients," said Region 5 Administrator Thomas V. Skinner. "EPA considers education critical to maintaining the progress we've seen in protecting our environment."

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

###

OHIO

\$6,000 to Licking Heights School District (6539 Summit Road S.W., Summit Station) will create a laboratory-based curriculum that focuses on the composition of a wetlands community near the new high school building.

Besides looking at ecology and biodiversity issues, biology students study the wetlands for the residual effects of years of agricultural use including biodegradation of pesticides by bacterial colonies. The curriculum also involves surveying local farmers and learning about modern biotechnology.

\$21,285 to Youngstown State University (One University Plaza, Youngstown). Fifth - and sixth - grade teachers from the Youngstown public and Catholic schools will participate in "train the trainer" workshops that meet the Ohio Department of Education's technology standards. The project with the participation of 11 public and five Catholic schools presents an interactive chemistry demonstration and instruction on waste reduction and pollution prevention as well as ecosystem protection. Teachers will learn how to access databases and which regulations affect their schools. Tests are given before and after workshops so trainers can find out how effective they are.

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EPA awards Minnesota environmental education grants

CONTACT:

Megan Gavin, (312) 353-5282

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA144

CHICAGO (Sep. 4, 2003) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 recently awarded \$33,170 in grants to three Minnesota organizations proposing innovative environmental education programs.

Receiving federal funds are the City of Duluth; Minnesota Lakes Association, Brainerd; and River Bend Nature Center, Faribault. The recipients were among 20 organizations in Region 5 splitting \$198,700 in grant money this year. More than 100 proposals were received from groups in the Region 5 states of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin.

"The competition for educational grants is fierce, so congratulations go out to all the recipients," said Region 5 Administrator Thomas V. Skinner. "EPA considers education critical to maintaining the progress we've seen in protecting our environment."

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

#

MINNESOTA

\$23,250 to City of Duluth (411 W. First St., Duluth) to create an interpretive exhibit and resource center at the main branch of the Duluth Public Library with an interactive kiosk featuring an Internet site for educating Duluth citizens about energy production, use and conservation. Real time and historical performance of the 2.4 kilowatt photovoltaic system on the library roof is also monitored and will be displayed in the kiosk and on the Internet. The Web site is complemented by a variety of energy-related links and tools. The exhibit inspires critical thinking about the economic, environmental and health issues related to energy consumption and resulting greenhouse gas emissions. Duluth residents will be taught decision-making skills that help reduce energy-related pollutants.

\$5,000 to Minnesota Lakes Association (19519 Hwy 371 N., Brainerd) to continue work from Phase I of the Youth and Ecology Stewardship curriculum. Phase II builds on the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services lake ecology curriculum that was used to educate more than 1,000 Minnesota fifth and sixth graders. An additional 500 students in at least six schools will study the new program that is tailored specifically to Minnesota. Youth continue to learn about the specific types of lake ecology they personally experience and stewardship practices for lake protection. Phase II improves academic achievement by exposing students to multi-disciplinary environmental education concepts that are not routinely taught in their classrooms.

\$4,920 to River Bend Nature Center (1000 Rustad Road, P.O. Box 186, Faribault) to partner with the chamber of commerce and city of Faribault to conduct environmental outreach to business leaders, government officials and educators. Business guests at an after-work event will raise their awareness of the social, economic and cultural value of natural resources and build understanding of environmental threats and protections. At a policy forum, government officials will be introduced to tools available for natural resources protection and discuss ordinances and other policies designed to preserve the environment. Another part of the initiative, a professional development workshop for educators, will provide knowledge and tools to utilize local natural resource issues in classroom curriculums.

#

EPA awards Michigan environmental education grants

CONTACT:

Megan Gavin, (312) 353-5282

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA143

CHICAGO (Sep. 4, 2003) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 recently awarded \$26,026 in grants to four Michigan organizations proposing innovative environmental education programs.

Receiving federal funds are Capuchin Soup Kitchen, Detroit; Community Action Agency, Hillsdale; Michigan Technological University, Houghton; and Wildlife Unlimited, Holland. The recipients were among 20 organizations in Region 5 splitting \$198,700 in grant money this year. More than 100 proposals were received from groups in the Region 5 states of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin.

"The competition for educational grants is fierce, so congratulations go out to all the recipients," said Region 5 Administrator Thomas V. Skinner. "EPA considers education critical to maintaining the progress we've seen in protecting our environment."

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

###

MICHIGAN

\$2,500 to Capuchin Soup Kitchen (1820 Mt. Elliot St., Detroit), for a "Kids for the Bees" project which will build on an existing honey bee apiary program. The educational component promotes the fields of entomology and apiculture science for students of selected Detroit public grade schools. Students learn the importance of honey bees, honey bee anatomy, bee hive management and honey production. Through hands-on projects in the classroom and out in the field, students learn about bee habitat, natural pest management and the importance of honey bees to the human food system and natural environment.

\$5,000 to Community Action Agency (3251 Beck Road, Hillsdale) that will enable some 300 middle and high school students to visit public parks along Bean Creek near their schools. Younger students will write about an aquatic bug of their choice while older students search the water for macroinvertebrates. Additionally, students conduct a natural features inventory of aquatic and native plant species at all public parks along Bean Creek. With that information, the watershed planning committee will develop a Web site containing a virtual tour of the watershed and pocket map identifying the park and public-access sites. The flip side of the map will detail native plants and aquatic life found at the sites.

\$4,892 to Michigan Technological University (1400 Townsend Drive, Houghton) for its "Kids Make a Difference" program, which will provide a framework and incentive for K-12 students, teachers and youth groups to develop projects that promote environmental education, community service and environmental enhancement. School classes and youth groups select an environmental topic to study and teach others or design and implement an action project that will address environmental issues in their community. Students will share their projects through presentations to other students or publish an article in their newspaper. All participants receive Earth Day award certificates and a token of recognition and their names are entered into a drawing for either an educational tool kit or an environmental education field trip. \$13,634 to Wildlife Unlimited(A5678 143rd Ave., Holland) to use EnviroScapes, which are three-dimensional models of the environment used to

teach students about watershed concepts, ground water, surface water, water cycle, and to visually demonstrate how people pollute water and how to prevent pollution. Through the model, students learn how everyone affects water quality and how everyone can do their part in preventing or cleaning up pollution. These classroom activities prepare students visit ponds and wetlands to study topography, plants, fish, buffers and water quality. The project also builds responsibility by educating students about their role in watershed protection.

###

EPA awards Indiana environmental education grants

CONTACT:

Megan Gavin, (312) 353-5282

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA142

CHICAGO (Sep. 4, 2003) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 recently awarded \$39,990 in grants to four Indiana organizations proposing innovative environmental education programs.

Receiving federal funds are the Drifting Dunes Girl Scout Council, Merrillville; Indiana Department of Environmental Management, Indianapolis; Purdue University, West Lafayette; and St. Joseph County, South Bend. The recipients were among 20 organizations in Region 5 splitting \$198,700 in grant money this year. More than 100 proposals were received from groups in the Region 5 states of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin.

"The competition for educational grants is fierce, so congratulations go out to all the recipients," said Region 5 Administrator Thomas V. Skinner. "EPA considers education critical to maintaining the progress we've seen in protecting our environment."

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

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INDIANA

\$5,000 to Drifting Dunes Girl Scout Council (8699 Broadway, Merrillville) to implement "This Land Is Your Land", an environmental education and environmental justice training program addressing community issues in Northwest Indiana. The project teaches the history of industrial pollution in the region, Lake Michigan's role in the area's development and lake quality issues, wetlands protection, solid waste management and what citizens can do to ensure sustainable development.

\$4,990 to Indiana Department of Natural Resources (P.O. Box 6015, Indianapolis). Since July 2002, more than 35,000 preschool and elementary students around Indiana have been exposed to environmental education lending kits. Currently, 91 kits are being circulated by Indiana University-Purdue University's Teacher Resource Center. Indiana Department of Environmental Management is adding materials to the kits on topics such as pesticides and indoor air quality. Environmental management staff are also promoting the kits at education conferences around the state.

\$25,000 to Purdue University (610 Purdue Hall, West Lafayette) for raising awareness of pest control concepts to child care providers around the state. A multimedia approach will be used to deliver educational messages and materials through workshops, presentations, brochures, Web sites and a technical support hotline. Purdue is sharing the project model with other EPA Region 5 states. Other partners in the project are developing plans to integrate pest control concepts into existing child care provider training. The partners are also encouraging the child care industry to adopt integrated pest management principles and are raising awareness of pest control issues with the general public.

\$5,000 to St. Joseph County(227 W. Nelson, South Bend) to educate about 1,000 St. Joseph County residents installing new or replacement water wells on the importance of water system management. Residents will be informed about their legal obligations, ground-water issues, water pollution, water quality testing and how to form a water system plan.

###

EPA awards Illinois environmental education grants

CONTACT:

Megan Gavin, (312) 353-5282

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA141

CHICAGO (Sep. 4, 2003) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 recently awarded \$71,202 in grants to six Illinois organizations proposing innovative environmental education programs.

Receiving federal funds are the BOLD Chicago group; CSA Learning Center Inc., Caledonia; Champaign County Forest Preserve District, Homer; Interstate Resource Conservation and Development agency, Milan; Northern Illinois University, DeKalb; and Wheaton Park District. The recipients were among 20 organizations in Region 5 splitting \$198,700 in grant money this year. More than 100 proposals were received from groups in the Region 5 states of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin.

"The competition for educational grants is fierce, so congratulations go out to all the recipients," said Region 5 Administrator Thomas V. Skinner. "EPA considers education critical to maintaining the progress we've seen in protecting our environment."

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

###

ILLINOIS

\$5,000 to BOLD Chicago (4865 N. Ravenswood, Chicago), will create a service learning program that connects a dozen teachers and 125 students from public high schools with environmental issues in the Lake Calumet region of southeast Chicago. Through participation in the Calumet In My Backyard program, people will become leaders and take responsibility for the condition of the Lake Calumet area. The project also enables BOLD Chicago to offer coordinated group training for teachers. The program is designed to become a model that can be duplicated in other schools and geographic areas.

\$24,316 to CSA Learning Center Inc.(1547 Rockton Road, Caledonia). The Roots and Shoots program explores environmental and human health issues through the lens of the nation's food system. The project involves 50 youth ages 8-14 and their families from low-income, urban neighborhoods, eight community organizations and an additional 250 adults and youths. It builds understanding and provides tools for unbiased decision-making by offering opportunities to obtain fresh produce through community farms and farmers markets. The project also teaches participants how to grow their own produce. In addition, CSA will host workshops to share this model with other groups and organizations.

\$4,475 to Champaign County Forest Preserve District (2573 Homer Lake Road, Homer). The forest preserve district plans to offer a three-day residential workshop instructing K - 12 teachers about history, current trends and future outlook of Champaign County's natural resources. The workshop is a continuation of a pilot program offered last year. Sessions include hands-on field work and a multi-disciplinary approach that is correlated with state learning goals and standards. Teachers receive a resource kit containing field guides, historical documents, posters, publications and data collection tools allowing them to conduct lessons in their own classrooms.

\$5,000 to Interstate Resource Conservation & Development (3020 E. First Ave, Milan). Project SMART (Smart Minds Are Reading Thoroughly) Bus reduces illiteracy, educates young people and promotes environmental careers through a series of presentations and hands-on activities based from a bus that

travels to communities in Western Illinois and Eastern Iowa. The bus, similar to a bookmobile, will reach around 2,000 students and 1,500 adults. Interstate RC&D is an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

\$24,726 to Northern Illinois University (DeKalb). High school and college teachers will be trained at workshops on environmental management systems through the design, development and distribution of a Web-based training program. The project trains teachers on creative approaches to pollution prevention in the home, community and business. Evaluators and a teacher focus group will test the material before and after the training to determine if learning goals are met.

\$7,685 to Wheaton Park District (666 S. Main St., Wheaton). Naturalists are expanding their initial work of creating a preschool version of their Wetlands Wonder program begun last year. Training workshops will be held in fall 2003 and spring 2004. As an incentive, teachers who complete the training are invited to participate in a complementary program at a local marsh or have a naturalist lead their students on an exploration of their school's natural surroundings. The project will introduce hands-on environmental education to up to 800 preschoolers and their teachers.

#

EPA cites Specco for clean-air violations

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA140

CHICAGO (Sept. 4, 2003) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has cited Specco Industries Inc. for alleged clean-air violations at the company's coating manufacturing plant, 13087 Main St., Lemont, Ill.

EPA alleges Specco makes and distributes architectural coatings that contain higher concentrations of volatile organic compounds than federal regulations allow. In addition, Specco failed to timely notify EPA that it produces these products.

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

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

Volatile organic compounds contribute to the formation of ground-level ozone, or smog. Smog is formed when a mixture of air pollutants is baked in the hot summer sun. Smog can cause a variety of respiratory problems, including coughing, wheezing, shortness of breath and chest pain. People with asthma, children and the elderly are especially at risk, but these health concerns are important to everyone.

###

EPA settles with Fresh Mark for chemical release reporting violations; \$12,000 fine and projects

CONTACT:

Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050

James Entzminger, (312) 886-4062

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA137

CHICAGO (Sept. 4, 2003) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has settled an administrative complaint against Fresh Mark Inc. for violation of federal laws on the reporting of a hazardous chemical release. The settlement includes a \$12,000 fine and four required environmental projects.

EPA alleged 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 indicated that the chemical plume drifted onto neighboring properties. Fresh Mark did not 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 breaking up 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.

The four environmental projects the company must do are valued at \$50,400 and must be completed by Dec. 1, 2003. The projects include: providing emergency response training for Canton fire fighters; installation of new roof lighting and roof access equipment to be used in the event of another incident; and upgrades to Fresh Mark's refrigeration control room system.

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.

###

IEL technical information committee
meeting, Sept. 11, 7 p.m.

CONTACT:

Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050

Dave Novak, (312) 886-7478

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA136

CHICAGO (Sept. 4, 2003) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 will hold a meeting of the Industrial Excess Landfill Superfund site's Technical Information Committee on Thursday, Sept. 11, from 7 to 9 p.m., at the fellowship hall of the United Methodist Church, 13370 Cleveland Ave., Uniontown, Ohio. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the design of the final remedy for the IEL site. The meeting is open to the public.

Relevant documents have been sent to the committee members. They are also available for review at the Lake Township Clerk's Office, 12360 Market N., Uniontown, and the Hartville Branch Library, 411 E. Maple St., Hartville, as well as the EPA Region 5 records center in Chicago.

For more information, contact Community Involvement Coordinator Dave Novak, (800) 621-8431, ext. 67478, or novak.dave@epa.gov.

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Lead-contaminated soil confirmed at
Kings Junior-Senior High School football
field

CONTACT:

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

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

Beth Wagner (Kings Jr. -Sr. HS), (513) 398-8050

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA139

MEDIA BRIEFING THIS AFTERNOON: Representatives from EPA and Kings Junior-Senior High School will hold a media briefing today at 4 p.m. at the main entrance to the Junior High School building, 5620 Columbia Road, Kings Mills.

CHICAGO (Sept. 3, 2003) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 said today that its analysis of the 154 soil samples taken August 20-21 at Kings Junior-Senior High School in Warren County, confirms the need for a lead contamination cleanup.

Total levels as high as 4,187 parts per million (ppm) were found at a number of sampling points within the school's football stadium. The stadium has been closed for the immediate future. Signs restricting access will continue to be posted. In addition, total lead levels as high as 805 ppm were found at a number of sampling points within the school's baseball field.

The school is located at 5620 Columbia Road in Kings Mills, Ohio, north of Cincinnati.

Ohio EPA health standards require the cleanup of soil with total lead concentrations greater than 400 ppm within residential areas.

EPA and Ohio EPA recently learned that the school was built on the grounds of a private shooting range that operated from the 1890s until the 1960s. Ohio EPA took a small number of preliminary samples Aug. 13-14, and requested federal EPA assistance with the investigation on Aug. 13.

EPA is currently investigating potentially responsible parties to determine liability for the cleanup.

For more information, contact EPA Community Involvement Coordinator Rafael P. Gonzalez, (800) 621-8431, ext. 60269 or gonzalez.rafaelp@epa.gov.

###

EPA cites Big River Zinc for clean-air violations

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA138

CHICAGO (Sept. 3, 2003) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has cited Big River Zinc Corp. for alleged clean-air violations at the company's electrolytic zinc refinery, Route 3 and Monsanto Avenue, Sauget, Ill.

EPA alleges Big River Zinc constructed two zinc roasters without notifying EPA and without doing timely performance tests and notifying EPA of test results.

The company also failed to comply with sulfur dioxide emission limits.

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

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

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

#

Greenville Man Finalist in EPA Photo

Contest

CONTACT:

Phillippa Cannon, (312) 353-6218

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA135

CHICAGO (Sep. 2, 2003) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 recently named Gary Armstrong of Greenville, Wis., among the finalists in the Agency's national 2003 wetlands photography contest.

The theme of this year's contest was Wetland Wildlife. Armstrong's photo of mallard ducks was taken at Green Bay. It can be seen on EPA's web site www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands/photocontest2003.html and was recently displayed at the Capitol in Washington, D.C., along with photos taken by the grand prize winner and 11 other finalists. About 250 people entered the contest.

"Mr. Armstrong's photo shows the value wetlands provide as habitat for our wildlife. Up to one half of North American bird species nest or feed in wetlands," said EPA Region 5 Administrator Thomas V. Skinner.

Armstrong received a degree in photography from Layton School of Art and an MBA from the University of Wisconsin in Oshkosh. He died earlier this year following an accident. He lived in Greenville for more than 25 years where he raised two sons and worked in banking.

Wetlands are among the most productive ecosystems on earth providing food and habitat for fish and wildlife, filtering and cleaning water by trapping pollutants and providing natural buffers against floods.

##

EPA Cites Wayne Disposal for Clean-air

Violations

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA134

CHICAGO (Sept. 2, 2003) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has cited Wayne Disposal Inc. for alleged clean-air violations at the company's municipal solid waste landfill, 49350 N. I-94 Service Drive, Belleville, Mich.

EPA alleges Wayne Disposal violated the federal plan for municipal solid waste landfills when it failed to submit design capacity and emission rate reports, a design plan and progress reports. In addition, the company did not meet interim milestone dates and the final date for complying with the federal plan.

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

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

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EPA Cites 3M for Clean-air Violations

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA133

CHICAGO (Sept. 2, 2003) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has cited 3M Co. for alleged clean-air violations at the company's chemical plant, 22614 Route 84 N., Cordova, Ill.

The alleged violations include failure to adequately test, monitor and keep records of emissions of hazardous air pollutants, including methanol, toluene and methyl ethyl ketone.

These are preliminary findings of violations. To resolve them, EPA may issue a compliance order, assess an administrative penalty or bring suit against the company. 3M has 30 days from receipt of the notice to hold a meeting with EPA to discuss the allegations and how to resolve them.

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

Short-term exposure to high concentrations of methyl ethyl ketone can irritate the eyes, nose and throat and cause headache, nausea, central nervous system depression and skin problems. Limited information is available on chronic effects of methyl ethyl ketone in humans from inhalation exposure.

Long-term exposure to low-to-moderate levels of toluene can cause tiredness, confusion, weakness, memory loss, nausea and loss of appetite and hearing loss.

#

EPA Reaches Agreement with Superior
Aluminum Alloys

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA132

CHICAGO (Aug. 28, 2003) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has reached an agreement with Superior Aluminum Alloys on alleged violations of federal clean-air regulations at the company's aluminum plant, 14214 Edgerton Road, New Haven, Ind. EPA assessed a \$33,550 penalty and the company agreed to an environmental project costing at least \$100,650. The agreement resolves an EPA administrative complaint alleging that Superior failed to comply with testing, inspection, recordkeeping and reporting requirements of the Clean Air Act.

"As its environmental project, Superior has agreed to install equipment on its furnaces that will reduce smog-producing nitrogen oxide emissions and natural gas usage," said EPA Regional Administrator Thomas V. Skinner. "This will cut smog levels and protect the health of people in the Fort Wayne-New Haven area."

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.

Nitrogen oxides contribute to the formation of ground-level ozone, or smog. Smog is formed when a mixture of air pollutants is baked in the hot summer sun. Smog can cause a variety of respiratory problems, including coughing,

#

Master Metals - Detroit update:
Responsible companies agree to fund
cleanup; yard excavations to begin

CONTACT:

Dave Novak, (312) 886-7478

Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA131

CHICAGO (Aug. 25, 2003) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has signed an agreement with a group of responsible parties to address the final phase of a lead contamination cleanup in Detroit's Krainzwood neighborhood. Under the agreement, the companies will voluntarily excavate contaminated soil from at least 69 residential properties. The work is expected to begin in late September. The companies will also pay for the cleanup now under way at the former Master Metals property at 4700 E. Nevada St.

The agreement took effect on August 22. Called an administrative order on consent, it was signed by EPA and a group of six companies previously identified by the agency as responsible for lead contamination at Master Metals. Under the agreement, the parties Daimler/Chrysler, Ford, General Motors, Honeywell, Johnson Controls and NL Corp. will pay about \$3.7 million. This includes about \$2.5 million in costs related to the residential areas cleanup and about \$1.2 million to address the Master Metals property.

Since March, EPA has collected more than 600 soil samples from the neighborhood near the site, including residential yards, the Atkinson Elementary School, a park next to the school and the Sojourner Truth housing complex. As a result, 69 residential properties have been identified for cleanups that include excavation of soil with lead levels at or above 400 parts per million, backfill with clean soil and restoration of landscaping. In addition to the homes, two areas in the Sojourner Truth complex will be cleaned. About 50 homes in the area have yet to be sampled. Under the agreement, EPA expects the responsible parties to contact these property owners in the near future, following up with cleanups where lead levels exceed 400 ppm.

At the Master Metals property, the current and final phase of cleanup is nearly complete. In September, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality is expected to begin demolition of the building at the site. After the demolition, the responsible parties will remove any remaining contaminated soil. Grass will then be planted on the site, with MDEQ assuming ownership of the property.

#

EPA to sample for lead-contaminated soil
at Kings Mill Junior-Senior High School

CONTACT:

Rafael P. Gonzalez, (312) 886-0269

Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA130

CHICAGO (Aug. 20, 2003) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 tomorrow begins sampling for possible lead-contaminated soil at Kings Mill Junior-Senior High School, 5620 Columbia Road, Kings Mill, Ohio, in Warren County, north of Cincinnati.

EPA and Ohio EPA recently learned that the school was built on the grounds of a private shooting range that operated from the 1890s until the 1960s. Ohio EPA took a small number of preliminary samples on Aug. 13-14 and requested federal EPA assistance with the investigation on Aug. 13.

Over the next three days, between Wednesday and Friday, an EPA emergency response team will collect samples from about 100 separate locations on the school grounds. The sampling points will be marked with small flags. Final laboratory processing and analysis will take about two weeks to complete.

If contamination is confirmed, appropriate next steps will be evaluated and discussed with the community, in coordination with the school district, Ohio EPA and Ohio Department of Health, and the Warren County Health Department.

For more information, contact EPA Community Involvement Coordinator Rafael P. Gonzalez, (800) 621-8431, ext. 60269 or gonzalez.rafaelp@epa.gov.

###

State of the Great Lakes Report gives bald eagle recovery a plus, non-native species threat a minus

CONTACT:

Karen Thompson, (312) 353-8547

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA129

CHICAGO (Aug. 20, 2003) -- The State of the Great Lakes 2003 report, released today by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Environment Canada, reveals information on over half of the 80 Great Lakes indicators originally proposed in 1998.

Indicator data, collected over the past four years, are being applied in an effort to get a deeper, more comprehensive understanding of the environmental condition of the Great Lakes ecosystem. Decision-makers from federal governments, states, provinces, First Nations, tribes, non-governmental organizations, academics, industry, recreational groups, sport fishers, commercial fishers and health professionals participated in indicator development and assessment.

"The information from the indicators gives Great Lakes managers a clearer picture of how our existing programs are working and provides a direction for future environmental restoration and protection activities," said Thomas V. Skinner, Great Lakes National Program manager.

The State of the Great Lakes 2003 report finds the chemical, physical and biological integrity of the Great Lakes basin ecosystem mixed, based on lake-by-lake and basin-wide assessments of 43 indicators.

