



Region 5

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[EPA APPROVES FINAL DESIGN FOR H.O.D. LANDFILL; WORK TO BEGIN NEXT WEEK, MEETING AUGUST 23](#)

News Release #00-OPA178, released 8/11/2000

[WINDOM LANDFILL SITE PROPOSED FOR DELETION FROM SUPERFUND LIST; COMMENT PERIOD ENDS SEPT. 5](#)

News Release #00-OPA180, released 08/14/2000

[EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH COUNTRYMARK; INCLUDES \\$11,000 FINE & \\$30,000 PROJECT](#)

News Release #00-OPA181, released 08/15/2000

[EPA CITES B&L PLATING; INCLUDES \\$42,600 FINE](#)

News Release #00-OPA183, released 08/16/2000

[CLEANUP RESUMES AT LEMON LANE LANDFILL; NEW EXCAVATION PROCEDURES TO MAINTAIN SAFE PCB LEVELS](#)

News Release #00-OPA182, released 8/17/2000

[EPA CITES TWO COMPANIES FOR CLEAN-AIR VIOLATIONS](#)

News Release #00-OPA184, released 8/18/2000

[EPA, DOJ SUE ROCK ISLAND UNDER THE CLEAN WATER ACT](#)

News Release #00-OPA186, released 8/21/2000

[DREDGING NEARLY COMPLETE AT MANISTIQUE RIVER AND HARBOR SITE; MEDIA BRIEFING/PHOTO-OP, TUESDAY, AUGUST 29, 1 P.M.](#)

News Release #00-OPA189, released 08/24/2000

[EPA CITES INDIANA-AMERICAN WATER FOR CHEMICAL RELEASE REPORTING VIOLATIONS; PROPOSES \\$62,050 FINE](#)

News Release #00-OPA187, released 8/24/2000

[EPA: FOX RIVER SMU 56/57 DREDGING SET TO RESUME AUGUST 26](#)

News Release #00-OPA188, released 8/25/2000

[EPA ISSUES WASTEWATER DISCHARGE PERMIT TO UNION TOWNSHIP](#)

News Release #00-OPA191, released 8/28/2000

[DREDGING NEARLY COMPLETE AT MANISTIQUE RIVER AND HARBOR; OPEN HOUSE TONIGHT, 4 TO 8 P.M.](#)

News Release #00-OPA190, released 8/29/2000

[EPA, ILLINOIS EPA, AND METROPOLITAN WATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT AGREE ON INNOVATIVE POLLUTION PREVENTION PROJECT](#)

News Release #00-OPA193, released 8/30/2000

[EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH NW INDIANA MOBILE HOME PARKS FOR ILLEGALLY DISCHARGING SEWAGE; INCLUDES \\$765,000 PENALTY](#)

News Release #00-OPA192, released 8/30/2000

September

[EPA ORDERS MORTON TO INVESTIGATE HAZARDOUS WASTE AT READING, OH, FACILITY](#)

News Release #00-OPA194, released 9/1/2000

[U. S. EPA TO SEND INSPECTORS TO CHICAGO HEIGHTS SCRAPYARD](#)

News Release #00-OPA196, released 9/1/2000

[SIGNING EVENT WILL TAKE PLACE WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 6, 11:30 A.M., BATAVIA ADMINISTRATION BUILDING](#)

News Release #00-OPA195, released 9/1/2000

[EPA ORDERS NICOR, INC., TO DEVELOP CLEANUP PLAN FOR CHICAGO HEIGHTS SCRAP YARD; ESTABLISHES PROTOCOLS FOR OTHER POTENTIAL](#)

News Release #00-OPA197, released 9/7/2000

[EPA TO HOLD OPEN HOUSE ABOUT CLEANUP OF LOWER FOX RIVER SITE](#)

News Release #00-OPA198, released 9/8/2000

[EPA TO TEST SOIL FOR VERMICULITE CONTAMINATION IN NE MINNEAPOLIS](#)

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[EPA: EXCAVATION BEGINS AT FIELDS BROOK SITE](#)

News Release #00-OPA200, released 9/11/2000

[EPA, DOJ REACH AGREEMENT WITH NORTHWESTERN STEEL & WIRE; INCLUDES \\$434,460 FINE & \\$1,194,320 IN PROJECTS](#)

News Release #00-OPA202, released 9/13/2000

[EPA, DOJ REACH AGREEMENT WITH USX; INCLUDES \\$587,000 FINE, \\$2.2 MILLION PROJECT](#)

News Release #00-OPA201, released 9/13/2000

[EPA ISSUES COMPLAINT, STOP SALE ORDER AGAINST ECOLAB, INC. FOR PESTICIDE VIOLATIONS; INCLUDES \\$546,700 FINE](#)

News Release #00-OPA203, released 9/14/2000

[EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH NORBROOK PLATING; INCLUDES \\$7,500 FINE](#)

News Release #00-OPA205, released 9/15/2000

[EPA CITES 11 COMPANIES AND CITY OF DETROIT FOR CLEAN-AIR VIOLATIONS](#)

News Release #00-OPA207, released 9/18/2000

[EPA SELECTS CLEAN-UP PLAN FOR OTTAWA RADIATION SITES](#)

News Release #00-OPA204, released 9/18/2000

[EPA, DOE PRESENT ENERGY STAR LABEL FOR BUILDINGS TO MILWAUKEE PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND MILWAUKEE AND MADISON U.S. COURTHOUSES](#)

News Release #00-OPA206, released 9/19/2000

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[EPA, MPCA, AND USFILTER AGREE ON INNOVATIVE RECYCLING PROJECT](#)

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[EPA TO HOLD OPEN HOUSE AND HEARING ON PROPOSED CLEAN-UP PLAN FOR BOERKE SUPERFUND SITE](#)

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[EPA, OHIO EPA SIGN AGREEMENT WITH COLUMBUS TO REDUCE LEAD POISONING](#)

News Release #00-OPA211, released 9/26/2000

[MICHCON TO RE-INSPECT 35 HOMES FOR MERCURY CONTAMINATION; EPA TO PROVIDE OVERSIGHT AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE](#)

News Release #00-OPA212, released 9/26/2000

[EPA TO HOLD OPEN HOUSE ABOUT CLEANUP OF LOWER FOX RIVER SITE](#)

News Release #00-OPA214, released 9/29/2000

October

[EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH HYDRITE CHEMICAL; INCLUDES \\$15,510 FINE](#)

News Release #00-OPA217, released 10/3/2000

[EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH THREE 3M FACILITIES ON HAZARDOUS WASTE VIOLATIONS; TOTAL FINE IS \\$98,086](#)

News Release #00-OPA216, released 10/3/2000

[EPA TO HOLD MEETING ON INDIANA=S PROGRAM FOR CONCENTRATED ANIMAL FEEDING OPERATIONS](#)

News Release #00-OPA221, released 10/04/2000

[EPA TO HOLD AVAILABILITY SESSION ON VERMICULITE CLEAN-UP OCTOBER 11](#)

News Release #00-OPA220, released 10/05/2000

[EPA PROPOSES TO DELETE CLIFF/DOW DUMP FROM NATIONAL PRIORITIES LIST; COMMENT PERIOD ENDS OCTOBER 18](#)

News Release #00-OPA222, released 10/6/2000

[EPA: CLEANUP UNDER WAY AT MAHONINGSIDE POWER PLANT SITE](#)

News Release #00-OPA224, released 10/18/2000

[EPA ORDERS HARTLAND FARMS TO STOP UNPERMITTED DISCHARGES](#)

News Release #00-OPA225, released 10/18/2000

[NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS: EPA REVISES PCB CONTAMINATION ESTIMATE FOR MANISTIQUE RIVER AND HARBOR; CLEANUP GOALS STILL ON T](#)

News Release #00-OPA227, released 10/18/2000

[NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS: CLEANUP STARTS MONDAY, OCTOBER 23, AT GREENBERG SALVAGE YARD SITE, MURPHYSBORO, IL; MEDIA BRIEF](#)

News Release #00-OPA229, released 10/20/2000

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News Release #00-OPA231, released 10/23/2000

[EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH SPARTA; INCLUDES \\$18,489 FINE AND \\$40,000 PROJECT](#)

News Release #00-OPA230, released 10/23/2000

[EPA CITES EQUSTAR FOR HAZARDOUS WASTE VIOLATIONS; PROPOSES \\$66,651 FINE](#)

News Release #00-OPA232, released 10/25/2000

[EPA SETTLES WITH THE BUTCHER COMPANY; INCLUDES \\$36,729 FINE](#)

News Release #00-OPA233, released 10/26/2000

[NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS: CLEANUP COMPLETE AT W.T. RAWLEIGH SITE, FREEPORT, IL; MEDIA BRIEFING/PHOTO-OP 11 A.M., FRIDAY, O](#)

News Release #00-OPA234, released 10/26/2000

[FEDERAL AGENCIES TO UNVEIL SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEM IN THE LOOP](#)

News Release #00-OPA236, released 10/30/2000

November

[EPA COMPLETES 5-YEAR REVIEWS OF WISCONSIN SUPERFUND SITES: MOSS-AMERICAN, NORTHERN ENGRAVING, AND TWO LEMBERGER SITES](#)

News Release #00-OPA237, released 11/1/2000

[EPA SETTLES 2 CHICAGO AREA HAZARDOUS CHEMICAL RELEASE CASES, STOCK YARDS PACKING AND UOP](#)

News Release #00-OPA228, released 11/1/2000

[EPA PROPOSES CLEANUP PLAN FOR ENVIRO-CHEM THIRD SITE; PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD TO BEGIN](#)

News Release #00-OPA239, released 11/2/2000

[EPA COMPLETES 5-YEAR REVIEW OF HI-MILL MANUFACTURING SITE; MONITORING TO CONTINUE](#)

News Release #00-OPA238, released 11/2/2000

[EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH WISCONSIN COLOR PRESS; INCLUDES \\$56,707 FINE](#)

News Release #00-OPA242, released 11/7/2000

[EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH PRAEFKE BRAKE & SUPPLY; INCLUDES \\$28,105 FINE](#)

News Release #00-OPA241, released 11/7/2000

[EPA SETTLES WITH VENTURA FOODS FOR CHEMICAL RELEASE REPORTING AND RECORDKEEPING VIOLATIONS; INCLUDES \\$34,554 FINE, \\$128,905 IN ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS](#)

News Release #00-OPA249, released 11/8/2000

[NORTH PARK VILLAGE WINS CONSERVATION AND NATIVE LANDSCAPING AWARD](#)

News Release #00-OPA244, released 11/8/2000

[SUGAR GROVE WINS CONSERVATION AND NATIVE LANDSCAPING AWARD](#)

News Release #00-OPA248, released 11/8/2000

[CRYSTAL LAKE WINS CONSERVATION AND NATIVE LANDSCAPING AWARD](#)

News Release #00-OPA245, released 11/8/2000

[EPA CITES RITCHIE ENGINEERING; INCLUDES \\$49,335 FINE](#)

News Release #00-OPA243, released 11/8/2000

[ROSELLE PUBLIC WORKS WINS CONSERVATION AND NATIVE LANDSCAPING AWARD](#)

News Release #00-OPA246, released 11/8/2000

[ST. CHARLES PARK DISTRICT WINS CONSERVATION AND NATIVE LANDSCAPING AWARD](#)

News Release #00-OPA247, released 11/8/2000

[EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH ACME HARD CHROME; INCLUDES \\$30,000 FINE](#)

News Release #00-OPA255, released 11/15/2000

[EPA, WDNR CO-HOST SMU 56/57 WRAP-UP MEETING IN GREEN BAY, 7 P.M., TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5](#)

News Release #00-OPA258, released 11/29/2000

[EPA HOLDS PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS FIELDS BROOK SITE 7 P.M., MONDAY, DEC. 11](#)

News Release #00-OPA259, released 11/30/2000

December

[EPA SETTLES WITH CADON PLATING; INCLUDES \\$2,950 FINE, ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT](#)

News Release #00-OPA260, released 12/1/2000

[EPA CITES TWO COMPANIES FOR VIOLATING NEW ARCHITECTURAL COATINGS RULE](#)

News Release #00-OPA264, released 12/1/2000

[EPA PROPOSES ASHLAND/NORTHERN STATES POWER LAKEFRONT SITE FOR NATIONAL PRIORITIES LIST](#)

News Release #00-OPA263, released 12/1/2000

[EPA SETTLES WITH DETROIT PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT ON ASBESTOS VIOLATIONS; INCLUDES \\$2.4 MILLION CLEANUP](#)

News Release #00-OPA261, released 12/1/2000

[EPA: CLEVELAND AND STEUBENVILLE NOW MEET HEALTH-BASED SOOT STANDARD](#)

News Release #00-OPA265, released 12/4/2000

[CLEANUP COMPLETE AT LEAD BATTERY RECYCLER SITE](#)

News Release #00-OPA266, released 12/5/2000

[EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH FCI; INCLUDES \\$9,900 FINE AND \\$54,790 ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT](#)

News Release #00-OPA268, released 12/6/2000

[EPA: 20 COMPANIES AGREE TO INVESTIGATE SAUGET AREA 2 SITE](#)

News Release #00-OPA269, released 12/8/2000

[EPA SETTLES WITH WISCONSIN COMPANIES ON WETLANDS VIOLATIONS](#)

News Release #00-OPA271, released 12/13/2000

[EPA PROPOSES APPROVAL OF ILLINOIS' EMISSIONS TRADING PROGRAM](#)

News Release #00-OPA273, released 12/15/2000

[EPA CITES 12 COMPANIES AND ONE INDIVIDUAL FOR CLEAN-AIR VIOLATIONS](#)

News Release #00-OPA272, released 12/15/2000

[EPA GRANT WILL FUND MONITORING OF GREAT LAKES' WETLANDS](#)

News Release #00-OPA274, released 12/19/2000

[MERCURY CONTAMINATION UPDATE: EPA SENDS LETTERS TO 188 GAS](#)

[UTILITIES URGING CLOSER LOOK](#)

News Release #00-OPA270, released 12/20/2000

[MORE DRUMS FOUND AT JOHN MERCER SITE; JANUARY MEETING WILL BE SCHEDULED](#)

News Release #00-OPA275, released 12/20/2000

**United States
Environmental
Protection
Agency**

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(312) 353-3757

For Immediate Release: January 4, 2000

No. 00-OPA001

EPA CITES ROGERS GROUP FOR AIR POLLUTION

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently cited Rogers Group for alleged violations of Federal and State clean-air regulations at three company plants, 1100 Oard Rd., Bloomington, IN.

EPA said Rogers Group failed to:

- * comply with the State limit for opacity--the amount of light obscured by particulates (dust)--at its specialty products plant;
- * comply with the Federal new source performance standard particulate limits at its crushed stone and hot mix asphalt plants;
- * do the required performance tests at the crushed stone and specialty products plants; and
- * use good air pollution control practices at its crushed stone and hot mix asphalt plants.

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

"EPA's mission is to protect human health and the environment," said

Margaret Guerriero, acting director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "We will take whatever steps are necessary to ensure compliance with clean-air regulations."

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

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Media Contact: Phillipa Cannon
(312) 353-6218

For Immediate Release: January 5, 2000

No. 00-OPA004

JAN. 27: LECTURE ON ECOLOGICAL SUSTAINABILITY

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 will sponsor a lecture "Consuming the Earth" by Dr. William E. Rees, Ph.D at the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum, 2430 North Cannon Dr., at 7 p.m. Dr. Rees will discuss the barriers to ecological sustainability if the current global development path continues. Free.

To attend, send an e-mail to cason.angel@epa.gov, or call 312-886-4883 or 312-886-6088.

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Last Updated: 1/12/2000 10:37

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/004.htm>

Media Contact: Susan Pastor
(312) 353-1325

For Immediate Release: January 5, 2000

No. 00-OPA002

EPA AWARDS \$50,000 TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANT TO TORCH LAKE COMMUNITY GROUP

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently awarded a \$50,000 technical assistance grant to the Torch Lake Public Action Council, Inc., a community organization in Lake Linden, MI.

The grant will be used to hire a technical advisor for Michigan's Torch Lake Superfund site. The advisor will interpret technical data for the organization and act as a liaison between the organization and EPA.

Since 1989, EPA Region 5 has awarded 20 technical assistance grants to community organizations, including seven in Michigan.

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Last Updated: 4/10/2000 17:00

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa002.htm>

Technical Contact: Christina Prasinis
(312) 886-6819

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(312) 353-8254

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For Immediate Release: January 7, 2000

No. 00-OPA006

EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH LAFARGE; INCLUDES \$48,000 FINE

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently reached agreement with Lafarge Corp. on alleged violations of federally enforceable State clean-air regulations at the company's cement plant, 11435 County Rd. 176, Paulding, OH. A \$48,000 penalty was assessed.

The agreement resolves an EPA citation issued in July 1999, alleging that visible emissions of particulates (dust, smoke, ash) from Lafarge's clinker coolers No. 1 and 2 exceeded the State standard for opacity (the amount of light obscured by particulates).

EPA believes that emissions from the Lafarge clinker coolers now meet the standard and that the plant is complying with its air-pollution-control permits.

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

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

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Last Updated: 1/7/2000 14:40

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/006.htm>

Technical Contact: Vivian Doyle
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For Immediate Release: January 7, 2000

No. 00-OPA005

EPA CITES GENERAL IRON FOR AIR POLLUTION

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently cited General Iron Industries, Inc., for alleged violations of Federal and federally enforceable State clean-air regulations at the company's scrap-processing yard, 1909 North Clifton Ave., Chicago.

EPA issued a cease and desist order to General Iron May 28, 1999, after refrigerant releases from appliances processed at the scrap yard were discovered. On June 3, EPA inspectors discovered that General Iron was not complying with the order.

EPA said General Iron violated State limits on visible emissions of particulates (dust) from two metal shredders when readings were taken May 25 and May 28, 1999. In addition, the company failed to comply with work practice rules requiring that specific procedures be followed to minimize particulate releases.

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. General Iron has 30 days 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 Margaret Guerriero, acting director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "We will take the necessary steps to ensure compliance with clean-air regulations."

Chlorofluorocarbon refrigerants deplete the stratospheric, or "good," ozone layer, allowing dangerous, cancer-causing ultraviolet rays from the sun to strike the earth. Production of some of these chemicals was stopped in 1995, and now Federal law strictly controls their use and handling. Releasing them into the air is prohibited.

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

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Last Updated: 1/7/2000 14:43

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/005.htm>

Technical Contact: Nancy Mugavero
(312) 353-4890

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Legal Contact: David Mucha
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For Immediate Release: January 12, 2000

No. 00-OPA010

EPA CITES DONNELLEY FOR CLEAN-AIR VIOLATIONS

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently cited R.R. Donnelley & Sons Co. for alleged violations of federally enforceable State clean-air regulations at the company's printing plant, 1145 South Conwell Ave., Willard, OH.

EPA said Donnelley built air-pollutant sources at the plant without first getting the proper air-pollution-control permits. This prevented adequate assessments of the amounts of volatile organic compounds (VOC's) and particulates (smoke, dust, ash) emitted by the sources.

In addition, EPA said the plant exceeded emission limits for pollutant sources that already had permits.

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. Donnelley has 30 days from receipt of the finding to request a meeting with EPA to discuss the allegations and how to resolve them.

"EPA is committed to enforcing clean-air regulations to protect public health and the environment," said Margaret Guerriero, acting director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "We will take all necessary steps to ensure that companies comply with the Clean Air Act."

VOC's combine with other chemicals in the air on warm days to form

ground-level ozone (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 also aggravate asthma and speed up the aging of lung tissue. Children, the elderly, and people with lung diseases are the most sensitive.

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Last Updated: 1/12/2000 14:10

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/010.htm>

Technical Contact: Charles G. Hall
(312) 353-3443

Media Contact: William Omohundro
(312) 353-8254

Legal Contact: Thomas Martin
(312) 886-4273

For Immediate Release: January 12, 2000

No. 00-OPA009

EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH DARLING INTERNATIONAL

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently reached agreement with Darling International on alleged violations of the Ohio air pollution nuisance rule and other State regulations, at the company's animal rendering plant, 3275 West 65th St., Cleveland, OH. No penalty was assessed.

The agreement resolves an EPA citation issued in August 1998, alleging that Darling failed to properly operate and maintain its air-pollution-control equipment, as required by its permit, and released unreasonable amounts of odorous compounds into the air.

Darling decided to stop rendering at the plant in September 1998, but it still uses the facility as a storage way station. The agreement requires the company to comply with all applicable Federal, State, and local air-pollution regulations, if it decides to start rendering again.

"EPA is committed to enforcing clean-air regulations to protect public health and the environment," said Margaret Guerriero, acting director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "We will take all steps necessary to ensure that companies comply."

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Last Updated: 1/12/2000 13:09

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/009.htm>

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(312) 353-8254

Legal Contact: Karl Karg
(312) 886-7948

For Immediate Release: January 13, 2000

No. 00-OPA011

EPA SETTLES WITH WOODLAND PAVING; INCLUDES \$21,250 FINE

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has issued a final order to Woodland Paving Co., settling allegations that the company violated federally enforceable State clean-air regulations at its asphalt plant, 3566 Millcreek Ave., Comstock Park, MI. A \$21,250 penalty was assessed.

The order resolves an EPA administrative complaint filed last October alleging Woodland violated a carbon monoxide emission limit in its installation permit.

"EPA is committed to enforcing clean-air regulations to protect public health and the environment," said Margaret Guerriero, acting director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "We will take all necessary steps to ensure that companies comply with the Clean Air Act."

When carbon monoxide enters the bloodstream, it reduces delivery of oxygen to the body's organs and tissues. Exposure to high levels of carbon monoxide can impair vision, hand movement, learning ability, and performance of complex tasks. People with heart disease have the greatest risk when exposed to this pollutant.

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Last Updated: 1/13/2000 15:47

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa011.htm>

Technical Contact: Ruth McNamara
(312) 353-3193

Media Contact: Helen Lenart
(312) 353-6058

Legal Contact: Janice Loughlin
(312) 886-7158

For Immediate Release: January 13, 2000

No. 00-OPA007

EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH PRIMERA FOODS; INCLUDES FINE AND \$101,126 IN PROJECTS

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently reached a settlement with Primera Foods Corp.(Perham, MN) which resolves an administrative action filed by EPA against Primera for alleged violation of Federal law requiring the immediate reporting of any release of hazardous chemicals.

Primera Foods has agreed to pay a \$14,000 fine and to complete environmental projects that will cost \$101,126.

EPA said Primera Foods failed to immediately report the release of 1,680 lb of anhydrous ammonia that occurred at its Perham, MN, facility on May 2, 1998. Federal law requires that any release of more than 100 pounds of anhydrous ammonia be immediately reported to the National Response Center and to the State and emergency planning committees (SERC).

Primera Foods did not notify the National Response Center and the Minnesota SERC of the release until about 33 hours after the incident. Primera also failed to provide the Minnesota SERC with a written follow-up report as soon as practicable after the release occurred.

Primera Foods has agreed to complete the following environmental projects:

* Re-wire all starter motors for its ammonia compressors at its Perham

facility to provide an automatic re-start in the event of a power outage;

* Install an automatic shutdown system when pressure valves open; and

* Purchase and install sniffers in its plants in Perham, MN; Cameron, WI; Stockton, IL, and either Barron, WI or Altura, MN. These sniffers will detect ammonia in the air and identify the locations of the leaks.

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Last Updated: 1/13/2000 16:55

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa007.htm>

Technical Contact: James Entzminger
(312) 886-4062

Media Contact: Helen Lenart
(312) 353-6058

Legal Contact: Reg Pallesen
(312) 886-0555

For Immediate Release: January 13, 2000

No. 00-OPA008

EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH DOW CHEMICAL; INCLUDES \$82,834 FINE

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 recently reached an agreement with the Dow Chemical Co. resolving an administrative complaint alleging that Dow had violated Federal law by failing to timely report releases of hazardous chemical substances from Dow's Midland, MI, facility on four separate occasions between November 1997 and May 1999.

Under the terms of the settlement, Dow will pay a civil penalty in the amount of \$82,834 and perform environmental projects valued at \$48,446.

In the complaint, EPA alleged that Dow failed to notify Federal, State, and local response authorities quickly enough about accidental releases of methyl chloride, vinyl chloride, and ethylene oxide from Dow's Midland facility. Dow denied wrongdoing, but cooperated with EPA by providing information and taking steps to insure that authorities are notified promptly about any such releases in the future.

In addition to the monetary penalty, Dow agreed to perform two environmental projects to benefit the local community. Dow will provide the Midland County Local Emergency Planning Committee with a mobile generator and emergency lighting, two laptop computers, and two printers. Dow will also provide air-monitoring equipment and training to the Midland Township Fire Department and the City of Midland Fire Department.

Since 1989, EPA Region 5 has filed 222 complaints that have resulted in 209 settlements. These settlements have rendered nearly \$5 million in total fines and \$3.4 million in environmental projects.

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Last Updated: 1/13/2000 16:46

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa008.htm>

Technical Contact: Rich Winklhofer
(440) 250-1705

For Immediate Release: January 20, 2000

No. 00-OPA012

EPA AWARDS NEARLY \$1.9 MILLION IN GRANTS TO N.E. OHIO PROJECTS

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has recently awarded nearly \$1.9 million in grants to agencies and organizations in Northeast Ohio that work with projects on pollution prevention, sustainable development, and environmental protection.

The cities of Girard, Barberton, and Warren were each awarded \$200,000 for Brownfield assessment and development.

Case Western Reserve University received \$499,804 for a "Children At Risk" research project, that will study children and infants' exposure to indoor molds, as part of a larger national risk assessment program.

The second phase of Environmental Monitoring for Public Access and Community Tracking (EMPACT) was given \$330,885 to continue providing timely, useful, and accurate environmental and human health information in the community. The grant will be shared by three local groups. Earth Day Coalition received \$60,000 to start a public education effort on air pollution and its health effects, including creating a Web site, logo, and youth program, and developing RTA, television, and radio outreach campaigns.

Kent State University was awarded \$52,000 to complete an on-line system that will allow community planners to track future growth based on ecological impacts. The Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency will use a \$118,885 grant to add tracking of additional air pollutants to its current real-time ozone Web site.

Other grants include:

* \$155,333 to the Cleveland State University Great Lakes Environmental Finance Center to continue providing sustainable development support to

Tribes in the Great Lakes region, and to provide Brownfield loan projects with financial direction and a Web site.

- * \$125,685 to the Environmental Education Council of Ohio to start a Statewide environmental education program.
- * \$45,000 to the Composting Council Research and Education Foundation to develop national standards for manufacturers of compost.
- * \$27,600 to the Sustainable Communities 2000 Planning Group to develop a five-year community action plan. The preliminary plan will be finalized at a May 2000 symposium.
- * \$25,000 to the Cuyahoga River Community Planning Organization to develop a two-year project to test new soil and stream restoration techniques in the Cuyahoga River Area of Concern.
- * \$20,000 to the Cuyahoga County Board of Health to provide education on the effects of residential tobacco smoke on children, especially asthmatics.
- * \$20,000 to the Earth Day Coalition to produce a citizen handbook on effective participation in the air-pollution permitting process.
- * \$15,000 to the Lorain County Neighbors Protecting Our Environment organization to develop a community network to identify environmental and health risk issues in Elyria.
- * \$15,000 to the Earth Day Coalition to facilitate outreach and education in the neighborhoods of Hough, Glenville, St. Clair-Superior, and Lee-Seville Miles, among others, on use of the newly published, "Environmental Health Action Guide."

Each year, EPA awards grants nationwide to community organizations, academic institutions, and State, local, and tribal governments.

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Last Updated: 4/10/2000 17:08

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa012.htm>

Technical Contact: Tony Martig
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For Immediate Release: January 26, 2000

No. 00-OPA013

EPA: THREE MAJOR AUTO COMPANIES AGREE TO ELIMINATE PCB'S

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 is commending the three major Midwest auto companies—DaimlerChrysler, Ford, and General Motors—for their efforts to eliminate PCB's from the environment.

As part of the Great Lakes Binational Toxics Strategy, EPA challenged the companies to voluntarily reduce PCB's in electrical equipment by 90 percent, by 2006. The companies were also asked to properly manage and dispose of PCB's, to prevent accidental releases into the Great Lakes Basin.

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

James Lyijynen, vice president of stationary environmental affairs and energy for DaimlerChrysler, applauded EPA for its plan to develop partnerships with industry through a voluntary PCB elimination program.

DaimlerChrysler (formerly called Chrysler) started a \$43 million program to eliminate all PCB electrical equipment from its facilities in 1989. The proactive program addressed more than 500 PCB transformers and 10,000 PCB capacitors. DaimlerChrysler is currently reporting a 100 percent reduction in PCB transformers and a 99 percent reduction in PCB capacitors, and is now focused on eliminating the few capacitors that remain in service. "Our success was possible because we recognized that there is both a significant business and environmental value to eliminating

PCB's from our facilities," said Lyijynen.

In 1996, General Motors began its formal program to eliminate all high-level PCB transformers in the United States and Canada by 2000. The company reports spending \$28 million so far to remove and properly dispose of some 298 transformers—containing more than 3 million lbs. of PCB's. GM will meet its goal this year by replacing its remaining 400 transformers.

Dennis Minano, vice president of environment and energy for GM said, "In addition to minimizing environmental risk, our voluntary transformer replacement program has resulted in the added business benefit of reducing energy consumption and costs."

Ford Motor Co. created a PCB phasedown program in 1995 to eliminate all PCB-containing equipment globally by 2010. It projects that 95 percent of all PCB equipment in their facilities worldwide will be removed and properly disposed of by 2006.

In April 1997, the U.S.-Canada Binational Toxics Strategy for the Virtual Elimination of Persistent Toxic Substances in the Great Lakes Basin was signed by EPA Administrator Carol Browner and Canadian Minister of Environment Sergio Marchi. The strategy challenges industry, government, and the public to explore innovative, voluntary ways to reduce certain persistent toxic chemicals, including PCB's from the Great Lakes Basin.

"Progress has been made in reducing PCB's from the environment," said Francis X. Lyons, administrator of EPA Region 5. "However, they still exist at levels that adversely affect fish and other wildlife in the Great Lakes Basin. They are still responsible for fish consumption advisories, are one of the dominant causes of toxicity in wildlife, and are still a human health concern."

In addition to the auto industry, EPA has worked with other industry—steel producers and utilities—to reduce PCB's in the Great Lakes Basin. Those partnerships have resulted in:

- * The five major steel producers in Northwest Indiana have voluntarily reduced the PCB's in their facilities by 63 percent.

- * 12 of the major utilities in the Great Lakes Basin have already removed

90 percent of the PCB's they had in service in 1978, and are continuing to remove them. Several utilities have already removed 100 percent of high-level PCB's.

"Based on significant voluntary reductions by industry and vigilant regulation at storage and disposal facilities, we expect to reach our goal of a 90 percent reduction in PCB-containing electrical equipment before the 2006 deadline," said Lyons. 1998 PCB registration shows there are 18,714 transformers currently in use in the United States, 5,569 of them in EPA Region 5.

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Last Updated: 2/3/2000 12:24

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa013.htm>

Technical Contact: Thomas Alcamo
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Media Contact: Derrick Kimbrough
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For Immediate Release: February 1, 2000

No. 00-OPA014

EPA: COMMENT PERIOD EXTENDED TO MARCH 3 FOR LEMON LANE LANDFILL PROJECT

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has extended the comment period for the Lemon Lane Landfill, Bloomington, IN, for an additional 30 days. The extended comment period runs from February 3 to March 3, 2000.

A public meeting was held on January 19, 2000 in Bloomington, IN. The proposed plan, outlining clean-up options for the site, is available to the public at the Monroe County Public Library, 303 East Kirkwood Ave., Bloomington, IN.

Comments may be sent to Derrick Kimbrough, EPA Community Involvement Coordinator, U.S. EPA Region 5, Office of Public Affairs, 77 West Jackson Blvd. (P-19J), Chicago, IL 60604. All comments must be postmarked by March 3, 2000.

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Last Updated: 2/1/2000 16:49

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa014.htm>

Technical Contact: Tony Rutter
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Media Contact: Susan Pastor
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Legal Contact: Bobb Beauchamp
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For Immediate Release: February 7, 2000

No. 00-OPA015

EPA SIGNS AGREEMENT WITH FORMER OWNERS TO CLEAN UP LEAD BATTERY RECYCLER SITE

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today that two former owners of Lead Battery Recycler site, 5715 Angola Rd, (Toledo, OH), have agreed to clean up the site.

The agreement, called a consent order, requires Donald Wright and the Estate of Kenneth Fletcher to:

- * Excavate, remove, treat, and dispose of all soil and sediment within the fenced area of the site that exceed the industrial standard for lead of 1,540 parts per million (ppm).
- * Excavate, remove, and dispose of all soil and sediment outside the fenced area of the site that exceed the residential standard for lead of 400 ppm.
- * Sample and analyze all soil and sediment during excavation to ensure that all contamination is removed.
- * Backfill with clean soil any voids contaminated during soil removal.
- * Regrade to promote drainage and seed, if necessary.
- * Implement deed restrictions or other institutional controls.

* Abandon all existing wells on site.

The cleanup, originally estimated to cost between \$490,000 and 640,000, will begin this spring and should take about two months to complete.

The site and its surrounding area are a combination of residential and industrial properties. The site is bordered to the north by Angola Rd., to the west by Able Equipment, Inc., to the south by a drainage ditch and Conrail railroad tracks, and to the east by World Energy Systems of Toledo, Inc.

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Last Updated: 2/7/2000 16:41

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa015.htm>

Technical Contact: Matt Mankowski
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Media Contact: Derrick Kimbrough
(312) 886-9749

For Immediate Release: February 9, 2000

No. 00-OPA016

EPA PROPOSES CLEAN-UP PLANS FOR FIVE AREAS IN OTTAWA RADIATION SITE; PUBLIC MEETING FEBRUARY 24

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today that it has proposed clean-up plans for areas 1, 4, 8, 9, and the Illinois Power Property Area of the Ottawa Radiation Areas Superfund site, Ottawa, IL. Areas 1, 4, 8, 9 are on Superfund's National Priorities List.

A public meeting to discuss the proposed plans will be held on February 24, at Koolies, West Room, 909 West Norris Dr., Ottawa, IL.

Written comments on the proposed plans will be accepted until March 9. Copies of the proposed plans and other documents on the site are available for public review at Reddick Library, 1010 Canal St., Ottawa, IL.

For more information on the site or to receive a fact sheet on the proposed plans, contact Derrick Kimbrough, EPA Community Involvement Coordinator, U.S. EPA Region 5 Office of Public Affairs (P-19J), 77 West Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL 60604, or e-mail, kimbrough.derrick@epa.gov.

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Last Updated: 2/10/2000 10:17

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa016.htm>

Technical Contact: Erik Hardin
(312) 886-2402

Media Contact: William Omohundro
(312) 353-8254

Legal Contact: Janice Loughlin
(312) 886-7158

For Immediate Release: February 10, 2000

No. 00-OPA018

EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH WESTERN ROTO ENGRAVERS; INCLUDES \$18,150 FINE

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently reached agreement with Western Roto Engravers, Inc., on alleged violations of Federal regulations on chromium--a hazardous air pollutant--at the company's WRE/Color Tech electroplating plant, 668 Seville Rd., Wadsworth, OH. An \$18,150 penalty was assessed.

The agreement resolves an EPA administrative complaint filed in September 1999, alleging Western failed to comply with certain testing, planning, and reporting requirements of the chromium regulations.

"EPA is committed to enforcing regulations for hazardous air pollutants to protect public health and the environment," said Bharat Mathur, director of the regional Air and Radiation Division.

Hexavalent chromium, a highly hazardous, cancer-causing substance, is found in chromic acid mist released into the air as part of the electroplating process. Chromic acid is also a respiratory irritant, whose short-term effects include coughing and wheezing. Noncancerous long-term effects include bronchitis, as well as ulcerations and perforation of the nasal septum.

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Last Updated: 2/10/2000 14:06

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa018.htm>

Technical Contact: Howard Caine
(312) 353-9685

Media Contact: William Omohundro
(312) 353-8254

Legal Contact: Alan Walts
(312) 353-8894

For Immediate Release: February 10, 2000

No. 00-OPA017

EPA CITES FARMERS COOPERATIVE FOR AIR POLLUTION

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently cited Farmers Cooperative Association for alleged violations of federally enforceable State clean-air regulations at the company's grain elevator, 603 Main St., Varna, IL.

EPA said Farmers Cooperative failed to get construction and operating permits for several of its storage silos, major dump pits and receiving legs, dry legs, and for one of its column dryers.

In addition, Farmers Cooperative has no pollution control equipment on its major dump pits, as required, and has allowed fugitive particulate (dust) emissions to cross the plant's property line. (Fugitive emissions are emissions not caught by a capture system.)

The alleged violations were discovered during an EPA inspection on Oct. 7, 1999, and from answers to an information request.

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. Farmers Cooperative 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 human health and the environment," said Bharat Mathur, director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "We

will take whatever steps are necessary to ensure compliance with clean-air regulations."

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

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Last Updated: 2/10/2000 12:12

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa017.htm>

Technical Contact: Maynard Shaw
(312) 353-5867

Media Contact: Karen Thompson
(312) 353-8547

Legal Contact: Jeffery Trevino
(312) 886-6729

For Immediate Release: February 16, 2000

No. 00-OPA021

EPA SETTLES WITH SCHAWK FOR TOXIC CHEMICAL VIOLATIONS; INCLUDES \$40,512 FINE

U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently settled an administrative complaint against LSI/KALA Division of Schawk, Inc. (Kalamazoo, MI), for violations of Federal rules on reporting toxic substances. The company will pay a \$40,512 fine.

Schawk was cited for failing to submit, to EPA and the State of Michigan in 1993 and 1994, the required data on nitric acid and trichloroethylene used at its film finishing plant, 2325 North Burdick St.

The Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act requires certain manufacturers to provide information annually to EPA and their State, on specific toxic chemicals being made or used in their facilities. EPA uses this information to update its national toxic chemical inventory, which is available to the public through various media, including a national computerized database. Schawk is now in compliance with Federal reporting requirements.

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Last Updated: 4/10/2000 17:03

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa021.htm>

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Legal Contact: Robert Thompson
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For Immediate Release: February 16, 2000

No. 00-OPA020

EPA SETTLES WITH BASF FOR TOXIC CHEMICAL VIOLATIONS; INCLUDES \$16,500 FINE

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently settled an administrative complaint against BASF Corp., (Wyandotte, MI) for violation of Federal rules on reporting toxic chemicals. The company will pay a \$16,500 fine.

BASF was cited for failing to report to EPA and the State of Michigan the required data on nitrite compounds being made at its chemical processing and manufacturing facility, located at 1609 Biddle Ave., in 1996.

The Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act requires certain manufacturers to provide annually to EPA and their State, information on specific toxic chemicals being made or used at their facilities. EPA uses this information to update its national toxic chemical inventory, which is available to the public through various media, including a national computerized database.

BASF is now in compliance with Federal reporting requirements.

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Last Updated: 4/10/2000 17:01

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa020.htm>

Technical Contact: Farro Assadi
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Media Contact: William Omohundro
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Legal Contact: John Steketee
(312) 886-0558

For Immediate Release: March 2, 2000

No. 00-OPA026

EPA CITES TECHNISAND FOR AIR POLLUTION

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently cited TechniSand, Inc., for alleged violations of federally enforceable State clean-air regulations at the company's sand processing plant, 3840 Livingstone Rd., Bridgman, MI.

EPA said stack tests done in October and November 1998, and in January and March 1999, show that TechniSand failed to comply with State particulate (smoke, dust, ash) 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. EPA met with TechniSand February 29 in Chicago to discuss the allegations and how to resolve them.

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

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

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Last Updated: 3/29/2000 11:22

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa026.htm>

Technical Contact: Vivian Doyle
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Media Contact: William Omohundro
(312) 353-8254

Legal Contact: Maria Gonzalez
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For Immediate Release: March 2, 2000

No. 00-OPA027

EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH FARMERS GRAIN

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently reached agreement with Farmers Grain Co. on alleged violations of federally enforceable State clean-air regulations at the company's grain elevator, 525 Gould St., Beecher, IL. No fine was assessed.

The agreement resolves an EPA citation issued in September 1999, alleging that Farmers Grain built and operated a column dryer without first getting a State construction or operating permit. EPA said Farmers Grain has since shown compliance by getting a State operating permit.

Bharat Mathur, director of the regional Air and Radiation Division, said, "We are pleased that Farmers Grain has obtained an operating permit and is now in compliance with State clean-air regulations."

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Last Updated: 3/29/2000 11:18

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa027.htm>

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Media Contact: William Omohundro
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Legal Contact: Thomas Martin
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For Immediate Release: March 2, 2000

No. 00-OPA028

EPA CITES ADM FOR AIR POLLUTION

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently cited Archer Daniels Midland Co. (ADM) for alleged violations of federally enforceable State clean-air regulations at the company's grain processing plant, Foot of Edmund St., Peoria, IL.

EPA said ADM built equipment, including a new feed dryer, at its Peoria plant between 1992 and 1999 without getting a permit to prevent significant deterioration of air quality.

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

In addition, EPA said ADM failed to evaluate the possible installation of emission controls for particulates (dust) on their feed dryers. The feed dryers failed to comply with particulate emission limits and limits on opacity (the amount of light obscured by particulates).

The alleged violations were discovered in 1997 through inspections and visible emissions surveillance. The failure to comply with particulate emission limits was confirmed during a 1999 stack test.

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. ADM has 30 days from receipt of the notice to

request a meeting with EPA to discuss the alleged violations and how to resolve them.

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

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

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Last Updated: 3/29/2000 11:16

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa028.htm>

Technical Contact: Joseph Cardile
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For Immediate Release: March 3, 2000

No. 00-OPA030

EPA CITES TWO DETROIT METAL RECYCLERS FOR CLEAN-AIR VIOLATIONS

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently cited two Detroit metal recyclers for alleged violations of Federal clean-air regulations at their scrap yards.

They are R&F Metals Co., Inc., 9101 West Fort St., and Consumers Recycling, Inc., 7777 West Chicago Ave.

EPA said the companies improperly disposed of appliances containing ozone-depleting refrigerants. In July 1999, EPA inspectors observed both companies disposing of appliances without verifying that the appliances no longer contained ozone-depleting refrigerants.

These are preliminary findings of violations. To resolve them, EPA may issue compliance orders, assess administrative penalties, or bring suits against the companies. EPA met with Consumers Recycling February 7 and with R&F Metals February 29 to discuss the allegations and how to resolve them.

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

Chlorofluorocarbon refrigerants deplete the stratospheric, ("good"), ozone layer, allowing dangerous amounts of cancer-causing ultraviolet rays from

the sun to strike the earth. Production of some of the chemicals was stopped in 1995, and Federal law strictly controls their use and handling.

Information on compliance with the refrigerant recycling rule is available at: www.epa.gov/ozone/ under the heading "Stationary Refrigeration & AC."

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Last Updated: 3/29/2000 11:26

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa030.htm>

Technical Contact: Joseph Cardile
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Legal Contact: Mary McAuliffe
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For Immediate Release: March 3, 2000

No. 00-OPA029

EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN; INCLUDES \$7,000 FINE & PROJECT

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently reached agreement with the University of Wisconsin on alleged violations of federally enforceable State clean-air regulations at the La Crosse campus.

The agreement, which includes a \$7,000 penalty and a \$35,000 environmental project, resolves an EPA administrative complaint filed in September 1999. The complaint alleged that the university's boiler No. 2 exceeded State standards for emissions of particulates (smoke, ash, dust) during a stack test done January 21-22, 1998.

The university has agreed to complete an energy-saving project that it estimates will eliminate combustion of 135 tons of coal per year, with corresponding cuts in particulate, sulfur dioxide, carbon dioxide, and nitrogen oxide emissions.

EPA believes the boiler is now in compliance with State particulate emission standards.

"We are pleased that the University of Wisconsin has agreed to complete this environmental project," said Bharat Mathur, director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "It will conserve energy and reduce air pollution."

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

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Last Updated: 3/29/2000 11:24

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa029.htm>

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Legal Contact: Tim Thurlow
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For Immediate Release: March 3, 2000

No. 00-OPA019

EPA ANNOUNCES NEW CLEAN-UP PLAN FOR INDUSTRIAL EXCESS LANDFILL

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today that it has amended the clean-up plan for the Industrial Excess Landfill site, Uniontown, OH. The amended clean-up plan is described in a new Record of Decision (ROD), which replaces a previous ROD issued by EPA in 1989.

The amended clean-up plan includes: (1) elimination of the ground-water pump-and-treat system; (2) restoration of contaminated ground-water through monitored natural attenuation (natural recovery of the ground-water system without technical intervention); (3) installation of an alternative landfill cap with performance characteristics similar to those of the originally proposed cap; and (4) revision of the ground-water monitoring plan to include limited radiation testing. All other components of the 1989 ROD remain the same.

EPA believes that the amended clean-up plan is protective of human health and the environment, complies with Federal and State requirements, and is cost effective.

Ohio EPA has reviewed and provided comments on the amended ROD and has expressed no objection to the proposed remedy changes.

EPA has also prepared a responsiveness summary which responds to all the public comments received during the comment period. The public can view the summary by visiting the Region 5 Web site:

www.epa.gov/region5/ or by calling Denise Battaglia at 800-621-8431, or by e-mail, battaglia.denise@epa.gov.

The amended ROD, responsiveness summary, and other site documents are available for review at the Hartville Branch Library, 411 East Maple St., Hartville, and the Lake Township Clerk's office, 12360 Market North, Hartville. This information is also available in EPA Region 5's Records Center in Chicago.

EPA plans to hold a Technical Information Committee meeting in spring 2000 to discuss the draft cap design and draft monitoring plan on the site. This meeting will be open to the public.

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Last Updated: 3/29/2000 11:14

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa019.htm>

Technical Contact: Russ Hart
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Media Contact: Susan Pastor
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For Immediate Release: March 3, 2000

No. 00-OPA031

EPA COMPLETES FIVE-YEAR REVIEW OF CITY DISPOSAL LANDFILL SITE

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 recently completed a status review of the source control and ground-water cleanup measures at the City Disposal Corp. Landfill Superfund site, Town of Dunn, WI.

The Superfund law requires regular reviews (at least every 5 years) of sites where cleanup has begun. EPA's review of City Disposal confirmed that the landfill gas collection and treatment system and landfill cover, which have been in place since 1995, are improving site conditions.

Landfill gas discharge is being regulated to meet State of Wisconsin standards, and the clay cover over most of the site is preventing direct contact to waste material and soil contaminants. The cap is also minimizing water infiltration into the waste beneath the site.

A ground-water treatment system will begin operating this spring to keep an underground area of contamination from moving off site. This system is expected to pump steadily for several years. As ground-water cleanup goals are approached, however, pumping may be done periodically. Another review will be done in 2005 to check on progress made toward reaching ground-water cleanup goals.

A copy of the 5-year review report and other site-related documents are available at the Dunn Town Hall, 4156 County Trunk Highway B, McFarland.

The City Disposal site was used as a landfill from the mid-1960's to 1977. While in operation, it accepted household, industrial, and general

construction waste. The industrial waste, which included discarded solvents from plastics manufacture, paint waste, and oil, contributed to on-site soil and ground-water contamination.

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Last Updated: 3/29/2000 11:27

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa031.htm>

Technical Contact: Pete Guria
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Helen Lenart
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For Immediate Release: March 7, 2000

No. 00-OPA024

EPA: \$2.5 MILLION CLEANUP COMPLETE AT SOUTH CENTRAL SITE

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today that its \$2.5 million cleanup of the South Central Terminal site (Pana, IL) is now complete. The cleanup -- paid for by EPA -- took nearly seven months.

Prior to the cleanup, the site posed numerous threats to the environment, human health, and wildlife. The cleanup included EPA's removal of asbestos, hazardous liquids, oil and oil sludge, contaminated soil and tank sludge, and scrap metal. Much of the scrap metal was sent for recycling.

In addition, Archer Daniels Midland Co. participated in the cleanup by removing liquid ammonium sulfate stored in tanks and containment structures, and disposing of ammonium sulfate-contaminated soil from the site.

"We are pleased that this cooperative effort was completed in a timely manner and under budget. We hope that this can be used as a model in future site cleanups," said William Muno, director of the regional Superfund Division.

The 93-acre site was an oil refinery from 1939 to 1982. The site was sold to South Central Terminal Co. in 1984, and subsequently cited by Illinois EPA for a variety of solid and hazardous waste violations.

In July 1992, 200,000 gallons of ammonium sulfate spilled from a leased storage tank and migrated from a stream on the site into Coal and

Opossum Creeks, and eventually into the Kaskaskia River (which flows into the Mississippi River), impairing 20 stream miles and killing an estimated 156,000 fish. In 1998, additional ammonium sulfate material that was transported to the site eventually leaked into the diked storage area which led to odor complaints from residents.

The cleanup was managed by a Chicago-based Superfund emergency response team, with assistance from Illinois EPA and the City of Pana.

NOTE: PHOTO OPPORTUNITY 9:30 A.M. TODAY. Representatives from EPA, Illinois EPA, and the City of Pana will be available at the site to discuss the cleanup. The South Central Terminal site is on U.S. Route 51, on the south side of Pana, IL.

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Last Updated: 3/29/2000 12:17

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa024.htm>

Technical Contact: Matt Mankowski
(312) 886-1842

Media Contact: Derrick Kimbrough
(312) 886-9749

For Immediate Release: March 9, 2000

No. 00-OPA032

EPA EXTENDS COMMENT PERIOD FOR FIVE AREAS IN OTTAWA RADIATION SITE

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today that it has extended the comment period for the proposed clean-up plans for Areas 1,4,8,9, and the Illinois Power Property Areas of the Ottawa Radiation Areas Superfund site, Ottawa, IL. Areas 1,4,8,9 are on Superfund's National Priorities List.

Written comments on the proposed plan will be accepted until April 8, 2000. Copies of the proposed plans and other documents on the site are available for public review at Reddick Library, 1010 Canal St., Ottawa, IL.

For more information on the site or to receive a fact sheet on the proposed plans, contact Derrick Kimbrough, EPA Community Involvement Coordinator, U.S.EPA Region 5, Office of Public Affairs, 77 West Jackson Blvd.(P-19J), Chicago, IL 60604, or e-mail, kimbrough.derrick@epa.gov.

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Last Updated: 3/29/2000 12:14

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa032.htm>

Technical Contact: Howard Caine
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Media Contact: William Omohundro
(312) 353-8254

Legal Contact: Louise Gross
(312) 886-6844

For Immediate Release: March 10, 2000

No. 00-OPA033

EPA CITES ESSROC; INCLUDES \$27,500 FINE

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently filed an administrative complaint against Essroc Italcementi Group for alleged violations of federally enforceable State clean-air regulations at the company's portland cement manufacturing plant, 3084 West County Rd. 225 South, Logansport, IN. A \$27,500 fine was proposed.

EPA said particulate (dust) emissions from one of Essroc's conveyor belts and from one of its screen shaker outlets exceeded State standards for opacity (the amount of light obscured by dust) when readings were taken on July 14, 1999.

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

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

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

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Last Updated: 3/29/2000 12:19

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa033.htm>

Technical Contact: Patrick Kuefler
(312) 353-6268

Media Contact: Karen Thompson
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Legal Contact: Ann Coyle
(312) 886-2248

For Immediate Release: March 11, 2000

No. 00-OPA061

EPA CITES THREE 3M FACILITIES FOR HAZARDOUS WASTE VIOLATIONS; PROPOSES \$109,855 TOTAL FINE

U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently filed civil administrative complaints against Minnesota Mining & Manufacturing Co. (3M) facilities in Hutchinson, St. Paul, and Cottage Grove, MN, for violation of Federal rules on hazardous waste. Fines of \$57,440, \$44,635, and \$7,780, have been proposed respectively.

EPA and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency discovered these violations during compliance inspections, as required by the Resource and Conservation Recovery Act (RCRA).

The most violations were found at the Hutchinson plant, 915 Hwy. 22. This facility was cited on three counts of hazardous waste storage without a permit; failing to implement a leak detection program, an air emissions control program, and storing hazardous waste in open containers.

The St. Paul facility, 850-935 Bush Ave., was cited for two counts of hazardous waste storage without a permit; failure to implement a leak detection program, and an air emissions control program for tanks.

The Cottage Grove facility, 10746 Innovation Rd., was cited for one count of failure to implement an air emissions control program.

All three facilities handle hazardous wastes that contain volatile organic compounds which, if not stored properly, can be released into the

environment. Under RCRA, facilities that generate, treat, store, transport, or dispose of hazardous waste must ensure that it does not present a threat to human health or the environment. 3M has 30 days to respond to the complaints.

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Last Updated: 4/13/2000 10:02

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa061.htm>

Technical Contact: Lisa Geist
(312) 886-0878

Media Contact: Karen Thompson
(312) 353-8547

Legal Contact: Thomas Krueger
(312) 886-0562

For Immediate Release: March 15, 2000

No. 00-OPA041

EPA AND GM AGREE ON FLEXIBLE CLEANUP AT FLINT FACILITY

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 and General Motors Corp. (GM) have recently agreed on a more flexible approach to cleaning up hazardous waste at the company's Flint, MI, facility.

EPA will allow GM flexibility in meeting specific clean-up goals, so the cleanup can occur at a faster pace. The agreement also lets GM do the work independently, with less formal oversight from EPA.

The new approach focuses on achieving environmental results, in contrast with traditional, process-based requirements. GM will review the nature and extent of contamination at its facility by investigating releases, sampling, and assessing potential risk. GM has agreed that by June 30, 2004, it will prove that the facility does not pose health risks, and by June 30, 2005, it will prove that it has controlled the migration of contaminated ground-water. The company has also agreed to submit a final clean-up plan to EPA by December 31, 2006, for the southern half of the site, and by December 31, 2008, for the northern half of the site.

"EPA has agreed to allow GM more freedom in an attempt to achieve faster environmental improvements. The company will still be held accountable for meeting those goals," said Robert Springer, director of the regional Waste, Pesticides, and Toxics Division. "EPA is pleased that GM has embraced this new approach for its remaining facilities."

Under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, facilities that

generate, treat, store, transport, or dispose of hazardous waste must ensure that it does not present a threat to human health or the environment.

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Last Updated: 4/10/2000 17:05

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa041.htm>

Technical Contact: Kurt Grunert
(734) 692-7684

Media Contact: Cheryl Allen
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For Immediate Release: March 15, 2000

No. 00-OPA040

EPA COMPLETES PHASE 1 CLEANUP ACTIVITIES AT RECLAMATION OIL SITE; PUBLIC MEETING MARCH 23

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has completed Phase 1 removal activities at the Reclamation Oil Company site, 6472 Selkirk Ave., Detroit, MI.

EPA will hold a public meeting to provide an update on clean-up activities. It will be held on Thursday, March 23, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Cooper Elementary School, 6836 Georgia Ave., Detroit, MI.

The 1-acre site is in a mixed residential and industrial area. Clean-up activities include the removal of hazardous contamination that resulted from the storage and distribution of chemicals. Phase 1 included the removal of all drums, chemical containers, above ground storage tanks and their contents.

Phase 2 will include removing the contents of underground storage tanks, excavating and removing the tanks, cleaning and cutting up the tanks, and removing impacted soils, as necessary. Additional information on the Reclamation Oil site is available at Detroit Public Library, Elizabeth Knapp Branch, 13330 Conant, Detroit, MI.

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Last Updated: 3/29/2000 10:57

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa040.htm>

Technical Contact: Fred Bartman
(312) 886-0776

Media Contact: Ginny Narsete
(312) 886-4359

For Immediate Release: March 15, 2000

No. 00-OPA039

EPA: CLEANUP CONTINUES AT ST. JOSEPH'S CREEK; PUBLIC MEETING MARCH 22

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 announced today that a public meeting to discuss on-going cleanup activities at St. Joseph's Creek, (Downers Grove, IL), will take place on Wednesday, March 22, at 7 p.m., at Downers Grove Public Library, 1050 Curtiss St., Downers Grove, IL.

EPA discovered oil buildup at the site during an inspection on January 3, 2000. EPA immediately notified the Rapid Response Services and started to remove the oil. EPA representatives and contractors have been on site cleaning and disposing of oil and oil-soaked absorbent materials. Several drums of absorbent material and debris have been removed from the creek.

Test results show no immediate health threats to the community. However, residents, especially children, should not be playing in the immediate area to avoid skin contact with the oil. EPA will continue to oversee the cleanup and monitor air and water samples. An additional four 55-gallon steel drums containing contaminated debris will be disposed of properly once analytical results have been received and verified.

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Last Updated: 3/29/2000 16:56

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa039.htm>

Technical Contact: Heather Nelson
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For Immediate Release: March 15, 2000

No. 00-OPA034

EPA ANNOUNCES ENGINEERING EVALUATION/COST ANALYSIS FOR THE LIQUID DYNAMICS SUPERFUND SITE; PUBLIC MEETING MARCH 22

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 is announcing an Engineering Evaluation /Cost Analysis (EE/CA) to address the contaminated soils at the Liquid Dynamics Superfund site, 655 East 114th St., Chicago.

The EE/CA addresses five alternatives. EPA recommends Alternative 5. The five alternatives are:

Alternative 1: No action for contaminated soils at the site.

Alternative 2: Fence installation and institutional controls.

Alternative 3: Installation of a physical barrier in the form of a liner, followed by a 24-inch soil cover over the existing soils.

Alternative 4: Installation of a Type D cap over soils that exceed the removal action criteria.

Alternative 5: Excavation of contaminated soils exceeding the removal action criteria from ground level to a depth of two feet, and placement of two feet of clean-fill material over the excavated soils.

EPA will hold a public meeting on March 22, at 7 p.m. in the Historic Pullman Visitor Center, 11141 South Cottage Grove Ave., Chicago. Copies of the EE/CA and other documents on the Liquid Dynamics site are

available for public review at Pullman Branch Public Library, 11001 South Indiana St., Chicago.

EPA will review public comments on the EE/CA during the comment period which ends on April 4, 2000. Comments may be sent to EPA Community Involvement Coordinator Derrick Kimbrough, U.S. EPA Region 5, Office of Public Affairs (P-19J), 77 West Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL 60604, or by e-mail, at kimbrough.derrick@epa.gov. All comments must be postmarked no later than April 4, 2000.

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Last Updated: 3/29/2000 11:00

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa034.htm>

Technical Contact: Diane Sharrow
(312) 886-6199

Media Contact: Karen Thompson
(312) 353-8547

Legal Contact: Gaylene Vasaturo
(312) 886-1811

For Immediate Release: March 16, 2000

No. 00-OPA042

EPA ORDERS ROUGE STEEL TO PROTECT MIGRATORY BIRDS

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently ordered Rouge Steel Co.(Dearborn, MI), to protect migratory birds from oil waste at its wastewater treatment plant.

EPA and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and EPA inspected the Schaeffer Road area on October 20, 1999 and found oily waste and the remains of a dead migratory bird in the lagoons at the Miller Road site. In the past, other oil-covered birds have been rescued from the lagoons and taken to the City of Dearborn for possible rehabilitation. Successful rehabilitation of oiled birds depends on many factors including amount of oil, age and species of bird, and how long it has been oiled.

Rouge Steel has taken immediate steps to stop exposure by removing oil from the pond. EPA has met with Rouge to develop a long-term plan to protect wildlife at the site.

Under Federal law, EPA controls the handling, storage, treatment, transportation, and disposal of solid and hazardous wastes.

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Last Updated: 4/10/2000 17:12

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa042.htm>

Technical Contact: Patricia Morris
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For Immediate Release: March 20, 2000

No. 00-OPA043

EPA: ALL REGION 5 AREAS NOW MEET HEALTH-BASED CARBON MONOXIDE STANDARD

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today that East Chicago and Indianapolis, IN, now meet the health-based, outdoor-air standard for carbon monoxide. This means that all areas in the Region are meeting the health-based standard for this air pollutant.

EPA Regional Administrator Francis X. Lyons signed the authorization for redesignation of the two areas to attainment for the health-based standard for carbon monoxide in early January. The action is effective today.

"This redesignation is a significant milestone in air-pollution control in Region 5," Lyons said.

Bharat Mathur, director of the regional Air and Radiation Division said, "By working closely with our State partners, we have reduced carbon monoxide to levels that protect public health and the environment."

Last year, EPA Region 5 redesignated two other areas--Detroit, MI, and Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN--to attainment for carbon monoxide.

To qualify for the redesignation, the areas had to meet a number of requirements, including taking steps to cut carbon monoxide pollution, monitoring data to support the clean-air designation, and setting up a plan to keep the air clean.

Measures taken by these areas to cut carbon monoxide levels include use of oxygenated fuel, cleaner cars, reduced traffic congestion and car engine

idling, and air-pollution controls on some industries.

The national health-based, outdoor-air quality standard for carbon monoxide is 9 parts per million averaged over 8 hours. East Chicago and Indianapolis were designated nonattainment in 1991.

Carbon monoxide is formed when carbon in fuel is not completely burned. Cars and trucks produce about 60 percent of all emissions nationwide. Peak levels usually occur during colder months when emissions are higher and when air pollutants are trapped near the ground under a layer of warm air.

Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless gas that can have harmful health effects. When inhaled, it enters the blood stream and cuts the amount of oxygen delivered to body tissues. It can affect mental function, vision, and alertness in healthy people, even at relatively low concentrations. At high levels, it can even be fatal. Children, pregnant women, and the elderly are most affected.

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Last Updated: 3/29/2000 10:53

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa043.htm>

Technical Contact: Terese VanDonsel
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For Immediate Release: March 22, 2000

No. 00-OPA044

EPA TO UPDATE PUBLIC ON FIELDS BROOK SITE MARCH 29

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 will hold a public meeting to discuss clean-up progress at the Fields Brook Superfund site, Ashtabula, OH. The meeting will be held Wednesday, March 29, 7 p.m., Ashtabula Chamber of Commerce, 4536 Main Ave., Ashtabula.

Most of the remaining clean-up work at the Fields Brook site will be completed later this year, including: construction of a landfill at what is now the RMI Sodium property; excavation of contaminated Fields Brook sediment and associated flood plain/wetland soil; and cleanup of the remaining "source control" areas that could recontaminate Fields Brook.

A summary fact sheet, which will be available at the meeting, has been mailed to about 600 area residents and local officials. Additional site documents are available for review at Ashtabula County District Library, 335 West 44th St., and the Kent State Campus Library, 3325 West 13th St., both in Ashtabula.

Fields Brook's 4-mile main channel flows through an industrialized section of Ashtabula and then through residential neighborhoods before it reaches the Ashtabula River. Historical discharges and runoff from the industrial areas have contaminated the site's soils and sediment with PCB's, chlorinated benzene and solvents, low-level radio nuclides, and other hazardous substances.

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Last Updated: 3/29/2000 10:49

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa044.htm>

Technical Contact: Greg Carlson
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For Immediate Release: March 22, 2000

No. 00-OPA023

EPA: CRIVITZ MAN AGREES TO PAY \$12,000 FOR ILLEGALLY FILLING IN LAKE NOCQUEBAY WETLANDS

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently settled with Thomas Gerbyshak of Crivitz, WI, for illegally filling in wetlands next to Lake Nocquebay in Marinette, WI. He has agreed to pay a \$12,000 fine.

EPA alleges that in September and October 1997, Gerbyshak contracted with another party to fill in about 26,000 square feet of wetlands on the northwest shore of the lake without first obtaining a permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The lake has been designated a priority watershed by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Much of the natural shoreline has already been built on. Wetlands along the lake are critical to water quality because they help filter pollutants from stormwater runoff and prevent them from entering the lake. They also provide a habitat for the Blanding's turtle, a State endangered species.

"EPA took a strong stand because of the flagrant nature of the violation. Mr. Gerbyshak had been told by the Corps and the county that he would have to get a permit before filling the wetlands, but he proceeded without doing so," said Jo Lynn Traub, regional Water Division director.

In 1998, EPA ordered that the wetlands be restored to prevent harm to the lake from changed land use and to restore critical habitat. EPA is satisfied that the fill material has been removed and the wetlands have been restored.

Mr. Gerbyshak will pay the \$12,000 fine in three installments over the next two years. He also paid \$8,000 to the State of Wisconsin and hundreds of dollars to the county.

Wetlands include marshes, swamps, bogs, and similar areas between water and dry land. They are among the most environmentally beneficial types of areas. They filter pollutants and provide erosion and flood control. They also harbor unique soils and plants that provide food and habitat for fish and wildlife.

Under the Clean Water Act, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers must issue a permit before any waters of the United States, including wetlands, are filled. EPA may order restoration of illegally filled wetlands and seek penalties of up to \$27,500 per day of violation.

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Last Updated: 3/29/2000 14:42

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa023.htm>

Technical Contact: Shaun Burke
(312) 353-5713

Media Contact: William Omohundro
(312) 353-8254

Legal Contact: Jane Woolums
(312) 886-6720

For Immediate Release: March 24, 2000

No. 00-OPA048

EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH QUEBECOR; INCLUDES \$9,740 FINE

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently reached agreement with Quebecor Petty Printing Co. on alleged violations of federally enforceable State clean-air regulations at the company's Effingham, IL, printing plant. A \$9,740 penalty was assessed.

The agreement resolves an EPA administrative complaint filed in December 1998, alleging Quebecor had installed three printing presses without the required permits. The complaint also charged the company with exceeding permit limits for ink usage and total volatile organic compound (VOC) emissions for one of the presses.

"EPA's mission is to protect public health and the environment," said George Czerniak, chief of the regional Air Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Branch. "We will take whatever steps are necessary to ensure compliance with clean-air regulations."

VOC's combine with other chemicals in the air to form ground-level ozone (smog), which can cause breathing problems, reduced lung function, eye irritation, stuffy nose, and reduced resistance to colds and other infections. Ozone can also aggravate asthma and speed up aging of lung tissue. Children, the elderly, and people with lung diseases are the most sensitive.

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Last Updated: 3/29/2000 10:45€

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa048.htm> €

Technical Contact: Kevin Vuilleumier
(312) 886-6188

Media Contact: William Omohundro
(312) 353-8254

Legal Contact: Eva Hahn
(312) 886-6833

For Immediate Release: March 24, 2000

No. 00-OPA047

EPA CITES ASHTA CHEMICALS FOR AIR POLLUTION

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently cited Ashta Chemicals, Inc., for alleged violations of Federal and federally enforceable State clean-air regulations at the company's chemical plant, 3509 Middle Rd., Ashtabula, OH.

EPA said Ashta failed to:

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

These are preliminary findings of violations. To resolve them, EPA may issue a compliance order, assess an administrative penalty, or bring suit against the company. EPA met with Ashta on March 14 to discuss the allegations.

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

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

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

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Last Updated: 3/29/2000 10:43

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa047.htm>

Technical Contact: Bryan Holtrop
(312) 353-5103

Media Contact: Karen Thompson
(312) 353-8547

Legal Contact: Jacqueline Kline
(312) 886-7167

For Immediate Release: March 24, 2000

No. 00-OPA049

EPA CITES NORTRU FOR HAZARDOUS WASTE VIOLATIONS; PROPOSES \$79,385 FINE

U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently filed a civil administrative complaint against Nortru, Inc. (Detroit, MI), for violation of Federal rules on hazardous waste. A \$79,385 penalty has been proposed.

The industrial paint recycling facility, 663 Lycaste Ave., violated State waste-containment system rules. EPA alleges that Nortru failed to implement air emissions programs on tanks and equipment regulated under the Resource Conservation Recovery Act, from December 1996 to July 1999.

Nortru must fully comply with all Federal and State requirements for generators of hazardous waste in order to continue to be exempt from permitting.

EPA regulates the safe handling, transportation, treatment, and disposal of hazardous wastes, from the time of production to their final disposal. Nortru may request a meeting with EPA at any time to discuss the violations.

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Last Updated: 4/10/2000 17:10

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa049.htm>

Technical Contact: Newton Ellens
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Media Contact: William Omohundro
(312) 353-8254

Legal Contact: Hedi Bogda-Cleveland
(312) 886-5825

For Immediate Release: March 24, 2000

No. 00-OPA050

EPA CITES NORBROOK PLATING; INCLUDES \$46,900 FINE

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently filed an administrative complaint against Norbrook Plating, Inc., for alleged violations of Federal and State clean-air regulations at the company's electroplating plant, 11400 East Nine Mile Rd., Warren, MI. A \$46,900 penalty was proposed.

EPA said Norbrook failed to comply with Federal work practice and monitoring standards for chromium--a hazardous air pollutant. In addition, Norbrook installed a sludge dryer and six acid tanks without first getting a State installation permit.

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

"EPA is committed to enforcing regulations for hazardous air pollutants, to protect public health and the environment," said Bharat Mathur, director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "We will take all necessary steps to ensure that companies comply with the Clean Air Act."

Hexavalent chromium, a highly hazardous cancer-causing substance, is found in chromic acid mist released into the air as part of the electroplating process. Chromic acid is also a respiratory irritant, whose short-term effects include coughing and wheezing. Noncancerous long-term effects include bronchitis, as well as ulcerations and perforations of

the nasal septum.

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Last Updated: 3/29/2000 10:46

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa050.htm>

Technical Contact: Tony Silvasi
(312) 886-6878

Media Contact: Karen Thompson
(312) 353-8547

Legal Contact: Gaylene Vasaturo
(312) 886-1811

For Immediate Release: March 24, 2000

No. 00-OPA051

EPA SETTLES WITH ROUGE STEEL ON PCB VIOLATIONS; INCLUDES \$39,555 FINE

U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently settled an administrative complaint against Rouge Steel Co. (Dearborn, MI) for violation of Federal rules on PCB's. The company has agreed to a \$39,555 fine and complete a supplemental environmental project costing not less than \$30,000.

The facility, 3001 Miller Rd., was cited for PCB marking, storage, and disposal violations under the Toxic Substances Control Act. In addition to the fine, Rouge will properly remove a PCB transformer and ship it to a qualified landfill for disposal. Removal and disposal of the transformer must be completed by April 1, 2000. Once this is completed, EPA must receive a detailed report for confirmation.

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

Under the Toxic Substances Control Act, EPA regulates the proper cleanup, disposal, storage, and use of PCB's.

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Last Updated: 4/10/2000 17:15

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa051.htm>

Technical Contact: Mark Durno
(440) 250-1743

Media Contact: Ginny Narsete
(312) 886-4359

For Immediate Release: March 27, 2000

No. 00-OPA046

EPA BEGINS CLEANUP OF WINDHAM TOWNSHIP PROPERTY

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has started its cleanup of hazardous waste at a Windham Township property, State Route 303, Windham, OH. The site was referred to EPA by Ohio EPA after they performed an initial site assessment.

The site -- formerly known as the Windham Alloy Metal Co.--consists of industrial buildings surrounding a large concrete common area. The waste, which is located north of the facility, consists of hazardous levels of lead and chromium, both by-products of lead smelting operations.

The cleanup will include the removal of hazardous waste found on the property. The waste will then be treated and shipped off-site for proper disposal. There is an estimated 1,000 to 2,000 tons of waste buried on the property.

The waste is located within 400 feet of the Village of Windham's water wells. All information to date indicates that the water supply has not been impacted by its closeness to the waste dump. Soil surrounding the waste will be sampled for lead and chromium contamination. If the soil is found to have hazardous levels of these contaminants, it will be removed, treated, and disposed of properly.

EPA expects that these activities will last about 4 weeks and cost about \$350,000. These estimates could increase if large amounts of contaminated soil are discovered and require removal. The cleanup is being performed by the Superfund Emergency Response Program.

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Last Updated: 3/29/2000 10:20

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa046.htm>

Technical Contact: Manojkumar Patel
(312) 353-3565

Media Contact: William Omohundro
(312) 353-8254

Legal Contact: Richard Wagner
(312) 886-7947

For Immediate Release: March 27, 2000

No. 00-OPA052

EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH VILLAGE OF WITTENBERG

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently reached agreement with the Village of Wittenberg, WI, on alleged violations of Federal regulations on asbestos--a hazardous air pollutant--at a building, 703 East Grand Ave., demolished by the Wittenberg Fire Dept. No fine was assessed.

The agreement resolves a citation issued in August 1999, alleging that the Village of Wittenberg failed to:

- * thoroughly inspect the building for asbestos before demolition;
- * give EPA timely written notice of its intent to demolish;
- * adequately wet all asbestos-containing material and keep it wet until collected and contained, or treated, before disposal; and
- * remove all asbestos-containing material before burning the building.

The Wittenberg Fire Dept. used the building, which had asbestos-containing slate siding, for fire-fighting and fire-rescue training on November 17, 1997, and then allowed the fire to completely burn the building.

EPA said the Village of Wittenberg has agreed to comply in the future with all Federal asbestos regulations.

"Hazardous air pollutants are a serious threat to public health and the environment," said Bharat Mathur, director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "We will take all necessary steps to ensure compliance with the regulations."

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

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Last Updated: 3/29/2000 10:39

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa052.htm>

Technical Contact: Ruth McNamara
(312) 353-3193

Media Contact: Helen Lenart
(312) 353-6058

Legal Contact: Constandina Dalianis
(312) 353-1027

For Immediate Release: March 27, 2000

No. 00-OPA045

EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH PEPSI-COLA; INCLUDES FINE AND \$65,000 PROJECT

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently reached agreement with Pepsi-Cola General Bottlers, Inc., (Cincinnati, OH), for violating Federal laws on the reporting of hazardous chemicals. The company has agreed to pay a \$12,465 fine and complete environmental projects costing \$65,000.

The release occurred during a September 1998 fork lift accident at the plant when a driver hit the supply line to a ferric sulfate tank. Pepsi-Cola reported a 38,050 lb release of ferric sulfate. The reporting minimum for ferric sulfate is 1,000 lb. The facility was evacuated for over 2 hours, and 3 employees were injured while attempting to control the release.

As its environmental projects, Pepsi-Cola will install an open-top concrete secondary containment around its ferric sulfate tank that will prevent future releases of ferric sulfate into the environment. They will also upgrade the control system and install an alarm on the ammonia refrigeration system used for cooling raw materials and products.

Since 1989, EPA Region 5 has filed 218 complaints for hazardous chemical violations, resulting in 205 settlements worth \$ 4.87 million in total fines and \$3.09 million in environmental projects.

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Last Updated: 3/29/2000 10:32

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa045.htm>

Technical Contact: Noel Vargas
(312) 353-3575

Media Contact: William Omohundro
(312) 353-8254

Legal Contact: David Mucha
(312) 886-9032

For Immediate Release: March 27, 2000

No. 00-OPA053

EPA CITES PACE; INCLUDES \$177,204 FINE

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently filed an administrative complaint against Pace Industries, Inc., for alleged violations of Federal clean-air regulations at the company's wood household furniture manufacturing plant, 2545 West Polk St., Chicago. A \$177,204 penalty was proposed.

EPA said Pace failed to give EPA a timely written notice that it is a major source of volatile hazardous air pollutants. The company also failed to limit hazardous air pollutant emissions from its finishing operations, using any of the compliance methods approved by EPA regulations.

In addition, Pace failed to comply with EPA recordkeeping and planning requirements.

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

"Hazardous air pollutants are a serious threat to human health and the environment," said George Czerniak, chief of the regional Air Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Branch. "We will take all necessary steps to ensure that companies comply with the regulations."

Volatile organic compounds combine in the air with other chemicals on warm days to form ground-level ozone (smog), which can cause breathing problems, reduced lung function, eye irritation, stuffy nose, and reduced

resistance to colds and other infections. Ozone can aggravate asthma and damage lung tissue. Children, the elderly, and people with chronic respiratory diseases are the most sensitive.

Metropolitan Chicago does not meet health-based standards for ground-level ozone.

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Last Updated: 3/29/2000 10:34

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa053.htm>

Technical Contact: Erik Hardin
(312) 886-2402

Media Contact: William Omohundro
(312) 353-8254

Legal Contact: Susan Tennenbaum
(312) 886-0273

For Immediate Release: March 29, 2000

No. 00-OPA054

EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH TECHMETALS; INCLUDES \$24,000 FINE

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently reached agreement with Techmetals, Inc., on alleged violations of Federal hazardous air-pollutant regulations and State permitting requirements at the company's electroplating plant, 2200 East First St., Dayton, OH. A \$24,000 penalty was assessed.

The agreement resolves an EPA administrative complaint filed in July 1999, alleging Techmetals failed to notify EPA about construction of new chromium electroplating tanks at its Dayton plant, to get State permits for the tanks, and to do required performance tests.

"EPA is committed to enforcing regulations for hazardous air pollutants to protect public health and the environment," said Bharat Mathur, director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "We will take all necessary steps to ensure that companies comply with the Clean Air Act."

Hexavalent chromium, a highly hazardous cancer-causing substance, is found in chromic-acid mist released into the air as part of the electroplating process. Chromic acid is also a respiratory irritant, whose short-term effects include coughing and wheezing. Noncancerous long-term effects include bronchitis, as well as ulcerations and perforations of the nasal septum.

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Last Updated: 3/29/2000 11:09€

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa054.htm> €

Technical Contact: Nancy Mugavero
(312) 353-4890

Media Contact: William Omohundro
(312) 353-8254

Legal Contact: Elizabeth Murphy
(312) 886-0748

For Immediate Release: April 4, 2000

No. 00-OPA056

EPA: PARIS CLEANERS ENDS MOST EMISSIONS OF A HAZARDOUS AIR POLLUTANT

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today that Paris Cleaners (1975 Celina Rd., St. Marys, OH) has eliminated almost all emissions of the hazardous air pollutant perchloroethylene from its dry cleaning plant by converting two transfer machine systems to a water-based solvent process.

Paris Cleaners has been under an EPA administrative order to comply with Federal dry-cleaning regulations by August 12, 2000. EPA cited Paris Cleaners in March 1999 for alleged violations of Federal perchloroethylene emissions standards, and issued the administrative order last August.

"Paris Cleaners has exceeded expectations by making these changes to its dry cleaning process," said Bharat Mathur, director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "We commend the company for its expeditious efforts to eliminate hazardous air-pollutant emissions to protect public health and the environment."

Two other systems at the plant still use perchloroethylene, but emissions are minor because the systems are closed. They complied with EPA regulations when the order was issued, and still comply.

Short-term exposure to high concentrations of perchloroethylene—particularly in poorly ventilated areas--can cause dizziness, light-headedness, nausea, kidney dysfunction, confusion,

difficulty in speaking and walking, and loss of consciousness. Long-term exposure can damage the liver and nervous system. Perchloroethylene is classified as a probable, but low-hazard, cancer-causing agent in humans.

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Last Updated: 4/10/2000 11:50

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa056.htm>

U.S. EPA Contact: Derrick Kimbrough

(312) 886-9749

Illinois EPA Contact: Carol Fuller

(217) 524-8807

For Immediate Release: April 5, 2000

No. 00-OPA057

AVAILABILITY SESSIONS ON INDIAN REFINERY-TEXACO SITE, APRIL 17

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5, Texaco, and three partner agencies will hold two availability sessions to update residents about the Indian Refinery -Texaco Superfund site, Lawrenceville, IL.

The open house-style meetings will be Monday, April 17, 2 to 4 p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m., at the Rich-Law Bldg. (basement), 1406 Locust St., Lawrenceville. In addition to EPA and Texaco, representatives from Illinois EPA, Illinois Department of Public Health, and Lawrence County Health Department will be on hand to answer questions about the current residential investigation near the site, and other site-related concerns.

If there is enough interest, SECOR, an environmental consultant for Texaco, will also be available to demonstrate a geoprobe (soil-sampling equipment) at a site a few blocks away.

The Indian Refinery-Texaco site, which has been proposed for EPA's Superfund National Priorities List, was an oil refining facility that ended its operations in November 1995.

For more information, call EPA Community Involvement Coordinator Derrick Kimbrough, 800-621-8431, or Illinois EPA Community Involvement Coordinator Carol Fuller, 217-524-8807.

PHOTO OPPORTUNITY, APRIL 17, 3 P.M.: SECOR, an environmental consultant for Texaco, will demonstrate a geoprobe (soil-sampling system)

at a residential site on 4th Street, between Hickory Ave. and Cedar Ave. Area residents may also attend. For more information, call Dave Arnold, 248-489-5900.

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Last Updated: 4/10/2000 11:53

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa057.htm>

Technical Contact: Nhien Pham
(312) 353-8657

Media Contact: William Omohundro
(312) 353-8254

Legal Contact: Steven Murawski
(312) 886-6741

For Immediate Release: April 6, 2000

No. 00-OPA058

EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH K-T CORP.; INCLUDES \$21,788 FINE & \$350,000 PROJECT

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently reached agreement with K-T Corp. on alleged violations of Federal clean-air regulations at the company's facility, 850 Elston Dr., Shelbyville, IN.

The agreement, which includes a \$21,788 penalty and a \$350,000 environmental project, resolves an EPA administrative complaint issued in September 1999. The complaint alleged that K-T Corp. failed to comply with EPA regulations on perchloroethylene--a cleaning solvent and a hazardous air pollutant.

As its environmental project, K-T Corp. has agreed to install a new water-based solvent cleaning system and have it running by the end of the year. This will eliminate the use of perchloroethylene in the company's old cleaning machines.

"We are pleased that K-T Corp. has agreed to take these steps to eliminate the use of perchloroethylene as a cleaning solvent to protect public health and the environment," said Bharat Mathur, director of the regional Air and Radiation Division.

Short-term exposure to high concentrations of perchloroethylene, especially in poorly ventilated areas, can cause dizziness, light-headedness, nausea, kidney problems, confusion, difficulty in speaking and walking, and loss of consciousness. Long-term exposure can damage the liver and nervous system. Perchloroethylene is a probable low-hazard,

cancer-causing agent in humans.

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Last Updated: 4/10/2000 12:30

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa058.htm>

Media Contact: Suzanne Saric
(312) 353-3209

For Immediate Release: April 7, 2000

No. 00-OPA062

EPA NAMES REGIONAL PRESIDENT'S ENVIRONMENTAL YOUTH AWARD WINNERS

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 today announced the regional winners of the President's Environmental Youth Awards for the 1999 school year.

The first-place winner is Morgan Danielle Dusch, a student at Paoli Junior-Senior High School (Paoli, IN), who undertook an ambitious study of the health and viability of Patoka Lake, a manmade lake in her community. Dusch is one of 10 winners who will be honored at a national ceremony in Washington, DC on April 12.

In her junior year, Dusch analyzed water quality in Patoka Lake by conducting in-depth chemical, bacterial, and physical tests. Dusch compared historical data with seasonal data she collected, and made a series of projections regarding the lake's health 25 years into the future. Her analysis of water quality revealed problems that may cause the premature death of the lake if they are not corrected. Her advisor on the project was William Tom Anderson, Jr., Science Projects Instructor at Paoli Junior-Senior High School.

"We received many outstanding entries and all participants are to be commended for their efforts," said Regional Administrator Francis X. Lyons. "I was very impressed by the scientific knowledge and environmental awareness of the students. The first place winner, Morgan Dusch, not only submitted an exciting and challenging science project, but also provided valuable information that can be used to benefit the environment in her community."

EPA also recognized these finalists:

First runner-up: Decatur Classical School Beetle Busters
(1030 North Sacramento, Chicago) produced and implemented an

intensive educational outreach program on Asian Longhorn beetles. The beetles have ravaged many trees in the Chicago area. Through the production of many outreach resources, middle school students educated the community and local government about the beetles' physical characteristics, the damage they have had on trees, and the potential ecological damage they could bring to the United States.

Second runner-up: Michael Lohman, Jr. (St. Paul, MN) investigated sources of lead contamination in a residence in his community. Lohman studied air, tap water, and soil for lead in and around the home. His study led him to formulate hypotheses on the occupational hazards of lead contamination.

Third runner-up: Detroit's Fabulous Garden (Detroit, MI). Children ages 5 to 13 helped to cultivate a garden in their local community. They dug a pond, arranged for the donation of a pond liner and pump, helped install the equipment, and planted flowers.

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.

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Last Updated: 4/14/2000 9:44

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa062.htm>

Media Contact: William Omohundro
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: April 7, 2000

No. 00-OPA064

NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS

Today, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing to approve plans submitted by the States of Missouri and Illinois that will cut smog levels, making the air healthier to breathe for approximately 2.5 million people in the St. Louis area.