Positive signs of recovery include:

- Lake trout in Lake Superior remain self-sustaining;
- Some Lake Ontario lake trout are reproducing;
- Bald eagles nesting and reproducing along the shoreline are recovering;
- Persistent toxic substances are declining in fish;
- Phosphorus targets have been met in all lakes except Lake Erie.

Negative signs of degradation include:

- Phosphorus levels appear to be increasing in Lake Erie;
- Long-range atmospheric transport is a continuing source of contaminants to the basin;
- Continuing entry of non-native species is a significant threat to the ecosystem;
- Scud (*Diporeia*, bottom-dwelling organisms that are critically important to the aquatic food chain) are seriously declining in Lakes Ontario and Michigan;
- Type E botulism outbreaks are occurring in Lake Erie, resulting in deaths of fish and aquatic birds;
- Urbanization threatens natural habitats in lakes Ontario, Erie and Huron, as well as the Lake St. Clair-St. Clair River-Detroit River ecosystems;
- Numerous fish advisories exist on all five Great Lakes.

The State of the Great Lakes 2003 report publicly presents information compiled and discussed at the binational State of the Lakes Ecosystem Conference held in October 2002 in Cleveland.

Senior leaders from Great Lakes government and non-governmental organizations met at the 2002 SOLEC to discuss lake and river basin assessments and basin-wide indicator reports. They discussed the challenges of land use, habitat degradation, climate change, toxic contamination and indicator development. "Now, it is critical that the Great Lakes community acts quickly and efficiently to solve these environmental problems," said Skinner. The State of the Great Lakes 2003 report and supporting documentation on the indicators are available online at www.binational.net.

MEDIA NOTE:

If you would like a hard copy of the report or an interview with EPA Great Lakes scientists, please call Karen Thompson at (312) 353-8547.

###

EPA Names Moorhead, Minn. Wastewater
Treatment Plant among Best-operated in
Region

CONTACT:

Phillippa Cannon, (312) 353-6218

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA128

CHICAGO (Aug. 14, 2003) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 awarded the Moorhead, Minn., wastewater treatment plant first place in the medium, advanced treatment category of the 2003 Regional Operation and Maintenance Excellence Awards. It was one of six treatment plants to receive awards this year in the Region 5 states of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin.

Moorhead was recognized for its exemplary compliance record, for using new technology that reduced operating costs, and for making improvements that saved over \$890,000 in construction costs. In addition, plant employees have been active in professional organizations, presenting and publishing papers and winning awards.

EPA will present the award at 9:30 a.m., Aug. 21, at Council Chambers in City Hall, 500 Center Ave..

###

EPA Cites Stolle for Hazardous Chemical
Release Reporting Violations; Proposes
\$40,907 Fine

CONTACT:

Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050

James Entzminger, (312) 886-4062

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA127

CHICAGO (Aug. 14, 2003) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has filed an administrative complaint against Stolle Products, 1501 Michigan St., in Sidney, Ohio, for violation of federal laws on the reporting of a hazardous chemical release. EPA has proposed a \$40,907 fine.

EPA alleges that on March 22, 2003, at 8:30 a.m., a worker mixed two incompatible chemicals in a dip tank used to treat metal parts at the metal fabricating company, a division of American Trim, LLC. A chemical reaction resulted in the release of an estimated 280 pounds of nitrogen dioxide from the facility. Federal laws require facilities to immediately notify the National Response Center, state and local authorities about any nitrogen dioxide release greater than 10 pounds. Though Stolle reported the release to the Shelby County local emergency planning committee and the Sidney fire department arrived at the site shortly after the incident, the company failed to notify the state or NRC until about 5 p.m., more than eight hours after the incident.

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

About Nitrogen Dioxide

Nitrogen dioxide can irritate the eyes, nose and throat. When exposed in large

###

EPA Names Indiana Wastewater Treatment
Plants Among Best-Operated in Region

CONTACT:

Phillippa Cannon, (312) 353-6218

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA126

CHICAGO (Aug. 12, 2003) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 named two Indiana wastewater treatment plants among the best-operated in the Great Lakes region for 2003. They are among six treatment plants to receive EPA Regional Operation and Maintenance Awards this year.

St. Joe-Spencerville Regional Sewer District received first place in the most improved plant category because of its efforts to work with local industries to reduce pollutants sent to the plant, significantly improving monitoring and sludge processing, installing new equipment and significantly reducing odors. The district serves 1,030 people. EPA will present the award at 10 a.m. on Aug. 15 at the wastewater treatment plant, 6313 State Rt. 1, in St. Joe.

New Whiteland received the award for second place in the small, advanced treatment category because of its outstanding compliance record, planning for capital improvements to provide capacity for new homes, installing a mechanical sludge thickener, which saved money and lowered costs, and improving controls that lowered treatment costs. The plant serves 4,800 people. EPA will present the award at 10 a.m. on Aug. 14 at the town hall, 401 Mooreland Drive.

###

Lexington Manor Lead-Soil Sampling to
Begin; Meeting Aug. 19, 7 p.m.

CONTACT:

Rafael P. Gonzalez, (312) 886-0269

Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA125

CHICAGO (Aug. 12, 2003) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 will hold a meeting Aug. 19 to update area residents on lead-contaminated soil sampling work scheduled for the end of August at the Lexington Manor site, a housing development built on a former skeet shooting range in Liberty Township, north of Cincinnati.

The meeting begins at 7 p.m., at Liberty Township Hall, 6400 Princeton Road, Liberty Township. Representatives from EPA, the Ohio Department of Health and contractors hired by Ryland Homes will discuss the sampling project slated to begin Aug. 25 and a recent legal agreement under which Ryland has agreed to pay for cleanup work that will follow the soil tests. The actual cleanup work should begin in October.

The meeting will include a short presentation followed by a question-and-answer session. For more information, contact EPA Community Involvement Coordinator Rafael P. Gonzalez, (800) 621-8431, ext. 60269, or gonzalez.rafaelp@epa.gov.

###

Ellsworth Park Agreement Signed; \$4.275

Million for Municipal Water Hook-ups

CONTACT:

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

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

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

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

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA124

CHICAGO (Aug. 8, 2003) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has signed an agreement with a group of 14 companies to immediately begin extending municipal water hook-ups to about 800 homes affected by ground water contamination associated with the Ellsworth Industrial Park in Downers Grove, Ill.

The order, called an administrative order on consent, was negotiated over several months. It requires the companies to spend up to \$4.275 million to complete the project. Work, expected to begin in the next few weeks, will be administered and supervised by DuPage County. The project should take about a year to complete.

In addition to the order, the 14 companies signed an agreement in principle with EPA, Illinois EPA and the Illinois attorney general's office to outline the process for further site investigations and cleanup in and around Ellsworth Park. The companies also entered into an agreement with DuPage County and the village of Downers Grove on the financial arrangements for the hook-up payments. In addition to the payments provided by the companies, a portion of the infrastructure costs will be paid for with grants obtained by DuPage County and Downers Grove.

The contamination was identified through a series of Illinois EPA sampling

###

MEDIA ADVISORY: EPA to Hold Clean Diesel Engine Implementation Workshop in Chicago

CONTACT:

Cathy Milbourn, (202) 564-7824

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA122

CHICAGO (Aug. 5, 2003)

MEDIA ADVISORY: EPA to Hold Clean Diesel Engine Implementation Workshop in Chicago

WHAT: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will hold a Clean Diesel Engine Implementation Workshop to help diesel engine manufacturers, truck manufacturers, truck owners and operators and other stakeholders comply with new EPA standards for heavy-duty diesel vehicles and diesel fuel. The workshop will include a series of panel sessions on developing solutions to implementation challenges.

WHO: Margo Oge, director of EPA's Office of Transportation and Air Quality; Jed Mandel, president of the Engine Manufacturers Association; Bob Clarke, president of the Truck Manufacturers Association; Dale McKinnon, president of the Manufacturers of Emission Control Association; Bill Gouse, vice president for engineering of the American Trucking Association; Tom Cackette, chief deputy executive officer of the California Air Resources Board.

WHEN: Wednesday, Aug. 6, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Thursday, Aug. 7, 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

WHERE: Hyatt Regency O'Hare Hotel, 9300 W. Bryn Mawr Ave., Rosemont, Ill.

###

EPA Cites Midwest Energy for Clean-Air

Violations

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA121

CHICAGO (Aug. 4, 2003) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has cited Midwest Energy Resources Co. for alleged clean-air violations at the company's coal transfer facility, West Winter Street, Superior, Wis.

EPA alleges that Midwest Energy violated conditions of its federally enforceable state operating permit related to baghouses and scrubbers designed to control coal-dust emissions from the facility.

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

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

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

###

EPA Cites Heresite for Clean-Air Violations

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA120

CHICAGO (Aug. 4, 2003) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has cited Heresite Protective Coatings Inc. for alleged clean-air violations at the company's coating production and application plant, 822 S. 14th St., Manitowoc, Wis.

EPA alleges that the coatings Heresite applies to metal parts and products emit excessive amounts of volatile organic compounds.

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

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

Volatile organic compounds contribute to the formation of ground-level ozone, or smog. Smog is formed when a mixture of air pollutants is baked in the hot summer sun. Smog can cause a variety of respiratory problems, including coughing, wheezing, shortness of breath and chest pain. People with asthma, children and the elderly are especially at risk, but these health concerns are important to everyone.

#

**MEDIA ADVISORY: U.S. EPA to Launch
National Beaches Study in Ohio to
Develop Same-day Water Quality Test;
Photo-op Aug. 2**

CONTACT:

Suzanne Ackerman, 202-564-7819 or Ackerman.Suzanne@epa.gov

Day of event: Michael Brown, cell 202 236-4735

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA119

CHICAGO (July 31, 2003) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Science Advisor Dr. Paul Gilman and U.S. Senator George V. Voinovich of Ohio will visit Huntington Beach at Cleveland Metroparks to announce the start of a study in Ohio to develop a new generation of DNA-based water quality tests that provide same-day results and can be used to reduce the risk of waterborne illness among beachgoers. The study is part of a national beach research effort by EPA, in collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), that will continue through 2005.

Dr. Gilman and Senator Voinovich will participate in a news conference to be held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, August 2, at Pier 2 at Huntington Beach. Also attending will be EPA scientists who are conducting the study and representatives from the Cuyahoga County Board of Health.

A total of 5,000 volunteers at Huntington Beach will be recruited to participate in the study beginning August 2. The beach was selected because of large attendance at the beach and the water quality has been well characterized from historical participation in EPA's indicator evaluation programs.

WHO:U.S. EPA Science Advisor and Assistant Administrator Dr. Paul Gilman and U.S. Senator George V. Voinovich (Ohio).

WHAT:News conference to announce EPA's recreational water study at Huntington Beach, Ohio.

WHEN:Saturday, August 2, 2003 1 p.m.

WHERE:Huntington Beach, Pier 2 in Bay Village, Ohio

Day of event contact is Michael Brown: 202-236-4735 (cell)

###

EPA and GM Agree to Cleanup in Bedford,

Indiana

CONTACT:

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

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA118

CHICAGO (July 31, 2003) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 and General Motors Corp. have signed an order under which GM will dig up and remove PCB-contaminated soil and sediment from residential and other areas affected by the GM plant at 105 GM Dr., Bedford, Ind.

The EPA-managed Superfund cleanup will include stream sediment and floodplain soil along Bailey's Branch and Pleasant Run creeks and various tributaries. The cleanup areas begin on the east side of the GM plant and wrap around to the north and west. About 30 residential properties will be involved. The Indiana Department of Environmental Management is also involved in oversight of the project.

"We feel it is in the best interest of the local residents for us to reduce the level of PCBs as quickly as possible," said EPA Superfund Director William Muno.

"That's why we are taking the lead for the cleanup of these properties under the Superfund program."

This project is in addition to work GM is conducting on its property following a voluntary corrective action agreement signed with EPA in March 2001. GM will propose final cleanup plans to EPA when that investigation is complete.

EPA estimates that 180,000 tons of soil and sediment will be removed during the Superfund project, reducing PCBs in residential areas, local streams and floodplains to a level the Agency considers safe. GM will also clean up PCB-contaminated springs and seeps to prevent recontamination of the area.

GM contractors have conducted limited work, such as land clearing, over the past two weeks and residents can expect EPA involvement within the next two weeks.

Workers will scrape PCB-contaminated soil from flood plains and sediments from creek beds. The soils will be replaced with clean fill and new plants and erosion control measures will be implemented.

#

Cedar Creek Contamination Studies
Begin; Public Meeting Aug. 13, 7 p.m.

CONTACT:

Susan Pastor, (312) 353-1325

Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA117

CHICAGO (July 31, 2003) -- Amcast Industrial Corp. and Mercury Marine, the companies responsible for contamination at the Cedar Creek site in Cedarburg, Wis., will begin expanded studies of the area under U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources oversight in the next few weeks. A public meeting to discuss the project will be held at 7 p. m., Wednesday, Aug. 13, at the Cedarburg City Hall.

The work is outlined in a pair of recently signed agreements. Amcast will investigate its property and nearby areas. Mercury Marine will study water, soil and sediment, and develop cleanup options for the site. Together, the companies will also summarize past site investigations and take more water, sediment and soil samples, as well as evaluate human health and ecosystem risks. After reviewing the studies, EPA will evaluate the cleanup options and decide which one to implement.

The Cedar Creek site includes the former Mercury Marine/Kiekhaefer's Plant 2 property at W66 N598 Madison Ave., the Amcast Plant at N39 W5789 Hamilton Road and areas affected by contamination from these sites in Cedarburg. Most of the contamination is in the two ponds on Cedar Creek and the stream from Ruck Pond Dam to the Milwaukee River, as well as the Ruck Pond Raceway, and the former Hamilton Dam Raceway.

Mercury Marine, a boat engine manufacturer that operated a now-closed aluminum die-casting plant, used PCB-containing fluids and discharged them to the creek, which flows into the Milwaukee River. Automotive industry supplier Amcast, which also discharged waste fluids to the creek, also had aluminum die-casting operations.

For more information or special needs or accommodations at the meeting, contact Community Involvement Coordinator Susan Pastor, (800) 621-8431, ext. 31325, or pastor.susan@epa.gov.

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 Harlan Bakeries and Welch
Foods for Hazardous Chemical Reporting
Violations

CONTACT:

Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050

James Entzminger, (312) 886-4062

Ruth McNamara, (312) 353-3193

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA116

CHICAGO (July 31, 2003) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has filed administrative complaints against Harlan Bakeries Inc. of Avon, Ind., and Welch Foods Inc. of Lawton, Mich., for violation of federal hazardous chemical reporting laws involving anhydrous ammonia used in refrigeration systems. EPA has proposed a \$384,207 fine for Harlan and a \$73,689 fine for Welch.

In its complaint against Harlan, 7597 E. U.S. Highway 36, EPA alleges that on July 20, 1998, corrosion on a rooftop cooling tower caused the release of about 700 pounds of anhydrous ammonia. On Oct. 5, 1998, a release of 750 pounds of ammonia was caused by relief valve pressure.

Federal laws require facilities to immediately notify the National Response Center, state and local authorities about hazardous chemical releases larger than 100 pounds. In this case, Harlan reported the July 20 incident 12 hours after the release and never reported the Oct. 5 release.

In the Welch complaint, EPA alleged that the company, at 400 Walker St., failed to submit, in 2000 and 2001, the required emergency and hazardous chemical inventory reports to the state of Michigan and the local fire department, notifying them of the storage of anhydrous ammonia above certain quantities. Previously, Welch was cited by EPA for similar hazardous chemical inventory reporting oversights covering the years 1994 to 1996. The company processes fruit into juice and other products.

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 can burn the skin and irritate the eyes, nose and throat.

###

EPA Reaches Agreement with Three Ohio

Companies on Asbestos Violations

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA115

CHICAGO (July 28, 2003) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has reached an agreement with three Ohio companies on alleged violations of federal regulations on asbestos, a hazardous air pollutant. EPA assessed a total penalty of \$26,000.

The companies are CVS Corp., 1920 Enterprise Parkway, Twinsburg; Skilken Properties Co., 910 E. Broad St., Columbus; and Darby Creek Excavating Inc., 6790 Brooksmiller Road, Circleville.

The alleged violations took place at a demolition site at 6659 E. Main St., Reynoldsburg, Ohio, which CVS had bought to build a drugstore. Skilken Properties was the developer of the property, and Darby Creek Excavating was hired for demolition.

EPA filed administrative complaints against the companies in 2002. Allegations included 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.

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

#

EPA Orders International Paper to Begin
Expanded Sampling at St. Regis Paper
Site

CONTACT:

Don de Blasio, (312) 886-4360

Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA114

CHICAGO (July 25, 2003) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has ordered International Paper to sample more than 100 locations in and around the St. Regis Paper Co. Superfund site in Cass Lake, Minn., for dioxin and other contaminants.

The unilateral administrative order was issued on July 24. Under the Superfund law, International Paper must respond to EPA by Monday, July 28, and is obligated to begin work as early as August 1.

"We're hopeful that International Paper will step up and agree to do the necessary sampling," said Regional Superfund Director William Muno. "But in the event that they don't, EPA will do the work itself and pursue cost recovery from the company on a separate track. Either way, residents can expect to see the project under way within two weeks followed by laboratory results and a plan for next steps by late September."

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

Thursday's order demands the most extensive environmental sampling effort yet in the Cass Lake area, identifying 103 separate locations including 19 residential properties, and locations near the Chippewa National Forest, the BNSF railroad right-of-way and the Cass Lake-Bena elementary school. The sampling locations were determined in consultation with the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe and the state of Minnesota.

A public meeting, which discussed the plan for this sampling, was held July 8 at the Cass Lake American Legion Hall.

International Paper, which acquired Champion International in 2000, is responsible for soil and ground water contamination at, and associated with, the site. Champion acquired the St. Regis Paper Co. in 1985.

Technical documents and other information about the St. Regis Paper Superfund site are on file at the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Division of Resource Management, 6350 Highway 2 NW, Cass Lake, and the Cass Lake City Clerk's office, 332 Second St. NW, Cass Lake.

###

EPA, DOJ Settle with South Haven Sewer

Works for Water Pollution

CONTACT:

Phillippa Cannon, (312) 353-6218

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA113

CHICAGO (July 22, 2003) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 and U.S. Department of Justice announced today that they have simultaneously sued and settled with the South Haven Sewer Works, Valparaiso, Ind., for violations of the Clean Water Act. The sewer works will pay a penalty of \$250,000 and spend between \$6 million and \$7 million to develop and implement a stringent program to comply with its permit and the Clean Water Act. South Haven treats waste water from residential and commercial sources and discharges into Salt Creek, which flows into the Little Calumet River, a tributary of Lake Michigan.

"Sewer overflows pose a risk to public health and, in this case, may contribute to beach closings along the Indiana Dunes, a popular recreation area," said EPA Regional Administrator Thomas V. Skinner.

The government agencies alleged that the sewer works violated the terms of its waste-water discharge permit by discharging excess amounts of suspended solids, ammonia and E. coli bacteria. Documentation shows that there were at least 1,000 instances between 1994 and 2001, when the treatment plant exceeded its permit limits ranging from two to more than 1,900 percent beyond the limits. The government also alleged that South Haven violated its discharge permit by accepting waste trucked from industries in the Chicago area, north central Illinois and northwest Indiana.

In a consent decree lodged July 17, South Haven has agreed to:

- not expand its service area until it can demonstrate that it has the capacity to treat additional wastes
- stop accepting all unauthorized non-municipal waste
- eliminate bypasses and overflows at the waste-water treatment plant
- monitor and sample waste water entering and leaving its system and report the results to EPA and the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM)
- evaluate its entire system and identify the causes and proposed solutions for sanitary sewer overflows
- install a backup power generator to prevent bypasses during power outages
- implement capacity assurance and overflow response plans, including replacing major sewer lines and interceptors
- develop a preventative maintenance program
- submit quarterly reports to EPA and IDEM
- report all bypasses and overflows within 24 hours of becoming aware of them

The consent decree specifies deadlines by which many of these activities must be completed.

South Haven Sewer Works Inc. is a privately operated waste-water treatment plant serving communities in Porter County, Ind.

###

EPA Proposes Cleanup Plan for
Contaminated Soil at Ottawa Radiation
Site; Comment Period Begins, Public
Meeting July 30, 7 P.M.

CONTACT:

Joe Munoz, (312) 886-7935

Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA112

CHICAGO (July 21, 2003) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has proposed a cleanup plan for the Ottawa Radiation Areas Superfund site, in Ottawa, Ill. A public comment period on the proposed plan ends August 18. A public meeting is scheduled for July 30, 7 p.m., at Ottawa City Hall, 301 W. Madison St.

The site includes several areas in and around Ottawa where soil was contaminated by waste products disposed of by the manufacturers of glow-in-the-dark products. EPA's plan involves excavation and disposal of soil from two of these areas, and addressing any pockets of contaminated ground water that may be encountered. EPA considered at least three different cleanup alternatives for each of the areas and proposed this plan because it protects human health and the environment in a cost-effective manner.

The proposal is the most recent in a series of cleanup actions since 1996.

EPA will accept oral and written comments at the public meeting and may modify its plan based on this public input. Comments may also be sent to Joe Munoz, community involvement coordinator, Office of Public Affairs (P-19J), U. S. EPA Region 5, 77 W. Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL 60604-3590; (800) 621-8431, ext. 67935; fax (312) 353-1155; or munoz.joe@epa.gov. Munoz should also be contacted for special accommodations required at the July 30 meeting. Technical documents and other information about the Ottawa Radiation Areas Superfund site are available at Ottawa's Reddick Library, 1010 Canal St.

###

EPA Cites Northstar Aerospace for Clean-air Violations

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA111

CHICAGO (July 17, 2003) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has cited Northstar Aerospace for alleged violations of federal and state clean-air regulations at the company's manufacturing plant, 6006 W. 73rd St., Bedford Park, Ill.

EPA alleges that Northstar failed to limit emissions of organic hazardous air pollutants and volatile organic compounds from its coating operations. Other alleged violations include failure to comply with notification, recordkeeping, reporting and permitting requirements.

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

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

Volatile organic compounds contribute to the formation of ground-level ozone, or smog. Smog is formed when a mixture of air pollutants is baked in the hot summer sun. Smog can cause a variety of respiratory problems, including coughing, wheezing, shortness of breath and chest pain. People with asthma, children and the elderly are especially at risk, but these health concerns are important to everyone.

Bedford Park is in the Chicago metropolitan area, which fails to meet national outdoor air quality standards for ground-level ozone.

###

Lead Smelter Cleanup Complete;
Cleveland Lumber Company to Redevelop
Industrial Flats Site

CONTACT:

(U.S. EPA) Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050
(City of Cleveland) Christy Harst, (216) 664-2238
(Ohio EPA) Kara Allison, (614) 644-2160

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA110

CHICAGO (July 17, 2003) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 and the City of Cleveland today formally transferred the Master Metals property, a lead smelter shut down by Ohio EPA in 1993, to the Northern Ohio Lumber and Timber Co.

A cleanup at the 4-acre site, 2850 W. 3rd St., was completed in May. A group of more than 50 companies deemed responsible for the contamination paid for the work, which was supervised by EPA and Ohio EPA.

“The cleanup involved disposal of numerous truckloads of lead-contaminated soil and debris and tear-down of seven buildings,” said EPA Regional Administrator Tom Skinner. “It’s a real brownfield success story: We originally proposed a cleanup plan in 1999, but the city and NOLTCO came up with a creative plan to approach things a little differently and look to future uses for the site.”

The lumber company, with a local history that dates to the 1860s, will move 1.5 miles from its current address on Carter Road to the site in Cleveland’s industrial flats area. NOLTCO had previously considered relocating to a suburban location. The company employs about 15 people.

“We are excited that NOLTCO remains committed to Cleveland and will continue to conduct business in the city,” said Cleveland Mayor Jane L. Campbell. “We are especially pleased that the partnership with EPA, Ohio EPA and the other companies involved has made a once-blighted property usable and profitable once more.”

Master Metals, which was closed by Ohio EPA in 1993 for numerous air quality violations, recycled lead batteries and other lead waste at the site beginning in 1979. Previously, NL Industries had operated a similar business on the property since 1933.