These plans outline actions to attain the ozone (smog) standard in the St. Louis area. EPA also is proposing that the St. Louis area must meet the clean air smog standards by 2003.

EPA applauds the significant actions the States have proposed to achieve clean air and recent actions such as the vehicle inspection and maintenance program that will help to accomplish their clean air goals. Reducing emissions that create smog will help to prevent the incidences of respiratory illnesses, including aggravated cases of childhood asthma.

EPA will continue to work closely with the States of Missouri and Illinois to ensure continued progress in bringing cleaner, healthier air to the citizens of St. Louis.

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Last Updated: 4/10/2000 12:24

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa064.htm>

Technical Contact: Patrick Kuefler
(312) 353-6268

Media Contact: Karen Thompson
(312) 353-8547

Legal Contact: Eva Hahn
(312) 886-6833

For Immediate Release: April 7, 2000

No. 00-OPA060

EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH ALBERTO-CULVER; INCLUDES \$104,000 FINE, ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT

U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently signed a consent agreement with Alberto-Culver USA, Inc. (Melrose Park, IL), on alleged violations of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act.

The Chicago-based manufacturer of personal care and household products has agreed to pay a \$104,000 fine and has completed an environmental project.

On February 18, 1999 EPA inspected the Alberto-Culver plant, at 2525 Armitage Ave., and discovered 8 55-gallon drums of hazardous waste, including spent chloroform.

In addition to the fine, the company has spent \$6,397 on equipment to reduce chloroform generation by about 70 per cent as part of its environmental project. Chloroform is a persistent bioaccumulative toxicant which, if released into the environment, can remain there for long periods of time. Alberto-Culver's hazardous waste storage unit will be assessed to ensure that any contamination is identified and cleaned up.

Under Federal law, EPA regulates the management and disposal of hazardous waste, from production to final disposal.

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Last Updated: 4/13/2000 9:59€

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa060.htm> €

Technical Contact: Diane Sharrow
(312) 886-6199

Media Contact: Karen Thompson
(312) 353-8547

Legal Contact: Craig Melodia
(312) 353-8870

For Immediate Release: April 7, 2000

No. 00-OPA059

EPA SETTLES WITH MICHIGAN RECOVERY ON HAZARDOUS WASTE VIOLATIONS; INCLUDES \$32,000 FINE

U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently settled an administrative complaint against Michigan Recovery Systems, Inc. (Romulus, MI) for alleged hazardous waste violations. The company will pay a \$32,000 fine.

Michigan Recovery Systems, 36234 Van Born Rd., is a permitted hazardous waste treatment facility that was cited for failure to comply with Federal regulations to control air emissions from hazardous waste storage tanks. The violations were discovered by EPA during an inspection on September 28, 1998.

Under the Resource and Conservation Recovery Act, EPA and the States, regulate the safe handling, transportation, treatment, and disposal of municipal and industrial solid wastes, from production to final disposal. The facility is now in compliance.

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Last Updated: 4/10/2000 12:23

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa059.htm>

Media Contact: Mick Hans
(312) 353-5050

Kristen Tyrpin
(312) 886-9840

For Immediate Release: April 11, 2000

No. 00-OPA065

**NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS: PRESS
CONFERENCE IN SAGINAW, MI, NOON, APRIL
12**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 Administrator Francis X. Lyons and Saginaw, MI, Mayor Gary Loster will make an environmental announcement of interest to Saginaw residents, Wednesday, April 12, noon, at Alfe Heat Treating, 1200 Leon Scott (off of Veterans Parkway).

Lyons and Loster will each make brief speeches, followed by a question-and-answer session. Other State and local environmental officials are expected to be on hand.

If it rains or snows, the event will be held at the Andersen Enrichment Center, 120 Ezra Rust Dr.

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Last Updated: 4/25/2000 17:12

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa065.htm>

Technical Contact: Brooke Furio
(312) 353-2513

Media Contact: Mick Hans
(312) 353-5050

City of Saginaw Contact: Rod Dixon

(517) 759-1304

For Immediate Release: April 12, 2000

No. 00-OPA063

EPA AWARDS \$200,000 BROWNFIELDS/GREENSPACE GRANT TO SAGINAW, MI

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 today awarded a \$200,000 Brownfields Assessment Pilot Grant to the City of Saginaw, MI, to continue ongoing redevelopment projects in the downtown area. The grant includes \$50,000 specifically set aside to preserve greenspace for public use.

Brownfields sites are abandoned or underused sites where real or perceived environmental contamination has slowed redevelopment. Since 1995, EPA's Brownfields program has provided more than 300 Brownfields assessment grants totaling over \$69 million, to cities and development agencies across the country. These grants have helped communities leverage nearly \$2 billion in investments to further assess potential Brownfields sites, and create approaches for affordable cleanup.

Saginaw will use the grant to continue its investigation of Brownfields properties with potential environmental contamination and to develop clean-up and redevelopment strategies. To date, the city has completed nine environmental assessments, with redevelopment planned and ongoing at five sites.

Significantly, the grant includes \$50,000 specifically earmarked for greenspace preservation. This is the first time that supplemental grants have been awarded for this purpose. Saginaw plans to use this portion of

the grant to turn an urban marsh into a recreational and educational center. The abandoned 26-acre marsh is part of the original Saginaw River bayou system within the downtown area. Surrounding businesses, a hospital, and a nearby school would benefit from the newly constructed walkways and overlooks of the restored marsh.

"Saginaw is proud to receive this grant," said Saginaw Mayor Gary Loster. "This is actually the second Brownfields grant we've received since 1998 to accelerate the revitalization of the downtown area. The grants have made a big difference in jump-starting interest and commitments from developers, lenders, and the other community leaders who need to be involved in making projects move from the drawing board to reality."

In 1998, Saginaw received a \$200,000 EPA Brownfields Assessment grant to begin the project. Work to date includes an inventory and economic analysis of 69 potential Brownfields properties. The City has also partnered with the Technical Assistance for Brownfields communities program at Michigan State University to provide technical assistance, education, and training to local governments, community groups, and local leaders on Brownfields issues.

"Brownfields assessment grants, which will be enhanced by the Administration's Better America Bonds concept, are an important tool to help communities identify where their environmental challenges and opportunities intersect," said EPA Regional Administrator Francis X. Lyons. "Saginaw has done tremendous work in the past few years to redevelop priority sites and provide community outreach. We hope this grant keeps things moving along, and helps bring other key parties to the table."

PRESS CONFERENCE NOON TODAY: EPA Regional Administrator Francis X. Lyons, Saginaw Mayor Gary Loster, and other State and local officials will hold a brief press conference at noon today at Alfe Heat Treating, 1200 Leon Scott, off of Veterans Parkway.

If it rains, the conference will be held at the Andersen Enrichment Center, 120 Ezra Rust Dr. Reporters who cannot attend but would like more information may call one of the contacts listed above.

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Last Updated: 4/25/2000 17:10

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa063.htm>

For Immediate Release: April 12, 2000

No. 00-OPA068

EPA CITES SIX COMPANIES FOR CLEAN-AIR VIOLATIONS

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 notified six companies in March that it believes they have violated Federal or federally enforceable State clean-air regulations, or both.

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

"EPA's mission is to protect human health and the environment," said George Czerniak, chief of the regional Air Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Branch. "We will take whatever steps are necessary to ensure compliance with clean-air regulations."

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

COMPANIES RECEIVING FOV'S

Consolidated Papers, Inc.

950 Fourth Ave., N

Wisconsin Rapids, WI

EPA alleges Consolidated Papers failed to comply with Federal new source performance standards by modifying two recovery boilers, causing them to violate the total reduced sulfur emission rate and monitoring and recordkeeping requirements of the new source performance standards.

Technical Contact: Manojkumar Patel, 312-353-3565

Legal Contact: Nidhi Omeara, 312-886-0568

Lacks Industries, Inc.

4280 Airplane, SE €

Kentwood, MI €

EPA alleges Lacks Industries failed to comply with Federal regulations on € chromium—a hazardous air pollutant—at the company's electroplating € plant. €

Technical Contact: Newton Ellens, 312-353-5562 €

Legal Contact: Cynthia King, 312-886-6831 €

COMPANIES RECEIVING NOV'S €

Arandell Corp. €

N82 W13118 Leon Rd. €

Menomonee Falls, WI €

EPA alleges Arandell failed to comply with federally enforceable State € regulations on volatile organic chemical emissions from lithographic € printing operations and failed to comply with terms of its federally € enforceable permit. €

Technical Contact: Jennifer Darrow, 312-886-6315 €

Legal Contact: Alan Walts, 312-353-8894 €

Consolidated Papers, Inc. €

950 Fourth Ave., N. €

Wisconsin Rapids, WI €

EPA alleges Consolidated Papers made two modifications of its Kraft pulp € production plant without first getting a permit to prevent significant € deterioration of air quality. Before new air pollution sources can be built, € or existing sources modified, in areas that have attained national health-€ based air quality standards for all air pollutants, companies must get € permits that restrict their emissions and prevent significant deterioration of € air quality in those areas. €

Technical Contact: Manojkumar Patel, 312-353-3565 €

Legal Contact: Nidhi Omeara, 312-886-0568 €

Southern Indiana Gas and Electric Co. €

Culley Station €

Newburgh, IN €

EPA alleges SIGECO failed to comply with federally enforceable State € regulations on opacity, or the amount of light obscured by particulates € (smoke, dust, ash), during visible emissions observations ("smoke € readings") done in April 1999. €

Technical Contact: Loren Denton, 312-886-6814 €

Legal Contact: Louise Gross, 312-886-6844 €

Triangle Construction Co., Inc.
480 North Evergreen Ave.
Kankakee, IL

EPA alleges Triangle Construction failed to comply with federally enforceable State clean-air regulations by allowing fugitive particulate (dust) emissions to cross the property line from two locations at the company's ready mix concrete plant during an EPA inspection on October 21, 1999. Fugitive emissions are emissions not caught by a capture system.

Technical Contact: Howard Caine, 312-353-9685

Legal Contact: Joanna Glowacki, 312-353-3757

University of Wisconsin
University Dr.
Eau Claire, WI

EPA alleges the University of Wisconsin at Eau Claire failed to comply with federally enforceable State regulations and the terms of its operating permit by exceeding emission limits on particulates (smoke, dust, ash) from its heating plant during a February 5, 1999, stack test.

Technical Contact: Joseph Cardile, 312-353-2151

Legal Contact: Nidhi Omeara, 312-886-0568

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Last Updated: 4/13/2000 10:13

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa068.htm>

Technical Contact: Terence Bonace
(312) 886-3387

Media Contact: Karen Thompson
(312) 353-8547

Legal Contact: Susan Perdomo
(312) 886-0557

For Immediate Release: April 12, 2000

No. 00-OPA067

EPA SETTLES WITH ALCOA ON VIOLATION OF TOXIC SUBSTANCES ACT

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently settled an administrative complaint against ALCOA, Inc., for alleged violation of the Toxic Substances Control Act at its Warrick Operation, Newburgh, IN. The company will pay a \$15,413 fine.

EPA said that Alcoa failed to keep a record of an alleged adverse health reaction to chemical substances. Significant adverse reactions are defined in Federal regulations as "reactions that may indicate substantial impairment of normal activities, or long-lasting or irreversible damage to health or the environment."

This is the first time EPA has brought such a claim. "The goal is to create a historical record of significant adverse reactions caused by a substance or mixture," said Phyllis Reed, chief of the regional pesticides and toxics branch. "This allows two things to happen. The chemical processor or manufacturer can notice a trend of adverse reactions to a particular chemical and report it to the EPA; or EPA can request records from certain industries when it discovers a chemical presents possible risk to human health or the environment," Reed said.

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Last Updated: 4/13/2000 10:31

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa067.htm>

Technical Contact: Dan Patulski
(312) 886-0656

Media Contact: Karen Thompson
(312) 353-8547

For Immediate Release: April 12, 2000

No. 00-OPA066

EPA ISSUES NEW LAND-USE GUIDANCE FOR HAZARDOUS WASTE SITES

U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 recently issued new land-use guidelines for cleanups at hazardous waste sites to protect human health and the environment. The guidelines, established under the Resource Conservation Recovery Act (RCRA), will reduce exposure to chemicals in soil and ground water.

The new guidelines will help EPA design clean-up plans for industrial facilities where property use is restricted by contamination. They will also help regulated industry make decisions about future land-use. The guidance will:

- *assist project managers in early evaluation of appropriate cleanup methods;
- *provide criteria for assessing a facility's request for restricted and future use;
- *encourage public input; and
- *describe legal mechanisms for land-use enforcement.

A detailed version of the RCRA corrective action guidance can be found on the EPA Web site at www.epa.gov/region5/rcra.

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Last Updated: 4/13/2000 10:16

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa066.htm>

Technical Contact: Jennifer Darrow
(312) 886-6315

Media Contact: William Omohundro
(312) 353-8254

Legal Contact: Ann Coyle
(312) 886-2248

For Immediate Release: April 13, 2000

No. 00-OPA069

EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH DETROIT COMPANY; INCLUDES \$3,000 FINE

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently reached agreement with Northwest Detroit Neighborhood Development, Inc., Detroit, MI, on alleged violations of Federal regulations on asbestos--a hazardous air pollutant--related to the demolition of buildings on six Detroit properties in 1998. A \$3,000 penalty was assessed.

The agreement resolves an EPA administrative complaint issued in September 1999, alleging that Northwest Detroit, the owner of six properties on which buildings were demolished, failed to notify EPA of its intent to demolish the buildings before starting demolition. All six properties are on Fenkell Street: numbers 20531, 20601, 20615, 20619, and 20635-37.

"EPA is committed to enforcing the asbestos regulations to protect public health and the environment," said Bharat Mathur, director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "We will take whatever steps are necessary to ensure that companies comply with Federal regulations."

Asbestos is a known carcinogen that can cause mesothelioma (a type of lung cancer) and asbestosis (a lung disease) many years after exposure.

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Last Updated: 4/13/2000 15:26

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa069.htm>

Media Contact: Don deBlasio
(312) 886-4360

Legal Contact: John Colletti
(312) 886-6106

Virginia Laszewski
(312) 886-7501

For Immediate Release: April 20, 2000

No. 00-OPA073

EPA TO HOLD MEETINGS ON MILLE LACS BAND WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT FACILITY

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 will hold two meetings on April 25, from 2 to 4 p.m. and from 7 to 9 p.m., at the Garrison City Hall Auditorium, 27069 Central St., to provide information about the environmental assessment of and proposed wastewater discharge permit for the Mille Lacs Band Wastewater Management facility in Vineland, MN. The proposed facility will be built on land owned by the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe.

Representatives from EPA, the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, the Garrison-Kathio-West Mille Lacs Lake Sanitary District, and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency will present information and answer questions about the proposed facility.

Background documents on the proposed permit and the environmental assessment are available for review at:

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Mille Lacs Government Center Building, 43408 Oodena Dr., Vineland; Garrison City Hall; Milaca Community Library, 145 South Central St., Milaca; Mille Lacs Lake Community Library, 285 Second Ave., Isle; and Mille Lacs County Building, 635 2nd St. SE., Milaca.

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Last Updated: 4/20/2000 10:13€

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa073.htm> €

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For Immediate Release: April 20, 2000

No. 00-OPA074

EPA: INDIANAPOLIS & MARION COUNTY NOW MEET HEALTH-BASED LEAD STANDARD

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today that Indianapolis and all of Marion County, IN, now meet the national health-based, outdoor-air standard for lead, a major air pollutant.

EPA Region 5 Administrator Francis X. Lyons signed documents today redesignating Marion County to attainment of the air-quality standard for lead.

"This means that the Indianapolis area now meets the health-based standard for all six major air pollutants," Lyons said.

EPA recently redesignated the Indianapolis area to attainment of the health-based, outdoor-air standard for carbon monoxide. The city had already met the standard for the four other major air pollutants: ozone (smog), nitrogen oxide, sulfur dioxide, and particulate matter (smoke, dust, ash).

"Being added to the 'clean list' is a significant accomplishment for the

city, the county and the State," Governor Frank O'Bannon said. "Lead contamination is one of the most dangerous threats to our children's health, and I'm pleased to see that we are making progress in our efforts to protect them. This action shows us that we can reverse pollution and that our efforts are paying off."

Indianapolis Mayor Bart Peterson said, "This decision by EPA is extremely beneficial to our city. Lead contamination can be very dangerous to all aspects of a community, especially our infants and children, and this decision shows that a lot of people on the Federal, State, and local levels have worked hard to make Indianapolis a safer place to live and raise our families."

EPA said the reduction in lead levels in Marion County's air is the result of the Federal initiative that eliminated lead from gasoline used by cars and trucks, compliance by Quemetco, Inc., with the State's lead control plan, and voluntary closing of some lead-emitting plants.

EPA said Marion County has plans to keep the lead levels within the health-based standard of 1.5 micrograms per cubic meter for the next 10 years and beyond. The plan requires the county to consider impacts of future activities on air quality and to manage those activities, making whatever changes are needed to keep the air clean.

Exposure to lead can adversely affect the kidneys, liver, nervous system, and other organs. Recent studies show that lead may be a factor in high blood pressure and subsequent heart disease. Lead can be deposited on the leaves of plants, presenting a hazard to grazing animals.

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Last Updated: 4/24/2000 9:37

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa074.htm>

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For Immediate Release: April 21, 2000

No. 00-OPA076

EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH INTERNATIONAL MALTING; INCLUDES \$25,500 FINE & 2 PROJECTS COSTING \$138,500

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently reached agreement with International Malting Co., LLC, on alleged violations of federally enforceable State clean-air regulations at the company's Froedtert Malt, West Plant, 2100 South 43rd St., Milwaukee, WI.

The agreement, which includes a \$25,500 penalty and two environmental projects costing \$138,500, resolves an EPA administrative complaint filed in September 1999.

The complaint alleged that visible emissions of particulates (dust) from the company's grain-loading process exceeded the standard for opacity (the amount of light obscured by the dust) during a State inspection in December 1998.

Also, in September 1998, a State inspector discovered evidence that the company had failed to take precautions in keeping particulates from becoming airborne during handling, transporting, or storing.

International Malting has agreed to complete two environmental projects:

(1) a \$20,000 project to replace two manual truck loadout spouts with automated dust control loadout spouts; and

(2) a \$118,500 project to modify and replace the loadout shed and its doors which will enclose the loadout operation and create a "dead air" pocket.

"We are pleased that International Malting has agreed to complete these two projects to protect public health and the environment," said Bharat Mathur, director of the regional Air and Radiation Division.

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

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Last Updated: 4/24/2000 10:25

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa076.htm>

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For Immediate Release: April 21, 2000

No. 00-OPA075

EPA CITES ADAMS PLATING; INCLUDES \$65,600 FINE

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently filed an administrative complaint against Adams Plating Co. for alleged violations of Federal regulations on chromium--a hazardous air pollutant--at the company's electroplating plant, 521 North Rosemary St., Lansing, MI. A \$65,600 penalty was proposed.

EPA said Adams failed to comply with Federal work practice, planning, monitoring, and recordkeeping standards.

EPA met with Adams April 18 in Chicago to discuss the allegations and how to resolve them.

"Hazardous air pollutants are potentially a serious threat to human health and the environment," said Bharat Mathur, director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "We will take all necessary steps to ensure that companies comply with the Clean air Act."

Hexavalent chromium, a highly hazardous cancer-causing substance, is found in chromic-acid mist released into the air as part of the electroplating process. Chromic acid is also a respiratory irritant, whose short-term effects include coughing and wheezing. Noncancerous long-term effects include bronchitis, as well as ulcerations and perforations of the nasal septum.

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Last Updated: 4/24/2000 10:02

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa075.htm>

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For Immediate Release: April 25, 2000

No. 00-OPA078

EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH R&L MARKETING

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently reached agreement with R&L Marketing, Inc., (730 South Military Rd., Fond du Lac, WI) on alleged violations of Federal regulations restricting the sale of chlorofluorocarbon (CFC) refrigerants.

The agreement resolves an EPA administrative complaint issued in June 1999, alleging R&L Marketing sold refrigerants to unauthorized buyers and did not keep proper sales records.

In consideration of the economic impact of the proposed civil penalty on the company, EPA agreed to mitigate the proposed penalty of \$1,711 to \$0.

The company has agreed to comply with all Federal regulations on chlorofluorocarbon refrigerants in the future. In addition, the company must orally inform buyers of the requirements they must meet, and the buyers must sign documents stating they meet these requirements. The documents must be kept on record for at least three years.

"EPA's mission is to protect human health and the environment," said Bharat Mathur, director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "We will take all necessary steps to ensure compliance with regulations to protect the stratospheric ozone layer."

Chlorofluorocarbon refrigerants deplete the stratospheric ("good") ozone

layer, allowing dangerous, cancer-causing ultraviolet rays from the sun to strike the earth. Production of some of these chemicals was stopped in 1995, and now Federal law strictly controls their use and handling. Releasing them into the air is prohibited.

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Last Updated: 4/25/2000 11:15

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa078.htm>

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For Immediate Release: April 25, 2000

No. 00-OPA077

EPA TO INVESTIGATE TREMONT CITY LANDFILL SITE; PUBLIC MEETING MAY 10

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today it will investigate the Tremont City Landfill site, Tremont City, OH. A public meeting to discuss first steps in the investigation will be 7 p.m., Wednesday, May 10, at the Springfield City Hall, 76 E. High St., Springfield, OH.

In June, EPA will conduct a baseline sampling program to test soil, ground and surface water, and sediment, for environmental contamination. EPA will then determine if further steps are needed.

The 80-acre site is about a mile west of Tremont City, just south of the Clark/Champaign county line. It is comprised of three main areas: a barrel fill, a waste transfer facility, and a landfill, all of which have been closed since 1995 or earlier.

Previous testing of these areas indicated the presence of chromium in ground water at the barrel fill; historical records indicated that waste oil and solvents were processed at the waste transfer station; and past testing indicated the presence of volatile organic compounds, chloride, sodium, and heavy metals in ground water at the landfill.

Operations at the Tremont City Landfill site began in 1969. Danis Industries, Inc., currently owns the site.

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Last Updated: 4/25/2000 13:39

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa077.htm>

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For Immediate Release: April 25, 2000

No. 00-OPA079

EPA SETTLES WITH DSC ON PCB CLEANUP; FEDERAL/STATE COOPERATION KEY

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently reached agreement with DSC, Ltd. (Trenton and Gibraltar, MI) for PCB-equipment removal and cleanup. DSC, formerly the McLouth Steel property, is a Brownfields site adjacent to the Detroit River and Lake Erie.

As new owners of the property, DSC had to address substantial Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) corrective actions with Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), as well as PCB clean-up issues with EPA.

EPA, MDEQ, and DSC negotiated for more than two years before reaching an agreement. "This is the first regional coordination between State RCRA corrective action and the Federal PCB program," said Robert Springer, director of EPA's regional Waste, Pesticides, and Toxics Division. "The excellent cooperation has ensured an effective balance between Federal and State goals."

Russell Harding, director of MDEQ said, "This remediation program will enhance our environment and encourage commercial growth. With continued cooperation, we will all work in concert to create an environmentally safe operation that fits the market needs of today's steel industry."

The final EPA schedule requires DSC to remove and dispose of more than

4,000 PCB capacitors, all unused PCB transformers, and clean up at least 13 acres of land contaminated by PCB's at both the Trenton and Gibraltar facilities. The entire project is expected to cost more than \$2.5 million and take nearly four years to complete.

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

It is estimated that when the DSC project is finished, 200,000 lb of PCB's will have been removed from the Great Lakes Basin.

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Last Updated: 4/25/2000 15:55

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa079.htm>

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For Immediate Release: April 26, 2000

No. 00-OPA082

EPA & DOJ SETTLE WITH FORD; INCLUDES \$1.1 MILLION FINE & AN INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 and the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) have recently reached agreement with Ford Motor Co. on alleged violations of the Clean Air Act at three Detroit-area assembly plants.

The plants are Wayne Assembly, 37625 Michigan Ave., and Michigan Truck Assembly, 38303 Michigan Ave., both in Wayne, MI, and Dearborn Assembly, 3001 Miller Rd., Dearborn, MI.

The agreement, which includes a \$1.1 million penalty and an environmental project expected to cost more than \$12 million, resolves a complaint issued at the same time alleging that Ford failed to comply with permit requirements and emission limits for volatile organic compounds (VOC's)--precursors of ground-level ozone (smog)-- at all three assembly plants.

Ford must pay one-third of the \$1.1 million penalty to the United States, one-third to the Michigan general fund, and one-third to Wayne County.

The consent decree incorporates Ford's plan to close its existing Dearborn Assembly plant by October 31 and to move its assembly operations to a

new plant being built next to the existing plant. In addition, at its Wayne Assembly and Michigan Truck Assembly plants, Ford undertook actions necessary to comply with air regulations, including obtaining the required permits and installing air pollution control equipment.

As its environmental project, Ford will install a waterborne primer system at the new Dearborn Assembly plant that will replace a previously permitted solvent-based primer system in the guidecoat booth. The waterborne primer system will significantly cut VOC emissions at the new Dearborn Assembly plant. Ford has also agreed to take lower VOC emission limits in its permit for the new Dearborn Assembly plant. This will be one of the first high volume light duty truck facilities in the United States to use waterborne primer.

VOC's combine in the air on warm, sunny days with other chemicals to form ground-level ozone, or smog. Smog can cause breathing problems, reduced lung function, eye irritation, stuffy nose, and reduced resistance to colds and other infections. Ozone can aggravate asthma and may speed up aging of lung tissue. Children, the elderly, and people with heart and lung diseases are the most sensitive.

"The Detroit area achieved the health-based standard for ozone in March 1995 after being out of compliance since the 1970's," said Bharat Mathur, director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "EPA's goal is to ensure that Detroit continues to have air quality that meets this health-based standard."

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Last Updated: 4/26/2000 17:51

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa082.htm>

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For Immediate Release: April 26, 2000

No. 00-OPA080

EPA TO COSPONSOR CLIMATE CHANGE SEMINAR IN DETROIT

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 is cosponsoring a public seminar on "Climate Change and Michigan: What Impacts Will It Have and What Can We Do?" Saturday, April 29, 2-4 p.m., at the Belle Isle Nature Center Auditorium, Belle Isle Park, Detroit, MI.

The seminar is designed for business leaders, State and local government officials, environmental professionals, scientists, researchers, and private citizens.

Speakers and their topics are:

- Peter J. Sousounis, Ph.D., Professor of Atmospheric Sciences, University of Michigan. "Climate Change: What Does it Mean for the Midwest and Great Lakes?"
- George Albercook, Ph.D., Director, Global Change Project, Center for Environmental Policy, Economics, and Science. "Climate Change: How Will it Affect the Way We Live?"
- David Konkle, Energy Coordinator, City of Ann Arbor. "Climate Change: What is Ann Arbor Doing?"
- Julie K. Magee, Global Climate Change Coordinator, EPA Region 5. "Climate Change: What Can We Do?"

Other cosponsors are: Center for Environmental Policy, Economics, and Science; Detroit Audubon Society; Detroit Water and Sewerage Department; and Ducks Unlimited, Inc., Great Lakes and Atlantic

Regional Office.

Also, East Michigan Environmental Action Council; Friends of Belle Isle; Greening of Detroit; International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives, Cities for Climate Protection Campaign; and Southwest Detroit Environmental Vision.

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Last Updated: 4/26/2000 17:43

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa080.htm>

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For Immediate Release: April 26, 2000

No. 00-OPA055

EPA CITES WEILER COMPANIES FOR OIL SPILL PREVENTION VIOLATIONS; INCLUDES \$368,677 FINE

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently filed three separate administrative complaints against Weiler Enterprises and Weiler Fuels (Marshfield, WI), for violating EPA's Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure (SPCC) regulation. A \$368,677 fine has been proposed.

Two of the complaints concern bulk fuel facilities that are no longer operating. The third addresses an operating business. All three are in close proximity.

In the first complaint, EPA cited Weiler Fuels' now-closed 1st Street facility for a May 1997 oil spill and failure to have an SPCC plan, which, under the Clean Water Act, is required of all facilities storing oil near a navigable waterway. EPA's investigation indicated the spill flowed from the facility into a drainage ditch which drains into Mill Creek, which then empties into the Wisconsin River.

In the second complaint, Weiler Enterprises' now-closed Peach Avenue facility was cited for illegal oil spills in August 1995, August 1997, and May 1998. In all three incidents, the oil spilled into a (different) drainage ditch adjacent to the facility, which then discharged into a stormwater sewer that leads to Squaw Creek and then the Wisconsin River. In addition, the Peach Avenue facility did not have an SPCC plan.

In the third complaint, Weiler Fuels' still-operating 4th Street bulk fuel facility was cited for not having an SPCC plan.

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

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Last Updated: 4/26/2000 17:36

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa055.htm>

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For Immediate Release: April 26, 2000

No. 00-OPA081

EPA CITES DETROIT PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR ASBESTOS VIOLATIONS; PROPOSES NEARLY \$1.5 MILLION FINE

U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently filed a civil administrative complaint against the Detroit Public School District for alleged violations of Federal regulations on asbestos. A \$1.408 million penalty has been proposed.

EPA began investigating the Detroit School District in December 1998 following a parent's complaint. The Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act requires school districts to conduct asbestos inspections every three years to determine if the material has become damaged or deteriorated (friable) and whether it poses a health risk to students and faculty.

"Based on our inspection and the response we received from school officials, we feared widespread asbestos compliance problems throughout the Detroit School District," said Phyllis Reed, chief of the regional Pesticides and Toxics Branch. A January 2000 response from the schools indicated that 256 of the district's 263 school buildings did not meet Federal requirements.

"Our complaint is not about minor 'paperwork' violations, but goes to the heart of how the asbestos program is supposed to function to protect public health in schools," said EPA Regional Administrator Francis X. Lyons.

Lyons said EPA has talked with the public schools and city officials in Detroit and all are working to reach a timely resolution.

Asbestos is a naturally occurring mineral and was commonly used as a fireproofing and thermal insulating material. Exposure to airborne asbestos fibers can cause people to develop a asbestosis (a lung disease) and mesothelioma (a type of lung cancer) years after exposure.

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Last Updated: 4/26/2000 17:47

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa081.htm>

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For Immediate Release: April 27, 2000

No. 00-OPA084

EPA, DOJ SUE GUIDE CORP. AND CROWN ENVIRONMENTAL FOR WHITE RIVER FISH KILL

The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), on behalf of U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), today filed a lawsuit against Guide Corp. (Anderson, IN), and Crown Environmental Group, Inc. (Dayton, OH) for discharging pollutants into the White River, which caused one of the largest fish kills in Indiana history.

The United States alleges that the companies violated the Clean Water Act when, on multiple occasions in December 1999, they discharged toxic pollutants from the Guide facility (2915 Pendleton Ave., Anderson, IN) into the Anderson wastewater treatment plant, disrupting the operations of the plant and causing pollutants to enter the White River. Pollutants discharged into the river included ammonia, thiram and other thiurams, amines, and carbamates. Shortly after, hundreds of thousands of fish died along a 50-mile stretch of the river and the ecosystem of the river was severely damaged.

The United States also alleges that the defendants violated Federal and local pretreatment standards by failing to notify the sewage plant about changes in their operations and in pollutants discharged into the Anderson wastewater treatment plant.

The lawsuit seeks the restoration of the environment to undo the damage done to the fish population and other aquatic communities and civil penalties.

Guide is one of the world's largest manufacturers of automotive lighting. Crown Environmental was hired to operate Guide's wastewater treatment

plant.

"Our laws do not permit the kind of severe insult to the environment that occurred in this case. We will be vigorous in our pursuit of those responsible and make every effort to ensure that the river is properly restored," said Lois J. Schiffer, Assistant Attorney General for Environment and Natural Resources at DOJ.

The State of Indiana has filed a similar complaint and will seek to have its suit consolidated with the United States' action.

"This action demonstrates the value of Federal and State agencies working closely together to ensure that environmental wrongdoers are found and held responsible for the damage they cause," said EPA Regional Administrator Francis X. Lyons. " Indiana and the United States have worked together successfully in the past on joint environmental cases, such as the case against the Hammond Sanitary District, that have achieved very favorable results. We look forward to a successful resolution of this case which will send a clear message that industrial users may not discharge harmful pollutants into our waterways."

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Last Updated: 5/2/2000 10:22

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa084.htm>

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For Immediate Release: April 27, 2000

No. 00-OPA085

EPA CITES PRAEFKE BRAKE & SUPPLY; INCLUDES \$62,700 FINE

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently filed an administrative complaint against Praefke Brake & Supply Co. for alleged violations of Federal regulations on asbestos--a hazardous air pollutant--at the company's former plant, 8075 North 76th St., Milwaukee, WI. A \$62,700 penalty was proposed.

Praefke removed worn linings from brake shoes and reinstalled new linings, some of which contained asbestos, at the plant until it moved its operations to 133 Oak St., West Bend, WI.

EPA said the company failed to:

- * do visible emissions monitoring;
- * keep records of the required monitoring; and
- * properly label its asbestos-containing waste.

Praefke has 30 days from receipt of the complaint to file an answer and request a hearing. It may also request an informal meeting with EPA anytime to discuss the allegations.

Bharat Mathur, director of the regional Air and Radiation Division, said, "Hazardous air pollutants are a serious threat to human health and the environment. EPA will take all necessary steps to ensure total compliance

with the regulations."

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

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Last Updated: 4/27/2000 13:55

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa085.htm>

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For Immediate Release: April 27, 2000

No. 00-OPA083

EPA ANNOUNCES PLANS TO PROTECT LAKES ERIE, MICHIGAN, AND SUPERIOR

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Environment Canada today announced the release of comprehensive, binational plans to protect and restore Lakes Erie, Michigan, and Superior. The Lakewide Management Plans (LaMPs) address problems in the entire ecosystem of each lake, not just at polluted "hot spots." The plans outline the environmental status of each lake, highlights successes, identifies problems, and proposes solutions. Because of the evolving nature of the lakes, the plans will be updated every two years.

The release of the LaMPs coincides with the release of the Lake Ontario Lakewide Management Plan Update and the Lake Huron Initiative Report.

The plans were developed by EPA, Environment Canada, other Federal agencies, and State, Provincial, local, and tribal governments, in partnership with representatives of academia, environmental groups, industry, and business.

"The plans are essentially snapshots of what we know about each lake at this time. It has become apparent that we cannot solely rely on traditional regulatory activities to solve the lakes' complex problems," said Regional Administrator Francis X. Lyons. "Effective solutions will require a broader approach. In fact, some activities will be accomplished more effectively at the community level by private citizens and local governments, while others will require international cooperation."

The Great Lakes are one of the most outstanding natural resources in the world. They contain almost 20 percent of the fresh water on the planet and provide drinking water to more than 25 million people in the United States

and Canada. They are a shining example of environmental protection at its best. While there has been a dramatic reduction in pollutants entering the lakes over the last 30 years, complex problems remain.

Each lake has its unique concerns, but certain problems affect all the lakes, such as contaminated sediments, exotic species, and airborne pollutants. Many of these problems originate outside the Great Lakes basin, such as pesticides blown in from thousands of miles away and exotic species stowed away in the ballast water of oceangoing ships.

Proposed solutions are as broad and varied as the problems they are attempting to solve. In addition to ongoing attempts to control critical pollutants in waste water discharges and clean up local hot spots, they include measures such as ballast water controls, use of new air pollution models to identify emission sources, pesticide clean sweeps, control urban and agricultural runoff, and promotion of private stewardship of the environment.

The plans also identify the environmental consequences of shoreline development, including loss of habitat, and loss of wetlands that help filter pollutants in storm water runoff before they reach the lakes.

The LaMPs were initiated as part of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement between the United States and Canada to restore and maintain water quality in the Great Lakes.

Executive summaries of the plans for Lakes Erie, Michigan, and Superior, the Lake Ontario Update, and the Lake Huron Initiative Report are available on EPA's Web site <http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/gl2000/lamps>.

In the next several months, public meetings will be held throughout the Great Lakes Basin to discuss the plans.

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Last Updated: 4/27/2000 14:02

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa083.htm>

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For Immediate Release: May 2, 2000

No. 00-OPA086

EPA APPROVES USX SEDIMENT DISPOSAL FACILITY

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has approved use of part of the USX Gary Works property for disposal of PCB-contaminated sediments from the Grand Calumet River.

USX will build a specially designed disposal facility, known as a corrective action management unit (CAMU), that will cover about 40 acres of its Gary Works facility and will be built to contain all dredged sediments and prevent future releases of hazardous substances. With EPA's approval, the facility may also be used to store wastes from the clean up of releases at or from the entire USX facility.

By law, it may only be used for the disposal of cleanup wastes from the USX facility.

Under an August 1998 agreement with EPA, USX will remove nearly 700,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediments from 5 miles of the river and carry out a facility-wide cleanup. Under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, USX must properly dispose of and manage clean-up wastes, including the contaminated sediments that are removed from the river. The company also has received approval under the Toxic Substances Control Act to dispose of PCB-contaminated sediments in the CAMU.

The location was chosen because it is close to the part of the river to be dredged and it reduces the distance to carry the sediments.

The CAMU will be constructed under EPA supervision and in accordance with strict standards set out in the approved plan. It will include an air monitoring system and berms inside and outside to contain dredged sediments and water.

Sediments will be removed from the river through hydraulic dredging and will be carried to the CAMU through a pipeline. The approved plan will have several benefits including:

- reducing the potential for physical contact and accidental spills of the dredged sediments;
- shortening the length of the sediment removal project from 6 years to as few as 2 years;
- eliminating risks of trucking the sediment off-site;
- reducing potential air emissions that could occur with mechanical dredging and trucking off-site; and
- reducing the downstream movement of suspended sediment that could occur during mechanical dredging in open water.

EPA has held several public meetings on this project in the last few years and opened two comment periods.

EPA's response to comments on the proposed plan is available at the Gary Public Library Reference Desk, 22 West 5th Ave., and Indiana University NW, Center for Data & Analysis Library, 3400 Broadway, Gary, or by calling 800-621-8431.

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Last Updated: 5/4/2000 17:26

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa086.htm>

Media Contact: Leo Rosales
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For Immediate Release: May 4, 2000

No. 00-OPA087

VALLEYCREST LANDFILL CLEANUP WEB SITE EXPANDED

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently expanded its Web site for the Valleycrest Landfill (Dayton, OH) Superfund cleanup. The Web site (www.epa.gov/region5/valleycrest) was expanded in response to requests from community members and local officials.

The 102-acre site, at 200 Valleycrest Dr. (between Brandt Pike and Valley St.), was a gravel pit which accepted industrial and municipal waste. In July 1998, the Valleycrest Drum Removal Action Group—under an Administrative Order on Consent issued by EPA—began removing buried drums from the property. EPA estimates the total number of buried drums at about 25,000. Excavation and disposal of the drums and contaminated material is expected to continue through 2001.

The revised Web site includes past news releases and fact sheets, a photo gallery and panoramic tour of the site, and a list of EPA and Ohio EPA contacts. The Web site will be updated monthly.

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Last Updated: 5/4/2000 10:45

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa087.htm>

Technical Contact: John Colletti
(312) 886-6106

Media Contact: Don de Blasio
(312) 886-4360

Phillippa Cannon
(312) 353-6218

For Immediate Release: May 8, 2000

No. 00-OPA093

CHANGE OF SITE FOR HEARING ON MILLE LACS' PROPOSED NPDES PERMITS

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today that it has changed the site for its hearing on proposed National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits for the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe and ML Wastewater Management Inc. The new site for the hearing is Garrison City Hall, 27069 Central St., Garrison, MN. The hearing will be 7 to 9 p.m., Wednesday, May 24.

The Presiding Officer will try to stay within the time allotted, but the hearing may end earlier if all oral comments have been heard. Written comments also may be submitted at the hearing.

More information is available from John Colletti, Water Division, 312-886-6106, or Don de Blasio, Office of Public Affairs, 312-886-4360.

The format for the hearing is:

- * commenters must register
- * comments are limited to 5 minutes at a time
- * a commenter may get in line to speak again
- * a commenter next in line may yield to the current speaker, but the yielding commenter must go to the end of the line for a chance to speak if others are waiting

* in no other person is waiting, a commenter may continue, but must yield within 30 seconds if another person asks to comment

Presentations from tribal, local, State, and Federal elected offices, agencies, and organizations will be accepted first. Because they represent a broad constituency rather than an individual position, elected officials are allowed more time for presentations.

EPA is taking comments on its proposal to renew an NPDES wastewater treatment permit for the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, and to issue an NPDES permit to ML Wastewater Management Inc. (a corporation formed by the Band) for a new wastewater treatment facility with potential to serve the City of Garrison and Kathio and West Mille Lacs Townships.

Written comments, due by midnight, May 24, 2000, should be sent to:

John Colletti
U.S. EPA Region 5
NPDES Support/Technical Assistance Branch (WN-16J)
77 West Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604

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Last Updated: 5/9/2000 18:26

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa093.htm>

Technical Contact: Brad Bradley
(312) 886-4742

Media Contact: Leo Rosales
(312) 353-6198

For Immediate Release: May 8, 2000

No. 00-OPA089

EPA PROPOSES AMENDMENT TO CONRAIL SITE CLEAN-UP PLAN; MEETING MAY 11, COMMENT PERIOD ENDS JUNE 10

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently proposed an amendment to the proposed 1994 ground-water contamination clean-up plan for the Conrail Superfund site, Elkhart, IN.

A public meeting, including a question-and-answer period, to discuss the proposed amendment will be Thursday, May 11, 7 p.m., Harley Holben Elementary School, 30046 County Road 16 West, Elkhart. A 30-day comment period runs from May 11 to June 10.

Prior to issuing the proposed amendment, EPA considered four clean-up alternatives for the DNAPL (dense non aqueous phase liquid) source areas of the site. EPA recommends Alternative 2 as the most appropriate remedy. Alternative 2 includes:

- * Installation of a line of extraction wells to hydraulically contain the DNAPL source areas;
- * Treatment of extracted contaminated ground-water using air strippers;
- * Discharge of the treated water to Crawford Ditch, subject to a demonstration that the discharge will not negatively impact the St. Joseph River;
- * Natural gradient flushing of the dissolved portion of the contaminant plumes; and
- * Cleanup of the carbon tetrachloride source area at the Osceola Drag

Strip property.

Estimated cost of the clean-up plan: \$4.8 million. The work is expected to take nearly 2 years, beginning as early as March 2001.

Based upon receipt of new information and/or public comments, EPA may either modify the proposed plan amendment or present another clean-up alternative.

The amendment will be available for review at the May 11 meeting. It is also available at Harley Holben Elementary School or at the Elkhart Public Library, 300 South 2nd St.

Comments on the proposed plan amendment may be sent to Leo Rosales, Community Involvement Coordinator, U.S. EPA Region 5, 77 West Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL 60604, or e-mail, rosales.leo@epa.gov.

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Last Updated: 5/8/2000 12:37

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa089.htm>

Media Contact: Derrick Kimbrough
(312) 886-0995

Mick Hans
(312) 353-5050

For Immediate Release: May 8, 2000

No. 00-OPA090

NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS: CLEANUP NEARLY COMPLETE AT NL INDUSTRIES- TARACORP SITE; PHOTO-OP WITH EPA AND ARMY CORPS OFFICIALS

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will hold a media briefing and photo opportunity to recognize the nearly completed cleanup of 1,500 residential yards at the NL Industries-Taracorp Superfund site, Granite City, IL.

The event will be Wednesday, May 10, 1:30 to 2:30 p.m., 1600 block of Edison Ave. (Rain location: Granite City Township Hall, 2060A Delmar.)

EPA's Washington, D.C.-based Assistant Administrator for Solid Waste and Emergency Response Tim Fields, Region 5 Superfund Director William Muno, Army Corps Chicago Deputy District Engineer Lt. Colonel Craig Simoneau, Congressman Jerry Costello, Madison County Chairman Rudolph Papa, and the mayors of Granite City, Madison, and Venice will provide brief remarks and answer questions. Some of the residents whose yards were cleaned up are also expected to attend.

The NL Industries-Taracorp site, 2 miles East of St. Louis, across the Mississippi River, was a secondary lead smelter and refining plant from 1903 until 1983. Lead contamination from the site, including airborne smelter stack emissions and battery chips, was identified in a number of residential areas in Granite City, as well as in neighboring Eagle Park Acres, Madison, and Venice.

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Last Updated: 5/8/2000 12:29

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa090.htm>

Media Contact: Robert Paulson
(312) 886-0272

For Immediate Release: May 8, 2000

No. 00-OPA088

CLEAN-UP WORK TO BEGIN AT REILLY TAR & CHEMICAL SITE; MEETING MAY 17

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today that clean-up work for the 2000 summer construction season at the Reilly Tar & Chemical Superfund site (Dover, OH) will begin in early June. Area residents and businesses can expect to see heavy equipment and workers in required protective clothing at the site. The work will include excavation and disposal of contaminated sediments and soils.

The cleanup is expected to continue until October.

A public availability session will be held Wednesday, May 17, 7 to 9 p.m., Comfort Inn Conference Room, Route 38 North-West, Dover. Representatives from EPA, Ohio EPA, and Reilly Industries will be available to answer questions.

The site, on Third St., southeast of State Routes 211 and 39, and three-quarters of a mile north of Sugar Creek and the Tuscarawas River, has had extensive industrial use since the mid- 1800's. Reilly Tar & Chemical Corp. conducted coal tar refining operations from about 1921 to 1956. During that time, coal tar wastes accumulated on-site from spillage and seeped into the ground water, contaminating drainage ditch sediments and soils.

For more information, call Robert Paulson, EPA Community Involvement Coordinator, 800-621-8431.

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Last Updated: 5/8/2000 17:02

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa088.htm>

For Immediate Release: May 10, 2000

No. 00-OPA096

EPA CITES 3 COMPANIES FOR CLEAN-AIR VIOLATIONS

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 notified three companies in April that it believes they have 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 the allegations and how to resolve them.

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

[NOTE TO EDITORS: Companies alleged to have violated Federal clean-air regulations receive a Finding of Violation (FOV), and companies alleged to have violated federally enforceable State regulations receive a Notice of Violation (NOV).]

COMPANIES RECEIVING FOV'S

Intaglio Vivi-Color Alliance, Ltd.

4014 Tytus Ave.

Middletown, OH

EPA alleges Intaglio failed to comply with Federal regulations on chromium—a hazardous air pollutant—at the company's electroplating plant. EPA said violations at the plant included excessive chromium emissions.

Technical Contact: Erik Hardin, 312-886-2402

Legal Contact: Timothy Thurlow, 312-886-6623

Cleveland Energy Resources

Canal Road Plant

Cleveland, OH

EPA alleges Cleveland Energy Resources failed to comply with stack testing requirements for particulate (smoke, dust, ash) emissions specified in an EPA administrative order issued in July 1998. This rendered the tests invalid for showing compliance with permitted emission limits.

Technical Contact: Greg Chomycia, 312-353-8217

Legal Contact: Karen Peaceman, 312-353-5751

COMPANY RECEIVING NOV

Murphy Oil USA, Inc.

Superior, WI

EPA alleges Murphy Oil modified its oil refinery without first getting a permit to prevent significant deterioration of air quality. Before new air pollution sources can be built, or existing sources modified, in areas that have attained national health-based air quality standards for all air pollutants, companies must get permits that restrict their emissions and prevent significant deterioration of air quality in those areas.

Technical Contact: Spiros Bourgikos, 312-886-6862

Legal Contact: Jose C. de Leon, 312-353-7456

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Last Updated: 5/11/2000 10:11

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa096.htm>

Technical Contact: Phuong Nguyen
(312) 886-6701

Media Contact: William Omohundro
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: May 10, 2000

No. 00-OPA094

EPA: OHIO'S COSHOCTON, GALLIA, AND LORAIN COUNTIES MEET HEALTH-BASED SULFUR DIOXIDE STANDARD

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today that Ohio's Coshocton, Gallia, and Lorain Counties have met, and now have control requirements for continuing to meet, the national health-based, outdoor air standard for sulfur dioxide, a major air pollutant.

Documents redesignating the three counties to attainment of the air-quality standard for sulfur dioxide were signed last Friday in Chicago.

EPA Region 5 Administrator Francis X. Lyons said, "By working closely with our partners at the Ohio EPA, and in cooperation with the State's other stakeholders, we have ensured that more of Ohio's citizens have and will continue to have cleaner, healthier air to breathe."

EPA said the air-quality improvement is the result of burning fuels with lower sulfur content, such as low-sulfur coal and fuel oil.

All three counties now have plans for keeping their sulfur dioxide levels within the national health-based standard of 0.14 parts per million, averaged over 24 hours for the next 10 years and beyond. The plans require that companies continue to burn coal or fuel oil that has low sulfur content.

Exposure to sulfur dioxide can impair breathing, aggravate existing respiratory problems like bronchitis and asthma, and reduce the ability of lungs to clear foreign particles. Children, the elderly, and people with chronic heart and lung diseases are the most sensitive.

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Last Updated: 5/11/2000 10:13

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa094.htm>

Technical Contact: Sheri Bianchin
(312) 886-4745

Brad Bradley
(312) 886-4642

Media Contact: Derrick Kimbrough
(312) 886-9749

For Immediate Release: May 10, 2000

No. 00-OPA091

EPA AND U.S. ARMY CORPS: RESIDENTIAL CLEANUP NEARLY COMPLETE AT NL INDUSTRIES-TARACORP SITE

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers today announced that cleanup of residential areas near the NL Industries-Taracorp Superfund site, Granite City, IL, will be complete by the end of May.

The site--which is adjacent to the residential areas--is in a heavily industrialized section of Granite City. From 1903 to 1983, several companies, including Hoyt Metal, United Lead, NL Industries-Taracorp, and St. Louis Lead Recyclers conducted various metal refining, fabricating, and processing activities at the site.

A cleanup of the 16-acre site and the nearby 14-acre main industrial property, including capping of a 250,000-ton hazardous slag pile, was completed in September 1999.

The residential areas cleanup included removal of lead-contaminated soil from about 1,500 residential yards impacted by smelter stack emissions in Granite City, Madison, and Venice. Cleanup work, with oversight by the Army Corps, began in 1994 and will wrap up in the next few weeks. In addition, about 100 yards and alleys in Venice and Eagle Park Acres where battery chips were used as fill material were cleaned up in 1993 - 1999.

The \$63 million project includes about \$33 million to be recovered from

NL Industries. About \$30 million was contributed by the generators of the contamination following a settlement, including a portion of the clean-up costs (\$20.6 million), payment of past EPA costs (\$8.9 million), a \$400,000 cash penalty, certain ongoing maintenance costs, and a \$2 million supplemental project to identify and address lead-paint contamination in communities near the site.

"The NL site cleanup took tremendous resources and incredible commitment and cooperation between many government agencies, residents, and local officials to complete," said Assistant Administrator for Solid Waste and Emergency Response Timothy J. Fields. "EPA offers special thanks to the Army Corps, who provided impressive technical oversight."

The project included a 1998 partnership with DePaul University in Chicago, under the Superfund Jobs Training Initiative, in which 25 minority residents received environmental skills training. Several of the graduates were hired to work on the residential yard cleanup.

One final step remains: Final design and installation--if necessary, pending test results expected in the next 2 months--of a ground-water clean-up system for the main industrial site. Work is on schedule for completion by the end of September 2000. Once the system is approved by EPA, the NL Taracorp-Industries site will be formally designated as a completed site. Currently, 685 of the approximately 1,300 sites on EPA's National Priorities List have attained completion status.

Site documents are available for review at Granite City City Hall, City Clerk's Office, 2000 Edison Ave.

PHOTO-OP TODAY, 1:30 P.M.: Officials from U.S. EPA, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Madison County, Congressman Jerry Costello, and the mayors of Granite City, Madison, and Venice will hold a media briefing from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m., 1600 block of Edison Ave., Granite City. Area residents are also expected to attend. (Rain location: Granite City Township Hall, 2060A Delmar.)

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Last Updated: 5/11/2000 10:00

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa091.htm>

Technical Contact: Nancy Mugavero
(312) 353-4890

Media Contact: William Omohundro
(312) 353-8254

Legal Contact: Andre Daugavietis
(312) 886-6663

Maria Gonzalez
(312) 886-6630

For Immediate Release: May 10, 2000

No. 00-OPA095

EPA: ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE DECIDES AGAINST LYON COUNTY LANDFILL; ASSESSES \$45,800 FINE

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said an administrative law judge has found that Lyon County Landfill (Lynd, MN) violated Federal regulations on asbestos--a hazardous air pollutant--and has assessed a \$45,800 civil administrative penalty for the violations.

The decision resolves a 1996 EPA administrative complaint alleging that Lyon County Landfill had violated the Clean Air Act and asbestos regulations.

The EPA complaint set forth EPA's case that Lyon County Landfill had failed to comply with Federal requirements for handling, disposal, and recordkeeping at active waste disposal sites. Specifically, in the complaint

EPA contended that Lyon County Landfill:

- * discharged visible emissions from an active waste disposal site on July 20 and July 21, 1994, without taking steps required to control emissions; and

- * failed to maintain required records and to give required written notification of its activities to EPA and the Minnesota Pollution Control

Agency (MPCA).

The violations were discovered July 20-21, 1994, by MPCA inspectors. In September 1994, MPCA notified Lyon County that it had discovered the violations. MPCA met with the county and tried to reach agreement on a plan to ensure compliance with asbestos regulations. The State of Minnesota referred the case to EPA in August 1995 after failing to reach an agreement with the county.

A hearing on the violations and penalty was held in Marshall, MN, in June 1998. On April 4, 2000, the administrative law judge found in favor of EPA's position on the majority of issues on the county's liability for the violations and on the penalty amount.

Lyon County has indicated that it will appeal the decision to EPA's Environmental Appeals Board (EAB). The EAB has granted Lyon County an extension to file an appeal. EPA Region 5 said it plans to support the April 4, 2000, decision in the appeals process.

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

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

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Last Updated: 5/11/2000 10:06

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa095.htm>

Media Contact: Noemi Emeric
(312) 886-0995

Mick Hans
(312) 353-5050

For Immediate Release: May 15, 2000

No. 00-OPA097

"ILLEGAL DUMPING IN ST. CLAIR COUNTY" VIDEO NOW AVAILABLE

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Illinois EPA have recently released a free 16-minute videotape titled "Illegal Dumping in St. Clair County."

The video, which will be shown on local cable access television, provides information on how to prevent and report illegal dumping, encouraging specific action by citizens, neighborhood groups, and government. The project is the result of a partnership between two East St. Louis community organizations, New Spirit and the Neighborhood Law Office; St. Clair County Health Department; Illinois EPA, and EPA. A feature story about the video recently aired on the public radio program "Living on Earth."

Illegal dumping in alleys, vacant lots, and abandoned buildings poses a threat to the health and vitality of neighborhoods—and costs U.S. taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars each year to clean up. Violators in St. Clair County or municipalities, such as Fairview Heights, face fines under local ordinances.

"Illegal Dumping in St. Clair County" is available to community groups, schools, and other interested organizations. To obtain a copy of the tape, call: Kimberly Edmiaston, St. Clair County Health Department, 618-233-7769.

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Last Updated: 5/15/2000 12:28

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa097.htm>

Technical Contact: David Schulenberg
(312) 886-6680

Media Contact: Phillipa Cannon
(312) 353-6218

Legal Contact: John Steketee
(312) 886-0558

For Immediate Release: May 16, 2000

No. 00-OPA099

FEDERAL COURT RULES FOR EPA IN MIDLAND, MI, WETLANDS CASE

The U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan recently ruled for U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 (EPA) against real estate developer John A. Rapanos, his wife, and several associated corporations in a long standing dispute over the alleged illegal filling of wetlands near Midland, MI.

The ruling came about a year after the conclusion of a bench trial where EPA had alleged that 146 acres of wetlands had existed at 5 sites before construction activities began in August 1988 and, over several years, the defendants had illegally filled 54.8 acres of those wetlands.

In the March 22 decision, the Court ruled that:

- * 141 acres of wetland existed at 3 of the sites;
- * the defendants had illegally discharged pollutants into 54 acres of those wetlands;
- * the defendants had violated the Clean Water Act by failing to comply with three EPA administrative orders; and
- * every day the pollutants continue to remain in the wetlands is an additional day of violation.

A second trial to determine injunctive relief and penalties has been

scheduled to begin on October 2, 2000.

EPA filed a lawsuit against the defendants in February 1994. That case was postponed until a companion criminal case was resolved concerning wetlands violations at the largest of the five sites. The judge ruled in that case that Mr. Rapanos pay a \$185,000 fine, serve 3 years on probation, and perform 200 hours of community service. Both the government and Mr. Rapanos have appealed this ruling.

Wetlands include marshes, swamps, bogs, and similar areas between water and dry land. They are among the most environmentally beneficial types of areas. They filter pollutants and provide erosion and flood control. They also harbor unique soils and plants that provide food and habitat for fish and wildlife.

Under the Clean Water Act, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers must issue a permit before any waters of the United States, including wetlands, are filled. EPA may order restoration of illegally filled wetlands and seek penalties of up to \$27,500 per day of violation.

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Last Updated: 5/16/2000 11:09

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa099.htm>

Technical Contact: Patrick Kuefler
(312) 353-6268

Media Contact: Karen Thompson
(312) 353-8547

Legal Contact: Mary McAuliffe
(312) 886-6237

For Immediate Release: May 17, 2000

No. 00-OPA101

EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH RHO CHEMICAL; INCLUDES \$40,000 FINE

U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently signed a consent agreement with Rho Chemical Company, Inc. (Joliet, IL), on alleged violations of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act.

The Joliet-based manufacturer of organic chemicals will pay a \$40,000 fine and conduct assessment and any needed cleanup of areas where drums of hazardous waste were stored.

On February 4, 1999, EPA inspected the Rho chemical plant, 30 Industry Ave., and discovered about 40 55-gallon drums of waste, including spent tetrachloroethylene, and ignitable wastes stored in violation of Federal and State environmental law.

Rho's hazardous waste storage areas will be cleaned up and sampled to ensure that any contamination is identified and stored to meet EPA and State of Illinois standards. Under Federal law, EPA regulates the management and disposal of hazardous waste, from the time of production to its final disposal.

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Last Updated: 5/18/2000 10:32

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa101.htm>

Technical Contact: Tom Short
(312) 353-8826

Media Contact: Susan Pastor
(312) 353-1325

Legal Contact: Richard Nagle
(312) 353-8222

For Immediate Release: May 17, 2000

No. 00-OPA098

EPA SELECTS CLEAN-UP PLAN FOR SHEBOYGAN RIVER AND HARBOR SITE

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 recently signed a record of decision for the cleanup of contaminated sediment and soil at the Sheboygan River and Harbor Superfund site (Sheboygan County, WI).

The decision document outlines a final clean-up plan that differs from the proposed plan issued in May 1999. Originally, EPA proposed a clean-up level of 1 part per million (ppm). The final plan has a lower clean-up level of 0.5 ppm. EPA will also dredge about 53,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediment from the Inner Harbor, compared to the 100,000 cubic yards proposed last year.

Because a smaller volume of contaminated sediment will be dredged, clean-up costs are lower. The cost of the Upper River cleanup was reduced from \$31.4 million to \$23.8 million and the cost of the Lower River and Inner Harbor cleanup was reduced from \$26.9 million to \$10 million. Costs associated with the Middle River, Floodplain Soil, and Groundwater cleanups have only slight reductions.

The final clean-up decision was based on additional information submitted to EPA during a public comment period from June 1 to August 13, 1999. EPA received hundreds of comments that required follow-up.

Regional Superfund Director William Muno gave credit to those who took part in EPA's public participation process. "It may have taken EPA longer than usual to reach a decision, however, after reviewing the public

comments, as well as doing some recalculation, I believe we now have a better clean-up plan. This cleanup will be a major step in eliminating toxic substances from the Great Lakes basin."

Copies of the record of decision and other site-related documents are available for review at the Mead Public Library, 710 North 8th St., and the Sheboygan City Hall, 828 Center Ave., 2nd floor. An administrative record, which contains all of the documentation which EPA used to base its decision, is also available at the library. The record of decision will also be posted soon on EPA's Web site, www.epa.gov/region5/sites.

The site is comprised of the lower 14 miles of the river from the Sheboygan Falls Dam to, and including, the Inner Harbor. Within the site, many areas show contamination by polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB's), and to a lesser degree, heavy metals. The river runs through three communities—Sheboygan Falls, Kohler, and Sheboygan, before flowing into Lake Michigan. Currently, a consumption advisory is in effect for certain species of Sheboygan River and Lake Michigan fish.

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Last Updated: 5/18/2000 9:37

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa098.htm>

Technical Contact: Maynard Shaw
(312) 353-5867

Media Contact: Karen Thompson
(312) 353-8547

Legal Contact: Tom Turner
(312) 886-6613

For Immediate Release: May 17, 2000

No. 00-OPA104

EPA SETTLES WITH FOREMOST FARMS; INCLUDES \$13,090 FINE

U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently settled an administrative complaint against Foremost Farms USA (Appleton, WI), for violation of Federal rules on the reporting of toxic chemicals. The company will pay a \$13,090 fine.

Foremost was cited for failing to report to EPA the required data on nitrate compounds used for cleaning at the dairy foods processing facility, 1815 West Spencer St., Appleton, WI. This is one of the first cases in Region 5, in which a dairy facility has been fined for not reporting toxic release information required under the Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act (EPCRA).

EPCRA requires certain businesses to provide information on specific toxic chemicals being used at their facilities. EPA uses this and other information to update its national toxic chemical inventory, which is available to the public through various media, including a national computerized database. Companies are required to make their reports annually to EPA and their States.

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Last Updated: 5/18/2000 10:30

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa104.htm>

Technical Contact: Deborah Orr
(312) 886-7576

Media Contact: Mick Hans
(312) 353-5050

For Immediate Release: May 18, 2000

No. 00-OPA107

EPA: BROWNFIELDS GRANTS AWARDED TO SOUTH CHICAGO SUBURBS AND GARY, IN

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced today that it has awarded new Brownfields site assessment grants to a coalition of south Chicago suburbs (\$200,000) and Gary, IN (\$250,000). In EPA Region 5, 20 grants, totaling \$5.6 million were awarded to local communities and organizations.

Brownfields are abandoned or under-utilized properties where real or perceived contamination is an obstacle to redevelopment. There are thousands of these sites across the United States, ranging from abandoned gas stations to former railroad yards to neglected central city areas.

Site assessment grants are typically used by communities and grantee organizations to pay for environmental and engineering studies, to confirm the existence or determine the true extent of contamination at a site. Local work under the grants may begin in October 2000, with the start of the Federal fiscal year.

The south suburban Chicago coalition includes Riverdale, Chicago Heights, South Chicago Heights, Dolton, and Lansing. This group will be working in cooperation with the South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association. All five of these communities have significant low-income and/or minority populations. The grant will be used to create an inventory of more than 200 Brownfields properties to prioritize 10 to 15 of these properties for assessment, cleanup and redevelopment; and to potentially leverage an additional \$600,000 in matching funds available through Illinois EPA. (Contact: Karen Hoffschmidt, South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association, 708-206-1155.)

The Gary grant will be used to assess a number of properties in a 200-acre area near the expanding Gary Regional Airport. The grant includes an additional \$50,000 specifically earmarked for Greenspace preservation, which will be used to develop a plan to convert a sand excavation pit into a new lakeshore dune and wetland area. (Contact: Mary Mulligan, Gary Department of Environmental Affairs, 219-882-3000).

A total of 12 \$200,000 site assessment grants were awarded to Region 5 communities. The others: Allegan, MI; Frankfort, MI; Lansing, MI; Oakland County, MI; Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians, Beltrami County, MN; Akron, OH; Elyria, OH; Mansfield, OH; Oshkosh, WI; and Wausau, WI. Like Gary, the Akron and Oakland County grants included an additional \$50,000 (total \$250,000 for each recipient) specifically earmarked for Greenspace projects.

Today's announcement also included five \$500,000 clean-up revolving loan fund grants, which will be used by communities to set up a fund from which to issue low-interest or no-interest loans for cleanup of Brownfields sites. They were awarded to: Rockford, IL; Roseville, MN; Hamilton, OH; Lockland, OH; and Toledo, OH. Each of these communities has previously received an EPA site assessment grant.

In addition, three Region 5 job training pilot grants were awarded to: Flint, MI; Hamilton, OH; and Toledo, OH. These will be used by local governments, Tribes, and vocational skills organizations to train residents who have been impacted by Brownfields for employment in environmental work.

Brief descriptions of all 20 new Brownfields grant projects are at:
www.epa.gov/brownfields

Nationally, 102 grants totaling more than \$35 million were announced today. Since 1993, EPA has awarded more than \$157 million in Brownfields grants to more than 350 cities, counties, tribes, states, non-profit organizations and educational institutions, leveraging more than \$2 billion in investments and creating thousands of new jobs.

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Last Updated: 5/18/2000 15:32

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa107.htm>

Technical Contact: Deborah Orr
(312) 886-7576

Media Contact: Mick Hans
(312) 353-5050

For Immediate Release: May 18, 2000

No. 00-OPA108

EPA: BROWNFIELDS GRANTS AWARDED TO HAMILTON, LOCKLAND, OH

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced today that it has awarded two Brownfields grants totaling \$700,000 to Hamilton, OH, and one to Lockland, OH, for \$500,000. Both communities are in the Greater Cincinnati metropolitan area. In EPA Region 5, 20 grants, totaling \$5.6 million were awarded to local communities and organizations.

Brownfields are abandoned or under-utilized properties where real or perceived contamination is an obstacle to redevelopment. There are thousands of these sites across the United States, ranging from abandoned gas stations to former railroad yards to neglected central city areas.

Hamilton, one of seven communities designated by Ohio as a "Distressed Community," will receive a \$500,000 clean-up revolving loan fund grant and a \$200,000 job training pilot grant. Revolving loan fund grants are used by local governments to set up a fund from which to issue low-interest or no-interest loans for cleanup of Brownfields sites. Hamilton will use the grant to supplement an existing city-wide loan program. The community had previously received an EPA site assessment grant in 1998, which it is using to determine the true extent of contamination at 7 to 10 properties.

Hamilton was also awarded a \$200,000 job training pilot grant, which will be used to provide environmental job skills to a number of residents near the brownfields sites. The residential area within the Hamilton Enterprise Zone suffers from a 12 percent unemployment rate and a 36 percent poverty rate.

Lockland, a community of 4,300, has been active in Brownfields

redevelopment since 1996, creating 250 new jobs. Its grant will be used to make loans to developers at local Brownfields sites. The community had previously received an EPA site assessment grant in 1998, which it is using to determine the true extent of contamination at three to four properties.

Today's announcement includes 12 \$200,000 site assessment grants awarded to Region 5 communities: a coalition of 5 south Chicago suburbs, IL; Gary, IN; Allegan, MI; Frankfort, MI; Lansing, MI; Oakland County, MI; Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians, Beltrami County, MN; Akron, OH; Elyria, OH; Mansfield, OH; Oshkosh, WI; and Wausau, WI. Significantly, the Gary, Akron, and Oakland County grants included an additional \$50,000 (total \$250,000 for each recipient) specifically earmarked for Greenspace projects.

In addition to the revolving loan grants to Hamilton and Lockland, three additional Region 5 communities received \$500,000 grants: Rockford, IL; Roseville, MN; and Toledo, OH. Each of these communities has previously received an EPA site assessment grant.

Region 5 job training pilot grants were also awarded to Flint, MI, and Toledo, OH.

Local work under all of the grants may begin in October 2000, with the start of the Federal fiscal year.

Brief descriptions of all 20 new Brownfields grant projects are at:
www.epa.gov/brownfields

Nationally, 102 grants totaling more than \$35 million were announced today. Since 1993, EPA has awarded more than \$157 million in Brownfields grants to more than 350 cities, counties, Tribes, States, non-profit organizations, and educational institutions, leveraging more than \$2 billion in investments and creating thousands of new jobs.

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Last Updated: 5/18/2000 16:22

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa108.htm>

Technical Contact: Deborah Orr
(312) 886-7576

Media Contact: Mick Hans
(312) 353-5050

For Immediate Release: May 18, 2000

No. 00-OPA105

EPA: \$200,000 BROWNFIELDS GRANT AWARDED TO ELYRIA, OH

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced today that it has awarded a \$200,000 Brownfields site assessment grant to Elyria, OH, a city of 57,000 southwest of Cleveland.

In EPA Region 5, 20 grants, totaling \$5.6 million were awarded to local communities and organizations.

Brownfields are abandoned or under-utilized properties where real or perceived contamination is an obstacle to redevelopment. There are thousands of these sites across the United States, ranging from abandoned gas stations to former railroad yards to neglected central city areas.

Site assessment grants are typically used by communities and grantee organizations to pay for environmental and engineering studies, to confirm the existence or determine the true extent of contamination at a site. Local work under the grants may begin in October 2000, with the start of the Federal fiscal year.

The Elyria grant will be used to assess the true extent of environmental contamination at a former Tappan manufacturing facility. Once the extent of the contamination is clear, two industrial tenants on adjacent portions of the site intend to expand onto this part of the site and add much-needed jobs to the area. (Contact: Jon Kiner: Elyria Department of Development: 440-322-3900.)

A total of 12 \$200,000 site assessment grants were awarded to Region 5 communities. The others: a coalition of 5 south Chicago suburbs, IL; Gary, IN; Allegan, MI; Frankfort, MI; Lansing, MI; Oakland County, MI;

Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians, Beltrami County, MN; Akron, OH; Mansfield, OH; Oshkosh, WI; and Wausau, WI. Significantly, the Gary, Oakland County, and Akron grants included an additional \$50,000 (total \$250,000 for each recipient) specifically earmarked for Greenspace projects.

Today's announcement also included five \$500,000 clean-up revolving loan fund grants, which will be used by communities to set up a fund from which to issue low-interest or no-interest loans for cleanup of Brownfields sites. They were awarded to: Rockford, IL; Roseville, MN; Hamilton, OH; Lockland, OH; and Toledo, OH. Each of these communities has previously received an EPA site assessment grant.

In addition, three Region 5 job training pilot grants were awarded to: Flint, MI; Hamilton, OH; and Toledo, OH. These will be used by local governments, Tribes, and vocational skills organizations to train residents who have been impacted by Brownfields for employment in environmental work.

Brief descriptions of all 20 new Brownfields grant projects are at: www.epa.gov/brownfields/

Nationally, 102 grants totaling more than \$35 million were announced today. Since 1993, EPA has awarded more than \$157 million in Brownfields grants to more than 350 cities, counties, tribes, states, non-profit organizations and educational institutions, leveraging more than \$2 billion in investments and creating thousands of new jobs.

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Last Updated: 5/18/2000 15:19

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa105.htm>

Technical Contact: Deborah Orr
(312) 886-7576

Media Contact: Mick Hans
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For Immediate Release: May 18, 2000

No. 00-OPA100

EPA: 20 BROWNFIELDS GRANTS AWARDED IN REGION 5; TOTAL \$5.6 MILLION

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) today announced 20 Brownfields grants totaling \$5.6 million to communities and organizations in Region 5.

Brownfields are abandoned or under-utilized properties where real or perceived contamination is an obstacle to redevelopment. There are thousands of these sites across the United States, ranging from abandoned gas stations to former railroad yards to neglected central city areas.

The grants were awarded in three categories, all overseen by EPA's Brownfields program: site assessment grants (\$200,000), clean-up revolving loan fund grants (\$500,000), and job training pilot grants (\$200,000). Local work under the grants may begin in October 2000, with the start of the Federal fiscal year.

Site assessment grants (12) are typically used by communities and grantee organizations to pay for environmental and engineering studies, to confirm the existence or determine the true extent of contamination at a site. They were awarded to: A coalition of 5 south Chicago suburbs, IL; Gary, IN; Allegan, MI; Frankfort, MI; Lansing, MI; Oakland County, MI; Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians, Beltrami County, MN; Akron, OH; Elyria, OH; Mansfield, OH; Oshkosh, WI; and Wausau, WI. Significantly, the Gary, Akron, and Oakland County grants included an additional \$50,000 (total \$250,000 for each recipient) specifically earmarked for Greenspace preservation or enhancement projects.

Clean-up revolving loan fund grants (5) are used by local governments and other stakeholders to set up a fund from which to issue low-interest or

no-interest loans for cleanup of Brownfields sites. They were awarded to: Rockford, IL; Roseville, MN; Hamilton, OH; Lockland, OH; and Toledo, OH. Each of these communities has previously received an EPA site assessment grant.

Job training pilot grants (3) are used by local governments, Tribes, and vocational skills organizations to train residents, impacted by Brownfields, for employment in environmental work. They were awarded to: Flint, MI; Hamilton, OH; and Toledo, OH.

Brief descriptions of all 20 new Brownfields grant projects are at:
www.epa.gov/brownfields

Nationally, 102 grants totaling more than \$35 million were announced today. Since 1993, EPA has awarded more than \$157 million in Brownfields grants to more than 350 cities, counties, tribes, states, non-profit organizations and educational institutions, leveraging more than \$2 billion in investments and creating thousands of new jobs.

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Last Updated: 5/18/2000 15:23

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa100.htm>

Technical Contact: Deborah Orr
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Media Contact: Mick Hans
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For Immediate Release: May 18, 2000

No. 00-OPA106

EPA: \$200,000 BROWNFIELDS GRANT AWARDED TO RED LAKE BAND OF CHIPPEWA INDIANS, BELTRAMI COUNTY, MN

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced today that it has awarded a \$200,000 Brownfields site assessment grant to the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians, Beltrami County, MN. In EPA Region 5, 20 grants, totaling \$5.6 million were awarded to local communities and organizations.

Brownfields are abandoned or under-utilized properties where real or perceived contamination is an obstacle to redevelopment. There are thousands of these sites across the United States, ranging from abandoned gas stations to former railroad yards to neglected central city areas.

Site assessment grants are typically used by communities and grantee organizations to pay for environmental and engineering studies, to confirm the existence or determine the true extent of contamination at a site. Local work under the grants may begin in October 2000, with the start of the Federal fiscal year.

The Red Lake Band is the first Tribe to receive a Brownfields grant in Region 5. The grant will be used to assess the extent of contamination at a former sawmill and wood treating facility operated by the Bureau of Indian Affairs for more than 75 years.

A total of 12 \$200,000 site assessment grants were awarded to Region 5 communities. The others: a coalition of 5 south Chicago suburbs, IL; Gary, IN; Allegan, MI; Frankfort, MI; Lansing, MI; Oakland County, MI; Akron, OH; Elyria, OH; Mansfield, OH; Oshkosh, WI; and Wausau, WI. Significantly, the Gary, Oakland County, and Akron grants included an

additional \$50,000 (total \$250,000 for each recipient) specifically earmarked for Greenspace projects.

Today's announcement also included five \$500,000 clean-up revolving loan fund grants, which will be used by communities to set up a fund from which to issue low-interest or no-interest loans for cleanup of Brownfields sites. They were awarded to: Rockford, IL; Roseville, MN; Hamilton, OH; Lockland, OH; and Toledo, OH. Each of these communities has previously received an EPA site assessment grant.

In addition, three Region 5 job training pilot grants were awarded to: Flint, MI; Hamilton, OH; and Toledo, OH. These will be used by local governments, Tribes, and vocational skills organizations to train residents who have been impacted by Brownfields for employment in environmental work.

Brief descriptions of all 20 new Brownfields grant projects are at:
www.epa.gov/brownfields/

Nationally, 102 grants totaling more than \$35 million were announced today. Since 1993, EPA has awarded more than \$157 million in Brownfields grants to more than 350 cities, counties, tribes, states, non-profit organizations and educational institutions, leveraging more than \$2 billion in investments and creating thousands of new jobs.

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Last Updated: 5/18/2000 15:26

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa106.htm>

Technical Contact: Ken Bardo
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Media Contact: Karen Thompson
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Legal Contact: Richard Murawski
(312) 886-6721

For Immediate Release: May 19, 2000

No. 00-OPA109

EPA : SOLUTIA MUST TEST, CLEAN UP CONTAMINATION AT SAUGET SITE

U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 and Solutia Inc. have recently reached agreement on an order that Solutia will investigate and eliminate hazardous waste releases from its Sauget, IL, facility.

The 314-acre site, located at 500 Monsanto Ave., just east of the Mississippi River, and operational since 1917, is known to have released significant amounts of benzene compounds to on-site soils and ground water. PCB's manufactured at the former Monsanto site have also been found. The facility manufactures a variety of products including dyes and tinting additives, agricultural and industrial chemicals, and pain relievers.

The order requires Solutia, to:

- Control the ground-water contaminant plume migrating into the Mississippi River by January 1, 2002;
- Identify and eliminate significant human exposure to site-related contaminants by January 1, 2004; and
- Correct all current and future risks to human health and the environment caused by hazardous waste releases at the facility by June 2004.

Documentation of the investigation and cleanup by Solutia will be available to the public, as well as the opportunity to comment on EPA's final remedy to protect human health and the environment from hazardous waste releases at the Solutia facility.

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

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Last Updated: 5/19/2000 10:53

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa109.htm>

Media Contact: Susan Pastor
(312) 353-1325

Mick Hans
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For Immediate Release: May 22, 2000

No. 00-OPA110

EPA AWARDS \$50,000 TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANT TO KALAMAZOO COMMUNITY GROUP

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently awarded a \$50,000 technical assistance grant to the Kalamazoo River Watershed Council, a community organization in Kalamazoo, MI.

The grant will be used to hire a technical advisor for Michigan's Allied Paper/Portage Creek/Kalamazoo River Superfund site. The advisor will interpret technical data for the organization and act as a liaison between the group and EPA.

Since 1989, Region 5 has awarded 21 technical assistance grants to community organizations, including 8 in Michigan. This is the first technical assistance grant that has been funded using the site's special account set aside by Allied Paper, to pay for the cleanup.

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Last Updated: 5/22/2000 9:59

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa110.htm>

Technical Contact: Jim Hahnenberg
(312) 353-4213

Media Contact: Susan Pastor
(312) 353-1325

Legal Contact: Roger Grimes
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For Immediate Release: May 25, 2000

No. 00-OPA112

EPA SIGNS AGREEMENT WITH FORT JAMES TO CONTINUE WORK ON LOWER FOX RIVER SMU 56/57 PROJECT

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5, in cooperation with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR), said today that Fort James Corp. has agreed to continue work at the area known as Sediment Management Unit (SMU) 56/57 on the Lower Fox River near Green Bay, WI.

The agreement, called a consent order, provides for:

- * the company to continue dredging in a "phased approach;"
- * oversight by an EPA on-scene coordinator, in consultation with WDNR staff;
- * the removal of 21,500 cubic yards of contaminated sediment, including 1,600 lb of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB's) in phase 1 and the removal of 50,000 cubic yards in phase 2;
- * dredging to be completed this year;
- * a clean-up goal of 1 part per million (ppm) in the dredged area;
- * a post-dredging cover of at least 6 inches of sand in areas at the edge of the dredging excavation and, if needed, in other areas to reduce risks if

only 1 to 10 ppm is reached; and

* sediment disposal at Fort James' landfill and existing on-shore dewatering facility.

This agreement represents a continuation of the Federal, State and Tribal efforts for cleaning up the Fox River. If the clean-up levels are met, Fort James will be relieved of its liability for future work on SMU 56/57. Fort James, however, will still be liable for other portions of the river.

"We are pleased that Fort James has agreed to complete this additional cleanup at SMU 56/57," said Regional Administrator Francis X. Lyons. "The 56/57 project is an important step that needed to be addressed immediately, but it does not represent the comprehensive river clean-up plan that will be defined in a final decision next year."

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Last Updated: 5/25/2000 17:38

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa112.htm>

Media Contact: Phillipa Cannon
(312) 353-6218

For Immediate Release: May 25, 2000

No. 00-OPA111

EPA, MPCA, AND STEELE COUNTY CITIES AND INDUSTRIES TO ANNOUNCE INNOVATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT MAY 31

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), the cities of Owatonna and Blooming Prairie, and several local industrial facilities will sign an agreement to carry out an innovative environmental project May 31 at West Hills City Offices, 540 West Hills Circle, Owatonna, at 11 a.m. The project is part of EPA's Project XL (eXcellence and Leadership) for Communities program.

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Last Updated: 8/1/2000 13:08

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa111.htm>

Media Contact: Phillipa Cannon (EPA)
(312) 353-6218

Rebecca Helgesen (MPCA)
(651) 282-6244

For Immediate Release: May 31, 2000

No. 00-OPA114

EPA, MPCA, AND STEELE COUNTY COMMUNITIES AND BUSINESSES AGREE ON INNOVATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), today signed an agreement with communities and businesses in Steele County, MN, to carry out an innovative environmental project. This is the first project of this kind with a community.

The 5-year pilot project is part of EPA's Project XL (eXcellence and Leadership) for Communities program and will be carried out by the cities of Owatonna and Blooming Prairie, and up to 9 local industrial facilities.

The facilities -- primarily metal finishers -- have agreed to:

- reduce metals in wastewater discharged into the local wastewater treatment plant;
- reduce water use;
- minimize stormwater runoff at each facility;
- work with the Owatonna treatment plant to develop educational materials on the importance of reducing storm water entering the sewer system; and
- be trained in the ISO 14,000 Environmental Management System.

In return, EPA and MPCA will provide regulatory flexibility that allows Owatonna to:

- reduce required frequency of monitoring for metals when discharge goals are met;
- eliminate monitoring for pollutants that have not been discharged

- in the past two years;
- change regulatory limits on pollutants to allow the facilities to reduce their water use without allowing an increase in amounts discharged; and
- allow certain violations to be posted on the MPCA Web site instead of published in the local newspaper.

"This innovative project shows the importance of partnerships and working cooperatively to achieve a common goal," said EPA Regional Administrator Francis X. Lyons. "This is the first XL project of this kind and EPA hopes that it will become a model for other communities."

"The status of any community's water, air, and ground environment is a direct reflection of how well the private and public sectors work together," said Dennis J. Sershen, Steele County XLC Project Chairperson. "The Steele County XLC project is a great example of what a community can do for itself when it works towards the creation of a private-public partnership to establish and attain environmental excellence and leadership goals."

"Steele County, the cities of Owatonna and Blooming Prairie, and the 9 businesses that are signing on to this project are setting a remarkable example of environmental protection to the rest of the State and the Nation," said Karen Studders, Commissioner of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. "I'm proud that the MPCA is a part of this historic partnership."

The second phase of the project will expand pollution reduction efforts to other areas.

To participate in Project XL for Communities, applicants must develop alternative pollution reduction strategies that meet several criteria, including achieving superior environmental results, local stakeholder involvement, and transferability to other communities.

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Last Updated: 7/31/2000 13:28

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa114.htm>

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Media Contact: Leo Rosales
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For Immediate Release: June 1, 2000

No. 00-OPA103

EPA ORDERS CLEANUP OF SAUGET AREA 1 DEAD CREEK SITE; WORK AT SAUGET AREA 2 SITE Q RECENTLY COMPLETED

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 yesterday ordered Solutia, Inc., and Monsanto to excavate 50,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediments from the Dead Creek portion of the Sauget Area 1 Superfund site. The site is on the East side of Illinois Route 3, near the Mississippi River in Sauget and Cahokia, IL.

The creek sediments are contaminated with high levels of PCB's, dioxins, heavy metals, and other organic contaminants. The order requires Solutia and Monsanto—members of a group of responsible parties identified by EPA—to place the materials in a secure 5-acre landfill to be built next to Dead Creek, about 500 feet south of Queeny Avenue.

Excavation work will start at Queeny Avenue in Sauget, continuing down the creek to just west of Route 3 in Cahokia. Design work for the project will begin in the next few weeks, with excavation likely to start in the fall or winter months.

Once the Sauget Area 1 project is completed, The landfill will be monitored long into the future to assure that contamination does not leak into the surrounding soils and groundwater.

In related news, a \$2.2 million cleanup at the Site Q portion of the Sauget Area 2 Superfund site wrapped up in April.