“Working together, we have turned one of the most polluted sites in Ohio into a productive property for the City of Cleveland,” said Ohio EPA Director Christopher Jones.

Note to correspondents: A media briefing with EPA Regional Superfund Director William Muno, Mayor Campbell and local officials and community leaders will be held at the site at 2 p.m. today. Directions: The site is at 2850 W. 3rd St. A large fenced area with a tent will be visible from 3rd Street.

High-resolution digital photos of the site in pre-cleanup condition are available online at www.epa.gov/region5/sites/mastermetals.

###

EPA Cites Demolition Contractors for
Clean-air Violations

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-82

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA109

CHICAGO (July 15, 2003) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has cited Demolition Contractors Inc. (doing business as Pitsch Companies) for alleged violations of clean-air regulations at the company's concrete crushing plant, 200 N. Park St. N.E., Walker, Mich.

EPA alleges that Demolition Contractors violated federal and state new source performance standards for nonmetallic mineral processing plants by exceeding limits on opacity, or the amount of light obscured by dust emissions.

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

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

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

#

EPA Cites Essroc for Clean-air Violations

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA108

CHICAGO (July 9, 2003) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has cited Essroc Italcementi Group for alleged violations of federal and state clean air regulations at the company's portland cement plant, 3084 W. C.R. 225 South, Logansport, Ind.

EPA alleges that Essroc modified its cement kilns, causing an increase in sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide emissions, without getting a permit to prevent significant deterioration of air quality. Before existing air-pollutant sources can be modified in areas that comply with all national outdoor air-quality standards, companies must get permits that restrict their emissions.

Other allegations include failure to use best available control technology to control sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide emissions and failure to comply with other permitting requirements.

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

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

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 existing heart and lung conditions are the most sensitive to both air pollutants.

###

EPA Presents Six Brownfields Grants

Totaling \$4.4 Million to Minnesota

Communities and Agencies

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA097

CHICAGO (July 8, 2003) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 today presented six brownfields grants worth a total of \$4.4 million to Minnesota communities and agencies for revitalization projects in the state. Brownfields are abandoned or underutilized properties where real or perceived environmental contamination has slowed redevelopment.

EPA Region 5 Administrator Tom Skinner presented checks for the projects at a ceremony at the Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary in St. Paul, one of the properties that will be redeveloped under EPA's Brownfields Program.

"Brownfields redevelopment does much more than turn neighborhood eyesores into community assets," Skinner told the recipients. "It restores hope and creates opportunity."

Minnesota recipients are: City of St. Paul, \$400,000; St. Paul Port Authority, \$1.6 million; Hennepin County, \$400,000; City of Little Falls, \$600,000; Minneapolis Community Development Agency, \$400,000; Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development, \$1 million.

Nationally, EPA has announced \$73.1 million in brownfields funds for 176 recipients. Under the Small Business and Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act, EPA provides financial assistance to eligible applicants through four competitive grant programs: assessment grants, revolving loan fund grants, cleanup grants and job training grants. Before this last round of grants, Minnesota had received brownfields funding totaling more than \$5.5 million.

More information on the Minnesota grants is at www.epa.gov/brownfields/03grants/03grants_r.htm.

###

EPA Cites Strong Steel for Clean-air

Violations

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA107

CHICAGO (July 7, 2003) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has filed an administrative complaint against Strong Steel Products LLC for violations of EPA regulations to protect stratospheric ozone at the company's scrap metal processing plant, 6464 Strong St., Detroit, Mich.

"We're alleging Strong Steel disposed of appliances containing stratospheric-ozone-depleting chlorofluorocarbon refrigerants, or 'CFCs,' without recovering the CFCs or verifying that they had already been removed," said EPA Region 5 Administrator Thomas V. Skinner. He said Strong Steel also failed to keep required records.

The company 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.

When CFC refrigerants deplete the stratospheric ozone layer, dangerous amounts of cancer-causing ultraviolet rays from the sun strike the earth.

Production of some of these chemicals was stopped in 1995, and federal law strictly controls their use and handling.

#

EPA Awards Four Wisconsin Brownfields

Grants

CONTACT:

John Peterson, (312) 886-9858

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA104

CHICAGO (Jul. 7, 2003) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has selected three Wisconsin communities to receive four grants totaling \$1.8 million to help redevelop brownfields.

The cities selected for federal funds are Delavan, Oshkosh and Richland Center.

Nationally, EPA announced \$73.1 million in brownfields funding for 176

applicants, including a Milwaukee agency, which received four other grants.

Brownfields are abandoned or underutilized properties where real or perceived environmental contamination has slowed redevelopment.

"Brownfields redevelopment does much more than turn neighborhood eyesores into community assets," said EPA Region 5 Administrator Thomas V. Skinner.

"It also restores hope and creates opportunity."

Here is a summary of the latest grants:

Delavan, Wis., received two \$200,000 cleanup grants targeting the 2-acre Borg facility on Wisconsin Street and another property on Ann Street known as Site #9. Both parcels are former bulk petroleum storage facilities in the city's Ann Street railroad corridor. Pollution at the sites includes heavy metals, solvents, oil and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). Redevelopment of the sites is part of the city's master plan. Cleanup of Site #9 is expected to attract professional services firms and encourage cleanup of other sections along the corridor. Removing contaminants from the Borg facility will create open green spaces in the area. Local contact: (262) 728-5585.

Oshkosh, Wis., was awarded \$400,000 to assess hazardous substances and petroleum contamination on properties in the Marion/Pearl Redevelopment Area, the Riverside Park Redevelopment Area and on the south side of the Fox River. Redevelopment plans for these brownfields include the creation of biking and trail systems, riverside parks and an extension of Winnebago County's Wiowash recreation trail. Local contact: (920) 236-5057.

Richland Center, Wis., received \$1 million in a revolving loan grant that will provide subgrants and loans to public and private organizations willing to clean up brownfields. The city is focusing on revitalization of an old industrial corridor with extensive soil and water contamination. Cleanup of the properties in the corridor is expected to bring better living conditions to nearby residents, raise property values and attract new businesses and jobs. Local contact: (608) 647-6428.

For more information about these grants and the brownfields program go to <http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/>.

###

EPA Awards Nine Ohio Brownfields

Grants

CONTACT:

John Peterson, (312) 886-9858

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA103

CHICAGO (Jul. 7, 2003) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has selected eight local governments in Ohio to receive nine grants totaling more than \$2.4 million to help redevelop brownfields.

The cities and counties selected for federal funds are Cuyahoga County, Cuyahoga Falls, Fostoria, Mahoning County, Reading, Sebring, Springfield and Toledo. Nationally, EPA announced \$73.1 million in brownfields funding for 176 applicants.

Brownfields are abandoned or underutilized properties where real or perceived environmental contamination has slowed redevelopment.

"Brownfields redevelopment does much more than turn neighborhood eyesores into community assets," said EPA Region 5 Administrator Thomas V. Skinner. "It also restores hope and creates opportunity."

Here is a summary of the latest grants:

Cuyahoga County, Ohio, received a \$400,000 assessment grant to investigate hazardous substance and petroleum contamination on eight to 12 sites around Cleveland and neighboring suburbs. Part of the grant will also be used for community involvement activities. Declining industry has left more than 4,500 acres of brownfields in the county, officials estimate. The Cuyahoga County Brownfield Redevelopment Fund and Program was established to promote reuse of these properties. Local contact: (216) 443-7260.

Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, was awarded \$200,000 to assess hazardous substances on three city-designated redevelopment areas located within a blighted industrial corridor on Front Street adjacent to the Cuyahoga River. Grant money will also be used to complete a citywide brownfields inventory and involve the community in land-use decisions. Officials hope riverfront redevelopment will create new jobs, housing opportunities and recreational outlets. Local contact: (330) 971-8136.

Fostoria, Ohio, received \$300,000 to assess hazardous material and petroleum contamination on a dozen brownfields in an area known as the Iron Triangle, where three railroad lines converge. The funds will also be used to conduct human health risk assessments and community outreach. Fostoria hopes to reuse the brownfields to build a railroad museum and visitor center with viewing platform where 150 trains pass through the city daily. Local contact: (419) 435-7789.

Mahoning County, Ohio, was awarded \$170,000 to assess hazardous substances contamination on a 120-acre former steel and industrial complex next to the Mahoning River. Grant money will also be used for planning activities. The Mahoning River Corridor of Opportunity Planning Committee, a consortium of 31 public and private entities, has been organized to coordinate brownfields redevelopment in the Mahoning River Valley. Local contact: (330) 740-8799.

Reading, Ohio, received a \$200,000 assessment grant to investigate petroleum contamination at an 18-acre site of a former glass and box manufacturer along Reading Road. The site is located near an emerging biotech hub, and redevelopment plans call for construction of new laboratory and office space, which could generate 300-400 new research and support jobs. Local contact: (513) 733-3725.

Sebring, Ohio, won a \$154,426 assessment grant that will be used to look for hazardous substances on properties that once housed pottery factories.

Environmental concerns on the properties include lead, arsenic, silica, uranium

oxide and solvents. Grant funds will also be used for community outreach. Officials said the brownfields are a blight on the downtown area and need to be redeveloped. Local contact: (330) 938-9340.

Springfield, Ohio, was awarded \$400,000 to assess hazardous material and petroleum contamination. Four gas station sites have suspected petroleum contamination and underground storage tanks, while several sites within the Southwest Downtown Urban Renewal Area contain suspected hazardous substances. The money will also be used for cleanup planning and community outreach using a mobile kiosk exhibit. The target sites for hazardous material assessment are located on a nine-block area in the city's core slated for redevelopment into a new medical facility. The city expects to add 2,000 new jobs with the redevelopment and attract \$300 million in capital investment. The city hopes to turn the former gas stations into parks. Local contact: (937) 324-7304.

Toledo, Ohio, received \$400,000 for pollution assessment and another \$200,000 grant for petroleum cleanup. The city of Toledo is cooperating with the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority on the brownfields effort. The assessment grant will be used to investigate central city neighborhoods, develop cleanup plans and perform community outreach. The cleanup grant will help pay for removal of petroleum pollution on a portion of the Warren Sherman Business Park, which was used for a taxi company and service station from 1936 to 1968. Officials hope to redevelop the business park and relieve the neighborhood's poverty and blight. Local contact: (419) 936-3015.

For more information about these grants and the brownfields program go to <http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/>.

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Last updated on undefined, undefined NaNth, NaN

URL: <http://H%7C/reg5oopa/web/news/news03/03opa103.htm>

EPA Awards Six Detroit-area Brownfields

Grants

CONTACT:

John Peterson, (312) 886-9858

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA102

CHICAGO (Jul. 7, 2003) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has selected six Detroit-area communities and groups to receive six grants totaling \$3.5 million to help redevelop brownfields.

The local governments and organizations selected for federal funds are Downriver Community Conference of Southeast Michigan, Focus: Hope Revitalization of Detroit, Mount Clemens, Washtenaw County, Wayne County and Wyandotte. Nationally, EPA announced \$73.1 million in brownfields funding for 176 applicants, including five other Michigan communities and organizations. Brownfields are abandoned or underutilized properties where real or perceived environmental contamination has slowed redevelopment.

"Brownfields redevelopment does much more than turn neighborhood eyesores into community assets," said EPA Region 5 Administrator Thomas V. Skinner. "It also restores hope and creates opportunity."

Here is a summary of the latest grants:

Downriver Community Conference, Southeast Michigan., was awarded \$200,000 to assess petroleum contamination on numerous brownfields sites. DownriverCommunity Conference represents a consortium of 10 municipalities. Grant funds will be used to conduct environmental assessments of priority sites as well as performing community involvement activities. Local contact: (734) 362-3477.

Focus: Hope Revitalization, Detroit, received \$200,000 to clean up hazardous substances in the deteriorated Federal Engineering Building on Oakman Boulevard. Contamination occurred during 45 years of use as a stamping press. Pollutants include asbestos, electrical transformers, waste pits with unknown contents and probable underground storage tanks. The Focus organization hopes to use the site as a parking lot for its planned technology center housed in a renovated adjacent building. Local contact: (313) 494-4306.

Mount Clemens, Mich., received \$200,000 to assess possible petroleum contamination at a number of sites. The money will also be used to set cleanup priorities and involve community members in the process. Local contact: (586) 469-6816.

Washtenaw County, Mich., received \$1.5 million for a revolving loan fund that will be used for subgrants and loans to public and private organizations that conduct brownfield cleanups in the 28 cities, villages and townships of the county. A \$100,000 portion of the revolving loan fund is earmarked for removal and cleanup of leaking underground petroleum storage tanks. The county will focus on higher-poverty areas in Ypsilanti, Ann Arbor, Milan, Saline and Whitmore Lake. The redevelopment of the many abandoned automotive industry sites presents opportunities for affordable housing, improved water quality, green space, green buildings and increased tax base. Local contact: (734) 994-2435.

Wayne County, Mich., received a \$400,000 grant to assess hazardous materials and petroleum contamination on numerous sites in the Detroit area. The county contains more than 2,000 brownfields and 1,600 leaking underground storage tanks left from a long history of manufacturing and industry. The current focus will be on the most economically distressed areas. Local contact: (313) 224-0749.

Wyandotte, Mich., was awarded \$1 million for a revolving loan fund that will provide loans and subgrants to public and private organizations that will conduct

cleanup activities on brownfield sites around the city. The city is focusing on sites within older residential neighborhoods and along commercial corridors such as railroad tracks and the waterfront. The contaminated areas are being eyed for new housing that will slow or reverse population loss. The city will leverage additional funding through tax-increment financing and through the city's Brownfields Redevelopment Authority. Wyandotte officials estimate redevelopment has the potential to add more than \$17 million to the tax base, create new jobs and generate at least \$14 million in new capital investment. Local contact: (734) 324-4541.

For more information about these grants and the brownfields program go to <http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/>.

###

EPA Awards Five Michigan Brownfields

Grants

CONTACT:

John Peterson, (312) 886-9858

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA101

CHICAGO (Jul. 7, 2003) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has selected five Michigan communities and organizations to receive five grants totaling more than \$2 million to help redevelop brownfields.

The cities and groups receiving federal funds are Allegan, Artspace Projects Inc. in Jackson, Bay City, Lansing Brownfields Redevelopment Authority and Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. Nationally, EPA announced \$73.1 million in brownfields funding for 176 applicants, including another six grants in the Detroit area.

Brownfields are abandoned or underutilized properties where real or perceived environmental contamination has slowed redevelopment.

"Brownfields redevelopment does much more than turn neighborhood eyesores into community assets," said EPA Region 5 Administrator Thomas V. Skinner. "It also restores hope and creates opportunity."

Here is a summary of the latest grants:

Allegan, Mich., received a \$250,000 revolving loan grant that will be used to provide subgrants and loans to public and private organizations that will do cleanup work on a downtown brownfield. The city will also use the money for community involvement activities. The city hopes to redevelop 17 downtown sites that remain from the area's manufacturing, railroad and lumber history.

Local contact: (269) 686-1102.

Artspace Projects, Jackson, Mich., was awarded \$200,000 to clean up hazardous material on the former Acme Industries complex on Mechanic Street. This riverfront property was the site of a machinery and air conditioning manufacturer and is contaminated with solvents, oil and metals. Artspace hopes to turn the brownfield into the Armory Park Arts Project, which will create studio space for artists, and cultural and educational opportunities for residents. Local contact: (612) 333-9012.

Bay City, Mich., received \$200,000 for petroleum cleanup at the Labadie property, which is one of the sites the city intends to redevelop as part of the Uptown at RiversEdge renewal project. Grant funds will also be used for community outreach and health monitoring. Local contact: (989) 894-8159.

Brownfields Redevelopment Authority, Lansing, Mich., won a \$400,000 assessment grant that will be used to look for hazardous substances and petroleum contamination on several sites and in dozens of underground storage tanks. Grant funds will also be used for community outreach, soliciting contractors and drafting redevelopment plans. Local contact: (517) 483-4140.

Michigan Department of Environmental Quality was awarded \$1 million for a revolving loan fund that will be used to provide subgrants and loans to public and private organizations that will do cleanup work on brownfields sites. These funds will target small and economically distressed communities similar to the 18 cities that are part of the existing Michigan Revitalization Revolving Loan program. The additional \$1 million is expected to leverage \$12.4 million and could create 46 new jobs. MDEQ contact: (517) 241-8707.

For more information about these grants and the brownfields program go to <http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/>.

#

EPA Awards Six Indiana Brownfields

Grants

CONTACT:

John Peterson, (312) 886-9858

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA100

CHICAGO (Jul. 7, 2003) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has selected four Indiana communities to receive six grants totaling more than \$2 million to help redevelop brownfields.

The Indiana cities receiving federal funds are Gary, Richmond, Scottsburg and South Bend. Nationally, EPA announced \$73.1 million in brownfields funding for 176 applicants.

Brownfields are abandoned or underutilized properties where real or perceived environmental contamination has slowed redevelopment.

"Brownfields redevelopment does much more than turn neighborhood eyesores into community assets," said EPA Region 5 Administrator Thomas V. Skinner. "It also restores hope and creates opportunity."

Here is a summary of the latest grants:

Gary, Ind., received \$1 million for its revolving loan fund, a \$200,000 cleanup grant and \$250,000 for an assessment grant. The revolving loan grant will be used to provide loans and subgrants to groups that will conduct cleanup activities in several brownfield zones, including the airport, downtown stadium district and lakefront. The cleanup grant will help remove petroleum contamination at the site of the former Smitty's gas station at 25th and Chase Street. The location is slated to become a new city park. The assessment grant will be used to perform hazardous substance and petroleum investigations on several brownfields in Gary. Local contact: (219) 882-3000.

Richmond, Ind., received \$200,000 to assess hazardous substances in the Whitewater Valley Gorge area. The money will also be used for redevelopment plans and community outreach. Officials hope to turn the area into a recreational center with trails, a park and a museum. Local contact: (765) 983-7207.

Scottsburg, Ind., was awarded \$200,000 to clean up petroleum contamination at the Scott County Manufacturing Facility, a 10-acre former automotive parts factory. Redevelopment of the site is expected to create 215 jobs and encourage reuse of other local industrial areas. Local contact: (812) 288-4624.

South Bend, Ind., received \$200,000 for a cleanup grant targeted at the former Studebaker Stamping Plant. Now vacant and owned by the city, the site is contaminated by solvents that are polluting underground water supplies. Plans call for using an innovative chemical oxidation process to eliminate the solvents. The city anticipates the 44-acre site will be turned into a light industrial park with private investment of \$46 million and creation of 1,750 new jobs over the next 15 years. The redevelopment will also eliminate a local eyesore on the city's skyline. Local contact: (574) 235-9371.

For more information about these grants and the brownfields program go to <http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/>.

#

EPA Awards Seven Illinois Brownfields

Grants

CONTACT:

John Peterson, (312) 886-9858

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA099

CHICAGO (Jul. 7, 2003) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has selected five Illinois communities to receive seven grants totaling \$2.4 million to help redevelop brownfields.

The cities selected for federal funds are Canton, Freeport, Rock Island, Rockford and Sterling. Nationally, EPA announced \$73.1 million in brownfields funding for 176 applicants, including three other communities and organizations in the Chicago area.

Brownfields are abandoned or underutilized properties where real or perceived environmental contamination has slowed redevelopment. -more-

"Brownfields redevelopment does much more than turn neighborhood eyesores into community assets," said EPA Region 5 Administrator Thomas V. Skinner. "It also restores hope and creates opportunity."

Here is a summary of the latest grants:

Canton, Ill., received a \$300,000 assessment grant and a \$200,000 cleanup grant for the former site of an International Harvester farm equipment factory, which operated from 1840 to 1984. The assessment grant will help pay for an environmental investigation of hazardous substances including petroleum, develop a remedial action plan and conduct community involvement activities.

The cleanup grant will be used for contamination removal on the northwest parcel of the International Harvester site. Pollution includes hazardous liquids, metals, cyanide and asbestos. Local plans call for redeveloping the site with retail, cultural and light industrial parcels. Local contact: (309) 647-0065.

Freeport, Ill., was awarded \$200,000 to assess hazardous materials at sites within the Rawleigh Complex Redevelopment Corridor, which is home to numerous industrial properties along a rail line. Grant funds will also be used to conduct planning and community outreach in the area, which was hard hit by the bankruptcy and closing of the large W.T. Rawleigh Corp. factory in the late 1980s. Local contact: (815) 235-8200.

Rock Island, Ill., received \$95,750 to clean up the Midway site, a former fueling station and bulk petroleum storage facility, which has leaking underground storage tanks. Plans call for turning the Midway site and adjoining sections into the Sylvan Slough Natural Area, a demonstration project designed to reduce runoff entering the Mississippi River. Local contact: (309) 732-2920.

Rockford, Ill., was awarded \$400,000 to assess hazardous substances and petroleum contamination within the Barber Colman Village and the Davis Park Corridor Enterprise Zone. Grant funds will also be used for community outreach and planning activities at sites along the Illinois 251 corridor. Local contact: (815) 987-5611.

Sterling, Ill., received \$800,000 for its revolving loan fund and a \$400,000 assessment grant. The revolving loan grant will be used to provide loans and subgrants to public and private organizations to clean up the Northwestern Steel and Wire Co. property that sits within the 700-acre Rock River Redevelopment Area. The assessment grant will help pay for study of hazardous materials and petroleum that may be contaminating underground water supplies in the Rock River area. The money will also be used for community involvement activities.

The city hopes to transfer ownership of parcels in the area to redevelopers.

Local contact: (815) 632-6621.

For more information about these grants and the brownfields program go to

<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/>.

###

EPA Awards Four Chicago-area

Brownfields Grants

CONTACT:

John Peterson, (312) 886-9858

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA098

CHICAGO (Jul. 7, 2003) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has selected three Chicago-area communities and groups to receive four grants totaling more than \$1.5 million to help redevelop brownfields.

The cities and groups selected for federal funds are the Chicago suburb of North Chicago; the South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association, which has targeted brownfields in the communities of Markham, Burnham and Robbins; and the Southeast Chicago Development Commission for a south Chicago site.

Nationally, EPA announced \$73.1 million in brownfields funding for 176 applicants, including five other communities in Illinois.

Brownfields are abandoned or underutilized properties where real or perceived environmental contamination has slowed redevelopment.

"Brownfields redevelopment does much more than turn neighborhood eyesores into community assets," said EPA Region 5 Administrator Thomas V. Skinner. "It also restores hope and creates opportunity."

Here is a summary of the latest grants:

North Chicago received a \$160,175 cleanup grant that targets petroleum contamination on properties along Sheridan Road. The funds will be used for underground storage tank removal, removal of contaminated soil and soil testing. Local contact: (847) 596-8670.

South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association received \$200,000 to inventory and assess brownfields as well as conduct community outreach in Markham, Burnham and Robbins, and \$1 million for the association's revolving loan fund, which will be used to provide subgrants and loans to groups so they can conduct cleanup activities on thousands of acres of abandoned industrial sites. The association represents 43 municipalities in the south suburban area. Local contact: (708) 206-1155.

Southeast Chicago Development Commission was awarded a \$200,000 cleanup grant for a site at 92nd and Burley, which was home to a gas station, dry cleaner and furniture factory. Plans call for a new supermarket and other retail outlets on the site 12 miles southeast of downtown Chicago. Local contact: (773) 731-8755 ext.15.

For more information about these grants and the brownfields program go to <http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/>.

###

EPA, WDNR Reach Agreement with WTM1
for Fox River Cleanup Work

CONTACT:

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

(EPA) Roger Grimes, (312) 886-6595

(WDNR) Bruce Baker, (608) 266-1902

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA094

CHICAGO (July 1, 2003) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources have signed an agreement with WTM1 (formerly Wisconsin Tissue Mills) under which the company will complete the design work for the sediment cleanup in Little Lake Butte des Morts. This section of the Fox River lies between Lake Winnebago and Appleton and is referred to in the cleanup plan as Operable Unit 1.