Sauget Area 2 is comprised of 5 separate contaminated source areas, totaling about 344 acres. Site Q, the largest of the source areas, lies along the eastern bank of the river. When the Mississippi River floods locally, Site Q can be completely covered with water, causing the contaminated materials from the site to mix with the river system.

The recent cleanup focused on about 30 acres in the southern portion of Site Q, where two ponds are located. The ponds support an ecologically sensitive habitat and serve as a stopover point for migratory birds, including some endangered species. The cleanup included removal and proper disposal of more than 3,200 buried drums and 17,000 tons of contaminated soil, which was sent to a special waste landfill in Waynoka, OK. Following the cleanup, Site Q was seeded to provide vegetative cover and reduce future erosion.

An EPA-managed investigation of all 5 source areas at Sauget Area 2 is scheduled to begin later this year.

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Last Updated: 6/1/2000 12:54

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa103.htm>

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Media Contact: Susan Pastor
(312) 353-1325

Legal Contact: Sherry Estes
(312) 886-7164

For Immediate Release: June 5, 2000

No. 00-OPA113

EPA, DOJ SIGN CONSENT DECREE FOR SKINNER LANDFILL

The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), on behalf of U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), has reached an agreement with the former waste generators and transporters, and owners of, the Skinner Landfill Superfund site, West Chester, OH.

A consent decree was lodged in U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Ohio. It represents an agreement among the U.S. Government, the site owners, and 13 companies (see attached list) that requires the companies to pay for and manage the cleanup of the Skinner Landfill. These companies will also pay EPA's costs of overseeing the cleanup.

The agreement also includes 48 companies and 5 municipalities that sent a very small amount of waste to the Skinner site. Most of the monies from the Skinner Landfill account will be used to reimburse the companies for some of the cleanup costs while the rest will be used to reimburse EPA's past costs.

A related agreement was also reached with several cities and villages that sent household trash and debris to Skinner. This agreement was reached under EPA's Municipal Waste Policy. Monies paid by the municipalities will also be paid into the Skinner Landfill account.

According to a 1993 EPA decision, the cleanup will include a hazardous waste cap over the landfill, operation and maintenance of the cap, and ground-water control and monitoring.

DOJ will run a 30-day public comment period when notice of the consent decree is published in the Federal Register. Copies of the register are in the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County, Main Library, 800 Vine St., Cincinnati. It is also available at: www.epa.gov/fedrgstr.

Written comments may be submitted to the U.S. Department of Justice, c/o Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division, Washington, D.C. 20530.

The 78-acre site is located about 15 miles north of Cincinnati. From 1934 to 1990, the Skinner Landfill accepted various types of waste. Sampling of the site's buried lagoon confirmed the presence of pesticides, volatile and semi-volatile organic compounds, PCBs, inorganics, and heavy metals.

List of Settling Owners, Generators, and Transporters

- 1) Elsa Skinner-Morgan
- 2) David Morgan
- 3) Anchor Hocking Corp.
- 4) Chemical Leaman
- 5) The Dow Chemical Co.
- 6) Ford Motor Co.
- 7) Formica Corp.
- 8) Henkel Corp.
- 9) GE Aircraft Engines
- 10) General Motors Corp.
- 11) King Wrecking Co., Inc.
- 12) King Container Services, Inc.
- 13) Monsanto Co.
- 14) Oxy USA, Inc.
- 15) Velsicol Chemical Corp.

List of 53 Small Generators

- 1) AMF (by its alleged indemnitor)
- 2) American Premier Underwriters, Inc.
- 3) American Standard, Inc. (for Steelcraft)
- 4) Andrew Jergens Corp.
- 5) Avon Products
- 6) B.F. Goodrich Co.
- 7) BFI
- 8) BP Amoco
- 9) BP Exploration & Oil Inc.
- 10) Bayer Corp. (for itself and Mobay)

- 11) Borden Chemical, Inc.
- 12) Borden, Inc.
- 13) Butler County
- 14) C.M. Paula Co.
- 15) Champion International Corp.
- 16) Ciba Specialty Chemicals Corp. (the successor-in-interest of Ciba-Geigy Corp. for purposes of this matter by assumption, with the approval of Novartis Corp.)
- 17) Cincinnati Enquirer
- 18) Cincinnati Gas & Electric
- 19) City of Fairfield
- 20) City of Montgomery
- 21) City of Reading
- 22) City of Silverton
- 23) Consolidated Rail
- 24) Cytex Industries, Inc.
- 25) E.I. duPont deNemours and Co. (for itself, Remington Arms Corp., and Conoco, Inc.)
- 26) Elf Atochem North America, Inc. (for itself, M&T Chemicals, and their predecessors in interest)
- 27) Georgia Pacific
- 28) Globe Valve Division
- 29) Hilton-Davis Co.
- 30) Honeywell International Inc. ([formerly known as Allied Signal Inc.], a successor to Allied Corp. [also known as Allied Chemical Corp.]
- 31) J&J Distributing Co. (d/b/a Watsonis)
- 32) Johnston Coca-Cola Bottling Group, Inc.
- 33) Marathon Oil Co.
- 34) Masonite
- 35) Mecco, Inc.
- 36) Merrell Pharmaceuticals Inc.
- 37) Morton International, Inc.
- 38) MVM
- 39) Newberry Construction Co.
- 40) Occidental Chemical Corp. (successor to Diamond Shamrock Chemicals Co., formerly Diamond Shamrock Corp.)
- 41) PPG
- 42) Proctor&Gamble
- 43) Queen City Barrel
- 44) Ralcorp Holdings, Inc.
- 45) Rohm and Haas Co.
- 46) Rumpke Sanitary Landfill, Inc.
- 47) Shell Oil Co.

- 48) Sun Oil Co.
- 49) Texaco, Inc.
- 50) Tyco International (U.S.), Inc. (for itself and Ludlow Corp.)
- 51) Union Carbide Corp.
- 52) United Waste Water Services, Inc.
- 53) Village of Glendale.

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Last Updated: 6/6/2000 10:00

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa113.htm>

Technical Contact: Ruth McNamara
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For Immediate Release: June 6, 2000

No. 00-OPA115

EPA SETTLES WITH MINNEAPOLIS PUBLIC WORKS FOR CHEMICAL RELEASE REPORTING VIOLATION; INCLUDES \$3,906 FINE AND EQUIPMENT FOR FIRE DEPT.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently signed a consent agreement and final order with the City of Minneapolis, Department of Public Works, for violation of Federal laws on the reporting of a hazardous chemical release. The City has agreed to pay a \$3,906 civil penalty and purchase hazardous materials response equipment for the Minneapolis Fire Dept.

EPA's complaint alleged that the Department of Public Works failed to promptly notify the National Response Center about a 2,900 lb ammonia release at its 4300 Marshall St., Fridley, facility on November 14, 1998. Federal laws require immediate notification to proper authorities upon any release of ammonia exceeding 100 lb. The Department of Public Works notified the National Response Center on November 16, more than 46 hours after the release occurred.

The ammonia was released during a maintenance project to replace a faulty gauge on an above-ground storage tank. During this process, a pressure valve failed, causing liquid ammonia to vaporize out of the equipment. Employees at the scene immediately covered the leak with a fire hose to keep the chemical from spreading. The facility emergency response team then suited up in protective equipment to contain the release. The North Metro Chemical Assessment Team responded to the incident and closed one street as a precautionary measure.

The Public Works Department will purchase hazardous response materials for the Fire Dept., including: chlorine analysis and recovery equipment, a

1-ton confined space training container, and boots and gloves designed for chemical emergency responses.

Since 1989, EPA Region 5 has filed 218 separate complaints for hazardous chemical reporting violations, resulting in 205 settlements worth \$4.87 million in total fines and \$3.09 million in environmental projects.

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Last Updated: 6/6/2000 18:25

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa115.htm>

Technical Contact: Rey Rivera
(312) 886-1450

Media Contact: Bri Bill
(312) 353-6646

WDNR Contact: Jack Eslien
(715) 839-3738

For Immediate Release: June 07, 2000

No. 00-OPA116

EPA SIGNS CLEAN-UP AGREEMENT FOR NATIONAL AUTO WRECKING SITE

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently signed an administrative order on consent with the estate of Charles Ablan to begin cleanup at the National Auto Wrecking site, Onalaska, WI.

The site, an abandoned auto salvage yard, was referred to EPA in 1998 by Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR), following Ablan's death in 1998. National Auto Wrecking operated at the site from about 1952 to 1994. In the early 1990's, WDNR had expressed concerns to Alban about the company's storage and handling of hazardous materials at the site.

The site is bordered by 2nd Avenue to the northwest and west; railroad tracks to the northeast and east; the Nut Bush City Limits restaurant to the south; and commercial property to the west. The property contains at least three areas of concern known to EPA: a 50' by 100' pile of cracked battery casings and lead scrap, a 15' x 7' ash pile, and the former automobile storage area at the center of the property. Preliminary sampling by EPA indicates the presence of PCB- and lead-soil contamination. The site may also contain one or more underground storage tanks.

A Chicago-based EPA Superfund emergency response team will oversee all work at the site, in consultation with WDNR. The cleanup is expected to begin this summer. A contractor workplan for the project will be submitted to EPA in the next few weeks.

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Last Updated: 6/7/2000 10:23

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa116.htm>

Technical Contact: Ruth McNamara
(312) 353-3193

Media Contact: Mick Hans
(312) 353-5050

Legal Contact: Brian Barwick
(312) 886-6620

For Immediate Release: June 07, 2000

No. 00-OPA117

EPA CITES MORNINGSTAR FOODS FOR CHEMICAL RELEASE REPORTING VIOLATION; PROPOSES \$27,500 FINE

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently filed an administrative complaint against Morningstar Group, Inc. (Bristol, WI), for violation of Federal laws on the reporting of a hazardous chemical release. EPA has proposed a \$27,500 fine.

EPA alleges that on June 2, 1997, Morningstar's dairy processing facility at 19241-83rd St., failed to promptly report the release of about 1,299 lb of ammonia. Federal laws require immediate notification to the National Response Center upon any release of ammonia exceeding 100 lb. The release was reported to the National Response Center on June 3, more than 20 hours after the incident occurred.

The release occurred while the facility's refrigeration system was being serviced. One employee was sprayed with ammonia and taken to a local hospital.

Ammonia may be fatal if inhaled, causes burns to the skin and eyes, and can lead to respiratory tract irritation and blindness.

"Compliance with chemical reporting laws is critical, because fire departments, hospitals, and other authorities must have the necessary information to respond appropriately when a release occurs," said William Munro, director of the regional Superfund division. "Public health, as well as the environment, is at stake."

Under Federal emergency response laws, facilities cited may request a meeting with EPA within 30 days to discuss or contest the matter.

Since 1989, EPA Region 5 has filed 218 separate complaints for hazardous chemical reporting violations, resulting in 205 settlements worth \$4.87 million in total fines and \$3.09 million in environmental projects.

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Last Updated: 6/7/2000 10:06

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa117.htm>

Media Contact: William Omohundro
(312) 353-8254

Carl Terry
(404) 562-8325

For Immediate Release: June 07, 2000

No. 00-OPA118

EPA: CINCINNATI-NORTHERN KENTUCKY MEET OZONE STANDARD

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced today that the Cincinnati-Northern Kentucky area has met the national outdoor air standard for ozone (smog), a major air pollutant.

EPA Regional Administrators in Chicago and Atlanta have signed documents redesignating the Cincinnati-Northern Kentucky area to attainment of the 1-hour air-quality standard for ozone.

EPA Great Lakes Regional Administrator Francis X. Lyons said, "Cincinnati now meets this national outdoor air standard. Its citizens can be proud of reaching this milestone."

Lyons said Cincinnati's citizens, business, and industry have shown that significant progress can be made toward alleviating long-standing pollution problems by working together. He commended the Regional Ozone Coalition for its leadership in helping to address the city's ozone pollution problem.

John H. Hankinson, Jr., Regional Administrator in Atlanta, said, "The efforts of the Regional Ozone Coalition and the affected communities working together to address air quality in the region are commendable. We are pleased with the progress Northern Kentucky is making toward improving air quality. The benefits derived from implementation of the various pollution control measures will lead to greater public health protection."

EPA also has approved Cincinnati's and Northern Kentucky's plans for continuing to meet the air-quality standard. This action affects the counties

of Clermont, Hamilton, Butler, and Warren in Ohio, and Campbell, Kenton, and Boone in Kentucky.

EPA determined that the Cincinnati-Northern Kentucky area now meets the air-quality standard based on 3 years of complete, quality-assured, ambient air monitoring data during the 1996, 1997, and 1998 ozone seasons. Ozone monitoring data for 1999 continue to show the area attaining the air-quality standard.

Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky have implemented numerous pollution control measures to improve air quality to cleaner levels. The control measures include a vehicle inspection and maintenance testing program, controls on industrial sources, and cleaner gasoline, among others.

The Federal initiative requiring newer automobiles to pollute less also contributed to achieving cleaner air. The vehicle emissions testing programs are currently necessary to maintain air-quality standards. They will remain in place until it can be shown that the standards can be maintained without them.

The Regional Ozone Coalition's Smog Alert Program has enabled citizens, businesses, and industries, to take steps to help improve air quality on hot summer days. EPA recognizes and applauds the important contribution by the Regional Ozone Coalition and the efforts of the communities and their citizens to improve and maintain air quality.

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

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Last Updated: 6/7/2000 17:31

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa118.htm>

Media Contact: Leo Rosales
(312) 353-6198

For Immediate Release: June 07, 2000

No. 00-OPA119

EPA: CLEANUP AT VAN WERT MERCURY SITE COMPLETE

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today that its \$70,000 cleanup of the Van Wert Mercury site (Van Wert, OH) is now complete. The site, at 412 East Main St., is a building owned by the Van Wert Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA). During the spring and summer of 1999, a number of YWCA staff and volunteers, and two construction companies helped to renovate the property for use as a battered women's and children's shelter.

An EPA Superfund emergency response team was called to the site on October 5, 1999, after the discovery of about 1/4 cup of puddled mercury under a section of carpet that was being removed. Small pinhead-size beads of mercury, and high levels of airborne mercury, were later identified throughout the building.

The cleanup, completed in consultation with Van Wert County and the Ohio Department of Public Health, included: collection of mercury residue throughout the building, and removal of some stairs, baseboards, and cabinets. Following the cleanup, the contaminated areas were treated with several applications of a mercury residue scrub chemical. Air monitoring indicated no further elevated levels of mercury were present.

One roll-off box and a drum of mercury-contaminated waste were sent to a hazardous waste disposal facility in Brownstown, MI.

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Last Updated: 6/7/2000 12:42

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa119.htm>

Technical Contact: Margaret Sieffert
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For Immediate Release: June 8, 2000

No. 00-OPA120

EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH DAIMLERCHRYSLER; INCLUDES \$12,000 FINE

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently reached agreement with DaimlerChrysler Corp. on alleged clean-air violations at the company's new Jeep assembly plant, 4000 Stickney Ave., Toledo, OH. A \$12,000 penalty was assessed.

The agreement resolves an EPA administrative complaint filed at the same time, alleging DaimlerChrysler began construction at the plant before its permit to prevent significant deterioration of air quality took effect.

Companies must get these permits in areas that meet national health-based standards for all major air pollutants before they can build new air pollution sources or modify existing sources. The purpose is to restrict their emissions and prevent a significant deterioration of air quality in those areas.

In assessing the penalty, EPA said it considered the company's purchase of wetlands and conservation easements near the plant for \$125,000.

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

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Last Updated: 6/8/2000 15:54

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa120.htm>

Technical Contact: James Entzminger
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(312) 353-5050

Legal Contact: William Wagner
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For Immediate Release: June 14, 2000

No. 00-OPA122

EPA SETTLES WITH BP EXPLORATION & OIL € FOR CHEMICAL REPORTING VIOLATIONS AT € 20 OHIO FACILITIES; INCLUDES \$115,002 FINE€

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently signed a consent agreement and final order with BP Exploration & Oil, Inc. (Cleveland, OH), for violating Federal laws on the reporting of hazardous chemicals. The company will pay a \$115,002 fine.

EPA's administrative complaint alleged that BP Exploration & Oil either did not submit, or submitted late, Emergency and Hazardous Chemical Inventory forms for numerous Ohio facilities for 1994, 1995, and 1996. The forms must be submitted to the Ohio Emergency Response Commission, local emergency planning committees, and local fire departments to notify them about hazardous chemicals present at facilities in their communities. Under the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act, owners and operators of facilities must submit forms for certain hazardous chemicals every year by March 1.

Chemicals stored at the facilities varied from site to site, but all of the facilities stored gasoline and diesel fuel.

The facilities are in Alliance, Blanchester, Caldwell, Cambridge, Carrollton, Clarington, Dayton, Harrisville, Marion, Millersburg, Minster, Mt. Vernon, New Philadelphia, Newark, Newcomerstown, Ontario, Seville, Washington Court House, Williamsfield, and Zanesville.

"EPA is pleased to see BP Exploration & Oil step forward to resolve these

chemical reporting problems," said Regional Superfund Director William Munro. "Reporting requirements are designed to protect public safety and the environment. Significantly, this complaint involved numerous Ohio communities that were potentially at risk. Fire departments, hospitals, and other authorities must have this information to respond appropriately if a release occurs."

The reporting violations originated with two 1996 self-disclosures by BP Exploration & Oil concerning 68 bulk plants. Violations were also found under two other environmental statutes, the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) and the Clean Water Act (CWA). The company was cited by Ohio EPA for the RCRA and CWA violations.

Since 1989, EPA Region 5 has filed 222 separate complaints for hazardous chemical reporting violations, resulting in 209 settlements worth \$4.98 million in total fines and \$3.40 million in environmental projects.

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Last Updated: 6/14/2000 11:04

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa122.htm>

Technical Contact: Russ Hart
(312) 886-4844

Media Contact: Susan Pastor
(312) 353-1325

For Immediate Release: June 15, 2000

No. 00-OPA123

EPA: OPEN HOUSE AT CITY DISPOSAL CORP. LANDFILL SUPERFUND SITE JUNE 27

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will hold an open house at the City Disposal Corp. Landfill Superfund site, Town of Dunn, WI, from 2 to 6 p.m., Tuesday, June 27.

EPA, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and Waste Management representatives will be available to provide tours inside the recently completed ground-water treatment building as well as the source-control system located on the site grounds. Depending on the weather, portions of the site may be muddy, so visitors are encouraged to wear sturdy shoes or boots. All tours will start at the site trailer. Refreshments will be served.

Directions to the site: take U.S. Route 51 to Schneider Rd.; proceed west to Sand Hill Rd.; go south on Sand Hill Rd. about 1 mile to the site access road; take the access road toward the site trailer. Parking areas will be indicated.

MEDIA AVAILABILITY 1:30 P.M.: Members of the media are asked to arrive at 1:30 p.m., 30 minutes before the public. EPA, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and Waste Management representatives will be available at that time to answer questions.

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Last Updated: 6/15/2000 10:32

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa123.htm>

Technical Contact: Ruth McNamara
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Media Contact: Mick Hans
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Legal Contact: Kevin Chow
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For Immediate Release: June 15, 2000

No. 00-OPA124

EPA CITES VENTURA FOODS FOR CHEMICAL RELEASE REPORTING AND RECORDKEEPING VIOLATIONS; PROPOSES \$302,528 FINE

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently filed an administrative complaint against Ventura Foods, LLC. (Albert Lea, MN), for violation of Federal laws on the reporting of a hazardous chemical release, as well as failure to maintain required hazardous chemical records. EPA has proposed a \$302,528 fine.

EPA alleges that on August 30, 1998, the company's facility at 919-14th St., failed to promptly report the release of an estimated 1,000 lb to 1,500 lb of ammonia into the air. Federal laws require immediate notification to the National Response Center and the State Emergency Response Commission upon any release of ammonia exceeding 100 lb.

The release was reported to the National Response Center on August 31, nearly 24 hours after the incident occurred, and to the Minnesota Emergency Response Commission (MERC) about 23 hours after the release occurred. As of January 6, 1999, Ventura Foods had also failed to provide written follow-up report to the MERC, 130 days after the incident.

The release allegedly occurred when an interruption in power caused portions of the refrigeration system to shut down. Without cooling, pressure in the ammonia system began to rise, causing its pressure relief valves to open and shut intermittently.

The company was also cited for failure to provide completed emergency

and hazardous chemical inventory forms to the MERC and the Albert Lea Fire Department for calendar years 1996 and 1997.

Ammonia may be fatal if inhaled, causes burns to the skin and eyes, and can lead to respiratory tract irritation and blindness.

"Compliance with chemical reporting laws is critical, because fire departments, hospitals, and other authorities must have the necessary information to respond appropriately when a release occurs," said Regional Superfund Director William Muno. "Public health, as well as the environment, is at stake."

Under Federal emergency response laws, facilities cited may request a meeting with EPA within 30 days to discuss or contest the matter.

Since 1989, EPA Region 5 has filed 222 separate complaints for hazardous chemical reporting violations, resulting in 209 settlements worth \$4.98 million in total fines and \$3.40 million in environmental projects.

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Last Updated: 6/15/2000 14:10

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa124.htm>

Media Contact: William Omohundro
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: June 19, 2000

No. 00-OPA130

**NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS: EPA TO HOLD
PUBLIC HEARING IN CHICAGO ON PROPOSED
REGULATIONS FOR CLEANER DIESEL FUEL
AND CLEANER HEAVY-DUTY TRUCKS AND
BUSES**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will hold a public hearing in the Chicago area Tuesday, June 20, on proposed regulations to reduce the sulfur content in diesel fuel by 97 percent, to provide for the cleanest-running heavy-duty trucks and buses in history.

The hearing, which will be held in Room 14, Rosemont Convention Center, 5555 North River Rd., Rosemont, IL, will begin at 10 a.m. A press availability session, beginning at 9 a.m. in Room 13, will precede the hearing.

Witnesses will include representatives of the auto and oil industries, State governments, environmental and public health groups, and the general public.

The proposal would cut smog-causing nitrogen oxides from heavy-duty trucks and buses by 95 percent, and particulate matter, or soot, by 90 percent. Every year in the United States, smog and soot account for 15,000 premature deaths, one million respiratory problems, 400,000 asthma attacks, and thousands of aggravated asthma cases, especially in children.

The Chicago hearing will be the second of five held on the proposed new standards. Others are in New York City, Atlanta, Denver, and Los Angeles.

Additional information on the proposal is available on EPA's web site:
<http://www.epa.gov/otaq/diesel.htm>.

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Last Updated: 6/19/2000 14:11

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa130.htm>

Media Contact: Suzanne Saric
(312) 353-3209

For Immediate Release: June 20, 2000

No. 00-OPA128

EPA AWARDS \$10,000 TO SUPPORT ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION IN MINNESOTA

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently awarded \$10,000 to a nonprofit organization and a university to support innovative environmental education in Minnesota.

This year, EPA funding will support professional development programs on lake monitoring and schoolyard habitats. (See attached fact sheet.)

"It is with great pleasure that I extend EPA's support to these organizations in Minnesota for environmental education programs," said Regional Administrator Francis X. Lyons. "By learning about local environmental issues, students and teachers can make positive contributions to improving the health of their communities."

This year, more than 80 applicants competed for funds. EPA is awarding a total \$100,000 to 15 recipients in the Midwest alone. As required by law, a majority of the awards are for grass-roots programs costing \$5,000 or less.

During the past 9 years, EPA Region 5 has awarded more than \$1.1 million in educational grants to academic institutions, nonprofit groups, and Tribes in the Midwest.

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

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Last Updated: 6/26/2000 17:38

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa128.htm>

Media Contact: Suzanne Saric
(312) 353-3209

For Immediate Release: June 20, 2000

No. 00-OPA125

EPA AWARDS \$4,999 TO SUPPORT ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION IN ILLINOIS

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently awarded \$4,999 to Benedictine University, to support innovative environmental education in Illinois.

This year, EPA funding will back a collaborative field training workshop for elementary teachers. (See attached fact sheet.)

"It is with great pleasure that I extend EPA's support to Benedictine University for environmental education programs," said Regional Administrator Francis X. Lyons. "By learning about local environmental issues, students and teachers can make positive contributions to improving the health of their communities."

This year, more than 80 applicants competed for funds. EPA is awarding a total \$100,000 to 15 recipients in the Midwest alone. As required by law, a majority of the awards are for grass-roots programs costing \$5,000 or less.

During the past 9 years, EPA Region 5 has awarded more than \$1.1 million in educational grants to academic institutions, nonprofit groups, and Tribes in the Midwest.

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

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Last Updated: 6/26/2000 17:32

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa125.htm>

Media Contact: Suzanne Saric
(312) 353-3209

For Immediate Release: June 20, 2000

No. 00-OPA129

EPA AWARDS \$48,013 TO SUPPORT ENVIRONMENTAL ED IN MICHIGAN

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently awarded \$48,013 to nonprofit organizations, universities, a tribe and a fire department to support innovative environmental education in Michigan.

This year, EPA funding will support a Lake Superior symposium, field experiences for elementary, secondary and post-secondary students, a workshop for child care providers and tribal environmental education. (See attached fact sheet.)

"It is with great pleasure that I extend EPA's support to these organizations in Michigan for environmental education programs," said Regional Administrator Francis X. Lyons. "By learning about local environmental issues, students and teachers can make positive contributions to improving the health of their communities."

This year, more than 80 applicants competed for funds. EPA is awarding a total \$100,000 to 15 recipients in the Midwest alone. As required by law, a majority of the awards are for grass-roots programs costing \$5,000 or less.

During the past 9 years, EPA Region 5 has awarded more than \$1.1 million in educational grants to academic institutions, nonprofit groups, and Tribes in the Midwest.

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

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Last Updated: 6/26/2000 17:36

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa129.htm>

Media Contact: Suzanne Saric
(312) 353-3209

For Immediate Release: June 20, 2000

No. 00-OPA126

EPA AWARDS \$5,000 TO SUPPORT ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION IN WISCONSIN

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently awarded \$5,000 to the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, to support innovative environmental education in Wisconsin.

This year, EPA funding will support a series of interactive and educational workshops addressing sediment clean-up in the Fox River basin. (See attached fact sheet.)

"It is with great pleasure that I extend EPA's support to the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, for environmental education programs," said Regional Administrator Francis X. Lyons. "By learning about local environmental issues, students, teachers and citizens can make positive contributions to improving the health of their communities."

This year, more than 80 applicants competed for funds. EPA is awarding a total of \$100,000 to 15 recipients in the Midwest alone. As required by law, a majority of the awards are for grass-roots programs costing \$5,000 or less.

During the past 9 years, EPA Region 5 has awarded more than \$1.1 million in educational grants to academic institutions, nonprofit groups, and Tribes in the Midwest.

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

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Last Updated: 6/26/2000 17:41

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa126.htm>

Media Contact: Suzanne Saric
(312) 353-3209

For Immediate Release: June 20, 2000

No. 00-OPA131

EPA AWARDS \$10,793 TO SUPPORT ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION IN INDIANA

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently awarded \$10,793 to the Indiana Dunes Environmental Learning Center, to support an innovative environmental education program in Indiana.

This year, EPA funding will support an energy education program for 6th to 8th graders and their teachers in Northwest Indiana. (See attached fact sheet.)

"It is with great pleasure that I extend EPA's support to the Indiana Dunes Environmental Learning Center for its Energy Matters environmental education program," said Regional Administrator Francis X. Lyons. "By learning about local environmental issues, students and teachers can make positive contributions to improving the health of their communities."

This year, more than 80 applicants competed for funds. EPA is awarding a total \$100,000 to 15 recipients in the Midwest alone. As required by law, a majority of the awards are for grass-roots programs costing \$5,000 or less.

During the past 9 years, EPA Region 5 has awarded more than \$1.1 million in educational grants to academic institutions, nonprofit groups, and Tribes in the Midwest.

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

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Last Updated: 6/26/2000 17:49

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa131.htm>

Media Contact: Suzanne Saric
(312) 353-3209

For Immediate Release: June 20, 2000

No. 00-OPA127

EPA AWARDS \$21,195 TO SUPPORT ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION IN OHIO

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently awarded \$21,195 to nonprofit organizations and a university to support innovative environmental education in Ohio.

This year, EPA funds will support training for daycare facility staff, professional development programs for teachers, and an after-school youth program. (See attached fact sheet.)

"It is with great pleasure that I extend EPA's support to these organizations in Ohio for environmental education programs," said Regional Administrator Francis X. Lyons. "By learning about local environmental issues, students and teachers can make positive contributions to improving the health of their communities."

This year, more than 80 applicants competed for funds. EPA is awarding a total \$100,000 to 15 recipients in the Midwest alone. As required by law, a majority of the awards are for grass-roots programs costing \$5,000 or less.

During the past 9 years, EPA Region 5 has awarded more than \$1.1 million in educational grants to academic institutions, nonprofit groups, and tribes in the Midwest.

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

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Last Updated: 6/26/2000 17:40

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa127.htm>

Media Contact: Karen Reshkin
(312) 353-6353

For Immediate Release: June 21, 2000

No. 00-OPA132

EPA RELEASES 'EXPLORING THE GREAT LAKES' CD

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently made available a new environmental software CD titled, "Exploring the Great Lakes." The CD, geared to students in grades 9-12, is for educators and parents.

Created in cooperation with student programmers at Purdue University, the CD runs on both Wintel and Mac computers and comes in teacher and student versions. "Great Lakes Adventure" is the centerpiece of the CD. It investigates the natural history of the Great Lakes Basin and invites users to learn about some of the environmental issues facing the Great Lakes today.

The program also includes:

- * R/V Lake Guardian tour -- a chance to explore EPA's research vessel deck-by-deck with virtual reality panoramas.
- * Tools -- seeing the Lake Guardian's state-of-the-art scientific equipment for monitoring and analyzing the health of the Great Lakes.
- * Hot Topics -- learning about the latest environmental concerns including habitat loss, beach closures, fish communities, toxics, exotic species, and eutrophication.
- * Mystery -- becoming a scientist and solving an environmental mystery. Use the Lake Guardian's equipment to take samples, analyze them in the on-board labs, keep a scientific journal and stage a press conference to announce your findings.

It took EPA and Purdue over 3 years to develop "Great Lakes Adventure," following guidelines from the North American Association for

Environmental Education. It was designed to develop students' investigative and reasoning skills in solving environmental problems. The teacher's CD includes worksheets to test comprehension. Both versions also feature the "Great Lakes Atlas," a colorful and detailed look at the environment in the Great Lakes region.

"The CD will provide hours of fun for students, while at the same time giving them an idea of how complex it is to solve environmental problems," said Gary Gulezian, director of the Great Lakes National Program office. "Identifying the source of one problem may result in other problems. It stimulates creative thinking," he said.

"Exploring the Great Lakes" is available free from EPA's Great Lakes Program while supplies last. Contact Larry Brail at 312/886-7474, lawrence.brail@epa.gov or visit our Web site www.epa.gov/glnpo/. The CD can also be ordered from Purdue University, for \$10, by calling 765/494-1174.

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Last Updated: 6/26/2000 17:45

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa132.htm>

Technical Contact: Julie Magee
(312) 886-6063

Media Contact: William Omohundro
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: June 22, 2000

No. 00-OPA133

NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS: EPA COSPONSORS GLOBAL CLIMATE LECTURE ON USING RENEWABLE ENERGY

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today that Dr. David Mooney, a 13-year veteran of the renewable energy industry, will speak on the topic "Photovoltaics: An Energy Option for the Midwest?" at 11 a.m. Friday, June 23, room 328, Metcalfe Federal Building, 77 West Jackson Blvd., Chicago.

Photovoltaics, often called solar electricity, convert sunlight directly to electricity. Solar electricity is silent, non-polluting, and renewable.

In his lecture, Dr. Mooney will discuss photovoltaic activities in Chicago and Illinois, local and global environmental ramifications of photovoltaic use, a brief history of the photovoltaic industry, and projections for industry growth.

Dr. Mooney, director of solar business development for Spire Corp., has held various jobs at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory.

Other sponsors of the lecture are U.S. Department of Energy's Chicago Regional Office, the Environmental Law and Policy Center, and the Midwest Global Warming Leadership Council.

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Last Updated: 6/22/2000 12:37

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa133.htm>

Technical Contact: Jennifer Darrow
(312) 886-6315

Media Contact: William Omohundro
(312) 353-8254

Legal Contact: Ann Coyle
(312) 886-2248

For Immediate Release: June 22, 2000

No. 00-OPA134

EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH EBDC, INC.; INCLUDES \$13,500 FINE

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently reached agreement with EBDC, Inc., doing business as Ellefson Building Demolition Co. (Dearborn Heights, MI), on alleged violations of Federal regulations on asbestos--a hazardous air pollutant--at seven demolition sites in Detroit, MI. A \$13,500 penalty was assessed.

The agreement resolves an EPA administrative complaint filed in September 1999, alleging EBDC failed to thoroughly inspect the facilities for asbestos and to notify the proper authorities before starting demolition, as required by EPA regulations.

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

Asbestos is a known carcinogen that can cause mesothelioma (a type of lung cancer) and asbestosis (a lung disease) many years after exposure.

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Last Updated: 6/22/2000 15:01

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa134.htm>

Media Contact: Don de Blasio
(312) 886-4360

Mick Hans
(312) 353-5050

For Immediate Release: June 23, 2000

No. 00-OPA135

**NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA
EVENT/PHOTO-OP AT CANNELTON
INDUSTRIES SUPERFUND SITE, TUESDAY,
JUNE 27, 2 P.M.**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 will host a media briefing and photo opportunity to mark the cleanup of the Cannelton Industries, Inc., Superfund site, Sault Ste. Marie, MI. The briefing will be June 27 at 2 p.m., on South Street, between 16th and 18th Streets. (A community meeting will follow at 5:30 p.m.; media are specifically invited at 2 p.m. for their convenience.)

Representatives from EPA, state, and local governments, and Phelps Dodge—which paid for the \$5 million cleanup—will provide short remarks, followed promptly by a site tour. Please wear comfortable walking shoes and bring mosquito repellent.

The Cannelton Industries site, totaling about 75 acres, is near the Canadian border on the shore of the St. Marys River, about a mile upstream of the Soo Locks and 1.5 miles west of downtown Sault Ste. Marie. The Northwestern Leather Co. operated a tannery on the property from 1900 to 1958. Wastes from the tannery's operations were identified in five separate areas, requiring extensive cleanup.

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Last Updated: 6/23/2000 15:56

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa135.htm>

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Media Contact: William Omohundro
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(312) 886-2242

For Immediate Release: June 26, 2000

No. 00-OPA139

EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH DETROIT CHROME; INCLUDES \$30,000 FINE

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently reached agreement with Detroit Chrome Electro Forming Co. on alleged violations of Federal hazardous air pollutant regulations at the company's chromium electroplating plant, 7515 Lyndon St., Detroit, MI. A \$30,000 penalty was assessed.

The agreement resolves an EPA administrative complaint filed in August 1999, alleging the company violated various regulations on recordkeeping, reporting, and testing requirements for chromium emissions.

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

Hexavalent chromium, a highly hazardous cancer-causing substance, is found in chromic-acid mist, released into the air as part of the electroplating process. Chromic acid is also a respiratory irritant, whose short-term effects include coughing and wheezing. Noncancerous long-term effects include bronchitis, as well as ulcerations and perforations of the nasal septum.

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Last Updated: 6/26/2000 15:48

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa139.htm>

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For Immediate Release: June 26, 2000

No. 00-OPA140

EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH SELLS PRINTING; INCLUDES \$9,442 FINE

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has reached agreement with Sells Printing Co. LLC on alleged violations of federally enforceable State clean-air regulations at the company's printing plant, 16000 West Rogers Dr., New Berlin, WI. A \$9,442 penalty was assessed.

The agreement resolves an EPA administrative complaint issued in August 1999, alleging Sells violated emission limits on volatile organic compounds (VOC's), recordkeeping requirements, and compliance scheduling.

"EPA's goal is to protect public health and the environment," said Bharat Mathur, director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "We will take all necessary steps to ensure compliance with clean-air regulations."

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

New Berlin is in the Milwaukee metropolitan area, which does not meet the health-based standard for ozone.

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Last Updated: 6/26/2000 15:59€

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa140.htm> €

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(312) 353-4543

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For Immediate Release: June 26, 2000

No. 00-OPA141

EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH UNION OIL CO.; INCLUDES \$9,900 FINE

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 recently signed a consent agreement and final order with Union Oil Co. (Brea, CA), for violations of the underground injection control regulations of the Safe Drinking Water Act. The company has agreed to pay a \$9,900 penalty.

EPA alleged in March 2000 that – in violation of its permit – the company failed to show that a well it operated in Midland County, MI, was mechanically sound and could be used for brine disposal without endangering underground sources of drinking water. The well is used to dispose of brine, a byproduct of oil and gas exploration. The permit requires the company to demonstrate the mechanical integrity of the well every 5 years. The company has since demonstrated that the well can safely be used for brine disposal.

"Underground injection control regulations are designed to protect underground sources of drinking water from contamination," said Jo-Lynn Traub, director of the regional Water Division. "It is important that wells are shown to be mechanically sound, so that EPA can be sure they do not pose a threat to the environment."

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Last Updated: 6/27/2000 9:00

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa141.htm>

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For Immediate Release: June 28, 2000

No. 00-OPA142

EPA ORDERS RITCHIE ENGINEERING TO STOP IMPROPER PRODUCT LABELING

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has ordered Ritchie Engineering Co., Inc., to immediately stop all activities involving improper labeling of its refrigerant recovery equipment at its Garrett, IN, plant.

In addition, the company was ordered to immediately stop selling and distributing a new refrigerant recovery equipment model that has not been certified.

EPA said Ritchie has been selling its model R60 refrigerant recovery unit with improper labels, and has been making and selling its new model R70 unit without required certification by Underwriters Laboratories or Air-Conditioning & Refrigeration Institute.

The improper labeling and selling of refrigerant recovery equipment were discovered during a May 10 State inspection requested by EPA.

Under the EPA administrative "cease and desist" order, the company will not be allowed to continue selling and distributing the R60 model until it is properly labeled, or the R70 model until it is properly certified and labeled.

Chlorofluorocarbon refrigerants deplete the stratospheric ("good") ozone layer, allowing dangerous amounts of cancer-causing ultraviolet rays from the sun to strike the earth's surface. Production of some of these chemicals

was stopped in 1995, and Federal law strictly controls their use and handling.

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

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

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Last Updated: 6/28/2000 17:18

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa142.htm>

Technical Contact: Tom Alcamo
(312) 886-7278

Media Contact: Derrick Kimbrough
(312) 886-9749

IDEM Contact: Vince Epps
(317) 234-0359

For Immediate Release: June 29, 2000

No. 00-OPA138

ILLINOIS CENTRAL SPRING WATER TREATMENT PLANT COMPLETED FOR LEMON LANE SUPERFUND SITE

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 and Indiana Department of Environmental Management today announced that construction is now complete for the Illinois Central Spring Water Treatment Plant, which will treat contaminated water that flows through the Lemon Lane Landfill Superfund site, Bloomington, IN.

The approximately \$6 million treatment plant was built under Superfund emergency removal authority to address the potential health risks posed by PCB-contaminated water discharging from the Illinois Central Spring.

The spring itself is not on the Superfund National Priorities List, but the Lemon Lane Landfill was placed on the list in 1983.

The new water treatment plant will address PCB-contaminated water that flows from the landfill during storms, when the water is at its highest flow levels. The plant will treat up to 1,000 gallons per minute and be able to handle a 25-year storm event. Future work will determine if the plant requires additional storage capacity or additional technology, and whether the plant can be used to treat water from other contaminated springs in the area.

IDEM will take over the operation and maintenance of the water treatment plant in June 2001.

PCB's (polychlorinated biphenyls) are a group of chemicals once widely used in industry as coolants and lubricants. EPA banned the manufacture of PCB's in 1979 because of evidence that they accumulate in the environment—including in freshwater fish and aquatic birds—and present human health hazards.

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Last Updated: 6/29/2000 11:57

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa138.htm>

Technical Contact: Patrick Kuefler
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(312) 353-8547

Legal Contact: Tom Turner
(312) 886-6613

For Immediate Release: June 29, 2000

No. 00-OPA143

EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH LODERS CROKLAAN U.S.A.; INCLUDES \$16,500 FINE

U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently signed a consent agreement with Loders Croklaan U.S.A.(Channahon, IL), on alleged violation of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act. The company will pay a \$16,500 fine.

EPA alleges Loders Croklaan failed to test solid wastes with potential hazards to people and the environment. Loders Croklaan generated the waste while looking for soil and groundwater contamination at the Channahon facility, located at 24708 West Durkee Rd., during an October 1998 site inspection.

In April 1999, EPA flew over the site and spotted drums of solid waste stored in a remote portion of the site. In May 1999, EPA completed an inspection of the site and discovered about 26 55-gallon drums of solid waste. Under Federal law, EPA regulates the management and disposal of hazardous waste, from the time of production to its final disposal.

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Last Updated: 6/29/2000 11:51

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa143.htm>

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For Immediate Release: June 29, 2000

No. 00-OPA144

EPA: CLEANUP COMPLETE AT TEXTILE ROAD SITE

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently completed a cleanup of PCB-contaminated soil at the Textile Road Superfund site, Ypsilanti, MI. The approximately \$2 million project, paid for by the responsible parties, began in October 1999. The site is at the southeast corner of Textile and Bunton Rds.

Over the course of the project, an EPA Superfund emergency response team supervised the excavation and off-site disposal of about 14,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil and about 330 gallons of PCB-contaminated oil. Depending on the PCB-levels in the contaminated soil, the material was sent to one of two EPA-approved hazardous waste landfills in Michigan or used as backfill at the site. The liquid wastes were sent to a facility in Bowling Green, OH.

After the excavation, the commercially-zoned portion of the site was backfilled and covered with 6 to 8 inches of topsoil, plus grass seed. The responsible parties will operate and maintain ground water monitoring wells at the site, and maintain the vegetated cover area.

The site was a gravel mine from the late 1940's until 1973. Some of the mine pits were backfilled with industrial waste, which contributed to the contamination at the site. Several times during the late 1980's, drums containing PCB's and other chemicals were removed from the site by EPA or Michigan Department of Natural Resources (predecessor agency to Michigan Department of Environmental Quality).

Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB's) are a group of chemicals once used widely in industry as coolants and lubricants. EPA banned the manufacture of PCB's in 1979 because of evidence they accumulate in the environment—including in freshwater fish and aquatic birds—and present human health hazards.

Site documents are available for review at Ypsilanti District Library, 229 West Michigan, and the Ypsilanti Civic Center, 7200 South Huron Dr.

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Last Updated: 6/29/2000 16:10

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa144.htm>

Media Contact: Cathy Milbourn
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For Immediate Release: June 30, 2000

No. 00-OPA145

EPA PROPOSES MAKING ETHANOL EASIER TO USE IN CLEANER-BURNING GASOLINE

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) today proposed an action that will make it easier for oil refiners to use ethanol in cleaner-burning gasoline, while maintaining the air quality benefits of the program. This action will fully recognize the environmental benefits of ethanol and ensure that it will continue to play a role in the cleaner-burning gasoline program.

Specifically, today's proposal makes it easier for refiners to blend ethanol in cleaner-burning gasoline by recognizing that the use of ethanol, more than other oxygenates, reduces the air pollutant carbon monoxide from the tailpipe. Normally, for cleaner-burning gasoline with ethanol to meet pollution reduction standards, an adjustment must be made to the gasoline. That adjustment involves reducing the evaporative property of gasoline to accommodate ethanol, since ethanol can make gasoline evaporate more readily, which leads to an increase in air pollution.

EPA's proposed adjustment allows refiners to slightly increase the evaporative property of gasoline in exchange for the carbon-monoxide reductions derived from using ethanol. This adjustment will maintain the overall air quality benefits of the program.

The cleaner-burning gasoline program is aimed at reducing pollution in the smoggiest cities in the U.S. Smog threatens millions of Americans each year with respiratory problems, and is particularly dangerous to children, who are increasingly at risk to asthma attacks. Many chemicals from tailpipes, including carbon monoxide, contribute to the formation of smog.

The National Academy of Sciences recommended that we recognize the contribution of carbon monoxide to ozone formation in evaluating the benefits of cleaner-burning gasoline. EPA's program is eliminating air

pollution equal to that from 16 million cars a year. The program, established by Congress under the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990, also significantly reduces toxic air pollutants, such as benzene, which cause cancer.

Ethanol has been in use in reformulated gasoline since 1995. The Congress required that reformulated gasoline contain two percent oxygen by weight. To meet this requirement, oil refiners generally can choose between MTBE and ethanol. If gasoline containing MTBE leaks or is spilled into the environment, it can enter the ground water and render water supplies undrinkable due to taste and odor impacts. The administration has called on Congress to pass legislation that will significantly reduce or eliminate the use of MTBE. By providing refiners with more flexibility to use ethanol, this proposal will help reduce the use of MTBE.

Before releasing its proposal, EPA first wanted to analyze an alternative proposal submitted by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency. EPA is specifically requesting comment on the alternative Illinois proposal as well as the agency's preferred proposal during the 60 day comment period. EPA's proposed rule is available at <http://www.epa.gov/otaq/rfg.htm>.

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Last Updated: 7/6/2000 9:58

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa145.htm>

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For Immediate Release: July 5, 2000

No. 00-OPA146

EPA: CLEANUP AT SOARING EAGLE CASINO UNNECESSARY

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has notified the Soaring Eagle Casino (Mt. Pleasant, MI) that, based on information provided by the casino management, a cleanup to address releases of antifreeze (ethylene and propylene glycol) from the casino's snow-melt system -- is not necessary. The casino is located on the Saginaw Chippewa Reservation and is owned by the Tribe. EPA will work with tribal leadership to ensure that future operation of the system will fully protect human health and the environment and meet all Federal environmental laws.

EPA requested information from the casino in March 2000 when it learned that there might have been releases of ethylene glycol or other substances from the snow-melt system. Such releases could pose a threat to human health or the environment.

Based on the information provided and the characteristics of ethylene and propylene glycol, it does not appear that any release presented such a threat. Although the release temporarily disrupted operation of the local wastewater treatment plant, it did not directly affect the drinking water or violate any health or wastewater discharge standard. There are no drinking-water wells in the immediate vicinity of the casino and the area is primarily served by a public water supply system.

Propylene glycol is not toxic, degrades rapidly, and presents little threat to human health or the environment, even at high concentrations. Ethylene

glycol may present a risk at high levels of exposure, but it does not appear that there was a significant threat of human exposure to this chemical.

The casino has removed ethylene glycol from its snow-melt system and is exploring options to prevent future releases of chemicals from these systems. EPA expects to be notified about those measures.

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Last Updated: 7/6/2000 15:07

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa146.htm>

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For Immediate Release: July 7, 2000

No. 00-OPA147

EPA: CLEANUP NEARLY COMPLETE AT VAN DALE JUNKYARD SITE; AVAILABILITY SESSION JULY 17

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today that cleanup at the Van Dale Junkyard Superfund site (Washington County, OH) is nearly complete. An availability session, with representatives from EPA, Ohio EPA, and the potentially responsible parties (PRP's), will be held July 17, 6 to 8 p.m., Marietta Lookout Park Community Center, 801 Lancaster St., Marietta.

The 31-acre property, located 1.5 miles northeast of Marietta on Township Road 83, includes a 10-acre parcel that was used as junkyard from the 1940's until 1980. During this time, the site received a variety of materials, including automobiles and batteries, as well as several thousand drums of industrial waste.

Remaining work to be done at the site: installation of additional ground-water monitoring wells by the PRP's. After this work is completed, expected by the end of 2000, the site will begin a 30-year period of operation and maintenance activities. This work, paid for by the PRP's with oversight by EPA, includes waste cap maintenance, site inspections, and monitoring of groundwater, surface water, and sediments.

Clean-up construction work since 1997 included excavation of about 60,000 cubic yards of hazardous wastes and soils contaminated primarily with volatile and semi-volatile organic compounds; consolidation of this material in an on-site waste cell; and installation of a cap over the

material. The work also included construction of an earthen buttress at the bottom of the capped area to stabilize the slope; installation of a drainage system; and grading, seeding, and mulching of the cap area to control erosion.

Estimated cost of the nearly completed cleanup: \$8 million, paid for by the PRP's. The Federal government is continuing negotiations with the PRP's to resolve the government's claims for past and future response costs, including oversight costs for the 30-year period.

From 1994 to 1996, the PRP's, under EPA supervision, sent more than 1,200 tons of contaminated soil and drum waste, and 650 tons of non-hazardous soil and waste to off-site facilities. About 3,600 gallons of liquid waste were also collected and treated off-site.

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Last Updated: 7/7/2000 14:02

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa147.htm>

Technical Contact: David Stoltenberg
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For Immediate Release: July 11, 2000

No. 00-OPA151

EPA HONORS 3 INDIANA COMMUNITIES FOR BEST WASTEWATER TREATMENT

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has named three Indiana wastewater treatment plants among the four best-operated plants in the Region. They are the Elkhart and Rochester plants, and the South Henry Regional Waste District, in Lewisville.

Elkhart (First Place, Large Advanced category), received the award for: excellent pollutant removal; improving the external appearance of the plant; putting in place a program to replace outmoded equipment; automating plant operations to improve efficiency; making improvements that reduced electricity, phosphorus removal, chlorine, and sulfur dioxide costs. The plant discharges into the St. Joseph River and serves a population of 60,000. EPA will present the award on July 21, 10:30 a.m., at the treatment plant.

The South Henry Regional Waste District in Lewisville (First Place, Small Advanced category) received the award for: excellent pollutant removal; reducing energy use; continuous monitoring of the facility; operating as a self-supporting utility funded by sewer use fees; and controlling hydrogen sulfide. It serves a population of 1,900. It discharges into the Flatrock River, a tributary of the East Fork White River. EPA will present the award on July 13, 10 a.m., at the treatment plant.

Rochester (Second Place, Medium Advanced category) received the award for: excellent pollutant removal; eliminating an odor problem through cooperation with a local dairy and the installation of new equipment; reducing the amount of ammonia discharged; cross-training of staff; and a strong sewer maintenance program. The plant serves a population of 6,000 and discharges into Mill Creek, a tributary of the Tippecanoe River. EPA

will present the award on July 14, 11 a.m., at Margaritta's Restaurant in Rochester.

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Last Updated: 7/11/2000 17:23

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa151.htm>

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For Immediate Release: July 11, 2000

No. 00-OPA150

EPA CITES SPARTA; INCLUDES \$57,400 FINE

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently filed an administrative complaint against Sparta Manufacturing Co., Inc., for alleged violations of federally enforceable State clean-air regulations at the company's grey iron foundry, 445 Holton St., Sparta, WI. A \$57,400 penalty was proposed.

In its complaint, EPA said monitoring and reporting records from July 1998 to June 1999 show Sparta failed to consistently maintain a temperature in its cupola process high enough to cut carbon monoxide emissions.

In addition, the foundry failed stack tests for carbon monoxide and particulate (smoke, dust, ash) emissions in May 1998. A visual inspection done in December 1998 found that Sparta violated its limit for opacity (the amount of light obscured by particulates).

Sparta has filed an answer to the complaint and requested a hearing. An informal conference to discuss the allegations is scheduled for July 25 in Chicago.

"EPA is committed to enforcing clean-air regulations to protect public health and the environment," said Bharat Mathur, director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "We will take all steps necessary to ensure that companies comply with the Clean Air Act."

When carbon monoxide enters the bloodstream, it reduces delivery of

oxygen to the body's organs and tissues. Exposure to high levels of carbon monoxide can impair vision, hand movement, learning ability, and performance of complex tasks. Persons with heart disease have the greatest risk when exposed to this pollutant.

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

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Last Updated: 7/11/2000 14:38

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa150.htm>

Technical Contact: Noel Vargas
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For Immediate Release: July 11, 2000

No. 00-OPA149

EPA CITES FCI; INCLUDES \$45,100 FINE

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently filed an administrative complaint against FCI, Inc., for an alleged violation of a clean-air regulation at the company's wood office-furniture manufacturing plant, 1750 North Lawndale Ave., Chicago. A \$45,100 penalty was proposed.

In its complaint, EPA alleges that in 1998, FCI exceeded the emissions limitations on a vinyl sealer that is a volatile organic compound (VOC). EPA and FCI met informally on June 21 to discuss the allegations and how to resolve them.

"EPA's mission is to protect public health and the environment," said George Czerniak, chief of the regional Air Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Branch. "We will take all necessary steps to ensure that companies comply with the Clean Air Act."

VOC's combine in the air with other chemicals on warm days to form ground-level ozone, which can cause breathing problems, reduced lung function, eye irritation, stuffy nose, and reduced resistance to colds and other infections. Ozone can aggravate asthma and damage lung tissue. Children, the elderly, and people with chronic respiratory diseases are the most sensitive. Ozone can also damage crops and trees.

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Last Updated: 7/11/2000 14:29

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa149.htm>

Media Contact: Ken Westlake
(312)353-1327

Mick Hans
353-5050

For Immediate Release: July 12, 2000

No. 00-OPA152

NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS: \$33 MILLION SUPERFUND CLEANUP IN WEST CHICAGO COMPLETE; MEDIA EVENT AT REED-KEPPLER PARK

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 will hold a media briefing in recognition of the recently completed \$33 million Superfund cleanup at West Chicago's Reed-Keppler Park, Saturday, July 15, 1 p.m.

From the mid-1930's to the mid-1960's, the site was a local dumping area that received waste from a facility that generated a sand-like radioactive waste product called thorium mill tailings. Extensive clean-up work in an 11-acre parcel of the park, supervised by EPA with assistance from the Illinois Department of Nuclear Safety, began in 1997 and wrapped up this spring. The cleanup was conducted by Kerr-McGee Chemical LLC Corp., which acquired the facility that produced the waste in 1967.

The briefing will include remarks from Congressman Dennis Hastert, EPA Regional Administrator Francis X. Lyons, and Illinois Department of Nuclear Safety Director Thomas Ortziger, and other State and local officials.

The site is at the intersection of National and Yale Streets. The briefing will be at the West Chicago Railroad Days Festival main stage. Please arrive promptly.

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Last Updated: 7/13/2000 8:26

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa152.htm>

Technical Contact: Tom Bloom
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Media Contact: Mick Hans
(312) 353-5050

For Immediate Release: July 13, 2000

No. 00-OPA155

EPA AWARDS \$83,064 SUPERFUND REDEVELOPMENT GRANT TO MARINA CLIFFS SITE, SOUTH MILWAUKEE, WI

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) today awarded seven Superfund Redevelopment Grants to local governments with sites in Region 5 States (IL, IN, MI, MN, OH, WI). The grants, which are part of EPA's Superfund Redevelopment Initiative, provide communities with up to \$100,000 to assist in developing plans for reusing formerly contaminated hazardous waste sites.

One grant was awarded to a Wisconsin Superfund site: \$83,064 to the City of South Milwaukee for the Marina Cliffs Barrel Dump site (a.k.a. Northwestern Barrel).

A total of 40 grants were awarded nationally, drawn from 54 competitive applications. In 1999, the first year of the Superfund Redevelopment Grant program, 10 grants were awarded.

Some of the grants are for sites where cleanup is still underway, and may be used to help make decisions relevant to the eventual reuse of the sites. To date, 190 Superfund sites have been redeveloped nationally and are now in use as everything from golf courses and nature preserves to shopping centers and offices.

The 13-acre Marina Cliffs site, an industrial barrel reconditioning facility from the 1940's to 1964, sits on vacant land on the Lake Michigan shoreline. The City hopes to convert the land into desirable property for developers and/or the South Milwaukee community. The grant will be used to identify potential reuses, develop a plan, and assess community perspectives on any future reuse plans.

Six additional grants to local governments in Region 5 are discussed in separate news releases: Chicago Department of Environment (Lake Calumet Cluster sites, \$100,000); Waukegan, IL (Yeoman Creek Landfill site, \$100,000), Kokomo, IN (Continental Steel site, \$100,000); Allegan, MI (Rockwell International site, \$100,000); Calumet Township, MI (Torch Lake site, \$25,000); and Lake Township, OH (Industrial Excess Landfill site, \$100,000).

More information is at:

www.epa.gov/superfund/programs/recycle/pilot.htm.

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Last Updated: 7/14/2000 9:39

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa155.htm>

Technical Contact: Tom Bloom
(312) 886-1967

Media Contact: Mick Hans
(312) 353-5050

For Immediate Release: July 13, 2000

No. 00-OPA153

EPA AWARDS 7 SUPERFUND REDEVELOPMENT GRANTS IN REGION 5

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) today awarded seven Superfund Redevelopment Grants to local governments with sites in Region 5 States (IL, IN, MI, MN, OH, WI). The grants, which are part of EPA's Superfund Redevelopment Initiative, provide communities with up to \$100,000 to assist in developing plans for reusing formerly contaminated Superfund hazardous waste sites.

A total of 40 grants were awarded nationally, drawn from 54 competitive applications. In 1999, the first year of the Superfund Redevelopment Grant program, 10 grants were awarded.

Some of the grants are for sites where cleanup is still underway, and may be used to help make decisions relevant to the eventual reuse of the sites.

To date, 190 Superfund sites have been redeveloped nationally and are now in use as everything from golf courses and nature preserves to shopping centers and offices.

Region 5 grants announced today include:

- Kokomo, IN (\$100,000): The City of Kokomo will use its grant to identify and evaluate potential reuses for the 183-acre Continental Steel site, which produced nails, wire, and fencing from scrap steel. Among its potential options, Kokomo is considering using the site for stormwater and combined-sewer management, and an environmental education center.
- Allegan, MI (\$100,000): The City of Allegan will use its grant to

study potential future uses and form a Citizens Advisory Group for the 30-acre Rockwell International site, a former glass manufacturer and later an automotive parts production facility. Options for the property include commercial and light industrial uses, including government offices, a relocated county jail, or expansion of existing industrial facilities in the area.

- Calumet Township, MI (\$25,000): Calumet Township in Houghton County will use the grant to assess options for future recreational uses in the area near the 6-acre Torch Lake site, which received waste from a copper mine that closed in 1968. Calumet Township is on Michigan's list of distressed communities and the site lies within both the Calumet National Historic Landmark District and the Keweenaw National Historical Park.
- Lake Township, OH (\$100,000): The Board of Lake Township Trustees will use the grant to assess future uses and expand public input concerning the Industrial Excess Landfill site, Uniontown, OH, which operated as a local landfill receiving municipal and industrial waste from 1959 to 1980.

Three additional Region 5 grants are discussed in separate news releases: Chicago Department of Environment (Lake Calumet Cluster sites, \$100,000), City of Waukegan, IL (Yeoman Creek Landfill site, \$100,000), and South Milwaukee (Marina Cliffs Barrel Dump site, \$83,064).

More information is at:

www.epa.gov/superfund/programs/recycle/pilot.htm

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Last Updated: 7/14/2000 9:28

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa153.htm>

Technical Contact: Greg Carlson
(312) 886-0124

Media Contact: Phillipa Cannon
(312) 353-6218

Legal Contact: James Cha
(312) 886-0813

For Immediate Release: July 13, 2000

No. 00-OPA148

EPA SETTLES WITH TWO RIVERS LLC ON WETLANDS VIOLATIONS; INCLUDES \$25,000 FINE

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 recently signed a consent agreement and final order with Two Rivers of Mukwonago, LLC, for alleged wetlands violations in Waukesha County, WI. The company will pay a \$25,000 penalty.

EPA alleged that between May and June 1998, the company discharged about 1,773 cubic yards of soil into about .16 acres of wetlands in Mukwonago, WI, without first obtaining a permit. The company has since voluntarily removed the soil.

"Two Rivers proceeded with filling in the wetlands before seeing if the activity was permissible," said Jo Lynn Traub, director of the regional Water Division. "These wetlands are located in a floodplain between the Fox and Mukwonago Rivers and, as such, play an important role in flood control."

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 \$11,000 per day for each violation up to a maximum of \$137,500.

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[Index of 2000 News Releases](#)

Last Updated: 7/13/2000 11:00€

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa148.htm> €

Technical Contact: Tom Bloom
(312) 886-1967

Media Contact: Mick Hans
(312) 353-5050

For Immediate Release: July 13, 2000

No. 00-OPA154

EPA AWARDS SUPERFUND REDEVELOPMENT GRANTS TO LAKE CALUMET CLUSTER SITES (CHICAGO) AND YEOMAN CREEK LANDFILL (WAUKEGAN)

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) today awarded seven Superfund Redevelopment Grants to local governments with sites in Region 5 States (IL, IN, MI, MN, OH, WI). The grants, which are part of EPA's Superfund Redevelopment Initiative, provide communities with up to \$100,000 to assist in developing plans for reusing formerly contaminated hazardous waste sites.

Two of the grants are for sites in Northern Illinois: \$100,000 to the Chicago Department of Environment for the Lake Calumet Cluster sites and \$100,000 to the City of Waukegan for the Yeoman Creek Landfill site.

A total of 40 grants were awarded nationally, drawn from 54 competitive applications. In 1999, the first year of the Superfund Redevelopment Grant program, 10 grants were awarded.

Some of the grants are for sites where cleanup is still underway, and may be used to help make decisions relevant to the eventual reuse of the sites. To date, 190 Superfund sites have been redeveloped nationally and are now in use as everything from golf courses and nature preserves to shopping centers and offices.

The Chicago Department of Environment will use its \$100,000 grant to produce a redevelopment plan for a cluster of waste storage and disposal facilities in a 90-acre area of Southeast Chicago. Roughly half of this area may be used for electrical generating facilities, including some solar and

some landfill gas-fired. The other half is envisioned as a mix of natural habitat and prairie plantings, possibly including wetlands. Recently, both the City of Chicago and the State of Illinois have pledged millions of dollars to support these efforts and other ecological improvement activities in Southeast Chicago, including the creation of an environmental education center. The City of Chicago is an EPA Brownfields Showcase Community.

The City of Waukegan will use its \$100,000 grant to coordinate with the Waukegan School and Park Districts, and local residents, to develop a plan that combines light recreational use, such as walking paths and natural areas, with educational signage describing plants and wetlands, at a site comprising three now-closed landfills: Yeoman Creek Landfill, Edwards Field Landfill, and Rubloff Landfill.

Five additional Region 5 grants are discussed in separate news releases: Kokomo, IN (Continental Steel site, \$100,000); Allegan, MI (Rockwell International site, \$100,000); Calumet Township, MI (Torch Lake site, \$25,000); Lake Township, OH (Industrial Excess Landfill site, \$100,000); and South Milwaukee, WI (Marina Cliffs Barrel Dump site, \$83,064).

More information is at

www.epa.gov/superfund/programs/recycle/pilot.htm.

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Last Updated: 7/14/2000 9:35

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa154.htm>

Media Contact: Leo Rosales
(312) 353-6198

Mick Hans
(312) 353-5050

For Immediate Release: July 13, 2000

No. 00-OPA159

WILSON STEEL CLEANUP BEGINS; PHOTO- OP/MEDIA BRIEFING FRIDAY, 9:30 A.M. (CTA ORANGE LINE AT WESTERN AVE.)

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 will hold a media briefing about its cleanup of the Wilson Steel & Wire Co. site, 4840 S. Western Ave., Chicago, 9:30 a.m., Friday, July 14. The site is adjacent to the Western Ave. stop on the Chicago Transportation Authority's Orange line.

Representatives from EPA and Chicago Department of Environment (DOE), which will handle some portions of the cleanup, will be available to discuss the project. Ald. Ed Burke will also be on hand. The cleanup is expected to continue through mid-September.

The 7-acre site, a wire and steel manufacturer since the 1920's, was abandoned in 1994. A fire on June 19, 2000, prompted EPA's involvement at the request of Chicago DOE. The property includes a number of buildings in various stages of fire damage and disrepair, as well as 350 55 gallon drums containing potentially hazardous or flammable oils, acids, asbestos, and lead, and two underground storage tanks.

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Last Updated: 7/14/2000 9:52

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa159.htm>

Technical Contact: Ivonne Vincente
(312) 886-4449

Media Contact: Karen Thompson
(312) 353-8547

Legal Contact: Ivan Lieben
(312) 886-2242

For Immediate Release: July 14, 2000

No. 00-OPA157

EPA CITES SATURN PAINT AND BDK PARTNERSHIP FOR HAZARDOUS WASTE VIOLATION; \$194,226 FINE PROPOSED

U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently filed a civil administrative complaint against BDK Partnership (Palatine, IL) and Saturn Paint and Screen (Schaumburg, IL), for alleged violation of Federal rules on hazardous waste. A \$194,226 penalty has been proposed.

EPA alleges Saturn (operator) and BDK Partnership (owner) treated and stored hazardous waste without first obtaining a permit required by Federal law at the facility, 804 Morse Ave., Schaumburg. Under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, EPA regulates the management and disposal of hazardous waste, from the time of production to its final disposal.

Saturn and BDK may request a meeting with EPA within 30 days to discuss the violation.

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Last Updated: 7/14/2000 10:45

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa157.htm>

Media Contact: Leo Rosales
(312) 353-6198

Mick Hans
(312) 353-5050

MEDIA BRIEFING 9:30 A.M. TODAY: EPA representatives will be available at the Wilson Steel & Wire Co. site, 4840 S. Western Ave., Chicago, this morning, from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m., to discuss the cleanup. After Friday morning, call Leo Rosales or Mick Hans at EPA to schedule an interview or phone update.

For Immediate Release: July 14, 2000

No. 00-OPA158

CLEANUP AT WILSON STEEL SITE (CTA ORANGE LINE AT WESTERN AVE.) NOW UNDERWAY

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today that cleanup work is underway at the Wilson Steel & Wire Co. site, 4840 S. Western Ave., Chicago. The site is adjacent to the Western Ave. stop on the Chicago Transportation Authority's Orange line.

Residents and businesses in the area can expect to see workers in required protective clothing and government vehicles near the site through mid-September. EPA is working with the City of Chicago to minimize any traffic interruptions during the cleanup.

The 7-acre site—a wire and steel manufacturer since the 1920's—was abandoned in 1994. A fire on June 19, 2000, prompted EPA's involvement at the request of Chicago Department of the Environment (DOE). The property includes a number of buildings in various stages of fire damage and disrepair.

EPA's first inspection of the site found about 350 55 gallon drums containing potentially hazardous or flammable oils, acids, asbestos, and lead. About 30 vats containing suspect materials were also found. The site also contains two underground storage tanks.

The drums and other hazardous materials will soon be sent to EPA-approved disposal facilities. Chicago Department of Buildings will handle the demolition of the fire-damaged portions of the site. Chicago DOE will handle disposal of some asbestos-containing materials (such as piping) and the underground storage tanks.

To date, no chemical releases from the property have been reported. EPA will conduct air quality testing in the neighborhood throughout the cleanup. In addition, the property has now been secured with a perimeter fence, and a night security guard has been posted at the site.

Area residents, including Spanish speakers, who have questions about the project may call EPA Community Involvement Coordinator Leo Rosales: 312 353-6198, or e-mail: rosales.leo@epa.gov.

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Last Updated: 7/14/2000 9:45

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa158.htm>

Technical Contact: Terrence Bonace
(312) 886-3387

Media Contact: Karen Thompson
(312) 353-8547

Legal Contact: Susan Perdomo
(312) 886-0557

For Immediate Release: July 14, 2000

No. 00-OPA156

EPA SETTLES WITH STEPAN ON PESTICIDE VIOLATION; INCLUDES \$102,280 FINE

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has settled a civil complaint against Stepan Co., 22 West Frontage Rd., Northfield, IL, for violation of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). The company will pay a \$102,280 fine.

EPA alleged that a number of Stepan's private label distributors sold and distributed misbranded pesticides. A pesticide is misbranded if its label does not contain information required by EPA or is false or misleading in some way. To solve the problem, the company performed an extensive audit of its pesticide files and is notifying its 4,000 subregistrants of proper FIFRA labeling information.

Under FIFRA, all pesticides used in the United States must be registered by EPA. Registration ensures that pesticides will be properly labeled and that, if used in accordance with label directions, will not pose an unreasonable risk to human health or the environment.

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Last Updated: 7/14/2000 10:42

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa156.htm>

Technical Contact: David Seely
(312) 886-7058

Media Contact: Derrick Kimbrough
(312) 886-9749

Mick Hans
(312) 353-5050

For Immediate Release: July 15, 2000

No. 00-OPA160

EPA: \$33 MILLION CLEANUP COMPLETE AT REED-KEPPLER PARK SUPERFUND SITE

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today that a \$33 million cleanup of radioactively-contaminated soil at Reed-Keppler Park (West Chicago, IL) is now complete.

The cleanup, conducted by Kerr-McGee Chemical LLC, with oversight by EPA and other agencies, including Illinois Department of Nuclear Safety (IDNS) and Illinois EPA, addressed an 11-acre portion of the 100-acre park.

Beginning in 1931, the Lindsay Light & Chemical Co.'s Rare Earths Facility, 783 Factory St., which processed ore, generated a sand-like waste material called thorium mill tailings. Between the mid-1930's and the mid-1960's, some of these materials were used as fill in low-lying areas or construction projects in the West Chicago area, including Reed-Keppler park, which at the time was used as a local dump site.

Operations at the Rare Earths Facility ceased in 1973. (That property is currently being cleaned up under the regulatory oversight of the IDNS.) Kerr-McGee acquired the Rare Earths Facility in 1967.

Potentially harmful levels of radiation at the park were first detected in 1976. The Reed-Keppler Park site was added to the Superfund National Priorities List in 1990. Comprehensive EPA investigations and engineering studies began in 1992. Kerr-McGee began excavating contaminated materials at Reed-Keppler Park in spring 1997 under a

unilateral administrative order.

The cleanup, over the course of three and a half construction seasons, included excavation of 114,600 cubic yards of contaminated soil, which was shipped to a radioactive materials disposal facility in Utah. As part of the project, new parking areas and a perimeter roadway were constructed, allowing residents to continue to use other areas of the park without disruption.

The restoration of site landscaping is nearly complete and is proceeding under an agreement between West Chicago, Kerr-McGee and the West Chicago Park District, as required by the EPA unilateral administrative order. This work includes: backfilling excavated areas to their original elevations; relocating some utilities; and landscaping to replace removed and damaged vegetation to make the area suitable for recreational use.

"This site first came to EPA's attention more than 20 years ago. It's a pleasure to see the cleanup wrapped up and West Chicago residents using this portion of the park again," said Regional Administrator Francis X. Lyons. "None of this would have been possible without tremendous good will, contributions, and in-kind services from other government agencies, particularly IDNS, Illinois EPA, the City of West Chicago, and the West Chicago Park District."

Reed-Kepler Park is one of 4 related Superfund sites in West Chicago. Cleanup work by Kerr-McGee at the Residential Areas site began in 1995. To date, 535 contaminated properties have been cleaned up and restored, with more than 100,000 cubic yards of radiation-contaminated material removed. Another 116 known contaminated properties are awaiting final cleanup, most of which should be finished this year. More than 2,100 total properties were included in the radiation study area, with about 90 still to be evaluated

West Chicago and DuPage County officials are working with Kerr-McGee to reach a voluntary agreement for cleanup of the other two sites, Kress Creek and the Sewage Treatment Plant, with a tentative goal of beginning cleanup in 2001.

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Last Updated: 7/21/2000 11:23

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa160.htm>

Technical Contact: Mike Gifford
(312) 886-7257

Media Contact: Mick Hans
(312) 353-5050

For Immediate Release: July 17, 2000

No. 00-OPA161

EPA AWARDS \$500,000 BROWNFIELD REVOLVING LOAN FUND GRANTS TO DEARBORN, TRENTON, MI

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) today awarded \$500,000 Brownfields Revolving Loan Funds pilot grants to Dearborn and Trenton, MI.

Both cities are part of the Downriver Area Brownfield Consortium (DABC), a group of nine Detroit-area communities working together to address brownfield issues in a coordinated manner. In 1996 and 1997, DABC's sponsoring organization, the Downriver Community Conference, received \$200,000 in grants under this program to assist the Downriver Area communities in their brownfield redevelopment efforts. The grants awarded to Dearborn and Trenton today will help two of the DABC communities move to the next step—site cleanup and related activities—in the redevelopment process.

The two Michigan grants were among seven awarded by EPA today, following a revision of eligibility criteria that previously excluded each of these grantee communities because they were members of larger consortium organizations. The Dearborn and Trenton grants were the only ones awarded to communities in EPA Region 5 states (IL, IN, MI, MN, OH, WI).

Brownfield revolving loan fund grants enable states, counties, municipalities, and Tribes to make low-interest funds available to facilitate the cleanup and redevelopment of brownfield properties.

The grant provides capital to establish a loan fund, which is then used to lend money to communities, nonprofit organizations, and/or local

developers who are undertaking the cleanups. Ultimately, the grant program, part of EPA's national Brownfields Initiative, seeks to return formerly underutilized or contaminated properties to productive reuse.

Dearborn will use its grant to target a number of brownfield properties in a once-vibrant industrial area in the Eastern portion of the city. The residents of Dearborn's most industrialized areas suffer from unemployment rates one-and-a half to four times higher than the rest of Dearborn. (Dearborn contact: Fred Weiss, assistant director, Dearborn Department of Economic and Community Development, 313-943-2180.)

Trenton will use its grant to target four privately owned industrial properties along the Trenton Channel and the Detroit River. Priority will be given to those projects with completed environmental assessments, specific development plans, active community support, and potential job creation benefits. (Trenton contact: Glenn Bowles, director, Trenton Community Development, 734-675-8251.)

In addition to the Dearborn and Trenton awards, \$500,000 revolving loan fund grants announced today were awarded to five communities in Pennsylvania: Clairton, Duquesne, McKeesport, Lehigh County, and Luzerne County. Also today, EPA made additional supplemental revolving loan fund awards to three communities that had previously received grants and have now substantially depleted their available funds: Shreveport, LA (\$500,000); Stamford, CT (\$250,000); and Trenton, NJ (\$500,000).

Since 1997, EPA has awarded 105 Brownfield Revolving Loan Fund pilot grants totaling \$64.8 million.

For more information, see: www.epa.gov/brownfields.

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Last Updated: 7/21/2000 11:25

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa161.htm>

Technical Contact: David Stoltenberg
(312) 353-5784

Media Contact: Phillipa Cannon
(312) 353-6218

For Immediate Release: July 18, 2000

No. 00-OPA162

EPA NAMES ZEELAND, MI, WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT AMONG BEST OPERATED

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has named the Zeeland, MI, wastewater treatment plant among the four best-operated plants in the Region. The others are all in Indiana.

Zeeland (First Place, Medium Advanced category), received the award for: excellent pollutant removal; not exceeding its discharge permit limits for three years; its outstanding pretreatment program for discharges from industry; using a technique, which does not interrupt service to customers, for relining sewers; and installing a process to remove ammonia. The plant discharges into the North Branch of the Black River and serves a population of 8,700.

EPA will present the award on July 20, 10 a.m., at the Zeeland Community Center.

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Last Updated: 7/21/2000 11:19

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa162.htm>

Technical Contact: Sudhir Desai
(312) 886-6704

Media Contact: Phillipa Cannon
(312) 353-6218

Legal Contact: Robert H. Smith
(312) 886-0765

For Immediate Release: July 20, 2000

No. 00-OPA163

EPA CITES HOLLAND WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT FOR IMPROPER HANDLING OF SLUDGE

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 recently issued an administrative complaint to the Holland, MI, wastewater treatment plant alleging that it improperly handled sludge and violated permit discharge limits. The complaint includes a proposed penalty of \$137,500.

EPA alleges that the plant did not use proper testing methods to analyze sludge samples, failed to monitor its sludge the required number of times, failed to meet pathogen reduction requirements, and provided inaccurate compliance certifications. The complaint also alleges that the plant exceeded its discharge permit limits for dissolved oxygen, pH, phosphorus, mercury, fecal coliform, total suspended solids, and the percentage of suspended solids removed.

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Last Updated: 7/21/2000 10:59

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa163.htm>

Technical Contact: Jonathan Adenuga
(312) 353-7922

Media Contact: Karen Thompson
(312) 353-8547

Legal Contact: John Tielsch
(312) 353-7447

For Immediate Release: July 20, 2000

No. 00-OPA164

EPA ORDERS CLEANUP AT WOLF LAKE TERMINALS

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently ordered Wolf Lake Terminals, Inc., (WLT) to immediately investigate the extent of hazardous waste contamination at its bulk storage and transfer station, 3200 Sheffield Ave., Hammond, IN.

Under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, EPA requires WLT to:

- * Submit a plan of investigation identifying the nature and extent of hazardous waste releases at the facility, within 60 days;
- * Eliminate all human exposure to contamination and stabilize contaminated ground water by September 1, 2001;
- * Propose final corrective action to EPA, by December 31, 2002;
- * Provide the public an opportunity to review and comment on final corrective measures;
- * Implement cleanup measures to eliminate potential threats to human health and the environment.

EPA regulates the management and disposal of hazardous waste, from production to its final disposal.

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Last Updated: 7/24/2000 16:45

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa164.htm>

Media Contact: Mick Hans
(312) 353-5050

Derrick Kimbrough
(312) 886-9749

IDEM Contacts: Phil Schermerhorn

(317) 232-8557

Vince Epps

(317) 234-0359

For Immediate Release: July 21, 2000

No. 00-OPA166

EPA HALTS CLEANUP AT LEMON LANE LANDFILL

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has temporarily halted cleanup activity at the Lemon Lane Landfill site, Bloomington, IN. The 10-acre Superfund site is on Bloomington's western edge, near the intersection of State Road 37 and Vernal Pike.

Thursday afternoon the site was shut down as a conservative, precautionary health measure. Over the past few days, as the project moved into some of the more highly contaminated areas of the site, air monitoring stations at the edge of the landfill detected higher PCB levels than earlier in the project. Excavation of PCB-contaminated soil by CBS contractors, supervised by EPA, began in May.

Although the average PCB air concentration has been below EPA's "action level" of concern (1,000 nanograms per cubic meter of air), EPA is taking the precautionary step of offering temporary relocation assistance to three residences next to the landfill. Earlier today, EPA and Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) representatives also met with residents of a number of other homes in the immediate area.

EPA's action level is very protective of human health for PCB exposures

lasting many months. PCB air levels to date, measured near the fence line of the site, indicate lifetime cancer risks of less than one in a million. Potential non-cancer risks, such as those to the immune and reproductive systems, are also well within acceptable range.

Additional air monitoring will be conducted to determine PCB levels further away from the site. Excavation work will be suspended until PCB levels are consistently at acceptable levels. A modified site work plan, developed in conjunction with IDEM, the City of Bloomington, and CBS, may also be considered.

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Last Updated: 7/24/2000 9:58

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa166.htm>

Technical Contact: Michael Beedle
(312) 353-7922

Media Contact: Karen Thompson
(312) 353-8547

Legal Contact: Deidre Flannery Tanaka
(312) 886-6730

For Immediate Release: July 24, 2000

No. 00-OPA168

EPA, TDY INDUSTRIES AGREE TO CLEAN UP TELEDYNE PLANTS 2 & 5

U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently issued a consent order to TDY Industries, Inc., to investigate the extent of hazardous waste contamination at its former fabricated rubber products plants, Teledyne Monarch Rubber Plants 2 & 5. Located at State Route 43 North, Hartville, OH, the facility is currently operated by Trelleborg Wheel System Americas. Under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, EPA requires Teledyne to:

- Submit a plan of investigation identifying the nature and extent of hazardous waste releases at the facility by October 18, 2000;
- Eliminate all human exposure to contamination and stabilize contaminated ground water by July 31, 2003;
- Propose final corrective action to EPA by October 31, 2003;
- Provide the public an opportunity to review and comment on final corrective measures;
- Implement clean-up measures to eliminate potential threats to human health and the environment.

EPA regulates the management of hazardous waste, from production to

final disposal.

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Last Updated: 8/8/2000 14:02

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa168.htm>

Technical Contact: Michael McDonagh
(312) 886-1550

Media Contact: Phillipa Cannon
(312) 353-6218

Legal Contact: James Cha
(312) 886-0813

For Immediate Release: July 24, 2000

No. 00-OPA170

**EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH BLUFFTON,
IN, ON CLEAN WATER ACT VIOLATIONS;
INCLUDES \$30,000 PENALTY AND
ENVIRONMENTAL PROJE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 recently signed a consent agreement and final order with Bluffton, IN, resolving alleged Clean Water Act violations. The city has agreed to pay a \$30,000 penalty and donate land to the Ouabache State Park.

The city will spend \$50,000 to purchase 115 acres of farmland next to the Wabash River and donate it to the State of Indiana. Taking this land out of active farming will reduce pesticide and herbicide runoff into the Wabash River and provide habitat for wildlife. In addition, the city has revised its Combined Sewer Overflow Operational Plan and submitted it to the Indiana Dept. of Environmental Management (IDEM) for approval.

This settlement resolves a September 1999 administrative complaint in which EPA alleged that Bluffton had violated its wastewater discharge permit limits and failed to submit an acceptable Combined Sewer Overflow Operational Plan to IDEM.

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Last Updated: 7/31/2000 13:20

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa170.htm>

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

For Immediate Release: July 24, 2000

No. 00-OPA169

EPA CITES TWO OHIO COMPANIES FOR CLEAN-AIR VIOLATIONS

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 notified two Ohio companies in June that it believes they have 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 the allegations and how to resolve them.

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

[NOTE TO EDITORS: Companies alleged to have violated Federal clean-air regulations receive a Finding of Violation (FOV), and companies alleged to have violated federally enforceable State regulations receive a Notice of Violation (NOV).]

COMPANY RECEIVING FOV

First Energy Corp., Akron, OH

EPA alleges First Energy Corp. has failed to respond to EPA requests for information on eight First Energy power plants in Ohio. The plants are: Ohio Edison's Niles Station, 1047 Belmont Ave., Niles; Ohio Edison's Burger Station, 57246 Ferry Landing Rd., Shadyside; Cleveland Electric Illuminating's (CEI) Ashtabula Station, 2133 Lake Rd., Ashtabula; CEI's Eastlake Station, 10 Erie Rd., Willoughby; CEI's Avon Lake Station, 33570 Lake Rd., Avon Lake; CEI's Lake Shore Station, 6800 South Marginal Dr., Cleveland; Toledo Edison's Bay Shore Station, 4701 Bay

Shore Rd., Oregon; and Toledo Edison's Acme Station, 1401 Front St., Toledo.

Technical Contact: Bonnie Bush, 312-353-6684

Legal Contact: Thor Ketzback, 312-353-6720

COMPANY RECEIVING NOV

Aristech Chemical Corp. Haverhill Plant, Ironton, OH

EPA alleges Aristech has operated two phenol units and its cumene oxidation unit without a permit to operate.

Technical Contact: Margaret Sieffert, 312-353-1151

Legal Contact: Karl Karg, 312-886-7948

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Last Updated: 7/24/2000 16:42

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa169.htm>

Technical Contact: Michael Mikulka
(312) 886-6760

Media Contact: Karen Thompson
(312) 353-8547

Legal Contact: Christine Liszewski
(312) 886-4670

For Immediate Release: July 24, 2000

No. 00-OPA167

EPA CITES INTERPLASTIC FOR HAZARDOUS WASTE VIOLATIONS; PROPOSES \$57,119 FINE

U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently filed a civil administrative complaint and compliance order against Interplastic Corp., for hazardous waste violations at its Minneapolis, MN, facility. A \$57,119 penalty is proposed.

The base resin manufacturing plant, 2015 NE Broadway St. failed to follow State regulations on hazardous waste containers, and Federal regulations on air emissions from containers.

Under the Resource Conservation Recovery Act, Interplastic is required to fully comply with all State and Federal regulations for generators of hazardous waste and to submit a closure plan for the area where the waste was illegally stored.

EPA and the State of Minnesota jointly regulate the safe handling, transportation, treatment, and disposal of hazardous wastes, from their production to their final disposal. Interplastic may request a meeting with EPA to discuss the violations.