The agreement, contained in an administrative order on consent, calls for WTM1 to provide up to \$2 million for the detailed engineering plan to be used in implementing the cleanup plan announced in the Record of Decision in January 2003. The scope of work to be covered in the design includes:

- The removal of PCB contaminated sediment from the river
- The handling, treatment and transportation of the removed sediment
- The final disposal of the contaminated sediment

According to DNR Secretary Scott Hassett, "This agreement shows again that we can work with the companies effectively to get the cleanup process underway in the Fox River. The sooner we can get the cleanup started, the better it will be for the Fox River and everyone in Wisconsin who values this important resource."

EPA Regional Administrator Tom Skinner said, "This agreement allows us to get moving this summer, starting with design work and then beginning actual remediation in 2004."

The cleanup plan for Little Lake Butte des Morts calls for dredging of approximately 784,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediment. As was done in the pilot projects, the sediment will be mechanically dewatered and the water will be treated and returned to the river. The dried sediment will then be taken to an engineered landfill for permanent disposal. Neither the staging area at Little Lake Butte des Morts for processing the sediment nor the landfill site for its disposal have yet been selected, however this design work will begin to address those items. The total estimated cost for cleanup work in OU1 is \$66.2 million.

Information on the Fox River cleanup can be found in the reference sections of the public libraries in Appleton, Green Bay, Sturgeon Bay, Oneida and Oshkosh.

This information can also be found at

www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/wm/lowerfox

or www.epa.gov/

region5/sites/foxriver.

###

EPA to Sponsor St. Regis Paper Co.
Superfund Site Public Meeting

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA093

CHICAGO (June 30, 2003) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 and several other organizations will participate in an availability session and public meeting to update the Cass Lake, Minn., community about planned sampling activities at the St. Regis Paper Co. Superfund site.

An afternoon availability session, or informal drop-in meeting with no agenda, will be held from 4 to 6 p.m., and a public meeting will be held from 7 to 9 p.m.

Tuesday, July 8, at the Jack Kimball American Legion Hall, 217 Second St. NW, Cass Lake.

Other organizations scheduled to participate in the meetings are: Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, Minnesota Department of Health, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and the city of Cass Lake.

Information about the St. Regis Superfund site and EPA's most recent evaluation report are available for review at two Cass Lake locations: Cass Lake City Clerk's office, 330 Second St. NW, and Leech Lake Band, Division of Resource Management, 6530 Highway 2 NW. Information is also available at the EPA Records Center, Seventh Floor, 77 W. Jackson Blvd., Chicago, Ill.

Persons with special needs, such as signing translators, should contact Don de Blasio at EPA, (312) 886-4360.

#

EPA Cites Magnetics International for
Clean-Air Violations

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA092

CHICAGO (June 27, 2003) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has cited Magnetics International Inc. for alleged violations of federal clean-air regulations at the company's hydrochloric acid regeneration plant, 1111 N. State Road 149, Burns Harbor, Ind.

EPA alleges that Magnetics International discharged gases containing hydrochloric acid in a concentration of more than twice the limit and gases containing chlorine in a concentration of more than six times the limit.

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

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

Hydrochloric acid and chlorine are hazardous air pollutants. Hydrochloric acid is corrosive to the eyes, skin and mucous membranes. Chlorine is a potent irritant to the eyes, upper respiratory tract and lungs.

#

EPA Cites Smurfit for Clean-Air Violations

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA091

CHICAGO (June 27, 2003) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has cited Smurfit-Stone Flexible Packaging for alleged violations of federal and state clean-air regulations at the company's printing plant, 1228 E. Tower Road, Schaumburg, Ill.

EPA alleges Smurfit failed to comply with national emissions standards for methyl ethyl ketone, a hazardous air pollutant and a volatile organic compound, and to do timely testing and reporting required by EPA. In addition, the company failed to comply with conditions of a state permit, and it released more VOCs than state regulations allow.

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

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

Short-term exposure to high concentrations of methyl ethyl ketone can irritate the eyes, nose and throat and cause headache, nausea, central nervous system depression and skin problems. Limited information is available on the chronic effects of methyl ethyl ketone in humans from inhalation exposure.

Volatile organic compounds contribute to the formation of ground-level ozone, or smog. Smog is formed when a mixture of air pollutants is baked in the hot summer sun. Smog can cause a variety of respiratory problems, including coughing, wheezing, shortness of breath and chest pain. People with asthma, children and the elderly are especially at risk, but these health concerns are important to everyone.

Schaumburg is in the Chicago metropolitan area, which fails to meet national outdoor air quality standards for ground-level ozone.

###

EPA Cites Dupont for Clean-Air Violations

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA090

CHICAGO (June 25, 2003) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has cited DuPont Corp. for alleged violations of federal and state clean-air regulations at the company's Fort Hill sulfuric acid plant, 11215 Brower Road, North Bend, Ohio.

EPA alleges DuPont modified its facility, causing an increase in sulfur dioxide emissions, without meeting federal new source performance standards for sulfuric acid plants or getting a permit to prevent significant deterioration of air quality. Before existing air-pollutant sources can be modified in areas that comply with all national outdoor air-quality standards, companies must get permits that restrict their emissions.

Other alleged violations include failure to use best available technology to control sulfur dioxide emissions, failure to give permitting authorities all relevant information and failure to get installation and operating permits.

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

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

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

###

EPA: Larson Middle School Wins Shining

Star Award

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA089

CHICAGO (June 20, 2003) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has presented Larson Middle School, Troy, Mich., its Shining Star Award for implementing EPA's SunWise school program that teaches children and their caregivers how to protect themselves from overexposure to the sun.

EPA said Larson was one of 10 kindergarten through 8th grade schools in the country to win the award by reaching a large number of students, reporting ultraviolet radiation data to EPA's Web site, sponsoring poster contests or developing curriculum.

When schools join the SunWise program, they receive a free SunWise tool kit. Items in the kit include classroom activities, a teachers' resource list and a UV-sensitive frisbee.

Schools are encouraged to conduct activities that teach children about the science behind UV radiation and stratospheric ozone, the health risks from UV radiation, and simple steps to avoid overexposure to the sun.

SunWise focuses on the whole spectrum of health effects, including skin cancer, eye damage and other illnesses. By taking part in the program, children can enhance their critical thinking, data collection, reading, problem solving, decision-making and communication skills. Activities include math, science and other school subjects.

Any elementary or middle school in the United States may participate in the environmental and health education program. Classrooms, multiple classrooms, schools or entire school districts may join. For more information:www.epa.gov/sunwise.

###

Use Care When Applying Flea and Tick

Control Products to Pets

CONTACT:

Karen Thompson, (312) 353-8547

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA088

CHICAGO (June 17, 2003) -- With flea and tick season here, it's time to brush up on safety precautions for retail products used to get rid of these common pet pests. EPA recommends that consumers follow these precautions when purchasing and applying over-the-counter flea and tick products for use on pets:

- Buy and use only registered products. No pesticide product may be sold or used in the United States unless registered with EPA and displaying an accepted label bearing an EPA registration number. (Usually found at the bottom of the product's front panel. EPA Reg. #XXXX-XX.)

- Know your pets' health and consider consulting a veterinarian before applying any type of over-the-counter flea and tick treatment. This is especially important if your pet is debilitated, medicated, aged, pregnant or nursing.

- Carefully read the entire label BEFORE buying any product to ensure that it is appropriate for your type of pet. Make sure you select a product appropriate for the age and weight of your pet. Do not use the product on other animals unless specifically listed on the label.

- Keep all packing information and labels together with the applicator tubes. Before each use, carefully read the entire label and any accompanying brochures and consumer information. These include warnings, precautionary statements and use directions. Follow package directions exactly to ensure the greatest possible safety for you and your pet.

- Monitor pets closely for at least 12-24 hours after applying any product. Watch for signs of sensitivity such as skin irritation, hair loss, salivation and tremors. If unusual symptoms occur, contact your veterinarian immediately. If you or your veterinarian have specific questions or emergency needs about pet pesticide poisoning contact the National Animal Poison Control Center at (800)548-2423, www.napcc.aspca.org (fees apply).

- If you want specific information about pesticide exposure, toxicity and health effects, contact the National Pesticide Information Center at (800) 858-7378, or npic.orst.edu on the Web. Report pet poisoning incidents to EPA through the same number and Web site. You can also report to the company that manufactures the product check the package for contact information.

- You can also use other methods to reduce fleas, larvae and eggs around your home. For example, frequent washing and vacuuming, especially where your pet sleeps, eats and sits; cleaning or shampooing carpets and furniture; and combing your pet frequently.

#

Master Metals - Detroit Update: Second
Phase of Krainzwood Lead Contamination
Sampling Complete; Smelter Property
Cleanup Continues

CONTACT:

Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050
Dave Novak, (312) 886-7478

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA087

CHICAGO (June 11, 2003) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has completed the second phase of lead contamination testing in Detroit's Krainzwood neighborhood.

Since March, EPA has collected 370 soil samples from 109 residential properties and another 187 samples from Atkinson Elementary School, a park next to the school and the Sojourner Truth housing complex. Residential properties with lead levels above 400 parts per million will receive letters from EPA explaining the results and EPA's plans for removing the contaminated soil. Preliminary data suggests more than half of the residential properties and two areas in the Sojourner Truth complex have lead levels above 400 ppm. EPA will announce official laboratory analysis results soon. The school and park properties did not contain any samples above 400 parts per million.

On a separate track from the residential work, cleanup at the former Master Metals site at 4700 E. Nevada St. continues. Currently, contaminated concrete pads are being demolished and prepared for shipping, along with contaminated soil, to an approved waste facility. EPA expects to finish cleanup at the Master Metals property by late 2003.

An informational meeting on health issues related to lead will be held June 24, Smelter Property Cleanup Continues

from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., at Atkinson Elementary School, 4900 E. Hilldale. A separate meeting to update the community on the Master Metals cleanup and the recent soil sampling will be held June 26, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Atkinson Elementary School.

#

EPA: Natural Processes to Clean Ground
Water at Tomah Municipal Sanitary
Landfill; Comment Period Underway,
Meeting June 24

CONTACT:

Bri Bill, (312) 353-6646
Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050
For Immediate Release
No. 03-OPA086

CHICAGO (June 11, 2003) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has proposed that ground water contaminated by the former Tomah Municipal Sanitary Landfill in Tomah, Wis., be addressed by a combination of natural processes, continued monitoring and restrictions on ground water use. A formal 30-day comment period ending July 10 is now underway.

A meeting to discuss the site and the cleanup plans that EPA evaluated will be held at 7 p.m., Tuesday, June 24, at the Tomah City Hall Council Chambers, 819 Superior Ave. An open house begins at 6 p.m., when residents can speak informally with government representatives about the project.

EPA evaluated five different options. Under the plan the agency proposes, a contaminated ground water plume will be cleaned by natural processes. And, it will be tested regularly and deed restrictions will be put in place to prevent landowners from using ground water from the contaminated area.

Water and sediment in Deer Creek will also be tested. EPA will consider other options if the natural processes fail to work as expected.

A previous EPA cleanup plan issued in 2000 included construction of a cap over waste at the site to reduce the flow of new contamination into the ground water. The city of Tomah is providing municipal water to residents near the affected area.

For more information or to discuss special needs or accommodations at the meeting, contact EPA Community Involvement Coordinator Bri Bill, (800) 621-8431, ext. 36646, or bill.briana@epa.gov. A fact sheet is online at www.epa.gov/region5/sites/tomah. Written comments may be submitted at the July 24 meeting or sent to Bill at U.S. EPA Region 5 (P-19J), 77 W. Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL 60604.

###

MEDIA ADVISORY: EPA to Hold Public Hearing on Proposed Rule for Control of Emissions from Diesel-fueled Construction, Farming and Industrial Equipment

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA085

CHICAGO (June 10, 2003)

WHAT: EPA will be receiving comments from representatives of environmental groups, industry, government and the general public on proposed new rules that would greatly improve air quality by cutting harmful emissions from diesel engines used in construction, farming and industrial equipment. Engine controls and cleaner fuels required by these new rules would significantly improve air quality for Americans nationwide by reducing particulate matter and nitrogen oxide emissions from these sources by more than 90 percent.

WHO: Opening remarks by EPA Region 5 Administrator Tom Skinner. Hearing Officer is Chester J. France, director of the Assessment and Standards Division of EPA's Office of Transportation and Air Quality.

WHEN: Thursday, June 12, at 9 a.m.

WHERE: Hyatt Regency O'Hare, 9300 W. Bryn Mawr Ave., Rosemont, Ill.

###

EPA Settles with Kellogg for Hazardous
Chemical Release Reporting Violations;
\$20,110 Fine

CONTACT:

Cheryl Allen, (312) 353-6196

Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA084

CHICAGO (June 10, 2003) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has settled an administrative complaint with the Kellogg Co. distribution facility at 1675 Fairview Road, in Zanesville, Ohio, for violation of federal laws on the reporting of a hazardous chemical release. Kellogg will pay a \$20,110 fine. In its complaint, EPA alleged that on Aug. 28, 2002, at 5:30 p.m., a rooftop refrigeration system pressure relief valve released about 820 pounds of anhydrous ammonia. 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 this case, Kellogg reported the incident more than two hours after the hazardous chemical release. In settling the case, Kellogg provided information that it believed the release was only 130 pounds.

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

#

EPA Starts 4th Year of Northeast
Minneapolis Residential Cleanups

CONTACT:

Cheryl Allen, (312) 353-6196

Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA083

CHICAGO (June 9, 2003) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 this week begins the fourth, and likely final, year of an estimated \$5 million cleanup of outdoor properties in northeast Minneapolis that are contaminated with asbestos-containing vermiculite material. Residents may see small construction vehicles and workers in required protective clothing, often near EPA's trailer at the intersection of Jefferson and 18th streets.

The cleanup effort is the result of investigations into the manufacture of home insulating products at the former Western Minerals Products plant, 1720 Madison St., N.E., and 1815 Jefferson St., N.E., Minneapolis. The plant closed in the late 1980s. Byproducts 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 208 properties have been cleaned since October 2000. EPA expects to clean about 50 additional properties during summer 2003. To date, more than 1,600 properties have been inspected.

#

EPA Cites Barrett Paving for Clean-Air

Violations

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA082

CHICAGO (June 5, 2003) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has cited Barrett Paving Materials Inc. for alleged clean-air violations at the company's limestone quarry and crushing plant, 3835 Centennial Ave., Sylvania, Ohio. EPA proposed a \$26,500 penalty.

"We're alleging that Barrett didn't do the required notifying, testing and reporting when they increased the capacity of some of their conveyor belts," said EPA Regional Administrator Thomas V. Skinner. "Increasing conveyor belt capacity can increase dust emissions."

Skinner said failure to make required notifications and to test and report emissions violates federal standards for new air pollutant sources as well as Ohio's plan for implementing the Clean Air Act.

The company 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.

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

#

Haynes International Agrees to \$54,622

Fine and Environmental Projects to
Correct Hazardous Waste Violations

CONTACT:

Kären Thompson, (312) 353-8547

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA081

CHICAGO (June 4, 2003) — Haynes International Inc. of Kokomo, Ind., has agreed to pay a \$54,622 penalty and resolve hazardous waste violations alleged by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5.

EPA inspections in August 2001 and January 2002 revealed that Haynes stored and disposed of hazardous waste dust at its metal alloy producing facility, 2000 W. Deffenbaugh Road, without a permit.

In addition to the penalty, Haynes will perform \$189,711 in environmental projects including installation of a new enclosed dust conveyance system and concrete pads. Haynes has agreed to soil testing and corrective action or remediation if the Indiana Department of Environmental Management determines that test results indicate a need.

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

About Haynes

Haynes International Inc. produces high performance metal alloys for the aerospace and chemical processing industries.

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 Vemco

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA080

CHICAGO (June 4, 2003) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has reached an agreement with Vemco Inc., which does business as Venture Grand Rapids, on alleged clean-air violations at the company's plastic automobile parts manufacturing and coating plant, 5050 Kendrick S.E., Grand Rapids, Mich. EPA assessed a \$225,000 penalty.

"This agreement resolves an EPA complaint alleging that the Vemco plant emitted more volatile organic compounds than its permits allow," said EPA Regional Administrator Thomas V. Skinner. "EPA vigorously pursues companies that don't keep their air-pollutant emissions within permitted limits."

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.

###

EPA Selects Little River Band of Ottawa to

Receive \$600,000 Grant

CONTACT:

Phillippa Cannon, (312) 353-6218

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA079

CHICAGO (June 3, 2003) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Administrator Christie Whitman today presented the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians a \$600,000 check for projects to restore the Manistee River watershed in northern Michigan.

“The Little River Band was chosen to receive this grant because they demonstrated the ability to achieve tangible environmental results in a short time,” Whitman said. “By providing grants to locally based groups, we are helping them develop plans that best meet the unique needs their watersheds face from such hazards as nonpoint source pollution.”

Whitman presented the check at Region 5’s Tribal Operations Committee meeting at the Prairie Island Indian Community in Welch, Minn. There are 35 Indian tribes in Region 5, which includes Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin.

The Little River Band was recently selected as one of 20 grant recipients in EPA’s new Watershed Initiative. A total of \$15 million will go to watershed organizations to fund restoration and protection projects.

The Little River Band includes 2,600 tribal members and the river provides important resources which are vital to its survival. It will use its grant for several projects, including:

- *repairing road and stream crossings,
- *stabilizing stream banks,
- *extensive monitoring of water quality, habitat inventories and fish assessments,
- *reclaiming a sturgeon spawning site.

Note to editors: photos will be available at www.epa.gov/region5 after June 4.

###

EPA Renews \$50,000 Technical
Assistance Grant to Fox River Community
Group

CONTACT:

Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050

Susan Pastor, (312) 353-1325

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA078

CHICAGO (May 30, 2003) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 recently renewed a \$50,000 technical assistance grant to the Clean Water Action Council, a community organization in Green Bay, Wis.

This is the third successive grant CWAC has received, following \$50,000 grants in April 1999 and September 2001.

The grant may be used to pay for a technical advisor for Wisconsin's Lower Fox River site, which has been proposed for EPA's Superfund National Priorities List.

An advisor interprets technical data for the organization and acts as a liaison between the group and EPA and its intergovernmental partners.

Since 1989, Region 5 has awarded 28 technical assistance grants to community organizations in the six-state area, totaling nearly \$2 million.

###

Boerke Landfill Cleanup to Begin in June;
Meeting May 29, 7 p.m.

CONTACT:

Rafael P. Gonzalez, (312) 886-0269

Brad Bradley, (312) 886-4742

Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA077

CHICAGO (May 27, 2003) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 will hold an information session about its planned cleanup of the Boerke Landfill site in Oak Creek, Wis., at 7 p.m., Thursday, May 29 at the Oak Creek City Hall Common Council Chambers, 8640 S. Howell Ave.

The 50-acre site contains an area that was contaminated by the disposal of arsenic-containing materials. Cleanup work, including excavation, will begin in several weeks and continue through the fall.

For more information or special needs or accommodations at the meeting, contact EPA Community Involvement Coordinator Rafael P. Gonzalez, (800) 621-8431 ext. 60269, or e-mailgonzalez.rafaelp@epa.gov.

###

EPA Settles with Fleming Companies for
Chemical Release Violations; Includes
\$90,000 Fine

CONTACT:

Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050

Ruth McNamara, (312) 353-3193

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA076

CHICAGO (May 27, 2003) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has settled an administrative complaint with Fleming Companies Inc. for violation of federal laws on the reporting of a hazardous chemical release. The company will be assessed a \$90,000 civil penalty and agree to complete additional compliance activities. The penalty will be included as a claim by EPA in Fleming's pending bankruptcy proceeding.

In its complaint, EPA alleged that on August 15, 2000, at about 6:30 p.m., Fleming's food distribution facility at 3501 Marshall St. 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.

In addition to the fine, Fleming must also complete an emergency preparedness drill and provide evidence to EPA to demonstrate safeguards are in place to prevent future late submissions of appropriate chemical inventory forms and record-keeping.

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.

#

**MEDIA ADVISORY: EPA Administrator
Whitman to Kick off Joint Fuel Cell
Initiative with DaimlerChrysler and UPS**

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

Cathy Milbourn, (202) 564-7824; cell (202) 309-9448

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA074

CHICAGO (May 15, 2003)

WHAT: EPA, DaimlerChrysler and United Parcel Service will collaborate this year to put several package delivery vehicles powered by zero-emissions hydrogen fuel cells into commercial service in Michigan. The project will be the first real-world test of medium-duty trucks powered by fuel cells in America.

WHO: EPA Administrator Christie Whitman, DaimlerChrysler Board Member Dieter Zetsche and UPS Chief Operating Officer Tom Wiedemeyer will jointly announce the unique government-industry initiative. Sen. Carl Levin, Rep. John Dingell and Gov. Jennifer Granholm are also scheduled to speak at the event.

WHEN: Monday, May 19, at 8 a.m.

WHERE: EPA's National Vehicle and Fuel Emissions Laboratory, 2565 Plymouth Road, Ann Arbor, Mich. From Downtown Detroit: Take I-96 west to M-14. Continue on M-14 to the US-23 south exit (Exit 8). Exit onto US-23 south. Within 1/4 mile, take the Plymouth Road exit (Exit 41). Turn right (west) on Plymouth Road. The NVFEL lab building is located about one mile west of US-23 on the north side of Plymouth Road. There is a large sign in front. Visitor's parking is on the left side of the entrance driveway. The NVFEL office building is located on Traverwood Drive, just west of the lab. From Detroit Metropolitan Airport: Take I-94 west about 20 miles to US-23 (Exit 180). Exit onto US-23 north (toward Flint). Follow US-23 north about five miles to the Plymouth Road exit (Exit 41). Turn left (west) on Plymouth Road. The NVFEL lab building is located about one mile west of US-23 on the north side of Plymouth Road.

###

EPA Selects Greater Blue Earth Watershed
to Receive \$800,000 Grant

CONTACT:

Jeff Kelley, (312) 353-1159

Karen Thompson, (312) 353-8547

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA073

CHICAGO (May 15, 2003) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 Administrator Tom Skinner was in Mankato, Minn., today to deliver an \$800,000 check to protect the Greater Blue Earth watershed. On hand to accept the grant was Denny Cole, chairman of the Three Rivers Resource Conservation and Development Council.

“The Three Rivers Council was chosen to receive this grant because they demonstrated the ability to achieve on-the-ground environmental results in a short time,” Skinner said. “They showed that they are innovative, and that they can cultivate productive partnerships. Of course, the real winners are the Greater Blue Earth Watershed and the people of Minnesota.”

Three Rivers RC&D was recently selected as one of 20 grant recipients in EPA’s new Watershed Initiative. A total of \$15 million will go to watershed organizations to fund restoration and protection projects. Three Rivers RC&D will use its grant for several projects, including:

- restoring several wetlands larger than 30 acres,
- providing nutrient crop insurance for farmers using the recommended amounts of fertilizer, and
- installing 300 acres of grass or tree buffers along lakes, streams, wetlands and ditches.

EPA Administrator Christie Whitman announced the new initiative at a January 2002 event in the Twin Cities: “Watershed management is based upon the same principles as all of our work at the EPA – a cooperative spirit and a commitment to results,” said Whitman. “No one understands the need for this kind of approach better than Minnesotans – with more than 10,000 lakes the entire state could be considered a watershed.”

The Greater Blue Earth watershed is in south-central Minnesota and north-central Iowa. It includes portions of Blue Earth, Brown, Cottonwood, Faribault, Freeborn, Jackson, Le Sueur, Martin, Steele, Waseca and Watonwan counties in Minnesota, and Emmett, Kossuth and Winnebago counties in Iowa. The watershed drains into the Minnesota River watershed.

###

EPA Recognizes Wisconsin Green Power

Purchasers

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

Julie Magee, (312) 886-6063

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA071

CHICAGO (May 13, 2003) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency today honored 18 Wisconsin organizations that are buying green power — electricity generated by renewable energy sources.

“Forward-thinking Wisconsin organizations are demonstrating environmental leadership by buying green power,” said EPA Region 5 Administrator Tom Skinner. “Their efforts will lead to meaningful reductions in air pollution.”

EPA recognized the following Wisconsin organizations for their commitment to green power: Affiliated Engineers/Corporate Headquarters, Madison; Alterra Coffee Roasters, Milwaukee; Community Pharmacy Cooperative, Madison; Dimension-IV, Green Bay; Energy Center of Wisconsin, Madison; Hooper Construction, Madison; Monsanto/Agracetus Campus, Middletown; Mother Fool’s Coffeehouse, Madison; Mother Nature’s Diaper Service, Madison; Office of James M. Fico, Ph.D., Waupaca; Orchids by the Ackers, Waunakee; Outpost Natural Foods, Milwaukee; Renewaire, Madison; Schlitz Audubon Nature Center, Milwaukee; State Environmental Resource Center, Madison; Strang, Madison; University of Wisconsin - Oshkosh/Main Campus, Oshkosh; and Vandewalle & Associates, Madison.

The organizations were honored for joining the Green Power Partnership, a new EPA voluntary program working to standardize purchase of green power as part of best practice environmental management. The partnership provides technical assistance and public recognition to organizations that commit to using green power for a portion of their electricity needs. The partnership now has over 130 partners, including Fortune 500 companies, states, federal agencies and universities.

Wisconsin partners in the Green Power Partnership have made a combined total commitment to buying 750 million kilowatt hours of green power annually. If generated by conventional means, the emissions associated with that much electricity would include over 1 billion pounds of carbon dioxide. That is roughly the amount of carbon dioxide absorbed annually by 140,000 acres of forest, or the annual emissions of about 90,000 cars.

Examples of green power sources are solar, wind, water, geothermal, biomass (combustion of organic materials) and biogas (combustion of naturally produced methane).

The organizations were honored at an awards luncheon that was part of the Wisconsin Green Power Procurement Workshop held at Marquette University, Milwaukee, and organized by the non-profit Center for Resource Solutions.

Additional information about the Green Power Partnership is available at www.epa.gov/greenpower.

###

EPA Cites Six Companies for Clean-air

Violations

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA070

CHICAGO (May 13, 2003) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has

notified six companies and a public school district that it believes they violated federal or federally enforceable state clean-air regulations.

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

“EPA’s mission is to protect public health and the environment,” said Region 5 Administrator Thomas V. Skinner. “We will take whatever steps are needed to ensure compliance with the Clean Air Act.”

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

COMPANIES RECEIVING FOVs

A. Finkl and Sons Co.

2011 Southport Ave.

Chicago, Ill.

EPA alleges A. Finkl and Sons had multiple violations of federal clean-air regulations at its steel-forging plant electric arc furnaces. These include failure to comply with requirements for notifying, testing, inspecting, monitoring, recordkeeping and emissions control.

Detroit Public Schools

Department of Physical Facilities and Capital Improvement

5057 Woodward Ave.

Detroit, Mich. and Adamo Demolition Co.

300 E. Seven Mile Road

Detroit, Mich.

EPA alleges Detroit Public Schools and Adamo Demolition Co. violated federal asbestos regulations when an apartment building at 92 Peterboro St., Detroit, was demolished. EPA said they failed to comply with inspection, notification and removal regulations.

Southwest General Health Center

18697 Bagley Road

Middleburg Heights, Ohio

EPA alleges that Southwest General Health Center violated, and continues to violate, the federal dioxin/furan emission standard at its medical waste incinerator.

Montgomery Aggregate Products

7151 S. M-129

Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.

EPA alleges that Montgomery Aggregate Products failed to comply with federal new source performance standards at its nonmetallic mineral processing plant at 3239 Radar Road, Sault St. Marie. Specifically, the company did not notify the state of the dates of construction and startup of certain affected facilities at the plant. In addition, EPA alleges the company failed to complete timely performance tests on the affected facilities.

Chicago Hilton and Towers

720 S. Michigan Ave.

Chicago, Ill.

EPA alleges that Chicago Hilton and Towers failed to comply with federal stratospheric ozone standards at the company's hotel at 720 S. Michigan Ave. The standards require repair, retrofitting or retirement of leaking comfort cooling refrigeration equipment.

Carmeuse Lime Inc.

South Chicago Plant

3245 E. 103rd St.

Chicago, Ill.

EPA alleges that Carmeuse Lime did not properly operate and maintain equipment at its lime manufacturing plant. This caused fugitive dust emissions in violation of EPA regulations. In addition, the plant violated federal limits on opacity, or the amount of light obscured by dust emissions.

COMPANIES RECEIVING NOVs

A. Finkl and Sons Co.

2011 Southport Ave.

Chicago, Ill.

EPA alleges that A. Finkl and Sons violated state clean-air regulations by failing to get a construction permit before installing replacement transformers for its electric arc furnaces and by failing to get an operating permit for the furnaces after the transformers were replaced.

Montgomery Aggregate Products

7151 S. M-129

Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.

EPA alleges Montgomery Aggregate Products violated state clean-air regulations at its sand and gravel plant, 3371 S. Radar Road, Sault Ste. Marie, by failing to get a state permit to install before it built and operated the plant.

Carmeuse Lime Inc.

South Chicago Plant

3245 E. 103rd St.

Chicago, Ill.

EPA alleges that Carmeuse Lime violated state air pollution rules by allowing the discharge of contaminants into the air which tended to cause air pollution. These allegations are based on numerous citizen complaints and an EPA inspection.

###

EPA: St. Louis Area Now Meets One-Hour

Smog Standard

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA069

CHICAGO (May 12, 2003) -- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has ruled that the St. Louis area now meets the health-based, one-hour ozone (smog) standard.

The EPA action, published in today's Federal Register, includes separate rulemakings for the Illinois and Missouri portions of the metropolitan area. EPA's finding that both states have met all requirements for the redesignation is based on the most recent three years (2000-2002) of ozone data for the entire St. Louis area.

"While the two states' efforts to attain the one-hour standard is a significant accomplishment, it is only one milestone on the road to achieving cleaner air in the St. Louis area," said EPA Region 5 Administrator Thomas V. Skinner.

"Implementation of the new eight-hour ozone and fine particulates standards is just beginning and lays before both states. To achieve all air quality standards, additional emission reductions will likely be necessary."

The final rulemaking exempts major sources of nitrogen oxides in Madison, Monroe and St. Clair counties in Illinois from the need to meet certain additional emission controls. This exemption does not apply to the Missouri portion of the area.

It also removes existing requirements for Illinois and Missouri to complete new air quality plans and emission control regulations stemming from a Nov. 25, 2002, decision of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 7th Circuit ordering EPA to reclassify the St. Louis area to a serious ozone nonattainment area.

In addition to Madison, Monroe and St. Clair counties in Illinois, the St. Louis area includes Franklin, Jefferson, St. Charles and St. Louis counties and St. Louis City in Missouri. The area was designated as nonattainment for the health-based one-hour ozone standard in 1978. In 1991, the area was classified as a "moderate" nonattainment area.

Ozone can cause a variety of respiratory problems, including coughing, shortness of breath and chest pain. People with asthma, children and the elderly are especially at risk.

#

Proposed Ellsworth Industrial Park Public
Water Supply Agreement Available for
Review; Meetings May 12

CONTACT:

(EPA) Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050
(EPA) Mike Joyce, (312) 353-5546
(Illinois EPA), Maggie Carson, (217) 557-8138
(Illinois AG), Scott Mulford, (217) 524-4173

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA065

CHICAGO (May 9, 2003) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5, Illinois EPA, and the Illinois Attorney General said today that the proposed draft administrative order on consent for the Ellsworth Industrial Park ground water contamination site in Downers Grove, Ill., is now available for review both locally and online.

The government agencies will also host a pair of open house availability sessions to discuss the proposed agreement Monday, May 12, from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 to 8:30 p.m., at the Downers Grove Public Works Building, 5101 Walnut Ave. The review period ends May 16.

In February 2003, the government agencies and a group of potentially responsible parties from the industrial park started drafting a voluntary agreement to provide funding of up to \$4.275 million to the Village of Downers Grove to pay most of the costs of making public water supply connections for about 800 homes which may be affected by the ground water contamination. The proposed agreement aims for the water connections to begin this summer. The draft agreement remains subject to revision if the government agencies determine that concerns and issues raised during the review period could and should be addressed in the settlement. The potentially responsible parties will not sign the settlement until the review process ends and they also complete a companion funding agreement document signed by the village of Downers Grove, DuPage County and the DuPage Water Commission.

The contamination was identified through a series of Illinois EPA sampling projects beginning in May 2001. The contaminants of concern, trichloroethylene and tetrachloroethylene, commonly known as TCE and PCE, are degreasing solvents used widely by industry.

The proposed draft administrative order on consent is available for review at the Downers Grove Public Library, 1050 Curtiss St., Downers Grove Village Hall, 801 Burlington Ave., and at www.epa.gov/region5/sites/ellsworth. To submit written comments or for more information, e-mail EPA attorney Tom Krueger at krueger.thomas@epa.gov.

###

EPA, MPCA Meeting on St. Louis River
Superfund Site; 5-year Review, May 15,
6:30 P.M.

CONTACT:

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

(MPCA) Anne Moore, (218) 723-2356

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA068

CHICAGO (May 9, 2003) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 and Minnesota Pollution Control Agency will hold an informational meeting to discuss the beginning of the five-year review process for the St. Louis River Superfund site in Duluth, Minn. The meeting will be Thursday, May 15, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., at the Morgan Park Good Fellowship Community Center, 1302 88th Ave. W., Duluth.

The Superfund law requires reviews at least every five years to determine whether completed cleanup projects continue to protect human health and the environment.

The St. Louis River Superfund site includes the U.S. Steel Duluth Works facility in Morgan Park and the Interlake Duluth Tar facility. A record of decision (ROD) was signed in February 1989 that addressed 16 contaminated areas at the U.S. Steel Duluth facility. Contaminated soil was either removed and sent to a landfill or contained in place and monitored at the facility. A second ROD was signed in September 1990 that called for tar deposits at the Interlake facility to be excavated and sent to a landfill. A third ROD was signed in September 1995 that called for contaminated soils at the Interlake facility to be excavated and removed. The five-year review will focus on current conditions at all 18 areas.

P.M.

Site documents are on file at the West Branch of the Duluth Public Library, 5830 Grand Ave. For more information about the five-year review or special needs or accommodations at the May 15 meeting, contact MPCA public information officer Anne Moore, (800) 657-3864.

###

EPA Reaches Agreement with Formel

Industries

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA067

CHICAGO (May 8, 2003) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has reached an agreement with Formel Industries Inc. on alleged clean-air violations at the company's printing plant, 2355 N. 25th Ave., Franklin Park, Ill. EPA assessed a \$14,644 penalty, and the company agreed to do an environmental project costing at least \$494,000.

The agreement resolves an EPA complaint alleging that Formel uses inks in its printing process that exceed state standards for volatile organic compound content.

"As its environmental project, Formel has installed a thermal oxidizer to destroy VOCs," said EPA Regional Administrator Thomas V. Skinner. "This will cut smog levels and protect the health of all of us living in the Chicago area."

Purchase and installation of the thermal oxidizer cost Formel \$344,000. The company has agreed to operate it for at least 15 years at a cost of \$10,000 per year. If, for any reason, the company decides not to use its thermal oxidizer, it will have to use inks that comply with state standards.

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.

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.

###

EPA Reaches Agreement with Bretford

Manufacturing

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA064

CHICAGO (May 6, 2003) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has reached an agreement with Bretford Manufacturing Inc. on alleged clean-air violations at the company's wood product manufacturing plant, 11000 Seymour Ave., Franklin Park, Ill. EPA assessed a \$30,000 penalty and the company agreed to do two environmental projects costing \$31,000.

For its environmental projects, the company will replace solvent-based coatings with ultra-violet coatings in the laminate line and will use water-based adhesives instead of solvent-based adhesives when it makes pinboards and whiteboards.

"These projects will protect public health and the environment by significantly reducing Bretford's volatile organic compound emissions," said EPA Region 5 Administrator Thomas V. Skinner. "We are pleased that the company has agreed to take this action."

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 filed in September 2002 alleging Bretford used two topcoats and a sealer in its wood furniture coating lines that exceeded the state limit on volatile organic compound content.

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.

###

EPA Settles with Research Organics on
Hazardous Waste Charges; Includes
\$42,000 Fine and Environmental Project

CONTACT:

MEDIA CONTACT: Kären Thompson, (312) 353-8547

TECHNICAL CONTACT: Michael Cunningham, (312) 886-4464

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA063

CHICAGO (May 2, 2003)— U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has settled with Research Organics Inc. for alleged hazardous waste violations at its Cuyahoga Heights, Ohio, facility.

The company, located at 4353 E. 49th St., was cited for failing to get a storage tank certified, monitor equipment for leaks, keep inspection records and properly label a used oil container.

The specialty biochemical manufacturer will pay a \$42,000 fine and implement an environmental project. Research Organics will install two new tanks for on-site storage of solvents at a cost of not less than \$106,800. Those tanks will be used for at least two years to recycle alcohol waste as a food source for microbes that treat waste water.

Under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, EPA regulates the management and disposal of hazardous waste from production to final disposal.

###

EPA Reaches Agreement with Kent State

University

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA062

CHICAGO (May 2, 2003) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has reached an agreement with Kent State University in Kent, Ohio, on alleged clean-air violations at the university's Terrace Drive heating plant. EPA assessed a \$50,000 penalty, and the company agreed to do a \$499,200 environmental project.

"Kent State has agreed to set aside 39 acres of its land in perpetuity for land conservation and wetland preservation," said EPA Region 5 Administrator Thomas V. Skinner. "We're very pleased that the university has agreed to this project."

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 a complaint filed in September 2002 alleging Kent State failed to comply with state limitations on particulate matter and opacity — the amount of light obscured by particulate, or smoke, emissions from the plant. In addition, the university allegedly operated its boilers without operating permits, and violated state testing and monitoring and regulations.

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

#

EPA Proposes Two Ohio Sites for Superfund List

CONTACT:

Karen Thompson, (312) 353-8547

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA061

CHICAGO (May 1, 2003) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has proposed adding the Armco Hamilton plant in New Miami, Ohio, and the Peters Cartridge factory in Kings Mills, Ohio, to the Superfund National Priorities List of hazardous waste sites. If the sites are officially put on the list at a later date, they will be eligible for further investigation and cleanup under the federal Superfund program.

The proposed listing published in the Federal Register on Wednesday, April 30, triggers a 60-day public comment period. If the sites are placed on the National Priorities List, EPA will finish extensive studies on the areas, consider cleanup options and then conduct the cleanup. The Superfund law allows EPA to identify parties responsible for the pollution.

More Superfund information is on EPA's Web site at www.epa.gov/superfund/about.htm

About the sites

ARMCO

The 120-acre Armco site at 401 Augspurgen Road in the New Miami section of Hamilton produced coke and iron from 1937 until 1991. The area is contaminated with metals, hydrocarbons, PCBs and other chemicals. EPA discovered a waste lagoon and landfill on the site were not lined or equipped with any kind of system to collect seeping water, raising the potential for hazardous chemicals to move into underground drinking water supplies. The site is located a half-mile from municipal water wells. Contaminated sediments were also found in a small stream that drains into the nearby Great Miami River. Polluted sludge and slag had also been dumped along the railroad tracks that run through the property. AK Steel Corp. took ownership of the grounds in 1994, and under a legal agreement with EPA has been conducting an environmental investigation at the site.

PETERS CARTRIDGE

The 10-acre Peters Cartridge site at 1915 Grandin Road in Kings Mills was the location of an ammunition factory from the World War I years to 1944. A factory there made munitions for the military as well as Remington brand rifle and shotgun shells. From 1944, the site was occupied by a number of diverse industries until the 1990s, including a producer of vinyl phonograph records, a distillery warehouse and a manufacturer of eyeglass lenses and frames. Testing revealed the ground was contaminated with lead, zinc and hazardous organic compounds.

In 1993, the site was paved to prevent direct contact with lead-contaminated soil. Ohio EPA also cleaned up a Freon concentration several years ago. EPA is negotiating with several parties that may be responsible for the pollution, including DuPont and the U.S. Army and Navy. A company called Landmark Renaissance Associates now owns the property, which borders a former U.S. military ordnance plant. An adjacent state nature conservatory called the Little Miami Scenic Trail is also involved because tests indicated the pollution may have moved onto that property. EPA said the nearby Little Miami River, which holds a National Scenic River designation, is also threatened by contamination from the site.

#

MEDIA ADVISORY: Results of Last Summer's Research on Lake Erie "Dead Zone" to Highlight the Lake Erie Millenium Meeting in Windsor, May 6-7

CONTACT:

Karen Thompson, (312) 353-8547

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA060

WHO: Researchers from EPA's Great Lakes National Program Office (GLNPO), Environment Canada, other binational agencies, universities, states and provinces.

WHAT: Will report on initial results of field work during last summer's portion of the Lake Erie Supplemental Study.

WHERE: University of Windsor, Windsor, Ontario, Canada.

WHEN: Lake Erie study results from 9 a.m. to noon, Tuesday, May 6. Agenda for the entire Lake Erie Millenium Network conference is attached.

The troubling trend in Lake Erie, supported by several years of monitoring data, resulted in a "meeting of the minds" in December 2001, when scientists presented findings and recommendations. By mid-summer 2002, some 40 researchers from U.S. and Canadian agencies and 17 universities, states and provinces began conducting a two-year study of Lake Erie. The \$2 million project is being funded primarily by GLNPO. At this 2003 conference, scientists will talk about what they have found so far. Is it zebra mussels? Another non-native species? What about climate changes linked to global warming? Are sewage treatment plants dumping more phosphorous? Come and find out.

###

Second Phase of Lead Testing Begins in
Krainzwood; Sampling Begins at Master
Metals Site

CONTACT:

COMMUNITY CONTACT: Dave Novak, (313) 368-2871

MEDIA CONTACT: Karen Thompson, (312) 353-8547

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA059

CHICAGO (April 24, 2003) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 began the second phase of its lead screening project Wednesday, April 23, in Detroit's Krainzwood neighborhood.

EPA teams are canvassing the area seeking written access agreements from residents and property owners of the 166 individual properties scheduled to be sampled. City- and state-owned parcels, including Sojourner Truth Housing Complex, Atkinson Elementary School and a park adjoining the school, are also being tested.

The sampling and analysis should take about five weeks. EPA will hold another public meeting to announce the results at that time.

In a related matter, EPA has begun taking soil samples at the former Master Metals lead smelter site, 4740 E. Nevada St. Construction equipment and mobile offices will arrive May 5 in preparation for the cleanup of lead-contaminated soil at the site.

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality will demolish the old Master Metals office, with funding from the Clean Michigan Initiative, before the soil removal is completed. Work is expected to be finished by late summer, at which time the empty lot will be refilled with clean soil.

#

EPA, Corps of Engineers Announce
Selection of Waukegan Revitalization
Project

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

Rafael Gonzalez, (312) 886-0269

Mike Joyce, (312) 353-5546

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA057

CHICAGO (April 22, 2003) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announced today at a lakefront Earth Day ceremony that a Waukegan, Ill., revitalization project has been selected as an environmental justice demonstration project.

The Waukegan Cleanup and Revitalization project is one of 15 projects selected nationwide for the program. Selection for this project officially designates Waukegan as an environmental justice community which provides national recognition and exposure, greater access to resources and status as a model for future projects.

“The focus on Earth Day has always been on what people can do in their own communities ... the action is always at the local level,” said EPA Region 5 Administrator Tom Skinner. “This designation means that it will now be easier for Waukegan to qualify for federal help. In essence, they’re getting a ‘leg up’ on other cities.”

“We are pleased to be part of this program to help revitalize downtown Waukegan,” said Col. Mark Roncoli, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers district engineer. “We’re looking forward to working with the community to clean up and maintain Waukegan Harbor.”

Over the last decade, attention to the impact of environmental pollution on particular segments of society has been growing. Concern that minority and low-income populations bear a disproportionate amount of adverse health and environmental effects led to issuance of a 1994 executive order focusing federal agency attention on these issues. EPA responded by developing an environmental justice strategy which focuses on the agency’s efforts to address these concerns.

Using 2000 census data, the city of Waukegan qualifies as an environmental justice community due to the city’s high percentage of low-income residents and its high percentage of minority residents. The census showed that Waukegan’s population is 44.8 percent Hispanic and 19.2 percent African-American.

Waukegan has the highest increase in poverty rates in Lake County, rising to 13.9 percent in 1999 from 9.5 percent in 1989.

Project partners are the United Latino Coalition of Lake County, the city of Waukegan, the Waukegan Harbor Citizens Advisory Group, EPA and the Corps of Engineers. They have been working to ensure that all Waukegan communities can participate and share in the benefits of the revitalization process.

#

La EPA y el Cuerpo de Ingenieros
anunciaron la selección del proyecto de
revitalización en Waukegan

CONTACT:

Rafael Gonzalez, (312) 886-0269

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA057e

CHICAGO (22 de abril de 2003) – La Región 5 de la Agencia de Protección Ambiental de los Estados Unidos (EPA, por sus siglas en inglés) y el Cuerpo de Ingenieros del Ejército de los Estados Unidos anunciaron hoy en una ceremonia del Día del Planeta Tierra frente al lago que el proyecto de revitalización de Waukegan, Illinois ha sido seleccionado como un proyecto de ejemplar de justicia ambiental.

El proyecto de revitalización y limpieza de Waukegan es uno de los 15 proyectos seleccionados a nivel nacional para el programa. Por medio de la selección de dicho proyecto, se designa oficialmente a Waukegan como una comunidad de justicia ambiental. Dicha designación brinda un reconocimiento y exposición nacional que, a su vez, brinda mayor acceso a los recursos y al status como un modelo para futuros proyectos.

"La celebración del Día del Planeta Tierra siempre se ha centrado en lo que la gente puede hacer en sus comunidades...la acción siempre ha sido a nivel local", declaró el administrador de la Región 5 de la EPA Tom Skinner. "Esta designación federal significa que ahora es más fácil para Waukegan cualificar para la asistencia federal. En esencia, ellos ahora tienen una ventaja sobre otras ciudades".

"Nos complace ser parte de este programa para ayudar a revitalizar el centro urbano de Waukegan," declaró el Coronel Mark Roncoli, ingeniero del distrito del Cuerpo de Ingenieros del Ejército de los Estados Unidos. "Esperamos trabajar estrechamente con la comunidad en la limpieza y el mantenimiento de la Bahía Waukegan".

A lo largo de la pasada década, ha habido una creciente atención al impacto de la contaminación ambiental en ciertos segmentos de la sociedad. La preocupación de que las poblaciones minoritarias y de bajos ingresos llevan una carga desproporcionada de los efectos adversos a la salud y el medio ambiente ha conducido a la emisión de la orden ejecutiva de 1994 que dictó a las agencias federales a que prestaran atención especial sobre dichos asuntos. La EPA respondió al elaborar una estrategia de justicia ambiental que se centra en los esfuerzos de la agencia para atender dichas preocupaciones.

Utilizando la data del Censo del 2000, la ciudad de Waukegan cualifica como una comunidad de justicia ambiental debido al alto porcentaje de residentes de bajos ingresos y de residentes minoritarios en dicha ciudad. Como evidencian las estadísticas demográficas del Censo del 2000, el 44.8 por ciento de la población de Waukegan es de origen hispano y el 19.2 por ciento de origen africano-americano. Waukegan tiene las tasas más altas de pobreza en el Condado Lake. La tasa de pobreza subió a 13.9 por ciento en 1999 del 8.5 por ciento en 1989.

Los socios del proyecto son la Coalición Unida Latina del Condado Lake (United Latino Coalition of Lake County), la ciudad de Waukegan, el Grupo Consultativo Ciudadano de la Bahía de Waukegan (Waukegan Harbor Citizens Advisory Group), la Agencia de Protección Ambiental de los Estados Unidos (EPA, por sus siglas en inglés), y el Cuerpo de Ingenieros del Ejército de los Estados Unidos. Ellos han estado trabajando para garantizar que todas las comunidades de Waukegan puedan participar en y compartir los beneficios del progreso de revitalización.

#

EPA to Hold Public Meeting April 23 on
Revised Himco Dump Cleanup Plan

CONTACT:

Stuart Hill, (312) 886-0689

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA058

CHICAGO (Apr. 21, 2003) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 will hold a public meeting on the proposed revised cleanup plan for the Himco Superfund site from 7 to 9 p.m., Wednesday, April 23, in the city council chambers, 2nd floor, municipal building, 229 S. Second St., Elkhart, Ind. The meeting will feature formal presentations from EPA and the Indiana Department of Environmental Management, time for public comments and a question-and -answer forum.