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Last Updated: 7/24/2000 16:47

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa167.htm>

Technical Contact: Jim Hahnenberg
(312) 353-4213

Sam Borries
(312) 353-2886

Media Contact: Susan Pastor
(312) 353-1325

Bri Bill
(312) 353-6646

For Immediate Release: July 25, 2000

No. 00-OPA165

EPA, WDNR TO HOLD MEETING ON FOX RIVER SMU 56/57 CLEANUP AUG. 3

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 will hold a public meeting Thursday, Aug. 3, 7 p.m., at the Brown County Library, lower level, 515 Pine St., Green Bay, WI, on the cleanup planned for the Sediment Management Unit (SMU) 56/57 portion of the Lower Fox River project.

At the meeting, representatives from EPA, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR), and Fort James Corp. will provide updates and answer questions about the cleanup.

Under a Federal agreement, EPA is working with WDNR and Fort James Corp. to complete the cleanup of polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB)-contaminated sediment. This cleanup is a continuation of a dredging project started last year which exposed sediment contaminated with high levels of PCB's. The cleanup is expected to start in August and be completed by November.

Copies of the agreement and other site-related information are available for review at libraries throughout the Fox Valley, including the Brown County Library. Lower Fox River information is also posted on EPA Region 5's Web site: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/foxriver> and on WDNR's Web site: <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/wm/lowerfox>.

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Last Updated: 7/25/2000 10:15

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa165.htm>

Media Contact: Ginny Narsete
(312) 886-4359

Mick Hans
(312) 353-5050

For Immediate Release: July 25, 2000

No. 00-OPA171

**NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS: CLEANUP
BEGINS NEXT WEEK AT JEFFERSON
PROCESSING SITE, MINGO JUNCTION, OH.
MEDIA BRIEFING WEDNE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 will begin cleanup next week at the Jefferson Processing facility, Mingo Junction, OH. Media are invited to attend a briefing at the site, Wednesday, July 26, from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. The site is on County Road 74 (a.k.a. Gould Road).

The project—which includes removal of hazardous PCB waste oil and PCB-contaminated materials—is expected to take four to six weeks. Residents can expect to see workers in required protective clothing and construction equipment in the area.

Reporters who wish to tour the property must have hard hats and steel-toed shoes.

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Last Updated: 7/25/2000 17:03

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa171.htm>

Media Contact: Denise Battaglia
(312) 886-9859

Mick Hans
(312) 353-5050

For Immediate Release: July 28, 2000

No. 00-OPA173

IEL SITE UPDATE: NEW CAP PROPOSAL EXPECTED, GROUNDWATER SAMPLING, TECHNICAL INFORMATION COMMITTEE MEETING POSTPONED

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today it will consider a new proposal by the responsible parties to change the design of the landfill cap at the Industrial Excess Landfill, Uniontown, OH. The responsible parties recently introduced the idea of a "phyto-cap" for the landfill, which differs from the original cap specified in EPA's Record of Decision issued in March 2000.

The phyto-cap approach calls for covering the landfill with specific tree species that take up large amounts of water from their roots, then maintaining the site as a woodland. Generally, conventional landfill caps, such as the one selected previously by EPA, call for trees to be removed and replaced by grasses planted upon the topsoil layer of the cap. Conventional caps are maintained as grasslands.

EPA and Ohio EPA are willing to consider the new cap design as an alternative to the cap described in the March 2000 Record of Decision. While phyto-capping is a relatively new remedial approach, both EPA and Ohio EPA have gained experience with it at other sites over the past few years and believe it may be a viable option for the IEL site. Details of the new plan, in the form of a formal proposal by the responsible parties, have not yet been received by either agency. Significantly, Lake Township has recently asked EPA to reconsider putting the conventional cap on the landfill.

To gauge current site conditions, next week the responsible parties will begin a new round of ground-water sampling. The sampling work will

assess current levels of volatile organic compounds and metals in the site's ground water. The ground water will also be tested for radiation. This work will be conducted with oversight by EPA and Ohio EPA. The project is expected to take at least two weeks, with results available after EPA reviews and validates the responsible parties' data.

Due to these new developments, EPA has postponed the next meeting of the IEL Technical Information Committee.

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Last Updated: 8/2/2000 14:58

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa173.htm>

Technical Contact: Kevin Adler
(312) 886-7078

Media Contact: Don de Blasio
(312) 886-4360

For Immediate Release: August 02, 2000

No. 00-OPA174

EPA SEEKS COMMENTS ON PLAN TO COMPLETE CLEANUP AT AIRCRAFT COMPONENTS INC.; MEETING AUGUST 8, 7:30 P.M.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently proposed a plan to complete cleanup of radiological contamination at the Aircraft Components, Inc., Superfund site, Benton Harbor, MI. The site, also known as D & L Sales or Benton Harbor Warehouse, was the focus of a \$7 million cleanup by EPA, in consultation with Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, that began in July 1997 and ended this past March.

An informational meeting to discuss the plan, followed by a public hearing, will be held Tuesday, August 8, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., Bobo Brazil Community Center (Old Naval Armory), 472 Cass St., Benton Harbor. A public comment period ends August 28, 2000.

The 17-acre site, at 671 North Shore Drive, Benton Township, is next to a residential area, and bordered to the south by the Paw Paw River. The property includes three interconnected warehouse buildings, two concrete foundations that are remnants of buildings previously demolished by EPA, two collapsed buildings, and two Quonset huts. Prior to EPA's cleanup, the warehouse buildings contained World War II-era military aircraft parts bought as surplus material for resale. Among these materials were hundreds of gauges marked with paint containing radium-226, a radioactive element. A few contaminated aircraft parts still remain on site, along with residual radium-226 dust in parts of the buildings and on exposed concrete foundations.

EPA has researched three clean-up alternatives and recommends a \$2.2

million plan that includes additional demolition and off-site disposal of the various waste materials. In the earlier cleanup, EPA demolished two dilapidated buildings, removed radioactive debris, and decontaminated a large Quonset hut. Some decontamination of the remaining materials was also conducted.

EPA's plan and other site documents are available for review at Benton Harbor Public Library, 213 East Wall St. A fact sheet summarizing the clean-up alternatives and EPA's recommended plan will be available at the meeting, or can be requested toll-free from Don de Blasio, Community Involvement Coordinator, 800-621-8431, xt. 64360, or e-mail, deblasio.don@epa.gov.

Send written comments to Kevin Adler, Remedial Project Manager, U.S. EPA Region 5, Superfund Division, 77 West Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL 60604, fax 312-353-5541, or e-mail, adler.kevin@epa.gov.

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Last Updated: 8/2/2000 10:24

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa174.htm>

Technical Contact: Manojkumar Patel
(312) 353-3565

Media Contact: William Omohundro
(312) 353-8254

Legal Contact: Thomas Krueger
(312) 886-0562

For Immediate Release: August 08, 2000

No. 00-OPA176

EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH ADAMS PLATING; INCLUDES \$6,250 FINE & \$29,625 PROJECT

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently reached an agreement with Adams Plating Co. resolving alleged violations of Federal regulations on chromium--a hazardous air pollutant--at the company's electroplating plant, 521 North Rosemary St., Lansing, MI.

The agreement, which includes a \$6,250 penalty and a \$29,625 environmental project, resolves an EPA administrative complaint filed last March, alleging Adams Plating failed to comply with Federal work practice, planning, monitoring, and recordkeeping standards.

As its environmental project, the company has agreed to install and operate by October 15 an upgraded blower system to cut emissions from its plating operations. Adams Plating estimates that, by adding this system, it will get 99.8 percent efficiency in controlling emissions at the plant.

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

"We are pleased that Adams Plating has agreed to install a pollution-control system that will significantly reduce chromium emissions from its plant," said Bharat Mathur, director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "This is an important action to protect public health and the

environment."

Hexavalent chromium, a highly hazardous cancer-causing substance, is found in chromic acid mist released into the air as part of the electroplating process. Chromic acid is also a respiratory irritant, whose short-term effects include coughing and wheezing. Noncancerous long-term effects include bronchitis, as well as ulcerations and perforations of the nasal septum.

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Last Updated: 8/8/2000 16:53

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa176.htm>

Technical Contact: Eva Marie Rowe
(312) 353-0829

Media Contact: Phillipa Cannon
(312) 353-6218

Legal Contact: Peter Felitti
(312) 886-5114

For Immediate Release: August 08, 2000

No. 00-OPA175

EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH NORTHEASTERN ENERGY CORP.; INCLUDES \$25,000 FINE

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 recently signed two consent agreements and final orders with Northeastern Energy Corp.(Denver, CO), for alleged violations of the underground injection control regulations of the Safe Drinking Water Act at two disposal wells in St. Clair County, MI. The company has agreed to pay a \$25,000 fine.

In February 1998, EPA alleged that the company had injected fluids into the Chudy #2 well without the necessary permit. In June 1999, EPA alleged multiple permit violations in operating the Schulz #3 well, including failing to plug and abandon the well and failing to submit monitoring reports. Both wells had been used to dispose salt water, a byproduct of oil and gas exploration.

Underground injection control regulations are designed to protect underground sources of drinking water from contamination.

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Last Updated: 8/8/2000 15:33

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa175.htm>

Technical Contact: Greg Chomycia
(312) 353-8217

Media Contact: William Omohundro
(312) 353-8254

Legal Contact: Ann Coyle
(312) 886-2248

For Immediate Release: August 10, 2000

No. 00-OPA179

EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH PRECISION PLATING; INCLUDES \$30,000 FINE

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently reached agreement with Precision Plating Co. on alleged violations of Federal regulations on emissions of chromium--a hazardous air pollutant--and State permitting regulations at the company's electroplating plant, 918 Hazel St., Akron, OH. A \$30,000 penalty was assessed.

The agreement resolves an EPA citation of Precision Plating in November 1999, alleging the company failed to conduct a timely performance test showing compliance with the Federal emission limit for chromium and failed to apply for necessary State operating permits.

"EPA is committed to enforcing the regulations for hazardous air pollutants to protect public health and the environment," said Bharat Mathur, director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "We will take all necessary steps to ensure that companies comply with the Clean Air Act."

Hexavalent chromium, a highly hazardous cancer-causing substance, is found in chromic acid mist released into the air as part of the electroplating process. Chromic acid is also a respiratory irritant, whose short-term effects include coughing and wheezing. Noncancerous long-term effects include bronchitis, as well as ulcerations and perforations of the nasal septum.

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Last Updated: 8/10/2000 16:34

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa179.htm>

Technical Contact: Erik Hardin
(312) 886-2402

Media Contact: William Omohundro
(312) 353-8254

Legal Contact: Mary McAuliffe
(312) 886-6237

For Immediate Release: August 11, 2000

No. 00-OPA177

EPA, DOJ REACH AGREEMENT WITH METROPOLITAN COUNCIL; INCLUDES \$250,000 FINE & \$1.6 MILLION PROJECT

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Justice have reached agreement with the Metropolitan Council on alleged clean-air violations at its Metropolitan Wastewater Treatment Plant in St. Paul, MN. The agreement includes a \$250,000 civil penalty and a \$1.6 million environmental project.

The agreement resolves a civil complaint filed in July 1999 alleging the plant had failed stack tests, and had released uncontrolled emissions from emergency bypass stacks and from faulty dampers that seal vents to the emergency bypass stacks.

In addition to the civil penalty, Metropolitan Council has agreed to install a \$1.6 million dry electrostatic precipitator in the air-pollution control train on one of its new incinerators. Metropolitan Council has estimated the precipitator will remove about 40 percent of the particulates (smoke, dust, ash) from its air emissions.

During agreement negotiations, Metropolitan Council designed and installed new dampers and seals on emergency dampers, for the emergency stacks on its multiple hearth incinerators. The dampers and seals were designed to prevent leakage of particulates when the dampers are closed.

Metropolitan Council has agreed to expedite construction and installation

of new fluidized bed incinerators that it has said will cost \$200 million. Until the incinerators are installed, Metropolitan Council has agreed to:

- develop and implement a procedure to maintain alarms related to damper openings;
- take appropriate corrective measures to prevent an emergency damper opening;
- train its operators;
- develop a plan to inspect and maintain all components of the wastewater treatment plant;
- notify EPA and Minnesota Pollution Control Agency of each emergency damper opening;
- restrict sludge-feed rates to the incinerators; and
- take additional measures that EPA determines are necessary.

EPA Great Lakes Regional Administrator Francis X. Lyons said, "We are pleased that the Metropolitan Council has agreed to take these very significant steps to protect public health and the environment in the Twin Cities. EPA stands ready to assist the council in its efforts."

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Last Updated: 8/14/2000 11:46

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa177.htm>

Technical Contact: Ron Murawski
(312) 886-2940

Media Contact: Jennifer Ostermeier
(312) 353-0618

Legal Contact: Cynthia Kawakami
(312) 886-0564

For Immediate Release: August 11, 2000

No. 00-OPA178

EPA APPROVES FINAL DESIGN FOR H.O.D. LANDFILL; WORK TO BEGIN NEXT WEEK, MEETING AUGUST 23

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today that it has approved the final clean-up design for the H.O.D. Landfill site, Antioch, IL. Pre-construction activities at the Superfund site are expected to begin next week, with cleanup by Waste Management (one of the potentially responsible parties paying for the cleanup) to begin in late August and continue through the fall.

Beginning next week, residents and businesses can expect to see construction vehicles and workers in required protective gear at the site, which is north of Route 173 and east of McMillen Road. EPA expects most of the cleanup to be completed by the end of this year.

An availability session, which will allow area residents to discuss the project one-on-one with representatives from EPA and Waste Management, is scheduled for Wednesday, August 23, 6 to 8 p.m., Antioch Village Hall, 874 Main St.

The 51-acre site accepted municipal and hazardous wastes from about 1963 to 1984. By 1989, the site had closed and the landfill was capped, with leachate wells and landfill gas vents installed under an Illinois EPA permit. EPA approved Waste Management's technical analysis and engineering plans for the cleanup in 1997 and 1998, and issued a Record of Decision that explains the cleanup plan in detail in 1998. A Waste Management contractor also produced the final design plan approved

August 9 by EPA.

The construction portion of the final design, which is consistent with the 1998 Record of Decision, calls for waste cap improvements and an enhanced leachate and gas collection system. The Record of Decision also calls for institutional controls such as deed restrictions.

EPA has not yet approved the post-construction portion of the project, including ground-water, leachate, and landfill gas monitoring, which will begin after the cleanup construction is completed.

A fact sheet about the project will be available at the meeting, or can be obtained by contacting Jennifer Ostermeier, Community Involvement Coordinator, 312-353-0618, or e-mail, ostermeier.jennifer@epa.gov.

Site documents are available for review at Antioch Public Library, 757 Main St., or at www.epa.gov/R5Super/npl/illinois/ILD980605836.htm

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Last Updated: 8/14/2000 11:30

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa178.htm>

Media Contact: Don de Blasio
(312) 886-4360

Mick Hans
(312) 353-5050

MPCA Contact: John Moeger

(651) 282-2383

For Immediate Release: August 14, 2000

No. 00-OPA180

WINDOM LANDFILL SITE PROPOSED FOR DELETION FROM SUPERFUND LIST; COMMENT PERIOD ENDS SEPT. 5

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently proposed the Windom Landfill site (Windom, MN) for deletion from the Superfund National Priorities List (NPL).

In consultation with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), EPA has determined that no further action is necessary and that clean-up activities conducted at the site have been protective of human health and the environment.

A public comment period on the proposed de-listing ends September 5. Comments may be sent to Gladys Beard, Remedial Project Manager, U.S. EPA Region 5, Superfund Division (SRW-6J), 77 West Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL 60604, or e-mail, beard.gladys@epa.gov. Oral comments can be left on Ms. Beard's voice-mail, 800-621-8431, xt. 6725.

The 11-acre site was a municipal landfill that also accepted industrial waste, from the 1930's to 1974. The site was added to the NPL in April 1986, followed by extensive ground-water cleanup and monitoring. The City of Windom submitted a site evaluation to MPCA in June 1999 which concluded that all cleanup objectives had been met. MPCA concurred and subsequently delisted the site from the State's Permanent List of Priorities in February 2000.

Semi-annual ground-water monitoring will continue through June 2004, when the site is scheduled for a 5-year review.

Site documents are available for review at Windom Public Library, 904 4th Ave., EPA's Chicago Records Center, and at MPCA Headquarters, 520 Lafayette Rd., North, St. Paul, MN 55155.

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Last Updated: 8/15/2000 9:32

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa180.htm>

Technical Contact: Sarah Graham
(312) 886-6797

Media Contact: William Omohundro
(312) 353-8254

Legal Contact: Janice Loughlin
(312) 886-7158

For Immediate Release: August 15, 2000

No. 00-OPA181

EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH COUNTRYMARK; INCLUDES \$11,000 FINE & \$30,000 PROJECT

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently reached agreement with Countrymark Cooperative, Inc., on alleged violations of Federal clean-air regulations at the company's petroleum refinery, 1200 Refinery Rd., Mount Vernon, IN.

The agreement, which includes an \$11,000 penalty and a \$30,000 environmental project, resolves an EPA administrative complaint filed in September 1999, alleging Countrymark failed to comply with Federal performance standards for new air emission sources; namely, those relating to inspection of valves for leaks of volatile organic compounds (VOC's).

As its environmental project, Countrymark has agreed to buy, by August 31, a fully-equipped hazardous materials (haz mat) response trailer for Posey County's local emergency planning committee and to provide training on its use by September 15.

"We are pleased that Countrymark has agreed to complete this environmental project to protect public health and the environment," said Bharat Mathur, director of the regional Air and Radiation Division.

VOC's combine with other chemicals in the air on warm days to form ground-level ozone (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 also aggravate asthma and speed up aging of lung tissue. Children, the elderly, and people with lung diseases are the most sensitive.

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Last Updated: 8/15/2000 11:33

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa181.htm>

Technical Contact: Joseph Cardile
(312) 353-2151

Media Contact: William Omohundro
(312) 353-8254

Legal Contact: Mark Geall
(312) 353-9538

For Immediate Release: August 16, 2000

No. 00-OPA183

EPA CITES B&L PLATING; INCLUDES \$42,600 FINE

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently filed an administrative complaint against B&L Plating, Inc., for alleged violations of Federal regulations on chromium--a hazardous air pollutant--at the company's electroplating plant, 21353 Edom Ave., Warren, MI. A \$42,600 penalty was proposed.

EPA said B&L Plating failed to comply with work practice, monitoring, and reporting requirements. B&L Plating has 30 days from receipt of the complaint to file an answer and request a hearing. It may also request an informal meeting with EPA anytime to discuss the allegations.

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

Hexavalent chromium, a highly hazardous cancer-causing substance, is found in chromic-acid mist, released into the air as part of the electroplating process. Chromic acid is also a respiratory irritant, whose short-term effects include coughing and wheezing. Noncancerous long-term effects include bronchitis, as well as ulcerations and perforations of the nasal septum.

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Last Updated: 8/16/2000 15:20

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa183.htm>

Media Contact: Mick Hans
(312) 353-5050

Derrick Kimbrough
(312) 886-9749

IDEM Contact: Phil Schermerhorn

(317) 232-8557

For Immediate Release: August 17, 2000

No. 00-OPA182

CLEANUP RESUMES AT LEMON LANE LANDFILL; NEW EXCAVATION PROCEDURES TO MAINTAIN SAFE PCB LEVELS

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today that excavation activities have resumed at the Lemon Lane Landfill site, Bloomington, IN. The 10-acre Superfund site is on Bloomington's western edge, near the intersection of State Road 37 and Vernal Pike. Work at the site yesterday, August 16, as well as this morning, lasted only for a few hours.

On July 20, EPA halted CBS Corp.'s cleanup of the site because elevated PCB air emissions were being released from exposed "hot spot" areas of the site. As a preventive measure to ensure public health, four families that live near the site were offered temporary relocation from their homes. Currently, two of the families have accepted the offer and have been relocated.

Over the past few weeks, CBS has reviewed and made significant changes to its excavation procedures, with approval by EPA, Indiana Department of Environmental Management, the City of Bloomington, and Monroe County.

The revised plan includes:

* A slower pace of work, with only 10 to 15 truckloads of PCB-contaminated material excavated and shipped each day. (Production will

be increased slowly, but only if air emissions levels continue to stay below the required health standards.)

- * Introduction of a water-misting system designed to reduce airborne emissions in excavation areas, as well as in the truck loading area.
- * Limiting daily work areas to much smaller portions of the landfill, thus limiting the open and exposed portion of the site at any one time.
- * Conducting most of the excavation work during the cooler part of the day -- usually early in the morning -- or on relatively cool days, when PCB's disperse and become airborne less quickly.

In addition, three new air monitoring stations, for a total of eight, have been set up in the neighborhood near the site and will continue to be monitored and evaluated daily.

CBS and the government parties are under a court order to complete the excavation, and subsequent capping activities, by the end of the year. At this time, it is uncertain whether or not this deadline can still be met.

EPA will continue to share progress reports as the excavation proceeds. For more information, contact Derrick Kimbrough, EPA Community Involvement Coordinator, 800-621-8431, ext. 69749.

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Last Updated: 8/18/2000 9:50

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa182.htm>

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

For Immediate Release: August 18, 2000

No. 00-OPA184

EPA CITES TWO COMPANIES FOR CLEAN-AIR VIOLATIONS

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 notified two companies in July that it believes they have 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 the allegations and how to resolve them.

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

[NOTE TO EDITORS: Companies alleged to have violated Federal clean-air regulations receive a Finding of Violation (FOV), and companies alleged to have violated federally enforceable State regulations receive a Notice of Violation (NOV). Some companies receive both.]

COMPANIES RECEIVING FOV €

Burns Fabricating Co. €

8951 Alpine St. €

Detroit, MI €

EPA alleges Burns Fabricating Co. failed to comply with Federal €
permitting regulations at its manufacturing plant. €

Technical Contact: Jennifer Darrow, 312-886-6315 €

Legal Contact: Thomas Nash, 312-886-0552 €

Jay Em Aerospace (formerly Marc Avenue Corp.)

75 Marc Ave.

Cuyahoga Falls, OH

EPA alleges Jay Em Aerospace failed to submit timely notifications to EPA regarding a batch vapor cleaning machine that uses hazardous air pollutants.

Technical Contact: Greg Chomycia, 312-353-8217

Legal Contact: Nidhi O'Meara, 312-886-0568

COMPANY RECEIVING NOV

Burns Fabricating Co.

8951 Alpine St.

Detroit, MI

EPA alleges Burns Fabricating Co. failed to comply with federally enforceable State permitting regulations at its manufacturing plant.

Technical Contact: Jennifer Darrow, 312-886-6315

Legal Contact: Thomas Nash, 312-886-0552

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Last Updated: 8/21/2000 16:29

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa184.htm>

Technical Contact: James Filippini
(312) 886-6743

Media Contact: Phillipa Cannon
(312) 353-6218

Legal Contact: Kevin Chow (EPA)
(312) 353-6181

Jim Lewis (AUSA)
(217) 492-4450

For Immediate Release: August 21, 2000

No. 00-OPA186

EPA, DOJ SUE ROCK ISLAND UNDER THE CLEAN WATER ACT

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 and the Department of Justice today announced that they have filed a lawsuit against the City of Rock Island, IL, alleging that the city's wastewater treatment plant discharged untreated sewage into the Sylvan Slough, the Rock River in Blackhawk State Park, and the Mississippi River in violation of the Clean Water Act. The lawsuit was filed after settlement discussions with the city did not result in an agreement.

The lawsuit, filed in Federal district court in Peoria on August 18, alleges that on multiple occasions the plant exceeded the limits of its wastewater discharge permit for total suspended solids; violated water quality standards by discharging untreated sewage that was an unnatural color and turbidity and contained floating debris and solids; and allowed discharges of combined sewage (stormwater and sanitary sewage). Untreated sewage poses a hazard to public health by introducing bacteria and other pathogens into waterways.

The lawsuit seeks unspecified civil penalties for past violations. Under the Clean Water Act, the city may be fined a maximum of \$27,500 per day, per violation.

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Last Updated: 8/22/2000 16:33

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa186.htm>

Media Contact: Cheryl Allen
(312) 353-6196

Mick Hans
(312) 353-5050

For Immediate Release: August 24, 2000

No. 00-OPA189

**DREDGING NEARLY COMPLETE AT
MANISTIQUE RIVER AND HARBOR SITE;
MEDIA BRIEFING/PHOTO-OP, TUESDAY,
AUGUST 29, 1 P.M.**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 will host a media briefing and photo opportunity to recognize the nearly complete PCB-dredging of the Manistique River and Harbor Superfund site (Manistique, MI), Tuesday, August 29, from 1 to 2 p.m. Cost of the project to date: approximately \$44 million.

U.S. Representative Bart Stupak and Regional Superfund Director William Muno will tour the site and provide brief comments.

An open house for area residents will be held at the site from 4 to 8 p.m.

A fact sheet explaining the scope and history of the project will be available on-site Tuesday. It can also be obtained by calling Mick Hans, (312) 353-5050, or Cheryl Allen, (312) 353-6196.

EPA "b-roll" videotape of the dredging technology, including overview shots of the site, is also available upon request.

Directions: Take U.S Route 2 east to Marina Drive, then turn right toward the Harbor and look for the EPA tent.

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Last Updated: 8/25/2000 14:34

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa189.htm>

Technical Contact: Ruth McNamara
(312) 353-3193

Media Contact: Mick Hans
(312) 353-5050

Legal Contact: Susan Perdomo
(312) 886-0557

For Immediate Release: August 24, 2000

No. 00-OPA187

EPA CITES INDIANA-AMERICAN WATER FOR CHEMICAL RELEASE REPORTING VIOLATIONS; PROPOSES \$62,050 FINE

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently filed an administrative complaint against Indiana-American Water Co. (Shelbyville, IN), for violation of Federal laws on the reporting of hazardous chemical releases. EPA has proposed a \$62,050 fine.

EPA alleges that on February 12 and 13, 1998, the company failed to promptly report two releases of chlorine, totaling about 100 lb, from its Blue River water treatment facility at 5265 West 250 South. Federal laws require facilities to immediately notify the National Response Center (NRC) about any chlorine release above 10 lb.

Although the Blue River facility is a remote site with no permanent employees, Indiana-American Water employees make daily maintenance stops at the facility.

In the first incident on February 12, 40 lb of chlorine gas was accidentally released when a vacuum regulator on a chlorine tank failed to operate properly. An employee discovered this when he noticed a slight chlorine odor while making a maintenance stop. The employee then repaired the vacuum regulator, while also noting that the chemical alarm system was not functioning properly.

On February 13, the same employee returned to the treatment facility, smelled chlorine as he approached the building, and called for back-up

support from a co-worker. The two employees then aired out the building and stopped the release. Based on the facility's daily use patterns, the company estimated the February 13 chlorine release at 60 lb.

The company failed to notify the NRC about the February 12 incident. This second release was reported to the NRC about 4 hours and 50 minutes after the incident occurred and facility managers knew about the situation.

"Compliance with chemical reporting laws is critical, because fire departments, hospitals, and other authorities must have the necessary information to respond appropriately when a release occurs," said Regional Superfund Director William Munro. "Public health, as well as the environment, is at stake."

Under Federal emergency response laws, facilities cited may request a meeting with EPA within 30 days to discuss or contest the matter.

Chlorine gas reacts explosively with many substances, and if inhaled, may cause vomiting, headaches, dizziness, and irritation to the eyes and respiratory system.

Since 1989, EPA Region 5 has filed 222 separate complaints for hazardous chemical reporting violations, resulting in 209 settlements worth \$4.98 million in total fines and \$3.40 million in environmental projects.

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Last Updated: 8/24/2000 11:55

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa187.htm>

Technical Contact: Sam Borries
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For Immediate Release: August 25, 2000

No. 00-OPA188

EPA: FOX RIVER SMU 56/57 DREDGING SET TO RESUME AUGUST 26

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today that dredging of PCB-contaminated material from the Sediment Management Unit (SMU) 56/57 portion of the Lower Fox River is scheduled to resume Saturday, August 26.

Fort James Corp. completed a 6-hour pilot test of the dredging equipment today, under the oversight of EPA and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR). The work is proceeding under a Federal agreement between EPA, WDNR, and Fort James.

The cleanup project will proceed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and is expected to be completed by the end of October. The cleanup is a continuation of a dredging project started last year which exposed sediment contaminated with high levels of PCB's.

Area residents are invited to contact EPA representatives with questions about the project: (920) 435-5059. On-scene coordinator Sam Borries will also return messages left on his Chicago office voicemail: (800) 621-8431, extension 32886.

Copies of the agreement and other site-related information are available for review at libraries throughout the Fox Valley, including the Brown County Library. Lower Fox River information, including a July 2000 fact sheet about the 56/57 project, is also posted on EPA Region 5's Web site: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/foxriver> and on WDNR's Web site: <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/wm/lowerfox>.

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Last Updated: 8/28/2000 10:37

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa188.htm>

Technical Contact: John Colletti
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For Immediate Release: August 28, 2000

No. 00-OPA191

EPA ISSUES WASTEWATER DISCHARGE PERMIT TO UNION TOWNSHIP

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 today announced that it has issued a wastewater discharge permit, known as a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit, to Union Township, MI.

The township is building a new wastewater treatment facility which will discharge into the Chippewa River. Sewage from the area is currently going to the Mount Pleasant sewage system. The new plant is scheduled to begin discharging in January 2001. EPA is the permitting authority in this case because the new facility is located within the boundaries of the Isabella Reservation of the Saginaw Chippewa tribe.

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Last Updated: 8/29/2000 14:06

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa191.htm>

Media Contact: Cheryl Allen
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For Immediate Release: August 29, 2000

No. 00-OPA190

DREDGING NEARLY COMPLETE AT MANISTIQUE RIVER AND HARBOR; OPEN HOUSE TONIGHT, 4 TO 8 P.M.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today that dredging to remove PCB-contaminated sediment from Manistique River and Harbor (Manistique, MI) is nearly complete.

EPA representatives will host an open house tonight, from 4 to 8 p.m., to discuss the project and demonstrate some of the cleanup technologies used. Residents should take U.S. Route 2 east to Marina Drive, then turn right toward the harbor and look for the EPA tent.

A Chicago-based EPA Superfund emergency response team conducted the approximately \$44 million project. Dredging operations began in 1996, resulting in the removal, to date, of about 130,000 cubic yards of waste.

Prior to the dredging, EPA conducted extensive public outreach. Throughout the process, a public advisory council comprised of local stakeholders -- the Manistique Harbor Advisory Committee -- has played an active role in this dialogue. In 1993, EPA conducted an interim removal action which included placement of a temporary cover over contaminated sediment in a 2-acre "hot spot" area of the harbor.

"The Manistique River and Harbor site represents one of the biggest PCB-sediment cleanups to date in the Great Lakes," said Regional Superfund Director William Munro. "The responsible parties, Manistique Papers and Edison Sault Electric, deserve credit for stepping up and contributing to the cleanup. And we thank the community for their attention and interest throughout the process."

The cleanup site encompassed the entire 1.7-mile span of the Manistique River and Harbor where it empties into Lake Michigan. The river sediment was contaminated by PCB discharges from several suspected sources from the late 1950's until the late 1980's.

EPA expects all activities to be completed in calendar year 2000, including site demobilization. Then, EPA will develop a follow-up monitoring plan, to be implemented in 2001.

PCB's (polychlorinated biphenyls) are a group of toxic chemicals that were once widely used as industrial coolants, insulators, and lubricants. PCB's 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 PCB's in 1976 and PCB's still in use are strictly regulated.

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Last Updated: 8/29/2000 11:46

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa190.htm>

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Peggy Bradley (MWRD)
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For Immediate Release: August 30, 2000

No. 00-OPA193

EPA, ILLINOIS EPA, AND METROPOLITAN WATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT AGREE ON INNOVATIVE POLLUTION PREVENTION PROJECT

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 and Illinois EPA today signed an agreement with the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) to develop an innovative project to reduce pollutants entering local wastewater treatment plants and the Chicago River.

MWRD treats wastewater from domestic, commercial, and industrial facilities in Chicago and surrounding communities. Under this agreement, EPA and Illinois EPA will give MWRD flexibility in its oversight of small industrial dischargers. In return, MWRD will establish partnerships with metal finishers and other industries to reduce pollutants discharged into MWRD's wastewater treatment plants.

In addition, EPA, Illinois EPA, MWRD, and interested stakeholders, including Citizens for a Better Environment, the Chicago Industrial Metal Finishers Association, and the North Industrial Business Council, will form a task force to identify pollutants that are not currently regulated in the MWRD system but are of local concern. One example is chlorinated solvents which are used by many industries to clean equipment. The solvents are not usually found in MWRD's sewer system, but they are potentially air and hazardous waste concerns. MWRD will try to reduce these type of pollutants over the next couple of years through pollution prevention strategies and consumer education.

This agreement is part of EPA's Project XL program, which stands for excellence and leadership. Under Project XL, EPA offers businesses, communities, industry sectors, and local government agencies flexibility in testing new approaches that promise superior environmental results and are transferable to other situations. To participate in Project XL, the applicant must be able to develop strategies that produce superior environmental results beyond those that would have been achieved under current regulations and policies.

"Project XL encourages testing of cleaner, cheaper, and smarter ways to attain environmental results. The project being announced today promises to reduce pollution in the Chicago River and, if successful, will lead to changes in the way we protect the environment," said EPA Regional Administrator Francis X. Lyons.

"I commend the District for being the first in Illinois to participate in this new approach to improving environmental performance," said Illinois EPA Director Tom Skinner.

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Last Updated: 9/5/2000 15:24

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa193.htm>

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For Immediate Release: August 30, 2000

No. 00-OPA192

EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH NW INDIANA MOBILE HOME PARKS FOR ILLEGALLY DISCHARGING SEWAGE; INCLUDES \$765,000 PENALTY

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 today announced that it has reached agreement with Manufactured Home Communities (MHC), and several of its affiliates, the owners of two mobile home parks in Porter County, IN, for illegally discharging sewage. The owners have agreed to pay a \$765,000 fine.

In a lawsuit filed simultaneously with the consent decree on August 28, EPA alleged that the two mobile home parks -- Burns Harbor Estates (Chesterton, IN) and Oak Tree Village (Portage, IN) -- discharged pollutants into tributaries of the Little Calumet River, which violates the Clean Water Act. The Little Calumet River runs into Lake Michigan near the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore.

"The wastewater treatment plants at both mobile home parks were poorly maintained and frequently not in compliance with the Clean Water Act," said Regional Administrator Francis X. Lyons. "In the case of the Oak Tree plant, operation and maintenance was so bad that the treatment plant had filled with solids and was discharging pollutants at levels 20 or 30 times greater than permitted. The size of the penalty should send a message that those who operate wastewater treatment plants near recreational waters must comply with water pollution requirements, to protect beaches and public health."

Poorly treated sewage contains E. coli and other pathogens that can cause serious illness, especially to the very young and elderly, when they contaminate water at beaches. High levels of E. coli have caused numerous beach closings at the Indiana Dunes National Lake Shore in the past few years.

In May 1997, Oak Tree Village connected to the City of Portage sewer system and stopped discharging pollutants into Salt Creek. Burns Harbor Estates has made improvements to its wastewater treatment plant and is currently in compliance with its permit requirements.

MHC owns over 150 mobile home parks around the country.

For the past several years, EPA has been working with the Northwest Indiana Interagency Task Force and the Indiana Department of Environmental Management to protect water quality by ensuring that all facilities in the watershed comply with their discharge permit

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Last Updated: 9/5/2000 15:18

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa192.htm>

Technical Contact: Mirtha Capiro
(312) 886-7567

Media Contact: Karen Thompson
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Legal Contact: Thomas Nash
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For Immediate Release: September 1, 2000

No. 00-OPA194

EPA ORDERS MORTON TO INVESTIGATE HAZARDOUS WASTE AT READING, OH, FACILITY

U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently filed an order against Morton International Inc., for hazardous waste violations at its Reading, OH, facility.

Morton, a chemical manufacturer and hazardous waste generator located at 2000 West St., must investigate the extent of contamination at its plant within 30 days.

Under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, EPA and the State of Ohio jointly control the safe handling, transportation, treatment, and disposal of hazardous wastes, from their production to their final disposal.

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Last Updated: 9/14/2000 16:41

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa194.htm>

Media Contact: Elissa Speizman
(312) 353-2073

For Immediate Release: September 1, 2000

No. 00-OPA196

U. S. EPA TO SEND INSPECTORS TO CHICAGO HEIGHTS SCRAPYARD

U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 and Illinois EPA will send a team of inspectors out tomorrow to assess levels of mercury contamination at five scrapyards and five Nicor service centers. Facilities closed for the holiday weekend will be inspected starting on Tuesday.

Mercury from scrapped Nicor gas meters was found earlier this week in the Chicago Heights scrapyard. EPA was formally notified of the scrapyard mercury contamination last night.

"Where mercury contamination is found, EPA will take the necessary steps to get it cleaned up," said Regional Administrator Francis X. Lyons.

Next week, EPA will request additional information from Nicor about its disposal practices for mercury-containing gas regulators. It is also possible that EPA will order clean-up actions, under Superfund regulations.

Nicor has given EPA a list of some 15 scrapyards where mercury-tainted gas regulators may have been sent. Federal regulations require that toxic substances like mercury be removed from equipment before it reaches a scrapyard or landfill. The mercury is either sent to a licensed hazardous waste landfill or processed for reuse.

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Last Updated: 9/14/2000 16:30

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa196.htm>

Media Contact: Karen Thompson (EPA)
(312) 353-8547

Kathy Lehr (Clermont County)
(513) 732-7597

Karen Bryant (Ohio EPA)
(614) 728-0035

For Immediate Release: September 1, 2000

No. 00-OPA195

**SIGNING EVENT WILL TAKE PLACE
WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 6, 11:30 A.M., BATAVIA
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING**

U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5, Ohio EPA , and Clermont County have agreed to develop an innovative project to maintain and improve water quality, land use and economic development in the East Fork of the Little Miami River watershed.

This agreement is one of 29 signed national projects under EPA's Project XL, which stands for eXcellence and Leadership, and will be carried out by Clermont County, one of Ohio's fastest developing areas. Partners EPA, Ohio EPA, and the local community will design a multi-phase watershed management plan for the East Fork of the Little Miami River mainstream, tributaries, and Harsha Lake.

Under Project XLC, eXcellence and Leadership in Communities, EPA offers communities and government agencies flexibility in exploring more effective and efficient ways to protect the environment. Clermont County is currently undergoing significant changes in population density and rural demographics.

"Our goal is to maintain a balance between economic growth and preservation of the area's rural character and environment," said Paul Braasch, coordinator of Clermont County's office of environmental quality.

A sampling and monitoring program and an environmental protection plan

will help the county compile data on existing watershed conditions. Findings on the chemical and biological features will then be used to make predictions on point and non-point pollution. "With new research and information, we will be able to make better policy and capital decisions on how to reach our water quality goals," Braasch said.

The Clermont County project will deal with multiple water quality issues including land use, development procedures, open space and farmland preservation, and economic development. To participate in Project XLC, applicants must produce superior results beyond what is being achieved under current regulations.

"Project XLC encourages local governments and communities to test cleaner, cheaper, and smarter ways to attain environmental results. The project being announced today promises to protect the East Fork of the Little Miami River watershed and, if successful, will lead to changes in the way we protect the environment," said EPA Regional Administrator Francis X. Lyons.

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Last Updated: 9/14/2000 16:34

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa195.htm>

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For Immediate Release: September 7, 2000

No. 00-OPA197

EPA ORDERS NICOR, INC., TO DEVELOP CLEANUP PLAN FOR CHICAGO HEIGHTS SCRAP YARD; ESTABLISHES PROTOCOLS FOR OTHER POTENTIALIA

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 on Wednesday issued a Unilateral Administrative Order to Nicor, Inc., requiring the company to develop and implement a formal work plan and procedures for the continuing investigation and subsequent cleanup of mercury contamination at the Chicago Heights Iron and Supply facility, Chicago Heights.

A joint EPA and Illinois EPA investigation of the scrap yard, at 1715 Wentworth, began September 2, following confirmation that Nicor had sent out-of-service regulators containing mercury to the facility.

The Chicago Heights scrap yard is the first non-residential site identified as having residual contamination from mercury-containing regulators that Nicor had removed from service. EPA and Illinois EPA are currently inspecting approximately 40 Nicor facilities and 25 scrap yards for possible contamination. The inspections are expected to continue through early next week.

"With this order, Nicor must establish formal procedures -- subject to EPA review and approval -- for the cleanup and off-site disposal of mercury at any industrial facilities identified during this evolving situation. And, Nicor must follow those procedures when it begins cleanup of the Chicago Heights facility," said Regional Administrator Francis X. Lyons.

The EPA order builds upon the Illinois Attorney General and Cook and DuPage County prosecutors' September 5 lawsuit requiring Nicor and two

contractors to proceed with a swift and effective cleanup at residential and industrial sites throughout northern Illinois. Significantly, under EPA's order, if Nicor does not perform the cleanup, EPA's Superfund program has full legal authority to move forward with a cleanup of the Chicago Heights scrap yard, and then pursue Nicor for clean-up costs.

In contrast with the Chicago Heights scrap yard cleanup (which requires both Illinois EPA and EPA approval to proceed), Nicor's work at residential sites is continuing, without interruption, under Illinois EPA and EPA supervision, and in consultation with other members of the intergovernmental task force recently organized to address the situation.

EPA expects to receive the Nicor work plan for the Chicago Heights site by early next week.

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Last Updated: 9/7/2000 18:03

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa197.htm>

Media Contact: Susan Pastor
(312) 353-1325

For Immediate Release: September 8, 2000

No. 00-OPA198

EPA TO HOLD OPEN HOUSE ABOUT CLEANUP OF LOWER FOX RIVER SITE

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 will hold an open house from 5 to 8 p.m., September 13, at the Brown County Library, 515 Pine St., Green Bay, WI, to discuss the cleanup of PCB-contaminated sediments at Sediment Management Unit 56/57 on the Lower Fox River. EPA is working with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) and Fort James Corp. to complete the cleanup.

There will not be a formal presentation. Representatives from EPA, WDNR, and Fort James Corp. will be available to meet one-on-one with community residents and answer questions about the cleanup.

For more information, contact Susan Pastor, Community Involvement Coordinator, 800-621-8431, or e-mail pastor.susan@epa.gov.