For special needs or accommodations, please contact community involvement coordinator Stuart Hill, 312-886-0689.

#

MEDIA ADVISORY: EPA Assistant
Administrator to Promote National Land
Reuse Plan; Expand Brownfields
Concepts to All Cleanups

CONTACT:

Karen Thompson, (312) 353-8547

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA056

WHO: Marianne Lamont Horinko, EPA assistant administrator for solid waste
and emergency response.

WHAT: Will speak to business leaders about a new Land Revitalization Agenda,
a plan to integrate land redevelopment into all EPA cleanup programs at the
beginning of the process, review policies and practices for liability issues and
leverage federal cleanup grants.

WHERE: Union League Club, 65 W. Jackson Blvd., Chicago, Ill. (West Jackson
between Clark and Dearborn). Dress code does not allow blue jeans.

WHEN: Tuesday, April 22. Media availability 10:30. Lunch and speech noon to 2
p.m.

CHICAGO (April 16, 2003) -- The Land Revitalization Agenda demonstrates the
economic, social and environmental advantages of land reuse. The initiative
helps federal, state and local governments work together to put formerly polluted
property back into use in a way that benefits the entire community. Horinko will
showcase some of the Chicago area's most successful revitalization efforts. EPA
estimates there are more than 1,310 potential reuse sites (under Superfund,
underground storage tank hazardous waste, Resource Conservation and
Recovery Act and Brownfields cleanup programs) in the Chicago/Northwest
Indiana region.

#

Note to Correspondents: EPA, Corps of Engineers to Announce Selection of Waukegan Project on Earth Day

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

Rafael Gonzalez, (312) 886-0269

Mike Joyce, (312) 353-5546

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA054

CHICAGO (April 16, 2003)

What: Ceremony to announce the selection of the Waukegan Cleanup and Revitalization project as an environmental justice revitalization project. A media availability will follow immediately.

When: 1 p.m. Tuesday, April 22, 2003 (Earth Day)

Who: EPA Region 5 Administrator Tom Skinner, Corps District Engineer Col. Mark Roncoli, Waukegan Mayor Richard Hyde, United Latino Coalition of Lake County President Rosa Reyes Prosen and Waukegan Harbor Citizens Advisory Group Chair Susie Schreiber.

Where: Bandshell, 310 Seahorse Drive, Waukegan, Ill., near Waukegan Water Department. A map with directions is available.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will announce at an Earth Day lakefront ceremony that a Waukegan, Ill. revitalization project has been selected as an environmental justice demonstration project.

The Waukegan Cleanup and Revitalization project is one of 15 projects selected nationwide for the program. Selection for this project officially designates Waukegan as an environmental justice community. Project partners are the United Latino Coalition of Lake County, the city of Waukegan, the Waukegan Harbor Citizens Advisory Group, EPA and the Corps of Engineers.

###

EPA Cites Ventura Foods for Chemical Reporting Violations; Proposes \$51,568

Fine

CONTACT:

Mike Rogers, (312) 353-2102

Ruth McNamara, (312) 353-3193

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA055

CHICAGO (Apr. 16, 2003) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has filed an administrative complaint against Ventura Foods LLC, of Albert Lea, Minn., for failure to maintain required hazardous chemical storage records. EPA has proposed a \$51,568 fine.

EPA's allegations are based on a May 29, 2002, self-disclosure by Ventura, a subsidiary of Wilsey Foods.

In its complaint, EPA cited Ventura for late submission of required emergency and hazardous chemical inventory forms to the Minnesota Emergency Response Commission and the Albert Lea Fire Department. The required forms for two stored chemicals, 1,000 pounds of sulfuric acid and 10,000 pounds of fuel oil, were for 1998 and 1999, and were submitted 210 days after the deadline. Ventura was also cited for failing to disclose on-site storage of 8,600 pounds of ammonia in its report for 2000.

###

Milltown Man Reaches Agreement with
EPA; Will Restore Wetlands along Bone
Lake, Pay \$40,000 Fine

CONTACT:

Phillippa Cannon, (312) 353-6218

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA053

CHICAGO (Apr. 15, 2003) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has reached agreement with Anthony Forster, Milltown, Wis., on alleged wetlands violations. Forster will pay a \$40,000 penalty and restore a buffer strip of wetlands along Bone Lake in Milltown. In addition, he will make a payment to a private wetland mitigation bank in the St. Croix River watershed. Last December, EPA reached agreement with Roadway Surfacing Inc., Balsam Lake, Wis., a contractor for Forster, for the same violations. The company has paid a \$8,000 fine.

In April 2002, EPA issued an amended administrative complaint to Forster and Roadway Surfacing alleging that, without first obtaining the necessary permits, they filled in an acre of forested wetland next to Bone Lake with soil and stones for a dock and to allow boat access to the lake.

“A significant part of the economy in northern Wisconsin is dependent on natural resources. That is why it is particularly important to preserve forested wetlands in the north woods,” said EPA regional Water Division Director Jo-Lynn Traub. Wetlands include marshes, swamps, bogs and similar areas between water and dry land. They are among the most environmentally beneficial areas in the nation, harboring unique soils and plants that provide food and habitat for fish and wildlife. They also provide erosion and flood control as well as recreation. Under the Clean Water Act, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers must issue a permit before any waters of the United States, including wetlands, are filled. EPA is authorized to order restoration of illegally filled wetlands and to assess administrative penalties of up to \$137,500.

###

Cleanup to Start next Week on Solvay

Coke Site

CONTACT:

Karen Thompson, (312) 353-8547

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA052

CHICAGO (Apr. 14, 2003) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5

has reached an agreement with three responsible parties that will begin the

cleanup of the former Milwaukee Solvay Coke & Gas Co. facility, 311 E.

Greenfield Ave., Milwaukee, next week.

The cleanup agreement reached between EPA and Cliffs Mining Co., Wisconsin

Wrecking Co. and Water Street Holdings LLP covers removal of:

- asbestos inside and outside buildings;
- more than 30 coal tar-containing above ground storage tanks; and
- drums and containers of hazardous waste.

The cleanup will be conducted by contractors with oversight from EPA,

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR), and the City of

Milwaukee and is expected to be completed in October 2003. Deteriorated

buildings on the northern half of the site will also be decontaminated and

demolished.

EPA's action does not include cleanup of soil, sediment or ground water beneath

the surface of the property. These cleanup activities would be coordinated by the

WDNR.

For health-related questions about the cleanup, citizens may call the City of

Milwaukee Health Department at (414) 286-3606.

About the Site

The former Milwaukee Solvay Coke & Gas Co. plant sits on a 46-acre industrial

site bordered by Greenfield Avenue, railroad tracks and the Kinnickinnic River. It

began operating in the early 1900s to create coke and gas. Coke is a substance

made from coal to fuel foundries and steel mills. The facility closed in the early

1980's.

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 Whitman Kicks off New
National Smoke-Free Homes Media
Campaign in Cleveland

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA051

CHICAGO (April 11, 2003) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Christie Whitman, Cleveland Mayor Jane Campbell and partner organizations today launched new national and local campaigns urging parents to make their homes smoke-free to protect their children's health.

Cleveland-area news media were given an exclusive preview of television and radio public service announcements called "My Mom's My Hero," asking parents to take a pledge not to smoke in their homes. The event was at 10:30 a.m., at MetroHealth Medical Center, 2500 MetroHealth Drive.

"EPA selected Cleveland for launching our new national media campaign because it is a leader among cities across the country that are protecting their children from secondhand smoke with city-wide initiatives," said Whitman.

Whitman said one way parents and caregivers can protect children from secondhand smoke is to simply choose not to smoke, and not let others smoke, in their homes or anywhere children are present.

During the next week, local nonprofit organizations will be setting up smoke-free-home booths throughout the Cleveland area to give parents more information and to ask them to take a pledge to protect their children by not smoking at home.

Every day, millions of children are exposed to secondhand smoke in their homes. This leads to serious health consequences, including bronchitis, pneumonia, ear infections, asthma and sudden infant death syndrome.

The new public service campaign was created by EPA, the Consumer Federation of America Foundation and the American Medical Association. Public service announcements will be sent to all television and radio stations nationwide later this month.

Whitman rode to the MetroHealth Medical Center event with Tremont Elementary School children aboard a school bus retrofitted to reduce air pollution. An EPA grant paid to initiate a Cleveland retrofit program to install filters that remove toxic pollutants from school bus exhausts. Earlier this week, Whitman announced the Clean School Bus USA program, a new national partnership to minimize pollution from school buses.

#

Tests Near Master Metals Show Low Lead Levels; Sampling Area Expanded

CONTACT:

COMMUNITY CONTACT: Dave Novak, (313) 368-2871

MEDIA CONTACT: Karen Thompson, (312) 353-8547

TECHNICAL CONTACT: James Justice, (734) 692-7687

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA050

CHICAGO (April 10, 2003) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 informed Krainzwood neighborhood residents last night that most of the 70 soil samples taken in the area surrounding the Detroit Master Metals property in March did not show high levels of lead or other heavy metals.

EPA is testing soil to determine if chemicals from the former smelting plant caused contamination in the neighborhood. Master Metals operated as a lead smelter at 4740 E. Nevada St. from 1955-1983

According to EPA On-Scene Coordinator James Justice, "Only a few of the original samples warrant a closer look." EPA will return to several properties beginning the week of April 21 to get clearance to do additional sampling. A second phase of testing will include areas approximately a quarter mile downwind of the Master Metals site.

While the testing is taking place, lead-contaminated soil and concrete will be removed from the property under an order from EPA to the companies considered responsible for the contamination. The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality will demolish the remaining buildings on the site.

EPA and its partners the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, Michigan departments of Environmental Quality and Community Health, Wayne County Department of the Environment, and City of Detroit departments of Environmental Affairs and Health met with the community Wednesday evening. EPA and its partners will continue to work with the Krainzwood community through a local office at 17825 Ryan Road, Detroit. A representative will be on call at the office between 1 and 3 p.m., Monday through Friday or call (313) 368-2871.

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.

###

Testing and Cleanup Has Begun at Former

Dump Site

CONTACT:

Bri Bill, (312)353-6646

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA048

CHICAGO (Apr. 8, 2003) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has begun an investigation and cleanup of the former Mosaic Tile dump site in Zanesville, Ohio.

With oversight from EPA, contractors for Collins & Aikman Corp., and Marmon LLC, are collecting soil samples from the site, digging up and appropriately disposing of tile waste and contaminated soil, and restoring the now-empty lots.

The two companies are considered responsible for the contamination.

The site has two sections, both located south of Pershing Road between Benjamin Avenue and Woody Lane. Local and Ohio EPA officials are also being consulted.

About the Site

The 5 to 6-acre Mosaic Tile Plant Dump site, in Springfield Township near Zanesville, was used by Mosaic Tile Co. in the 1960s to dispose of waste tile, glaze material and solid waste. The company closed the plant in about 1967.

At the time, it was common practice to use lead as a base material in the ceramic glazing process. Investigations by Ohio EPA beginning in 1991 confirmed the presence of high levels of lead in the soil and higher than normal levels in the air over the site. To control blowing lead-contaminated soil, property owners covered the site with asphalt and vegetation in 1993. The site is now fenced and has been under EPA oversight since last summer.

#

EPA Completes \$6 Million St. Clair Shores

Cleanup

CONTACT:

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

(EPA) Jim Augustyn, (440) 250-1742

(St. Clair Shores), Mary Jane Brunell, (586) 447-3414

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA047

CHICAGO (April 8, 2003) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has completed a \$6 million PCB-contaminated sediment cleanup of the St. Clair Shores, Mich., Ten Mile Drain storm sewer system, northeast of Detroit. The year-long project involved the excavation and safe disposal of more than 23,000 tons of contaminated sediment from the storm sewer system and two canals that flow behind area homes.

“We made this a high-priority cleanup,” said Region 5 Administrator Tom Skinner. “We moved as quickly as possible and put in some extra hours to get the job done for the people of St. Clair Shores. We’ve removed all the highly contaminated sediment from the storm sewer system and cleaned up all the high-concentration PCB sediment in the canals. To get a project like this done in a year is a great accomplishment.”

Skinner said the support of elected officials and concerned citizens was crucial to the speed of the cleanup.

EPA began its St. Clair Shores emergency assessment in early March 2002 at the request of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. Unexpectedly high PCB levels were discovered during routine sediment sampling in preparation for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ planned Macomb County-sponsored dredging project on the two canals. EPA’s emergency assessment was completed in June 2002 and involved analysis of more than 300 sediment, air, water and soil samples.

The EPA-funded cleanup began July 29. An EPA Superfund emergency response team oversaw the removal of all contaminated sediment from a roughly mile-long stretch of the underground storm sewer system as well as a 1,600-foot-long area in the two canals. EPA contractors worked 12 to 14-hour days and six day weeks and completed the cleanup on March 21. The highest-concentration PCB materials were sent to Wayne Disposal in Belleville, Mich. The lower-concentration, non-hazardous, materials were sent to a landfill in Lenox, Mich. In addition, about two million gallons of contaminated water was pumped out, treated and returned to Lake St. Clair. Contaminated water from the Wahby Park Pond was also treated, and the pond was refilled with city water. With the cleanup work now complete, a four- to six-week restoration effort has begun. EPA contractors will repair damaged sea walls, replace concrete and asphalt parking lots and restore landscaping damaged as a result of the cleanup.

About PCB’s

Polychlorinated biphenyls 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 U.S. Congress banned the manufacture of new PCBs in 1976 and PCBs still in use are strictly regulated.

#

EPA to Update Community on Lead
Screening Project

CONTACT:

Dave Novak, (312) 886-7478

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA046

CHICAGO (Apr. 4, 2003) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 and its state, city and county partners will host an informational neighborhood meeting from 7 to 9 p.m., Wednesday, April 9, in the Atkinson Elementary School auditorium, 5900 Hilldale St., Detroit.

Since late March, EPA and its partners have been in the Krainzwood community as part of the Detroit Lead Deposition Screening Project to sample yards to assess potential airborne lead contamination from the Master Metals Superfund site at 4740 East Nevada St. At the upcoming meeting, residents will be updated on the project past and future and on the status of the Master Metals cleanup.

EPA has an office at 17825 Ryan Road that will be open from 1 to 3 p.m.

Monday through Friday. Questions and concerns can be recorded at (313) 368-2871 or by contacting EPA Community Involvement Coordinator Dave Novak (312) 886-7478, toll free at (800) 621-8431 or by e-mail novak.dave@epa.gov.

###

EPA Holds Second Hearing on Proposed
Land Ban Exemption for EDS Wells

CONTACT:

CONTACT: Phillippa Cannon, (312) 353-6218

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA045

CHICAGO (April 3, 2003) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 will hold a second hearing April 21 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.

Prior to the hearing, EPA staff will be available from 5:45 p.m. until 6:45 p.m. to meet with attendees individually. The public hearing will be held from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m. Oral and written comments on the proposed exemption will be accepted. A court reporter will record all comments. All comments previously submitted remain part of the official record.

Written comments must be postmarked or dated by May 16, 2003, and sent to Sally Swanson, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (WU-16J), 77 West Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL 60604-3590. They may be e-mailed to swanson.sally@epa.gov.

The draft decision is posted on EPA's Web site www.epa.gov/region5/water/uic/pubpdf/factsheet.pdf. It is also available for review at the following libraries: Eshelman Library, Henry Ford Community College, 501 Evergreen, Dearborn; Romulus Public Library, 11121 Wayne Road; and Taylor Community Library, 12303 Pardee Road.

#

EPA Cites ISG Indiana Harbor for Clean-

Air Violations

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA044

CHICAGO (April 2, 2003) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has cited ISG Indiana Harbor Inc. for alleged clean-air violations at the company's steel pickling plant, 3001 Dickey Road, East Chicago, Ind.

EPA alleges the ISG Indiana Harbor plant had hydrochloric acid emissions from its pickling line stack four times greater than EPA regulations allow. Pickling removes rust from the surface of steel.

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

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

Hydrochloric acid is a hazardous air pollutant. It is corrosive to the eyes, skin and mucous membranes and can affect the respiratory and digestive tracts.

###

Final Cleanup Begins at Master Metals Site

CONTACT:

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

(Cleveland Dept. Econ. Dev.) Kevin Schmotzer, (216) 664-3720

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA043

CHICAGO (March 24, 2003) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 said today that the final phase of cleanup at the former Master Metals Inc. facility in Cleveland's industrial flats area will begin next week. Residences and businesses near the 4-acre site at 2850 West Third St., near LTV Steel, can expect to see construction vehicles and workers in protective equipment beginning in late March through early May.

A group of 48 companies that EPA considers legally responsible at the former lead smelter will perform the estimated \$500,000 cleanup under EPA and Ohio EPA oversight.

The cleanup will be performed under an agreement called an administrative order on consent. Under this agreement the companies will:

- Clear vegetation and demolish concrete walls. Concrete slab that is in good shape will remain. The former office building and historic railroad roundhouse will also be left in place.
- Excavate soil not covered by concrete, including the soil outside the fence that has lead higher than EPA standards for industrial areas. The remaining contaminated soil will be treated and disposed of off-site at an EPA-approved facility.
- The site's excavated soil will be replaced with clean fill and seeded topsoil. Four inches of asphalt will cover a part of the southern portion. A new fence will also be installed.

The work will complete a 1997 limited-scope cleanup in which EPA oversaw the excavation, demolition and safe disposal of contaminated buildings, debris and machinery at the site and cleanup of a residential yard in the 1100 block of Holmden Avenue. Following this final cleanup, in summer 2003, the site will be redeveloped as the new home of Northern Ohio Lumber and Timber Co.

NOLTCO has received grants and loans from the state of Ohio and the city of Cleveland's Department of Economic Development to assist in the redevelopment of the property.

Separately, a 100-year-old railroad roundhouse on the site will be restored as a railroad museum by a non-profit group.

The agreement includes a \$62,760 reimbursement to EPA for costs incurred in limited-scope cleanup actions and staff time. The responsible companies also have agreed to reimburse EPA for future oversight costs.

The smelter was operated by NL Industries from 1933 to 1979, when it was sold to Master Metals. Ohio EPA shut down the facility in 1993 following a number of air quality and other violations. The formal site area also included the yard on Holmden Avenue., where lead-contaminated material was deposited as fill in 1987. The contaminated soil was removed, treated and stockpiled at the Master Metals facility, awaiting ultimate disposal. Clean soil was deposited, and new landscaping was completed in 1998.

Site documents are on file at the Cleveland Public Library, Jefferson Branch, 850 Jefferson Ave.

In a completely unrelated matter, EPA Region 5 is also currently involved in the cleanup of another site called Master Metals in Detroit.

#

EPA Recognizes Genmar Holdings for
Clean Air Excellence

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA042

CHICAGO (March 21, 2003) — Genmar Holdings Inc. of Little Falls, Minn., is among 21 winners nationwide of U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's 2002 Clean Air Excellence Awards. The award was presented March 20 in Washington, D.C.

Genmar was honored in the clean air technology category for developing an automated, computer-monitored process used in its fiberglass molding of boat hulls. The Virtual Engineered Composites, or VECTM, system is a closed-molding technique that emits less styrene into the atmosphere and creates a stronger fiberglass reinforced plastic than the open-molding process. The system can also be applied to non-marine industries. Fiberglass manufacturing represents a significant source of styrene emissions in the United States.

"From Kentucky to Colorado, and across the nation, these award winners are using innovative approaches to help make our nation's air cleaner," said EPA Administrator Christie Whitman. "I am proud to honor these pioneering individuals and organizations for using creative ideas, showing once again, that government and industry working together can achieve a healthy environment without sacrificing economic growth. The winners of the Clean Air Excellence Awards are real-life examples of how one person – or one organization – taking steps to reduce pollution can make our air cleaner."

EPA's Clean Air Excellence Awards, established three years ago at the recommendation of the national Clean Air Act Advisory Committee, annually recognize and honor outstanding, innovative efforts that help achieve cleaner air. More information is at www.epa.gov/air/caaac/2002awar.html.

###

EPA Recognizes Sisters, Servants of the
Immaculate Heart of Mary for Clean Air
Excellence

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA041

CHICAGO (March 21, 2003) — Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, in Monroe, Mich., are among 21 winners nationwide of U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's 2002 Clean Air Excellence Awards. The award was presented March 20, in Washington, D.C.

The Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, were honored in the community development and re-development category. The order began a "green building" renovation of a large institutional structure on its Monroe campus as part of its long-range master plan. The renovation uses comprehensive and sustainable design practices including passive energy systems, renewable energy sources, water-use reductions, habitat restoration, wetlands construction and the use of recyclable materials. The green renovation of the mother house balances the needs of the occupants with environmental concerns.

"From Kentucky to Colorado, and across the nation, these award winners are using innovative approaches to help make our nation's air cleaner," said EPA Administrator Christie Whitman. "I am proud to honor these pioneering individuals and organizations for using creative ideas, showing once again, that government and industry working together can achieve a healthy environment without sacrificing economic growth. The winners of the Clean Air Excellence Awards are real-life examples of how one person – or one organization – taking steps to reduce pollution can make our air cleaner."

EPA's Clean Air Excellence Awards, established three years ago at the recommendation of the national Clean Air Act Advisory Committee, annually recognize and honor outstanding, innovative efforts that help achieve cleaner air. More information is at www.epa.gov/air/caac/2002awar.html.

#

EPA Recognizes Illinois EPA, Partners for Clean Air and Chicago Department of Environment for Clean Air Excellence

CONTACT:

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

(Illinois EPA) Dennis McMurray, (217) 785-1871

(Chicago DOE) Heidi Kooi, (312) 744-5716

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA040

CHICAGO (March 21, 2003) -- The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, Partners for Clean Air and City of Chicago Department of Environment, are among 21 winners nationwide of U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's 2002 Clean Air Excellence Awards. The awards were presented March 20 in Washington, D.C.

Illinois EPA and Partners for Clean Air were honored in the education and outreach category for their "Green Pays on Green Days" program, an educational initiative they co-sponsor that calls on individuals to reduce air pollution in the Chicago metropolitan area.

Individuals that participate in the program take a pledge to take one or more "Green Actions." These include such steps as taking public transportation, using lower-polluting paints and conserving energy. Those who make this commitment are eligible to receive an environmentally friendly Green Day prize package supplied by participating sponsors on Green Days, when the air quality forecast is good. These environmentally friendly products encourage citizens to purchase and use these products in the future.

Ground-level ozone, or smog, is created primarily during the summer months when pollutants such as vehicle exhaust and fumes from paints, aerosols and fuels mix with sun and air. Outreach for this program includes a Web site, www.cleantheair.org, radio advertisements and billboards that encourage all citizens to sign the "Clean Air Pledge" to take at least one green action to reduce ozone. The City of Chicago Department Environment was honored in the regulator and policy innovations category for developing its Industrial Energy Efficiency Program to help the most energy-and waste-intensive industries in Chicago become more efficient.

Each year the Department of Environment works with a selected industry to improve energy use, pollution prevention and economic development. It offers companies within the selected industry an energy and pollution assessment funded by the city. The program also includes a revolving loan program tied to renewable energy goals.

"From Kentucky to Colorado, and across the nation, these award winners are using innovative approaches to help make our nation's air cleaner," said EPA Administrator Christie Whitman. "I am proud to honor these pioneering individuals and organizations for using creative ideas, showing once again, that government and industry working together can achieve a healthy environment without sacrificing economic growth. The winners of the Clean Air Excellence Awards are real-life examples of how one person--or one organization--taking steps to reduce pollution can make our air cleaner."

EPA's Clean Air Excellence Awards, established three years ago at the recommendation of the national Clean Air Act Advisory Committee, annually recognize and honor outstanding, innovative efforts that help achieve cleaner air. More information is at www.epa.gov/air/caaac/2002awar.html.

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EPA Recognizes Wisconsin Department of
Natural Resources for Clean Air Excellence

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA039

CHICAGO (March 21, 2003) — Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources is among 21 winners nationwide of U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's 2002 Clean Air Excellence Awards. The award was presented March 20 in Washington, D.C.

Wisconsin DNR was honored in the education and outreach category for developing the "Easy Breathers" program to educate teens about simple and inexpensive transportation choices they can make to reduce air pollution. The program recognizes that driving behavior and purchasing habits develop during the adolescent years.

The program includes an educational video and an interactive Web site, www.easybreathers.org, both created by students in partnership with Wisconsin DNR and a multimedia firm. The result is a program that speaks to teenagers in their own language while conveying the science of mobile-source air pollution.

"From Kentucky to Colorado, and across the nation, these award winners are using innovative approaches to help make our nation's air cleaner," said EPA Administrator Christie Whitman. "I am proud to honor these pioneering individuals and organizations for using creative ideas, showing once again, that government and industry working together can achieve a healthy environment without sacrificing economic growth. The winners of the Clean Air Excellence Awards are real-life examples of how one person – or one organization – taking steps to reduce pollution can make our air cleaner."

EPA's Clean Air Excellence Awards, established three years ago at the recommendation of the national Clean Air Act Advisory Committee, annually recognize and honor outstanding, innovative efforts that help achieve cleaner air. More information is at www.epa.gov/air/caaac/2002awar.html.

###

EPA Changes Cleanup Plan for West KL
Avenue Landfill; Creates Water Service
Zone

CONTACT:

Dave Novak, (312) 886-7478

Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA038

CHICAGO (March 21, 2003) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 announces a change to the cleanup plan for the West KL Avenue Landfill Superfund site in Kalamazoo, Mich. The action formalizes a proposed change introduced at a public meeting held Oct. 2, 2002, at Oshtemo Township Hall.

The cleanup plan change is contained in a document called a record of decision amendment. To ensure the community has a source of drinking water that will not be affected by contaminated ground water, the amendment creates a new municipal water service zone where all properties will be hooked-up to Kalamazoo's municipal water system. All but 84 homes have already been connected to the system. The service zone is bounded roughly by KL Avenue to the south, West Main Street to the north, Second Street to the west and the landfill to the east.

The amendment also requires that institutional controls be placed on the area to prevent the drilling of private wells. It allows continued use of existing uncontaminated wells for irrigation and lawn watering only.

The rest of the 1992 remedy for the main landfill area, including a ground water pump-and-treat system and a landfill cap, remains unchanged.

About the Site

The 87-acre site, at the intersection of West KL Avenue and Fourth Street, 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 soil landfill cap. In 1982, it was placed on the Superfund National Priorities List. EPA selected a cleanup plan in 1990.

For more information about the site, contact community involvement coordinator Dave Novak, (800) 621-8431, ext. 67478 or e-mail novak.dave@epa.gov. Site documents are on file at the Oshtemo Branch of the Kalamazoo Public Library, 7265 W. Main St.

#

EPA, Environment Canada: Persistent
Pollutants in Great Lakes are Down

CONTACT:

Jack Saunders

Communications Advisor - Media Relations

Environment Canada, Ontario Region

(416) 739-4785

Phillippa Cannon

Office of Public Affairs

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

(312) 353-6218

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA037

CHICAGO (Mar. 21, 2003) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Environment Canada announced today that levels of the most critical, persistent pollutants around the Great Lakes including mercury, dioxin, benzo(a)pyrene, and hexachlorobenzene continued to go down in 2002. According to the agencies' 2002 Great Lakes Binational Toxics Strategy Progress Report, these reductions are part of a downward trend in toxic substances in the Great Lakes over the last 15 years.

Since 1988, mercury emissions in Ontario have gone down 78 percent. On the U.S. side, mercury releases have been reduced by 40 percent since 1990. There was a similar substantial reduction in dioxin releases on both sides of the border since the late 1980s, 92 percent in the United States and 79 percent in Canada. Since 1990, hexachlorobenzene emissions went down 75 percent in the United States and 65 percent in Canada and benzo(a)pyrene went down 48 percent in Canada and 25 percent in the United States.

Success in reducing these pollutants has been due to a combination of stronger regulations and voluntary actions. Some of the voluntary projects undertaken in 2002 were:

- Industry phase-out of the use of PCBs. Participating companies included Algoma Steel in Canada and Ford Motor Co. in the United States;
- The "Burn-it-Smart!" campaign in Ontario which promotes cleaner wood-burning technologies, helping to reduce emissions of benzo (a) pyrene; and
- The Burn Barrel and Household Garbage campaign which educates the public that burning garbage is a source of dioxin and promotes clean alternatives to this common practice.

"The ultimate goal of the Great Lakes Binational Toxics Strategy remains the virtual elimination of persistent toxic substances into the Great Lakes basin and I am pleased at the tremendous progress made so far," said John Mills, regional director general of Environment Canada's Ontario Region. "Attention now turns to the next five years and the additional progress we can make toward virtual elimination."

"The focus of this strategy is on pollution prevention and voluntary efforts," said U.S. EPA Great Lakes National Program Manager and Regional Administrator Thomas Skinner. "The key to success is working in partnership with industry and improving public awareness. We need more innovative programs that offer incentives for those who emphasize pollution reduction."

The Great Lakes Binational Toxics Strategy is an agreement between Canada and the United States to reduce or eliminate persistent, bioaccumulative toxic substances from the the Great Lakes basin. Environment Canada, EPA, tribes, First Nations and other government, public and private partners work together toward that goal. 2002 marks the halfway point in the 10-year timeline of the strategy, which was established in 1997.

Level 1, or priority, substances identified by the strategy are mercury, PCBs,

dioxins/furans, hexachlorobenzene, benzo(a)pyrene, octachlorostyrene, alkyl
lead, aldrin, dieldrin, mirex, chlordane, toxaphene and DDT.

The report is available at www.binational.net/bns/2002

###

EPA Cites Dixon-Marquette Cement for
Clean-air Violations

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA035

CHICAGO (March 20, 2003) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has cited Dixon-Marquette Cement Inc. for alleged clean-air violations at the company's portland cement plant, 1914 White Oak Lane, Dixon, Ill.

EPA alleges Dixon-Marquette made a major modification at its plant, which caused an increase in smoke, dust and sulfur dioxide emissions, without getting a permit to prevent significant deterioration of air quality.

Other alleged violations include failure to get construction and operating permits, failure to apply best available technology to control smoke, dust and sulfur dioxide emissions and failure to meet other permit requirements.

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

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

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

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

###

EPA Cites Centralia Well Company and Operator and Proposes \$107,817 Fine

CONTACT:

Phillippa Cannon, (312) 353-6218

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA036

CHICAGO (Mar. 18, 2003) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has issued an administrative complaint against Rocky Well Service Inc. of Centralia, Ill., and Edward J. Klockenkemper. EPA has proposed a fine of \$107,817 for alleged violations of the underground-injection-control regulations of the Safe Drinking Water Act.

The alleged violations are related to the operation of six underground injection wells in Clinton, Effingham, Jefferson and Wayne counties in Illinois. The wells are used for the disposal of fluids from oil and gas production. Rocky Well Service holds the well permits and Klockenkemper conducts the day-to-day operations.

Underground-injection-control regulations are designed to assure that underground injection fluids do not endanger drinking water. EPA alleges that the company and Klockenkemper failed to test the mechanical integrity of the wells every five years and failed to submit annual reports as required by federal and state regulations. Prior to the administrative complaint, Rocky Well Service was notified by the state and EPA of the alleged permit violations. The original complaint was recently amended to include Klockenkemper as operator of the wells.

About Rocky Well Service Inc.

Rocky Well Service Inc. is a corporation registered in Nevada and licensed to do business in Illinois. Edward J. Klockenkemper serves as the president, secretary, treasurer and agent for the company and conducts its day-to-day business. The State of Illinois had issued permits to the company allowing it to place injection fluid (salt water and water) into the injection wells.

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. EPA Region 5 includes six Great Lakes states: Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin.

###

EPA Settles with Chem-Plate on
Hazardous Waste Violations

CONTACT:

Karen Thompson (312) 353-8547

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA034

CHICAGO (Mar. 14, 2003) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has reached a settlement with Chem-Plate Industries Inc., Elk Grove Village, Ill., on alleged hazardous waste violations.

A May 14, 2002, EPA inspection revealed that Chem-Plate failed to properly identify and manage hazardous waste at its facility.

Under the settlement, Chem-Plate will pay a \$31,000 penalty and certify it is in compliance with hazardous waste regulations. Chem-Plate will also perform a supplemental environmental project that requires installation of new treatment systems to reduce the amount of hazardous waste it generates. The estimated cost of the project is \$108,000.

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

About Chem-Plate Industries Inc.

Chem-Plate applies zinc and chrome plating and heat treating to metal parts at its facility located at 1990 East Devon, Elk Grove Village, 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

###

Master Metals Yard Samples Sent to Lab
for Analysis; Krainzwood Office to Re-
open in Late March

CONTACT:

Dave Novak, (312) 886-7478

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA033

CHICAGO (March 12, 2003) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 said today it has completed the first phase of soil sample collection from residential yards near the former Master Metals site in Detroit's Krainzwood neighborhood. The samples are being analyzed at commercial laboratories with initial results expected in late March.

From March 3 to 7, EPA on-scene coordinators and contractors collected about 70 soil samples in an effort to establish a "footprint" pattern of airborne lead-contamination. Sample points were based on computer modeling of the likely smokestack plumes from the former lead smelter at 4700 E. Nevada St. The smelter closed in 1983. Along with lead-content analysis, EPA is evaluating the samples for other heavy metals that may have been deposited in the area over the years.

The initial neighborhood sampling results and site cleanup status will be discussed at a public meeting, April 9, at 7 p.m. in the Atkinson Elementary School auditorium, 4900 E. Hilldale.

"The Krainzwood community has been very supportive of EPA's closer look at contamination in the neighborhood near the Master Metals site," said Regional Administrator Tom Skinner. "The involvement of community leaders, the schools, the Detroit Police Department's 11th District office, and area residents has really helped the project go smoothly."

While the results are analyzed to determine next steps, EPA has scaled back hours for the storefront office established at 17825 Ryan Road. The office will return to a regular schedule in late March or early April. In the interim, messages left on the site office voice mail, (313) 368-2871, will be checked regularly and returned promptly. EPA staff will continue to attend neighborhood meetings over the next few weeks.

EPA will consult with state and local agencies on the results of the Master Metals lead-soil sampling, including the Michigan Departments of Environmental Quality and Community Health, the Detroit Environmental Affairs and Health departments, and the Wayne County Department of Environment.

Separately, the final phase of cleanup at the former Master Metals facility is expected to begin in early April. The cleanup will be performed by contractors hired by the responsible parties. EPA will oversee the work under the terms of a unilateral administrative order announced on February 6.

More information about the Master Metals site is at epa.gov/region5/sites/detroitlead

###

EPA Cites Kellogg for Hazardous
Chemical Release Reporting Violations;
Proposes \$43,829 Fine

CONTACT:

Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050

James Entzminger, (312) 886-4062

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA032

CHICAGO (March 11, 2003) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has filed an administrative complaint against the Kellogg Co.'s distribution facility at 1675 Fairview Road, in Zanesville, Ohio, for violation of federal laws on the reporting of a hazardous chemical release. EPA has proposed a \$43,829 fine.

EPA alleges that on Aug. 28, 2002, at 5:45 p.m., a rooftop refrigeration system pressure relief valve released about 820 pounds of anhydrous ammonia.

Federal laws require facilities to immediately notify the National Response Center, state and local authorities about any anhydrous ammonia release larger than 100 pounds. In this case, Kellogg reported the incident to the National Response Center, and the state and local emergency response agencies between 8 and 8:15 p.m., more than two hours after the hazardous chemical release.

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.

###

EPA Cites U.S. Steel for Clean-Air

Violations

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA031

CHICAGO (March 10, 2003) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has cited United States Steel Corp. for alleged clean-air violations at the company's Gary Works, 1 N. Broadway, Gary, Ind.

EPA alleges U.S. Steel modified two hot-metal desulfurization units without getting required permits and lowest-achievable emission rates, increasing sulfur dioxide emissions in an area that does not meet air quality standards. In addition, it failed to obtain required sulfur dioxide reductions from other air-pollution sources to offset its increased sulfur dioxide emissions.

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

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

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

#

EPA Cites Illinois Cement for Clean-air

Violations

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA030

CHICAGO (March 7, 2003) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has cited Illinois Cement Co. for alleged clean-air violations at the company's portland cement plant, 1601 Rockwell Road, LaSalle, Ill.

EPA alleges Illinois Cement modified its cement kiln, which caused an increase in sulfur dioxide emissions, without getting a permit to prevent significant deterioration of air quality. Before existing air-pollutant sources can be modified in areas that comply with all national outdoor air-quality standards, companies must get permits that restrict their emissions.

Other alleged violations include failure to use best available technology for control of sulfur dioxide emissions, failure to give permitting authorities all relevant information and failure to get construction and operating permits.

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

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

Exposure to sulfur dioxide can impair breathing, aggravate existing respiratory

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EPA Cites Central Soya for Clean-Air

Violations

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA029

CHICAGO (March 6, 2003) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has cited Central Soya Co. Inc. for alleged clean-air violations at the company's soybean processing plant, Routes 47 and 9, Gibson City, Ill.

EPA alleges Central Soya expanded its plant and increased volatile organic compound emissions without getting a permit to prevent significant deterioration of air quality. Before existing air-pollutant sources can be modified in areas that comply with all national outdoor air-quality standards, companies must get permits that restrict their emissions.

In addition, the company allegedly failed to give permitting authorities all relevant information and to comply with the requirements of its existing permit.

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

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

Volatile organic compounds contribute to the formation of ground-level ozone, or smog. Smog is formed when a mixture of air pollutants is baked in the hot summer sun. Smog can cause a variety of respiratory problems, including coughing, wheezing, shortness of breath and chest pain.

One of the VOC's emitted by the Central Soya plant is n-hexane, a hazardous air pollutant that can affect the central nervous system.

###

EPA Settles with Chemtron on Hazardous

Waste Violations

CONTACT:

Karen Thompson, (312) 353-8547

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA028

CHICAGO (Mar. 5, 2003) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has reached agreement with Chemtron Corp. for alleged hazardous waste violations at its Avon, Ohio, facility. The company will pay a \$101,707 penalty.

The complaint was filed in September 2001 against Chemtron, located at 35850 Schneider Court. EPA said the company violated Resource Conservation Recovery Act rules governing the monitoring and marking of equipment that detects pollutants and prevents them from leaking into the air. Chemtron will notify EPA when it achieves compliance with the 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.

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

###

EPA Reaches Agreement with 3M

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA027

CHICAGO (March 5, 2003) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has reached an agreement with 3M Co. on alleged clean-air violations at the company's specialty tape manufacturing plant, 751 Mendota Ave., St. Paul, Minn. EPA assessed a \$16,170 penalty, and the company agreed to do a \$62,225 environmental project.

"3M has agreed to help a local school district with a retrofit program to control diesel emissions from its buses," said EPA Region 5 Administrator Thomas V. Skinner. "We're very pleased, this project will do a lot to protect the health of schoolchildren."

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 a complaint filed at the same time alleging 3M failed to comply with federal regulations designed to protect stratospheric ozone.

Specifically, EPA alleged the company failed to properly control chlorofluorocarbon leaks at an industrial process refrigerant unit.

#

EPA Signs Agreements for Cedar Creek
Site; Comprehensive Cleanup Study
Begins

CONTACT:

Susan Pastor, (312) 353-1325

Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA026

CHICAGO (March 5, 2003) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has recently signed agreements with Mercury Marine and Amcast Industrial Corp., the companies responsible for contamination at the Cedar Creek site in Cedarburg, Wis.

Under the agreements, the companies will summarize past site investigations and plan additional sampling for summer 2003. They will also evaluate human health and ecosystem risks, and develop a list of cleanup options. After reviewing the research, EPA will evaluate the cleanup options and decide which one to implement.

The Cedar Creek site includes the former Mercury Marine/Kiekhaefer's Plant 2 property at W66 N598 Madison Ave., the Amcast Plant at N39 W5789 Hamilton Road and areas impacted by contamination from these sites in Cedarburg. Most of the contamination is in the two ponds on Cedar Creek and the stream from Ruck Pond Dam 4.6 miles downstream to the Milwaukee River, as well as the Ruck Pond Raceway and a nearby storm sewer, and the former Hamilton Dam Raceway.

Mercury Marine, a boat engine manufacturer that operated a now-closed aluminum die-casting plant, used PCB-containing fluids and discharged them to the creek, which flows into the Milwaukee River. Automotive industry supplier Amcast, which also discharged waste fluids to the creek, also had aluminum die-casting operations.

Mercury Marine and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources have been studying the site and conducting cleanup projects in Cedarburg since 1984. Significantly, WDNR has conducted extensive fish tissue and sediment sampling over the years and Mercury Marine removed contaminated sediment at Ruck Pond in 1996. The most recent cleanup effort – removal of contaminated soil and sediment on the banks of the former Hamilton Pond – was completed in 2001.

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 U.S. banned the manufacture of new PCBs in 1976 and PCBs still in use are strictly regulated.

###

EPA Cites 14 Companies for Clean-air

Violations

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA025

CHICAGO (February 25, 2003) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has notified 14 companies 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 Region 5 Administrator Thomas V. Skinner. “We will take whatever steps are needed to ensure compliance with the Clean Air Act.”

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

COMPANIES RECEIVING FOVs

Stora Enso North America Corp.

Niagara Mill

1101 Mill St.

Niagara, Wis.

EPA alleges Stora Enso has violated federal new source performance standards at its pulp and paper mill. Specifically, Stora Enso exceeded emission standards for sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides and particulate matter (dust, ash, smoke). In addition, EPA alleges the company failed to conduct the required compliance monitoring and failed to perform the required record keeping and reporting.

3M - Specialty Tape

751 Mendota Ave.

St. Paul, Minn.

EPA alleges 3M - Specialty Tape failed to comply with federal regulations designed to protect stratospheric ozone at its tape manufacturing plant.

Specifically, EPA alleges the company failed to properly control chlorofluorocarbon leaks at an industrial process refrigerant unit.

Superior Aluminum Alloys LLC

14214 Edgerton Rd.

New Haven, Ind.

EPA alleges Superior violated the Clean Air Act by failing to comply with an EPA request for information. The company also failed to comply with testing, planning, inspection, notification and record keeping requirements.

Lone Star Industries Inc.

3301 S. Country Rd. 150 W.

Greencastle, Ind.

Lone Star allegedly violated federal rules at both a nonmetallic mineral processing plant and a hazardous waste treatment facility it operates in Greencastle. EPA alleges Lone Star failed to properly operate air pollution control devices on a conveyor and crusher at the mineral processing facility. For the waste facility that treats, stores and disposes of hazardous wastes from chemical plants, coke by-product recovery plants and petroleum refineries, EPA alleges Lone Star violated federal hazardous air pollutant control regulations by failing to properly operate its benzene emission control devices. The company is also charged with failing to submit to EPA complete annual reports on the total amount of benzene accepted at the waste facility.

Barrett Paving Materials Inc.

3835 Centennial Ave.

Sylvania, Ohio

EPA alleges Barrett violated federal new source performance standards for nonmetallic mineral processing plants. Specifically, the company failed to notify the city of Toledo that it intended to install and replace crushers and conveyors and failed to conduct initial performance tests on affected facilities at its plant.

CEMEX (Southdown)

16000 Bells Bay Rd.

Charlevoix, Mich.

EPA alleges CEMEX violated federal new source performance standards for portland cement plants by not properly maintaining or operating their air pollution control devices and exceeding limits on opacity, or the amount of light obscured by particulates.

Rose Acre Farms

Seymour, Ind.

EPA alleges Rose Acre Farms violated federal regulations by failing to apply in a timely manner for a Title V permit required by the Clean Air Act for its soybean processing plant. The company also allegedly installed additional production equipment without the proper permits.

Cosmed of Illinois

1160 Northpoint Blvd.

Waukegan, Ill.

EPA alleges Cosmed of Illinois violated federal clean-air regulations by failing to reduce ethylene oxide emissions from its sterilization facility.

Wallace Press

4600 W. Roosevelt Rd.

Hillside, Ill.

EPA alleges Wallace Press violated the Clean Air Act when it did not comply with requests for information about emissions and operations at a commercial printing plant. Specifically, Wallace Press failed to submit operational data, process data, control device data, facility operations data, and failed to determine all stack gas velocities as required by an information request issued August 14, 2002.

COMPANIES RECEIVING NOVs

Stora Enso North America Corp.

Niagara Mill

1101 Mill St.

Niagara, Wis.

EPA alleges Stora Enso made major modifications at its pulp and paper mill without first getting a 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.

Webcrafters Inc.

5487 N. Bluebill Park Dr.

Waukegan, Wis.

EPA alleges Webcrafters violated its state operating permit by failing to adequately control volatile organic compound emissions from two of its printing presses.

Wallace Press

4600 W. Roosevelt Rd.

Hillside, Ill.

EPA alleges Wallace Press violated state air pollution control regulations by failing to adequately control volatile organic materials emissions from its

commercial printing plant.

Trelleborg Wheel System Americas Inc.

61 State Rte. 43 N.

Hartville, Ohio

EPA alleges Trelleborg violated state air pollution control regulations by failing to control volatile organic compound emissions from three rim preparation lines at its industrial tire manufacturing plant.

Barrett Paving Materials Inc.

3835 Centennial Ave.

Sylvania, Ohio

EPA alleges Barrett violated state air pollution control regulations by failing to obtain permits to install and operate a diesel generator.

Rose Acre Farms

Seymour, Ind.

EPA alleges Rose Acre Farms violated state air pollution control regulations when it installed additional equipment and operated its soybean processing plant without the required permits.

Aluminum Casting & Engineering Co. Inc.

2039 S. Lenox St.

Milwaukee, Wis.

EPA alleges the company violated state air regulations at its aluminum casting foundry by adding equipment without first obtaining the proper permits. In addition, the company allegedly failed to meet emission limits on volatile organic compounds released from the plant.

Cosmed of Illinois

1160 Northpoint Blvd.

Waukegan, Ill.

EPA alleges Cosmed of Illinois violated state clean-air regulations by operating its ethylene oxide sterilization facility without a permit since Nov. 6, 2001.

Smurfit Stone Flexible Packaging

1228 E. Tower Rd.

Schaumburg, Ill.

EPA alleges Smurfit violated state clean-air regulations by exceeding limits on the amount of volatile organic material emitted by an incinerator at a printing plant. The excessive emissions were found through a stack test requested by EPA.

American Electric Power

Ohio Power Co.

Gavin Power Plant

Cheshire, Ohio

EPA alleges AEP violated state clean-air regulations by exceeding limits on opacity by visible emission observations and by an opacity monitor. Opacity is the degree to which light passing through the plume is diminished in intensity.

###

Media Advisory: Valleycrest Landfill Site

Tour, Feb. 25, 1 P.M.

CONTACT:

Rafael P. Gonzalez, (312) 886-0269

Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA024

CHICAGO (Feb. 21, 2003) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 will host a media tour of the Valleycrest Landfill Superfund site in Dayton, Ohio, from 1 to 3 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 25. The tour starts promptly and will take about an hour. A media availability will follow the tour.

Media, and state and local officials, will have an opportunity to see completed cleanup areas and portions of the site with work in progress. A public meeting to update the community on the cleanup status will be held Tuesday night at 7 p.m. at the Stebbins High School cafeteria, 1900 Harshman Road.

Site tour participants should be prepared for muddy, cold and windy conditions and be aware that certain areas of the site will not be accessible due to safety concerns.

Pre-registration by media is recommended but not required. Seats on the touring vehicles will be filled on a first-come basis. Media likely to attend should call Rafael P. Gonzalez, (312) 886-0269, or Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050.

Tour participants should meet at the site command post at 950 Brandt Pike.

###

Meetings on St. Regis Paper Superfund

Site Feb. 26; 1 P.M. and 7 P.M.

CONTACT:

Don de Blasio, (312) 886-4360

Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA023

CHICAGO (Feb. 20, 2003) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 will hold an availability session and a public meeting regarding the St. Regis Paper Co. Superfund site on Wednesday, Feb. 26, at the Jack Kimball Post 284 American Legion Hall, 217 Second St. NW, in Cass Lake, Minn.

The availability session, where community members can meet one-on-one with government representatives, will be 1 to 4 p.m. The public meeting, which will feature a formal presentation and question-and-answer forum, will be from 7 to 9 p.m.

Potential environmental and health impacts from the site will be discussed at both meetings. Joining EPA will be representatives from state and local health agencies and the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe.

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

###

EPA, Ford Agree to Resolve Hazardous
Waste Violations at 14 Assembly Plants

CONTACT:

Karen Thompson, (312)353-8547

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA022

CHICAGO (Feb. 18, 2003) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has settled an administrative complaint against Ford Motor Co. for alleged hazardous waste violations at 14 U.S. auto assembly plants. A \$244,000 penalty will be paid and Ford will bring all of its plants into compliance with EPA requirements.

The complaint was initially issued by EPA Region 5 under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act to the Ford facility in Avon, Ohio. Region 5 also added Ford painting and waste storage systems in Chicago, St. Paul, Minn., Dearborn, Wixom and Wayne (two facilities), Mich., to the complaint. EPA Regions 2, 3, 4 and 7 joined in the agreement that involves Ford plants in Hapeville, Ga.; Edison, N.J.; Claycomo and Hazelwood, Mo.; Louisville, Ky. (two facilities); and Norfolk, Va.

EPA cited the automaker for not monitoring for leaks from the equipment used to paint vehicles and for not keeping records of monitoring practices. Ford was also cited for not assessing and inspecting the integrity of equipment and secondary containment systems.

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.

###

Agreement on Ellsworth Industrial Park
Ground Water Contamination Near; Public
Meetings Feb. 24

CONTACT:

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

(IEPA) Maggie Carson, (217) 557-8138

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

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA021

CHICAGO (Feb. 13, 2003) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5, Illinois EPA, and the Illinois Attorney General said today that they expect to sign an agreement with a group of companies that may be responsible for contaminated ground water near the Ellsworth Industrial Park, in Downers Grove, Ill.

The parties have reached a “conceptual agreement.” Details and settlement documents are expected to be finalized in March. The agencies will discuss the agreement and seek comments at a pair of public meetings on Monday, Feb. 24. The meetings will be from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. and from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Downers Grove Village Hall, 801 Burlington Ave., Downers Grove. Local officials are also expected to attend.

While certain details of the agreement are still to be worked out, the government agencies are satisfied that the group of companies plans to spend up to \$4.275 million to provide municipal drinking water hook-ups to approximately 800 area homes currently served by private wells.

Under the framework of the prospective agreement, residents whose wells have been or could be affected by TCE and/or PCE contamination will sign up with the Village of Downers Grove for entry into a low-interest loan program offered by the DuPage County Water Commission to finance the connections and the potentially responsible companies will make the loan payments. Separately, Downers Grove will make use of a recent Illinois EPA grant to install infrastructure in the North Belmont Park area, which currently has no water mains. Details regarding the terms and financing are also still to be finalized among the village, county and potentially responsible companies.

The contaminants of concern, trichloroethane and tetrachloroethylene, commonly known as TCE and PCE, are degreasing solvents used widely in industry.

For more information contact Mike Joyce, EPA community involvement coordinator at (312) 353-5546 or Carol Fuller, Illinois EPA community relations coordinator at (217) 524-8807.

#

Muncie Mercury Cleanup Begins Today

CONTACT:

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

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

(IDEM) Keri McGrath, (317) 232-8512

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA020

CHICAGO (Feb. 13, 2003) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5, with assistance from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management, on Thursday begins a cleanup project to remove an estimated eight pounds of mercury from a home at 2413 Goodman Ave. in Muncie, Ind.

EPA's Chicago-based Superfund emergency response team assessed the contaminated property at IDEM's request last week. IDEM will continue to provide technical assistance as the project moves forward.

Scattered liquid mercury beads will be removed from the floors, walls, carpets and other surfaces in the home using a specialized vacuum that captures mercury in a container for eventual recycling. After the cleanup work is complete, EPA and IDEM will conduct air monitoring in the home to determine if additional work is needed.

The spill occurred on Feb. 3 when a man scattered mercury throughout the residence belonging to his mother. The Delaware County Emergency Management Agency alerted IDEM, which addressed the initial high indoor mercury levels by lowering the temperature in the home. The building was promptly secured and does not pose an immediate health threat to neighbors. The cost and length of the cleanup have not yet been determined.

###

EPA Finds No Basis for Withdrawing Ohio
Environmental Programs

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA019

CHICAGO (Feb. 13, 2003) — Following an extensive 2-year review, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 announced today it has found no basis to withdraw federal approval of Ohio environmental programs. The review had been requested by four Ohio environmental groups.

“We exhaustively reviewed Ohio EPA’s programs, along with each of the thousands of comments provided by the petitioners, the public and state officials. We found nothing that would justify the withdrawal of these programs,” said EPA Region 5 Administrator Thomas V. Skinner.

EPA sent a letter denying the request to the attorney for Ohio Citizen Action, the Ohio Sierra Club, the Ohio Public Interest Research Group and Rivers Unlimited. It was at the request of these groups that EPA reviewed the state’s administration of the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery, Clean Water and Clean Air Acts. EPA also looked at Ohio’s environmental enforcement offices and criminal enforcement program. EPA staff visited Ohio district and central offices, the Ohio attorney general’s office and local air agencies; interviewed employees; and reviewed files.

In September 2001, EPA issued a draft report of its review and held two public meetings in Columbus to take comments. The public meetings were followed by a 60-day comment period. Although the draft report was critical of some Ohio programs, the reviewers said additional information and Ohio EPA’s efforts to address program shortcomings led them to alter their preliminary findings.

EPA received and considered almost 6,700 comments during the review. Many of the comments identified facility-specific environmental problems, which are now being pursued by EPA’s and Ohio EPA’s enforcement staff.

The final report and other relevant documents will be available in several site repositories in Ohio. They are also on the Web at www.epa.gov/region5/ohioreview/. A notice of the decision will be published soon in the Federal Register and will be available at www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/ the same day it is published.

###

EPA Orders Responsible Parties to
Continue Cleanup at Master Metals Site

CONTACT:

Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050

Dave Novak, (312) 886-7478

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA017

CHICAGO (Feb. 6, 2003) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has ordered a group of responsible parties to proceed with the final phase of cleanup at the Master Metals site, 4700 - 4740 E. Nevada Ave., in Detroit.

On Feb. 5, EPA sent a unilateral administrative order to the group of 11 companies demanding that they develop a work plan to remove concrete and contaminated soil, and then backfill with clean soil at the site.

"Our patience with the responsible parties is at an end," said Regional Administrator Tom Skinner. "Area residents deserve to have the site cleaned up quickly. If the responsible parties do not respond immediately, EPA will start the work without them, and it will cost the parties a lot more." Under the Superfund statute, if EPA does the work, responsible parties may be charged for up to three times the final cost.

EPA's first request to the responsible parties was made on July 22, 2002, and allowed the group until October 18 to provide a good faith offer. No offer to perform the final phase of cleanup was received.

On a separate track from the on-site cleanup work, EPA will soon announce details of its intention to further sample residential and other areas near the Master Metals site. This work will be coordinated with state and local agencies.

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About the Master Metals site

A lead smelter operated at the 1.8-acre site, under a series of owners, from about 1955 to 1984. Previously, from June 1998 to November 1999, the responsible parties conducted an initial \$400,000 cleanup project at the site under EPA oversight. This project included removal and disposal of the smelter building, air pollution-control baghouse, three underground storage tanks, and 1,690 cubic yards of soil containing high lead levels. After the initial work, the responsible parties conducted an engineering study and developed a range of options for the final phase of cleanup. The order issued yesterday requires the group to proceed with the cleanup plan selected by EPA.

In a completely unrelated matter, EPA Region 5 is also involved in the cleanup of another site called Master Metals in Cleveland.

#

EPA Order on Pines Site to Bring Michigan

City Drinking Water to 130 Homes;

Meeting Feb. 4, 6:30 P.M.

CONTACT:

Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA016

CHICAGO (Jan. 4, 2003) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5

has signed a legal order with responsible parties to bring Michigan City, Ind.

municipal drinking water to 130 homes in the Town of Pines, Ind.

A public meeting to discuss the project, results of water samples taken at area homes and other issues related to EPA's investigation of contaminated wells in the Town of Pines will be Tuesday, Feb. 4, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. 4th St.

Under the administrative order on consent, signed Jan. 24, the hook-ups will be paid for by Northern Indiana Public Service Co. and Brown, Inc. Brown operates the Yard 520 landfill near the town. The utility disposed of fly ash at the landfill.

Construction on the water extension will begin this spring.

The homes affected by the order are in two areas in the town. One area is between Liberty and Ash streets and U.S. 12 and 20. The other, smaller, area is between Columbia and Idaho streets and U.S. 12 and East Johns Street. The affected wells contained high levels of the chemicals boron and molybdenum, which come from fly ash.

A fact sheet on the project will be available at the meeting and in the site information repository at the Michigan City Public Library. It can also be requested from EPA community involvement coordinator Janet Pope, (800) 621-8431, ext. 30628.

###

Johnson Controls Agrees to Clean up
Hazardous Waste; EPA Sets Deadlines

CONTACT:

Karen Thompson, (312) 353-8547

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA012

CHICAGO (Jan. 28, 2003) -- Johnson Controls Inc. has agreed to investigate and clean up pollution at the former Stanley Tool Works manufacturing facility in Fowlerville, Mich. The agreement with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 is part of an "administrative order on consent."

Johnson Controls must report to EPA by Feb. 15, 2004, the nature and extent of soil and ground water contamination and final remedies for cleaning up hazardous waste at the site. It also must stabilize migration of contaminated ground water into the Red Cedar River and control human exposures during 2003. Hazardous wastes at issue include trichlorethylene (TCE) and PCBs. EPA issued the order under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act that regulates hazardous waste from production to 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 to Hold Meeting about Cleanup of Soil
in Naplate, Ill.

CONTACT:

Stuart Hill, (312) 886-0689

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA011

CHICAGO (Jan. 27, 2003) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 will hold a meeting on Jan. 30 beginning at 5:30 p.m. at Naplate Village Hall, 2000 Ottawa Ave., Naplate, Ill., to discuss Pilkington North America's commitment to clean up soil contaminated with arsenic at two Naplate homes. At the meeting, EPA officials as well as representatives of Pilkington will explain the sampling and cleanup process and answer questions.

#

EPA, WDNR Public Meeting to Discuss
Dupont Barksdale Explosives Site,
Barksdale, Wis., Jan. 30, 7 P.M.

CONTACT:

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

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

(WDNR) Chris Saari, (715) 685-2920

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA010

CHICAGO (Jan. 24, 2003) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources will hold a public meeting to discuss an ongoing environmental investigation for the DuPont Barksdale Explosives Plant Site in Barksdale, Wis. The meeting will be from 7 to 9 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 30 at the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center, 29270 County Highway G, Ashland, Wis.

The main concern is the quality of drinking water for area residents. There is also concern about the site's potential impact on Chequamegon Bay and Lake Superior.

A fact sheet will be available at the meeting and the Washburn Public Library, or can be requested from EPA's Don de Blasio, (800) 621-8431, ext. 64360, or WDNR's Chris Saari, (715) 685-2920.

###

EPA Extends Comment Period to May 16
on Proposed Land Ban Exemption for EDS

CONTACT:

Phillippa Cannon, (312) 353-6218

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA009

CHICAGO (Jan. 24, 2003) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has extended the comment period to May 16 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, Mich. If the exemption is granted, EDS may use the wells to dispose of regulated liquid hazardous waste.

The draft decision is posted on EPA's Web site www.epa.gov/region5/water/uic/pubpdf/factsheet.pdf. (About PDF 39pp, 268K) It is also available for review at the following libraries: Eshelman Library, Henry Ford Community College, 501 Evergreen, Dearborn; Romulus Public Library, 11121 Wayne Road; and Taylor Community Library, 12303 Pardee Road.

Comments should be postmarked by May 16 and mailed to Sally K. Swanson, Underground Injection Control Branch, U.S. EPA, (WU-16J), 77 W. Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, IL 60604-3590, or e-mailed toswanson.sally@epa.gov.

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EPA Acts on St. Louis Area Air Quality

CONTACT:

William Omohundro, (312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA007

CHICAGO (Jan. 23, 2003) The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has reclassified the St. Louis area to "serious nonattainment" for the one-hour ozone (smog) standard, complying with a recent court order. At the same time, EPA proposed to approve requests from Illinois and Missouri to redesignate the St. Louis area to "attainment" of the standard.

The action has been signed by the administrators of EPA Regions 5 and 7. A notice 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.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the 7th Circuit ruled Nov. 25, 2002, that EPA did not have legal authority to allow St. Louis more time to meet the ozone standard because of pollution that drifts from other states. The court ordered EPA to immediately reclassify the St. Louis area as a serious nonattainment area.

As a result, Illinois and Missouri must consider additional, or more stringent, emission controls in the St. Louis area. The Agency has established a deadline one year from publication of the Federal Register notice for Illinois and Missouri to submit air quality plans and associated emission control regulations.

Even though EPA is complying with the court order, air quality in the St. Louis area has improved to the point that it now qualifies for consideration as an ozone attainment area. Consequently, EPA is proposing to approve the ozone redesignation requests submitted by Illinois and Missouri. Final approval of these requests would remove the requirements for Illinois and Missouri to complete serious area air quality plans.

Ozone 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. Illinois and Missouri have made significant progress toward improving air quality in the St. Louis area and reducing these health risks for the citizens of this area.

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EPA, WDNR to Discuss Fox River Cleanup
in Appleton, Jan. 29, 7 pm

CONTACT:

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

(WDNR) Greg Swanson, (608) 264-6024

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA008

CHICAGO (Jan. 22, 2003) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources will hold a public meeting to explain the recently selected cleanup plans for portions of the Lower Fox River. The meeting will be at 7 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 29 at the Holiday Inn Select, 150 Nicolet Road, Appleton.

At the meeting, representatives of both agencies will give short presentations. A question-and-answer period will follow.

Earlier this month, cleanup plans for the Little Lake Butte de Morts and Appleton-to-Little Rapids reaches of the river were announced. The agencies expect to announce cleanup decisions for the three remaining portions of the river this summer.

For more information or special needs and accommodations, contact Susan Pastor, EPA community involvement coordinator, (800) 621-8431, ext.31325 or pastor.susan@epa.gov.

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EPA Invites Comments on its Review of
Michigan's Wetlands Program

CONTACT:

Phillippa Cannon, (312) 353-6218

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA006

CHICAGO (January 17, 2003) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 invites public comments on its review of Michigan's wetlands regulatory program, also known as the Section 404 provision of the Clean Water Act.

Michigan is one of two states with authority to administer the program.

EPA's review concluded that in general the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality does a good job of administering the program. The review identified some improvements that must be made so that the Michigan program is consistent with federal rules. The state has already taken steps to ensure that its program is consistent with federal regulations and guidelines.

Some of the differences between the Michigan and federal programs were: the state does not clearly require a permit for the conversion of wetlands to agricultural production, state drain maintenance exemptions are broader in scope than federal exemptions, and state rules exempt construction of basins for mining waste and water storage areas from the need for permits.

EPA's review was published in the Federal Register on Jan. 7 and is available on its Web site, www.epa.gov/region5. Comments should be postmarked by March 7, 2003, and sent to Sue Elston, U.S. EPA (W-16J), 77 West Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL 60604 or e-mailed toelston.sue@epa.gov.

health. The Agency enforces air, water, and land laws and ensures that designated health standards are met. EPA Region 5 includes six Great Lakes states: Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin.

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**MEDIA ADVISORY: EPA Regional
Administrator, Army Corps Official to Tour
Waukegan Harbor Sampling Project, Jan.
14**

CONTACT:

(EPA) Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050
(USACE) Vanessa Villareal, (312) 353-6400, ext. 1302
For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA005

CHICAGO (Jan. 13, 2003) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 Administrator Tom Skinner and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Chicago District Deputy Commander Lt. Col. Norm Grady will be briefed on a unique winter sampling project to be performed under harsh conditions on a barge in Waukegan Harbor, Waukegan, Ill., at 11 a.m., Tuesday, Jan. 14. A media availability at the nearby Waukegan Port District offices will follow immediately. Waukegan Harbor, which is adjacent to Lake Michigan, was the site of an extensive PCB-contaminated sediment dredging effort in 1992 - 1993. The harbor continues to be recognized as an International Area of Concern within the Great Lakes region.

The two-week-long \$200,000 sampling project will help EPA and USACE evaluate future options in addressing remaining contaminated sediment. Samples will be collected from 15 locations in the harbor. Laboratory results will be reported in about 90 days.

To get to the site: Please dress warmly and meet promptly at 11 a.m. at the Waukegan Port District building, 55 South Harbor Place, (847) 244-3133. The building is on the lakefront at the south end of the harbor. Access the harbor area from Belvidere St. and turn left onto Pershing Rd. Look for the blue and white Port District Administrative Offices sign and turn east onto Harbor Place.

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EPA Announces New National Initiative to
Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions and
Improve Air Quality

CONTACT:

Cathy Milbourn 202-564-7824

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA004

CHICAGO (January 10, 2003) -- Today, in Chicago Ill. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Christie Whitman, along with partners from leading multi-national corporations, announced a new voluntary effort called SmartWay Transport. SmartWay Transport partners have agreed to work with EPA to develop performance measures or goals to improve air quality, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, save fuel, and protect public health. These companies are demonstrating that these efforts can also make good business sense by not only saving money but also helping the environment.

SmartWay Transport aims to reduce air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions from ground freight carriers such as trucks and locomotives. By 2012 this initiative aims to reduce as much as eighteen million metric tons of carbon equivalent, and up to 200,000 tons of Nitrogen Oxides (NOx) annually. These reductions will create fuel savings of up to 150 million barrels of oil annually. Right here in Chicago, truck emissions account for almost 45 % of NOX emissions and 28% of greenhouse gases from transportation sources. The SmartWay program will have an important impact on helping Chicago and other metropolitan areas reduce air emissions.

"Our SmartWay truck and rail partners are working with EPA to develop ways to cut emissions and conserve fuel." said EPA Administrator Christie Whitman.

"Their environmental stewardship will improve air quality and increase efficiency while transporting America's goods and keeping our economy vital."

Eventually participating corporations will earn SmartWay labels that will distinguish them as having made significant commitments to reducing emissions. This voluntary partnership was developed and modeled after EPA's highly successful Energy Star Program. Where Energy Star focuses on reducing pollution from consumer products and labeling energy efficient buildings, SmartWay Transport will help to reduce pollution from the vehicles that move these products to their destination.

EPA and its Charter Partners are presently working to finalize how program goals will be met. To be recognized as a SmartWay Transport partner companies may incorporate the following environmental strategies and technologies. These strategies include:

Idle Reduction:

Reducing or eliminating prolonged idling of long-haul trucks can save up to 2,000 gallons per truck each year, reduce emissions and lower engine maintenance costs.

Improved Aerodynamics:

Using a streamlined profile truck tractor with aerodynamic devices such as cab extenders can reduce fuel consumption by at least 600 gallons and eliminate over six metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions each year compared to a typical classic profile tractor.

Improved Freight Logistics:

Logistic strategies can increase the efficiency of trucking operations, save fuel and increase profits for trucking companies. Logistic strategies include load matching, more efficient routing and scheduling of vehicles and improved receiving policies. If a long haul carrier reduces its empty mileage by just one percent it can save nearly 200 gallons of fuel and eliminate almost two metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions per truck each year.

Self Inflating Tire Systems:

Automatic tire inflation systems monitor and continually adjust the level of pressurized air to tires, maintaining proper tire pressure even when the truck is moving. Installing automatic tire inflation systems on truck and trailer axles can save nearly \$300 per year in tire replacement costs and reduce fuel consumption by at least 90 gallons per year for a typical combination truck with an annual cost saving of at least \$135 and eliminating at least one metric ton of greenhouse gas emissions.

Driver Training:

Well-trained drivers can reduce fuel consumption by applying simple techniques such as the use of cruise control, coasting whenever possible, reducing maximum freeway speeds and minimizing truck idling. Driver training can improve fuel economy by at least five percent saving more than \$1,000 in fuel costs and eliminating nearly eight metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions each year.

These SmartWay Transport partners are accomplishing these important goals above and beyond what is required of them as part of EPA's regulatory programs. Charter SmartWay partners are listed below. Additional information on SmartWay Transport is available at <http://www.epa.gov/smartway/transport>.

SmartWay Transport Charter Partners

Canon U.S.A., Inc.

Coca-Cola Enterprises Inc

CSX Transportation

Federal Express Corporation

H-E-B Grocery Company

IKEA

Interface, Inc.

Nike, Inc.

Norm Thompson Outfitters

Roadway Corporation

Schneider National, Inc.

UPS

Yellow Transportation

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EPA Settles with Schroeder Milk for
Chemical Reporting Violations; Includes
\$59,597 Fine, Projects

CONTACT:

Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050

Ruth McNamara, (312) 353-3193

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA002

CHICAGO (January 9, 2003) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has settled an administrative complaint with Schroeder Milk Company Inc., Maplewood, Minn., for violation of federal laws on the reporting of stored hazardous chemicals. Under the consent agreement and final order, the company will pay a civil penalty of \$59,597 and pay for two environmental projects totaling \$37,068.

In its complaint, EPA alleged that the St. Paul-based dairy processor failed to submit in 2000 a required emergency and hazardous chemical inventory to the state of Minnesota and the local fire department, notifying them of the storage of ammonia, nitric and sulfuric acid above certain quantities at its facility at 2080 Rice St. in Maplewood. In subsequent communications with EPA, the facility also disclosed that it failed to file with EPA required forms in 1999 and 2000 indicating that it was using nitric acid.

For the environmental projects, the dairy processor will make two purchases: a new, upgraded safety alarm system valued at \$34,468 for the Maplewood facility, and a portable defibrillator, valued at \$2,600 that will be donated to the Maplewood Fire Department.

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Cat Owners Will Soon Find More
Protective Labeling for Two Hartz
Mountain Flea & Tick Products

CONTACT:

Karen Thompson, (312) 353-8547

For Immediate Release

No. 03-OPA001

CHICAGO (January 9, 2003) -- As U.S. Environmental Protection Agency first announced on Nov. 27, 2002, Hartz Mountain Corp. of Bloomfield, N.J., is enacting a product recovery and relabeling program for two flea and tick control products for cats and kittens. The program is being implemented to address safety concerns and to ensure new use directions are available for cat owners. Shipments to retail outlets such as pet stores stopped on Nov. 19, 2002.

Hartz Mountain Corp. is committed to reducing potential risks to pets from using these products by recovering, repackaging and relabeling currently available stock of Hartz Advanced Care Brand Flea and Tick Drops for Cats and Kittens (EPA Reg. No. 2596-148) and Hartz Advanced Care Brand Once-A-Month Flea and Tick Drops for Cats and Kittens (EPA Reg. No. 2596-151).

EPA sought these measures due to concerns over safety issues based on thousands of adverse effects incidents investigated by the Agency. Relabeled products will have stronger precautionary statements and more detailed use instructions. The new directions will limit application to a single spot on the back of the animal's neck, making it less likely that the cat will lick and ingest the chemical.

The new labels will also direct users to consult with a veterinarian before using the products on debilitated, aged, medicated, pregnant and nursing cats, or pets sensitive to pesticides. Customers are further advised to monitor cats closely after application of the product. If adverse symptoms occur, immediately wash the animal with mild soap, rinse and consult with a veterinarian. As always, EPA recommends that consumers carefully read and follow package directions before using any pesticide product.

If consumers choose to return either of the two Hartz products, the company is expected to exchange it for the relabeled product or refund the purchase price. Hartz will conduct a consumer education program including point-of-sale brochures, Web site information, and a direct mail campaign to pet owners, pet stores and veterinarians on the new labeling safety features. The company will also submit an additional animal safety study by an independent lab and quarterly reports detailing alleged incidents of adverse reactions in cats. Further information on this EPA action is available at http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/factsheets/hartzq_a.htm. For more information about product returns, refunds and label improvements, contact Hartz Mountain at (800) 275-1414. If your pet has experienced an adverse reaction, consult your veterinarian and report the incident to Hartz. You can also report pet reactions to EPA by calling the National Pesticide Information Center at (800) 858-7378 or sending an email tonpic@ace.orst.edu.

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