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Last Updated: 9/11/2000 14:46

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa198.htm>

Technical Contact: Len Zintak
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Karen Thompson
(312) 353-8547

For Immediate Release: September 11, 2000

No. 00-OPA199

EPA TO TEST SOIL FOR VERMICULITE € CONTAMINATION IN NE MINNEAPOLIS€

U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today it will test surface soils for asbestos next week in the areas near the former Western Minerals/W. R. Grace plant, located at 1720 Madison St., NE, Minneapolis.

Preliminary sampling by EPA last March revealed vermiculite contamination at the former Western Minerals/W. R. Grace plant, located in the Logan Park neighborhood. Vermiculite was processed at the plant from the 1940's until it closed in 1989. An in-depth story in the March 19 Minneapolis Star Tribune increased awareness of asbestos contamination in the area.

EPA has since worked with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, State and local health officials, and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, to secure portions of the former plant, sample soil around the facility, and participate in community meetings.

"This extended sampling and analysis will help determine the scope of future activities in the neighborhood," said Richard Karl, EPA Regional Chief of the Emergency Response section. This round of sampling is expected to include residential and commercial properties within 1/4 mile of the site.

Cleanup could begin as early as October. A community meeting will be held before the cleanup begins.

Technical and community relations specialists from EPA will visit residents of the Northeast Minneapolis area from Sept. 11-15, to talk about the cleanup.

Vermiculite is a naturally occurring mineral once mined in Libby, MT. Ore from the Libby mine was shipped to Minneapolis and to some 200 other facilities across the country, to be processed. Under the Superfund waste clean-up program, EPA is assessing all sites to determine whether workers or the public are still being exposed to vermiculite.

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Last Updated: 9/11/2000 14:37

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa199.htm>

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For Immediate Release: September 11, 2000

No. 00-OPA200

EPA: EXCAVATION BEGINS AT FIELDS BROOK SITE

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today that excavation of contaminated sediment and soil from the "Sediment" and "Floodplain/Wetlands" units of the Fields Brook Superfund site (Ashtabula, OH) is now under way. Residents and local businesses can expect to see construction vehicles and workers in protective clothing for the next few months. Steps will be taken to minimize traffic interruptions from the work.

The initial phase of work will focus on the industrial areas of the site. Excavation of the portion of the brook located in residential areas will follow as the crews work their way down the stream. The speed of the excavation is greatly influenced by the weather. EPA expects that residential areas work may begin either very late this year or early in spring 2001.

The project, under EPA and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers oversight, is being paid for by a group of companies responsible for site contamination. An agreement to proceed with the cleanup and reimburse the Federal government for past costs and natural resource damages was reached between the companies, EPA, and the U.S. Department of Justice in May 1999.

Fields Brook's 4-mile main channel flows through an industrialized section of Ashtabula, and then through residential neighborhoods before it reaches the Ashtabula River. Historical discharges and runoff from these

areas have contaminated the floodplain soils and sediment with PCB's, chlorinated benzenes and solvents, low-level radionuclides, and other hazardous substances. In addition, six nearby industrial areas could recontaminate the brook. Two of these "Source Control" areas have already been addressed. The four remaining Source Control areas are being addressed this year in cleanup actions independent of the current excavation.

The contaminated sediment and soil will be placed in a recently-completed 3-acre landfill located on property previously owned by RMI Sodium at the corner of East 6th Street and State Road. Contaminated material that will be excavated from the Source Control areas may also be disposed of at this landfill.

Restoration work for the areas along the brook is scheduled for spring 2001, after completing any remaining excavation work. The restoration will include planting native bushes and trees.

Site documents are available at Ashtabula County District Library, 335 W. 44th St., and Kent State Campus Library, 3325 W. 13th St., both in Ashtabula

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Last Updated: 9/12/2000 16:07

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa200.htm>

Technical Contact: Nicholas Autry
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For Immediate Release: September 13, 2000

No. 00-OPA202

EPA, DOJ REACH AGREEMENT WITH NORTHWESTERN STEEL & WIRE; INCLUDES \$434,460 FINE & \$1,194,320 IN PROJECTS

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 and the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) have reached agreement with Northwestern Steel and Wire Co., on alleged Clean Air Act violations at the company's steel-making plant, 121 Wallace St., Sterling, IL.

The agreement, which includes a \$434,460 civil penalty and environmental projects costing \$1,194,320, resolves a civil complaint filed June 19, 2000, that alleged Northwestern Steel and Wire had exceeded limits on particulate (dust, fly ash, smoke) emissions from two of its three electric arc furnaces and from the shop containing the arc furnaces.

The complaint also alleged that the company had allowed the discharge of gases from the two furnaces that exceeds limits on opacity (the amount of light obscured by gas emissions) and had failed to do the required testing of emissions and monitoring of operations at the furnace shop and on associated air pollution control equipment.

To bring the plant into compliance with EPA regulations, Northwestern Steel and Wire has agreed to:

- * shut down Furnace #6 until it can install new air pollution control equipment that meets State and Federal regulations;
- * rebuild Furnace #8, the world's largest electric arc furnace, at a greater

capacity and with modifications designed to have better control over air pollution emissions and to monitor air pollution emissions; and

- * do emission testing of Furnace #8 by January 1, 2001.

In addition to the civil penalty, Northwestern Steel and Wire has agreed to complete the following environmental projects:

- * Install a new system for transferring dust from the plant's main baghouse to trucks that transport the dust to an on-site stabilization plant. This will cut emissions of dust captured by the baghouse.

- * Seal multiple high-traffic area roads with asphalt, to cut fugitive dust emissions from the plant.

- * Cut hydrochloric acid emissions by at least 70 percent by adding a machine that uses cold hydrochloric acid rather than hot acid previously used at the plant.

Companies may voluntarily propose that supplemental environmental projects be included in their settlements. EPA and DOJ can reduce monetary penalties if they believe a project will cut pollution significantly and the project goes beyond what is required by EPA regulations.

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

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Last Updated: 9/14/2000 15:07

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa202.htm>

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For Immediate Release: September 13, 2000

No. 00-OPA201

EPA, DOJ REACH AGREEMENT WITH USX; INCLUDES \$587,000 FINE, \$2.2 MILLION PROJECT

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) have reached agreement with USX Corp. on alleged violations of the Clean Air Act at the company's Gary, IN, integrated steel plant.

The agreement, which includes a \$587,000 civil penalty and a \$2.2 million supplemental environmental project, resolves a civil complaint filed Feb. 15, 2000, alleging USX violated EPA regulations on benzene--a hazardous air pollutant--at its coke by-products facility. EPA said USX has installed ammonia strippers to control benzene emissions and is now in compliance with EPA regulations.

As its supplemental environmental project, USX has agreed to spend at least \$2.2 million to remove transformers containing 45,000 lb of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB's) from the facility by Sept. 30, 2002.

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

"We are pleased that USX has taken steps to control its benzene emissions and has volunteered to remove these transformers containing PCB's and dispose of them in a responsible manner," said EPA Great Lakes Regional

Administrator Francis X. Lyons.

Benzene is known to cause cancer in people. Short-term exposure to benzene can cause drowsiness, headaches, and loss of consciousness. Long-term exposure to benzene has been linked to various blood and bone marrow diseases, chromosome changes, and leukemia.

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

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Last Updated: 9/14/2000 16:24

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa201.htm>

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For Immediate Release: September 14, 2000

No. 00-OPA203

EPA ISSUES COMPLAINT, STOP SALE ORDER AGAINST ECOLAB, INC. FOR PESTICIDE VIOLATIONS; INCLUDES \$546,700 FINE

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 this week filed an administrative complaint and stop sale order against ECOLAB, Inc., (Minneapolis) for selling and distributing several unregistered pesticides. A \$546,700 penalty has been proposed.

EPA ordered ECOLAB to immediately stop selling and distributing all ChloroSorb products, including ChloroSorb Stabilized Chlorine, Clean Up Kit with ChloroSorb, and Mess Kit with ChloroSorb within ECOLAB's control, after September 11. CloraSorb is an absorbent/deodorant used mainly in hospitals and other health care facilities to clean up spilled body fluids.

Under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, (FIFRA) all pesticides, including disinfectants, sold in the United States must be registered by EPA to ensure they do not pose an unreasonable risk to human health or the environment.

Product samples, promotional literature, and distribution records taken during an inspection by the Office of the Indiana State Chemist, at ECOLAB's Huntington, IN, facility, revealed that ECOLAB was distributing the illegal pesticides. Product labels and promotional literature made unsubstantiated claims about the products' disinfectant properties. ECOLAB has never registered or provided evidence to EPA on the effectiveness of its ChloroSorb products. Under FIFRA, companies must

provide EPA evidence that shows their products are effective during the registration process.

ECOLAB may request a meeting with EPA to discuss the violation.

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Last Updated: 9/14/2000 16:38

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa203.htm>

Technical Contact: Jeffrey L. Gahris
(312) 886-6794

Media Contact: William Omohundro
(312) 353-8254

Legal Contact: James Morris
(312) 886-6632

For Immediate Release: September 15, 2000

No. 00-OPA205

EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH NORBROOK PLATING; INCLUDES \$7,500 FINE

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has reached agreement with Norbrook Plating, Inc., on alleged violations of Federal regulations on chromium--a hazardous air pollutant--and federally enforceable State clean-air regulations at the company's electroplating plant, 1140 East Nine Mile Rd., Warren, MI. A \$7,500 penalty was assessed.

The agreement resolves an EPA complaint filed in February 2000, alleging Norbrook installed a sludge dryer and six acid tanks at the plant without first obtaining a State construction permit. In addition, EPA said the company failed to do surface tension monitoring for a plating bath, and failed to prepare an operation and maintenance plan for the plant. The company has since taken steps to comply with these regulations.

EPA said the violations were first discovered by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality during a February 1999 compliance inspection.

"Hazardous air pollutants are potentially a serious threat to human health and the environment," said Bharat Mathur, director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "We will take all necessary steps to ensure that companies comply with the Clean Air Act."

Hexavalent chromium, a hazardous cancer-causing substance, is found in chromic-acid mist released into the air as part of the electroplating process. Chromic acid is also a respiratory irritant, whose short-term

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

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Last Updated: 9/15/2000 14:16

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa205.htm>

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

For Immediate Release: September 18, 2000

No. 00-OPA207

EPA CITES 11 COMPANIES AND CITY OF DETROIT FOR CLEAN-AIR VIOLATIONS

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 notified 11 companies and the City of Detroit in August that it believes they have violated Federal or federally enforceable State clean-air regulations, or both.

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

"EPA's mission is to protect public health and the environment," said George Czerniak, chief of the regional Air Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Branch. "We will take whatever steps are needed to ensure compliance with the Clean Air Act."

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Last Updated: 9/18/2000 15:50

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa207.htm>

Technical Contact: Matt Mankowski
(312) 886-1842

Media Contact: Bri Bill
(312) 353-6646

For Immediate Release: September 18, 2000

No. 00-OPA204

EPA SELECTS CLEAN-UP PLAN FOR OTTAWA RADIATION SITES

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently selected a final clean-up plan for radium 226-contaminated soil, ground water, and other materials at the NPL-1, 4, 8, 9, and Illinois Power Property areas of the Ottawa Radiation Superfund site, Ottawa, IL.

EPA presented a proposed clean-up plan, which included the range of alternatives considered in February 2000. A public meeting was held February 24, with a 75-day comment period ending on April 27.

The selected clean-up plan, outlined in an EPA Record of Decision, includes:

- * NPL-1 (5 acres at the intersection of Lafayette and Guion Streets): excavation, backfill, and off-site disposal of contaminated soil;
- * NPL-4 (4.3 acres on Canal Road): excavation, backfill, volume reduction, and collection of sub-surface perched water;
- * NPL-8 (17 acres on State Highway 71): excavation of contaminated soil to 10 feet below ground, volume reduction, off-site disposal of contaminated soil, and oversight of future uses of the property;
- * NPL-9 (two parcels totaling 1.9 acres, at the intersection of Michigan and Chestnut Streets, and west of Chestnut on the Illinois and Michigan Canal towpath): excavation, backfill, and off-site disposal of contaminated soil; and
- * Illinois Power Property (1.5 acres at Jefferson and Fulton Streets):

excavation, backfill, and off-site disposal of contaminated soil.

Two companies that produced radium-painted watch dials operated in and around the Ottawa Radiation sites: the Radium Dial Co., from 1920 to 1932, and Luminous Processes, Inc., from 1932 to 1978.

Copies of the Record of Decision and other site documents, as well as EPA's written responses to public comments, are available at Reddick Library, 1010 Canal Street, Ottawa. To receive a copy of the Record of Decision or the responses to comments, call EPA Community Involvement Coordinator Bri Bill, 800-621-8431, ext. 36646, or e-mail, bill.briana@epa.gov.

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Last Updated: 9/18/2000 15:40

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa204.htm>

Technical Contact: Audrie Washington
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For Immediate Release: September 19, 2000

No. 00-OPA206

EPA, DOE PRESENT ENERGY STAR LABEL FOR BUILDINGS TO MILWAUKEE PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND MILWAUKEE AND MADISON U.S. COURTHOUSES

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) today presented Energy Star Labels for Buildings to Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS), the historic Milwaukee U.S. Courthouse, and the Robert W. Kastenmeir U.S. Courthouse in Madison, WI, recognizing them as some of America's most energy-efficient facilities.

Francis X. Lyons, administrator of EPA's Great Lakes Region, and Juli Pollitt, acting director of DOE's Chicago Regional Office, presented the Energy Star Labels to MPS and the General Services Administration (GSA) at an 11 a.m. ceremony in the atrium of the U.S. Courthouse in Milwaukee. GSA is the agency that manages the courthouse buildings.

MPS is the first school district in the Midwest to qualify any of its buildings, and Milwaukee's historical 101-year-old U.S. Courthouse is the first courthouse in Wisconsin to earn the label.

Energy Star offers the only national rating system for energy performance in buildings, recognizing them for having overall energy performance among the top 25 percent of all similar-use buildings nationally.

Energy Star is also the latest in a series of EPA common sense market-based partnership programs that spur investments in more energy efficient, cleaner technologies.

"EPA applauds the Milwaukee Public Schools and the General Services Administration for joining a program that is not only good for the environment, but for our agencies, employees, taxpayers, our schools, and our children," EPA Regional Administrator Lyons said.

These buildings had to also meet tough indoor air quality standards. Some 848,400 square feet have been upgraded in the MPS. The reduction in energy consumption translates to an air pollution reduction of 9.2 million lb of carbon dioxide, which is equivalent to planting 1,300 acres of trees (same as a forest 950 times the size of Lambeau Field, home of the Green Bay Packers), and removing 900 cars from the roads.

About 559,000 combined square feet have been upgraded at the U.S. Courthouse buildings. The reduction in energy consumption translates to an air pollution reduction of 4 million lb of carbon dioxide, which is equivalent to planting a forest the size of 58 Lambeau Fields.

MPS Energy Star recipients are: Christopher Latham Sholes Middle School; John Greenleaf Whittier Elementary School; Dover Elementary School; Kagel Elementary School; Greenfield Montessori Elementary School; Luther Burbank Elementary School; Hampton Avenue Elementary School; Ralph Waldo Emerson Elementary School; Henry Longfellow Elementary School; Samuel Clemens Elementary School; Hi-Mount Boulevard Community Elementary School; and William Cullen Bryant Elementary School.

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Last Updated: 9/19/2000 17:57

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa206.htm>

Media Contact: William Omohundro
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: September 20, 2000

No. 00-OPA208

NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS: EPA, MPCA, AND USFILTER TO SIGN INNOVATIVE RECYCLING PROJECT AGREEMENT

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), and USFilter Recovery Systems (USFRS) will sign an agreement to move forward with an innovative project to recycle industrial waste and promote reuse of industrial process water at a 1 p.m. ceremony Thursday, Sept. 21, at USFRS Headquarters, 2430 Rose Place, Roseville, MN.

The agreement is one of more than 30 national projects under EPA's Project XL, which stands for eXcellence and Leadership. Project XL offers communities, businesses, and government agencies flexibility to explore more effective ways to protect the environment.

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Last Updated: 9/21/2000 15:31

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa208.htm>

Media Contact: William Omohundro (EPA)
(312) 353-8254

Joe Carruth (MPCA)
(651) 297-8372

Brent Hillier (USFilter)
(651) 638-1300

For Immediate Release: September 21, 2000

No. 00-OPA209

EPA, MPCA, AND USFILTER AGREE ON INNOVATIVE RECYCLING PROJECT

U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), and USFilter Recovery Systems (USFRS) today signed an agreement to move forward with an innovative project to recycle industrial waste. The goal of the project is to reuse millions of gallons of water and recycle thousands of pounds of metal.

This agreement is one of more than 30 national projects under EPA's Project XL, which stands for eXcellence and Leadership, and will be carried out by USFRS and approved customers at its Roseville, MN, facility, just north of the Twin Cities.

USFRS is a leading global provider of industrial and municipal water and wastewater treatment systems. In Roseville, the company treats inorganic industrial waste, and whenever technically and economically feasible, recovers the metals from the waste for recycling and reuse.

Under Project XL, USFRS will install ion exchange resin systems on wastewater lines at its customers' facilities. Deionization will remove metal contaminants from the water which can then be reused. The spent resin will be regenerated for reuse at USFRS. The metals-containing sludge, a by-product of regeneration, will be recovered for reuse by a secondary metals recovery company.

"The regulatory relief provided by the EPA and the MPCA in this project will hopefully motivate companies to adopt ion exchange technology as

their wastewater treatment solution. By doing so, they will satisfy their discharge compliance obligations, create an opportunity to recycle process water, and support the recovery of RCRA (Resource Conservation and Recovery Act) regulated metals," said Brent Hillier, vice president and general manager of USFilter's Recovery Services.

"USFilter is excited about the environmental benefits associated with the project, and we are grateful for the support we have received from the EPA, the MPCA, the St. Paul-Ramsey County Department of Public Health, and the other stakeholders who have contributed to this project," Hillier said.

MPCA Assistant Commissioner Gordon Wegwart said, "The USFilter XL project is particularly exciting because it allows facilities that generate the hazardous waste to share in both the regulatory flexibility and the benefits of the project."

EPA's five-year-old Project XL initiative offers communities, businesses, and government agencies flexibility to explore more effective ways to protect the environment. To participate in Project XL, applicants must produce superior results beyond what is being achieved with current regulations.

"Project XL encourages business and industry, local governments, and communities to test cleaner, cheaper, and smarter ways to attain environmental results. The alternative waste management practices announced here in Roseville will help both USFRS and its customers better protect public health and the environment," said EPA Regional Administrator Francis X. Lyons.

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Last Updated: 9/21/2000 15:23

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa209.htm>

Technical Contact: Mike Collins
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Media Contact: Bri Bill
(312) 353-6646

Legal Contact: Susan Prout
(312) 353-1029

For Immediate Release: September 26, 2000

No. 00-OPA213

EPA TO HOLD OPEN HOUSE AND HEARING ON PROPOSED CLEAN-UP PLAN FOR BOERKE SUPERFUND SITE

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 will hold an open house and a public hearing to provide information and accept comments on a proposed clean-up plan for the Boerke Superfund site, Oak Creek, WI. The public hearing will be at 7 p.m., Tuesday, October 10, at Oak Creek City Hall, 8640 South Howell Ave.

The open house will be from noon to 4 p.m., Monday, October 2, at Oak Creek City Hall. Representatives from EPA, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Wisconsin Division of Health, consultants for DuPont and EPEC companies, and the City of Oak Creek will be available to answer questions about the plan.

The site is located at the north side of Ryan Rd. along Lake Michigan. Arsenic originating from a former dye manufacturer, demolished in the 1930's, contaminated portions of the site.

The clean-up plan includes the excavation of contaminated material from a disposal area next to a wetland and drainage swale and treatment, and disposal at an off-site waste disposal facility. Excavated areas would be backfilled to grade with clean soil. Restrictions limiting future residential development and ground-water monitoring would continue under the plan. The proposed project is expected to cost about \$5.4 million.

Written comments must be postmarked by October 31 and should be sent

to:

Bri Bill
Community Involvement Coordinator
U.S. EPA Region 5
P-19J
77 West Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604
e-mail: bill.briana@epa.gov
fax (312) 353-1155

An information repository, containing documents related to the proposed clean-up plan, is available at the Oak Creek Library, 8620 South Howell Ave.

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Last Updated: 9/29/2000 16:57

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa213.htm>

Media Contact: Phillipa Cannon (EPA)
(312) 353-6218

Liane Egle (Columbus Health Dept.)
(614) 645-6928

For Immediate Release: September 26, 2000

No. 00-OPA211

EPA, OHIO EPA SIGN AGREEMENT WITH COLUMBUS TO REDUCE LEAD POISONING

Media Contacts:

For Immediate Release: September 26, 2000

No. 00 - OPA211

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 and Ohio EPA (OEPA) today signed an agreement with the City of Columbus, OH, to carry out an innovative project to reduce lead poisoning.

Under this agreement, EPA and OEPA will allow the city to use an alternative treatment technique that is as effective as the Federally required technique in controlling lead in drinking water. In return, Columbus will provide long-term funding for a lead poisoning prevention program. The program will be run by the Columbus Departments of Health and Trade and Development which currently collaborate on the Lead Safe Columbus Program (LSCP). The Columbus Division of Water will give LSCP \$300,000 a year for 15 years to provide free blood tests, public education, medical intervention to lead-poisoned children, and grants and loans for lead abatement to city residents in high-risk areas. Columbus will also consult with EPA, OEPA, and other drinking-water experts to reduce the chances that any future water treatment changes will adversely affect lead levels in drinking water.

"We are pleased to be a part of the innovative XL project," said Columbus Mayor Michael Coleman. "Lead poisoning can be prevented and it is our goal to help transfer the lessons we learn here in Columbus into better health for families living all across the country."

"Childhood lead poisoning is one of the greatest environmental health threats to American children," said EPA Regional Administrator Francis X. Lyons. "Columbus already does an excellent job of controlling lead in its drinking water. With this project the city will use a comprehensive approach to reduce lead exposure in parts of the city with the highest blood-lead levels."

Children and developing fetuses are known to absorb lead more readily than adults, and, once in the body, lead is distributed to the blood, soft tissue, and bones. Children exposed to lead can suffer from damage to the brain and central nervous system: slow growth, hyperactivity, and behavioral and learning problems.

This agreement is part of EPA's Project XL program, which stands for excellence and leadership. Under Project XL, EPA offers local governments, businesses, communities, and industry sectors flexibility in testing new approaches that promise superior environmental results and are transferable to other situations. To participate in Project XL, an applicant must be able to develop strategies that produce environmental results beyond those that would have been achieved under current regulations and policies.

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Last Updated: 9/29/2000 16:46

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa211.htm>

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For Immediate Release: September 26, 2000

No. 00-OPA212

MICHCON TO RE-INSPECT 35 HOMES FOR MERCURY CONTAMINATION; EPA TO PROVIDE OVERSIGHT AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) confirmed today that it will provide oversight and technical assistance to MichCon, a natural gas distribution company serving the metropolitan Detroit area, as the company re-inspects 35 homes where its workers had spilled mercury while replacing gas regulators.

The homes are primarily in Detroit's Downriver and western suburbs, including Allen Park, Dearborn, Ecorse, Lincoln Park, Redford, Southgate, South Rockwood, Taylor, and Wyandotte. MichCon will schedule the re-inspections with each household, with the first beginning today or tomorrow. Each home will be inspected by a MichCon representative and an EPA contractor.

The homes were contaminated between 1990 and 2000 when MichCon service crews replaced older gas meter regulators containing mercury. During this procedure, workers accidentally spilled small amounts of liquid mercury. At the time, the incidents were reported internally within MichCon, which recently has told EPA that it promptly cleaned up the spills.

The reinspection program, this time using mercury-vapor "sniffing" equipment provided by EPA, was prompted by the recent disclosure of mercury contamination in over 300 Chicago- area homes and by a recent MichCon mercury-containing regulator spill in Lincoln Park. Currently, three Chicago area utilities -- Nicor, North Shore Gas, and Peoples Gas --

are inspecting more than 300,000 homes that may once have had the mercury-containing regulators. The Chicago area utilities are also inspecting thousands of their non-residential customers, including schools, medical facilities, and commercial buildings.

Similarly, EPA has requested that MichCon determine the total number and locations of all residential sites where the mercury-containing regulators were ever used and/or removed from service. This information may be used to implement a secondary inspection program comparable to the effort now underway by the Chicago area utilities.

A number of other government agencies are working collaboratively with MichCon and EPA, including the Michigan Department of Community Health, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, (part of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention).

"EPA is pleased that MichCon has asked us to help ensure a thorough re-inspection of these homes," said Regional Administrator Francis X. Lyons. "We are hopeful that MichCon will proceed quickly and responsibly in its records review, and that the number of contaminated homes will remain small. However, in the event this situation evolves as it did in the Chicago area, EPA will take appropriate actions."

Mercury, a silvery-white liquid, gives off an odorless vapor than can damage the brain, lungs, and kidneys when inhaled. Signs of mercury poisoning include headaches, insomnia, tremors, nausea, skin rashes, and increased blood pressure.

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Last Updated: 9/29/2000 16:40

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa212.htm>

Media Contact: Bri Bill
(312) 353-6646

For Immediate Release: September 29, 2000

No. 00-OPA214

EPA TO HOLD OPEN HOUSE ABOUT CLEANUP OF LOWER FOX RIVER SITE

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 will hold an open house Thursday, October 12, from 5 to 8 p.m., at the Brown County Library, 515 Pine St., Green Bay, WI, to discuss the cleanup of PCB-contaminated sediments at Sediment Management Unit 56/57 on the Lower Fox River. EPA is working with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) and Fort James Corp. to complete the cleanup.

There will not be a formal presentation. Representatives from EPA, WDNR, and Fort James Corp. will be available to meet one-on-one with community residents and answer questions about the cleanup.

For more information, call Bri Bill, Community Involvement Coordinator, 800-621-8431, ext. 36646, or e-mail, bill.briana@epa.gov.

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Last Updated: 9/29/2000 16:48

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa214.htm>

Technical Contact: Diane Sharrow
312-886-6199

Media Contact: Karen Thompson
312-353-8547

Legal Contact: Rich Murawski
312-886-6721

For Immediate Release: October 3, 2000

No. 00-OPA217

EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH HYDRITE CHEMICAL; INCLUDES \$15,510 FINE

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently reached agreement with Hydrite Chemical Co. (Cottage Grove, WI), for violation of Federal rules on hazardous waste. The company will pay a \$15,510 fine.

Hydrite, located at 114 North Main St., is an EPA permitted hazardous waste storage facility. EPA said Hydrite failed to comply with Federal regulations on hazardous waste emissions from storage tanks, discovered during a June 16, 1998, inspection. Hydrite is now in compliance.

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

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Last Updated: 10/3/2000 12:45

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa217.htm>

Technical Contact: Patrick Kuefler
(312) 353-6268

Media Contact: Karen Thompson
(312) 353-8547

Legal Contact: Ann Coyle
(312) 886-2248

For Immediate Release: October 3, 2000

No. 00-OPA216

EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH THREE 3M FACILITIES ON HAZARDOUS WASTE VIOLATIONS; TOTAL FINE IS \$98,086

U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently entered into three consent agreements with Minnesota Mining & Manufacturing Co. (3M), which settle complaints against 3M facilities in Hutchinson, St. Paul, and Cottage Grove, MN, for violation of Federal rules on hazardous waste. Fines of \$52,340, \$38,596, and \$7,150 will be paid respectively.

EPA and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency discovered the violations during compliance inspections in 1998/99, as required by the Resource and Conservation Recovery Act (RCRA). The three facilities have since corrected the violations and are now in compliance.

All three facilities handle hazardous wastes that contain volatile organic compounds which, if not stored properly, can be released into the environment causing adverse health and environmental effects. Under RCRA, facilities that generate, treat, store, transport, or dispose of hazardous waste must ensure that it does not present a threat to human health or the environment.

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Last Updated: 10/3/2000 12:39

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa216.htm>

Technical Contact: Stephen Jann
(312) 886-2446

Media Contact: Phillipa Cannon
(312) 353-6218

Legal Contact: Michael Berman
(312) 886-6837

For Immediate Release: October 04, 2000

No. 00-OPA221

EPA TO HOLD MEETING ON INDIANA'S PROGRAM FOR CONCENTRATED ANIMAL FEEDING OPERATIONS

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 will hold a public meeting Thursday, Oct. 12, 7 p.m., at Duncan Community Hall, 619 Ferry St., Lafayette, IN, to accept comments on Indiana's implementation of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program for concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFO's).

In 1975, EPA authorized the Indiana Department of Environmental Management to implement the NPDES program for all point sources, including CAFO's, in Indiana.

To protect water quality, Federal regulations require any person who discharges or proposes to discharge from a point source, including a CAFO, to apply for an NPDES permit. CAFO's are defined as facilities that have 1,000 or more animal units B- equivalent to 2,500 swine weighing more than 55 lb, 700 mature dairy cattle, or 30,000 hens or broilers, if the poultry operation has a liquid manure system. CAFO's also include facilities with more than 300 animal units if they discharge into a body of water directly or through a man-made device.

At the meeting, interested parties are invited to make comments on the Indiana NPDES program for CAFO's, but this is not a public hearing. Comments may be submitted orally or in writing at the meeting or they can be submitted in writing by Oct. 31 to:

Julie Monahan
U.S. EPA
Water Division (WN-16J)
77 West Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604
e-mail: monahan.julie@epa.gov

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Last Updated: 10/4/2000 17:23

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa221.htm>

Technical Contact: Len Zintak
(312) 886-4246

Media Contact: Stuart Hill
(312) 886-0689

For Immediate Release: October 05, 2000

No. 00-OPA220

EPA TO HOLD AVAILABILITY SESSION ON VERMICULITE CLEAN-UP OCTOBER 11

U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 will hold an availability session at 7 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 11, at the North East Armory, 1025 Broadway N.E., Minneapolis.

The meeting will outline the plan for clean up of asbestos-contaminated soil outside homes near the former Western Mineral Products vermiculite processing plant in northeast Minneapolis. The clean up is scheduled to begin on October 11, starting with alleys in the Logan Park neighborhood. Officials from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, and State and local health departments will also be available for questions at the meeting.

Based on previous sampling and neighborhood interviews, the clean up will be limited to alleys and yards. Between 25 to 30 parcels of land in Logan Park have been identified as needing some degree of cleanup. The yard cleanups will begin after the alley work is completed.

Vermiculite is a naturally occurring mineral once mined in Libby, MT. Ore from the Libby mine was shipped to Minneapolis and to some 300 other facilities across the country, to be processed. Under the Superfund waste clean-up program, EPA is assessing all sites to determine whether workers or the public are still being exposed to vermiculite. The Logan Park site in Northeast Minneapolis is the first cleanup in a residential neighborhood near a vermiculite processing plant in the nation.

EPA will be working from a construction trailer near the site. The information phone number, to be in operation weekdays 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., is 612-706-0615.

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Last Updated: 10/4/2000 17:29

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa220.htm>

Technical Contact: Ken Glatz
(312) 886-1434

Media Contact: Jennifer Ostermeier
(312) 353-0618

MDEQ Contact: Bruce VanOtteren
(517) 373-8427

For Immediate Release: October 6, 2000

No. 00-OPA222

EPA PROPOSES TO DELETE CLIFF/DOW DUMP FROM NATIONAL PRIORITIES LIST; COMMENT PERIOD ENDS OCTOBER 18

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has recently proposed de-listing the Cliff/Dow Dump site (Marquette, MI) from Superfund's National Priorities List. A 30-day public comment period ends October 18.

EPA and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) said the site poses no significant threat to public health or the environment, and no further remedial clean-up work is necessary.

The 2-acre site, located in a wooded area off County Road 550, about one-half mile west of the Dead River was contaminated with hazardous waste materials from about 1954 to the mid-1960's. The cleanup -- paid for by the responsible parties, with EPA and MDEQ oversight -- included excavation and disposal of 400 cubic yards of hazardous tar-contaminated soil in 1990; 28,000 tons of less hazardous soil contaminated by chemicals, including volatile organic compounds and polyaromatic hydrocarbons in 1995; and a series of ground-water monitoring tests, which ended in 1998. The property is currently owned by the City of Marquette.

Comments on the proposed de-listing should be sent to Gladys Beard, Associate Remedial Project Manager, U.S. EPA Region 5, Superfund Division (SR-6J), 77 West Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL 60604, or e-mail, beard.gladys@epa.gov.

Site information is available at EPA's Chicago Records Center, 77 West Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL 60604; MDEQ Headquarters, 300 South Washington St., Lansing, MI 48933; and Peter White Public Library, 217 North Front St., Marquette, MI 49855.

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Last Updated: 10/10/2000 11:33

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa222.htm>

Technical Contact: Mark Durno
(330) 373-6723 (site phone)

Media Contact: Mick Hans
(312) 353-5050

For Immediate Release: October 18, 2000

No. 00-OPA224

EPA: CLEANUP UNDER WAY AT MAHONINGSIDE POWER PLANT SITE

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today that cleanup of the Mahoningside Power Plant site (Warren, OH) is now under way. Residents and area businesses will see workers in protective clothing and construction vehicles at the property until December.

The site, 650 Summit St., formerly known as Warren Water and Light Co., is contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB's) and mercury.

The City of Warren discovered high PCB levels during its demolition of the former power plant this past spring. Over the next few months, City-managed contractors removed more than 400 tons of contaminated debris from the power plant, and established a water-treatment system to filter contaminated water generated by the cleanup, as well as to contain all PCB contamination at the site. In July, the City requested EPA's assistance in the cleanup. In August, a Cleveland-based EPA Superfund Emergency Response Team took over management of the water treatment system, funded with an initial \$450,000 to proceed with the project. (A final cost estimate will follow when the complete scope of the cleanup is determined.)

EPA's current work at the Mahoningside site includes removal of PCB-contaminated debris from the power plant's basement sumps, drains, and piping. Late next week, EPA will begin to analyze the ground beneath and around the basement to determine if PCB contamination has spread from the immediate area. Based on the outcome, EPA will recommend appropriate steps.

In addition, EPA will sample and assess potentially contaminated

sediments in the Mahoning River, which is approximately one mile to the south. Since the 1970's, storm-water and ground-water runoff from the site have drained into the river.

The City of Warren, which hopes to see the site redeveloped, will continue to work closely with EPA on the cleanup, and has provided in-kind logistical and utility services.

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Last Updated: 10/19/2000 12:00

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa224.htm>

Technical Contact: Arnold Leder
(312) 886-0133

Media Contact: Phillipa Cannon
(312) 353-6218

Legal Contact: Robert Thompson
(312) 353-6700

For Immediate Release: October 18, 2000

No. 00-OPA225

EPA ORDERS HARTLAND FARMS TO STOP UNPERMITTED DISCHARGES

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently issued an administrative order to Hartland Farms, Inc. (Clayton, MI), ordering it to stop all unauthorized wastewater discharges and apply to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality for a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. The order also requires the dairy to do a smoke and dye test, under EPA's supervision, to identify where discharges from each of its catch basins go; submit a stormwater pollution prevention plan; and submit a comprehensive plan to manage all wastes at its facility, including manure, wastewater, spoiled milk, waste feed and silage, silage leachate, and dead animals.

In July, EPA inspected the dairy to determine whether it was a concentrated animal feeding operation (CAFO), which requires a NPDES permit. The inspection revealed that it was a CAFO because it had more than 700 dairy cattle and discharged into its farm pond and subsequently, Rooney Drain and Bear Creek. The discharges included milk house wash water, cooling water from the milking parlor, manure, wastewater, and stormwater.

"Uncontrolled CAFO wastes may kill fish, cause infectious diseases in people, lead to excessive algae growth, and upset the balance of life in streams and lakes," said Jo Lynn Traub, EPA Regional Water Division Director. "Permits impose enforceable pollution control standards and management practices on CAFO's to protect water quality and public health."

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Last Updated: 10/19/2000 11:46

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa225.htm>

Media Contact: Mick Hans
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For Immediate Release: October 18, 2000

No. 00-OPA227

NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS: EPA REVISES PCB CONTAMINATION ESTIMATE FOR MANISTIQUE RIVER AND HARBOR; CLEANUP GOALS STILL ON T

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently revised its projected PCB-surface sediment concentration values at the Manistique River and Harbor Superfund site (Manistique, MI) for fiscal year 2000. Dredging at the site is scheduled to end by the end of this month.

As a result of a data error, EPA, in late August, incorrectly reported an actual 9.8 parts per million PCB-surface sediment concentration as 1.5 parts per million. Since the target goal for the Harbor cleanup is an average of 10 parts per million, EPA remains confident that the cleanup goals are still attainable.

EPA will issue a final report on PCB-surface concentrations once the site work is completed.

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Last Updated: 10/19/2000 11:52

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa227.htm>

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For Immediate Release: October 20, 2000

No. 00-OPA229

**NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS: CLEANUP
STARTS MONDAY, OCTOBER 23, AT
GREENBERG SALVAGE YARD SITE,
MURPHYSBORO, IL; MEDIA BRIEFING**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 is ready to begin excavation and off-site disposal of hazardous debris and lead-contaminated soil at the former Greenberg Salvage Yard site, Murphysboro, IL. The \$900,000 million cleanup, managed by a Superfund emergency response team, will continue through January 2001, with weather permitting.

EPA representatives will discuss the cleanup at a media briefing at 2 p.m., Monday, October 23, at the site, at the intersection of 19th and Gartside Streets. Construction equipment will be visible, as will hazardous debris, including drums, cylinders, and cracked battery casings.

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Last Updated: 10/23/2000 10:42

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa229.htm>

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For Immediate Release: October 23, 2000

No. 00-OPA231

EPA CITES CADE; INCLUDES \$42,500 FINE

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently filed an administrative complaint against Cade Autoair, Inc., for alleged violations of Federal clean-air regulations at the company's metal parts plant, 5640 Enterprise Dr., Lansing, MI. A \$42,500 penalty was proposed.

EPA said emissions of trichloroethylene -- a hazardous air pollutant -- from Cade's degreaser exceeded Federal limits. In addition, Cade failed to comply with Federal reporting and recordkeeping requirements. The violations were discovered during a State inspection in June 1998.

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

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

Breathing small amounts of trichloroethylene for short periods may cause headaches, lung irritation, dizziness, poor coordination, and difficulty concentrating. Breathing it for long periods may cause nerve, lung, kidney,

and liver damage. EPA considers trichloroethylene as an intermediate between a probable and possible cancer-causing agent in humans.

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Last Updated: 10/23/2000 18:29

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa231.htm>

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For Immediate Release: October 23, 2000

No. 00-OPA230

EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH SPARTA; INCLUDES \$18,489 FINE AND \$40,000 PROJECT

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently reached agreement with Sparta Manufacturing Co., Inc., on alleged violations of federally enforceable State clean-air regulations at the company's grey iron foundry, 445 Holton St., Sparta, WI.

The agreement, which includes an \$18,489 civil penalty and an environmental project costing \$40,000, resolves an EPA administrative complaint filed May 19, 2000.

The complaint alleged that monitoring and reports records from July 1998 to June 1999 showed Sparta failed to consistently maintain a temperature in its cupola process high enough to cut carbon monoxide emissions.

In addition, EPA said the foundry failed stack tests for carbon monoxide and particulate (smoke, dust, ash) emissions in May 1998. A visual inspection done in December 1998 found that Sparta violated its limit for opacity (the amount of light obscured by particulates).

As its environmental project, Sparta has agreed to buy and install equipment that will provide better process controls and monitoring of its cupola process. The equipment must be installed and operating by the end of January 2001.

Companies may voluntarily propose that supplemental environmental projects be included in their settlements. EPA can reduce monetary

penalties if it believes the project will cut pollution significantly and the project goes beyond what is required by EPA regulations.

"We are pleased that Sparta has volunteered to take these steps to better monitor its cupola emissions to protect public health and the environment," said Bharat Mathur, director of the regional Air and Radiation Division.

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

Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless gas that can have harmful health effects. When inhaled, it enters the blood stream and cuts the amount of oxygen delivered to body tissues. It can affect mental function, vision, and alertness in healthy people, even at relatively low concentrations. At high levels, it can be fatal. Children, pregnant women, and the elderly are most affected.

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Last Updated: 10/23/2000 18:23

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa230.htm>

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For Immediate Release: October 25, 2000

No. 00-OPA232

EPA CITES EQUISTAR FOR HAZARDOUS WASTE VIOLATIONS; PROPOSES \$66,651 FINE

U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently filed a civil administrative complaint and compliance order against Equistar Chemicals, LP (Morris, IL), for violation of Federal hazardous waste regulations. A \$66,651 penalty has been proposed.

The organic chemical manufacturing facility, 8805 North Tabler Rd., operated from 1996 to 1999 without a permit and failed to effectively monitor hazardous waste tanks for releases of hazardous vapors. Equistar must notify EPA when it achieves compliance and may request a meeting with EPA to discuss the violations.

Under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, EPA regulates the safe handling, transportation, treatment, and disposal of hazardous wastes, from their production to their final disposal.

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Last Updated: 10/27/2000 10:43

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa232.htm>

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For Immediate Release: October 26, 2000

No. 00-OPA233

EPA SETTLES WITH THE BUTCHER COMPANY; INCLUDES \$36,729 FINE

U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently settled with The Butcher Co., Inc. (Alsip, IL), for violation of Federal rules on reporting toxic chemicals. The company will pay a \$36,729 fine.

EPA said The Butcher Co. failed to report the required data on spent mineral spirits, a hazardous substance used at its furniture finishing facility, 5300 West 127th St..

The Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act requires certain businesses to provide EPA information on specific toxic chemicals being used at their facilities. EPA uses this and other information to update its national toxic chemical inventory, which is available to the public through various media, including a national computerized database. Companies are required to make reports annually to EPA and their States.

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Last Updated: 10/27/2000 10:56

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa233.htm>

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For Immediate Release: October 26, 2000

No. 00-OPA234

**NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS: CLEANUP
COMPLETE AT W.T. RAWLEIGH SITE,
FREEPORT, IL; MEDIA BRIEFING/PHOTO-OP 11
A.M., FRIDAY, O**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has completed a four month cleanup of hazardous materials at the W.T. Rawleigh site, an abandoned manufacturing complex at 223 East Main St., Freeport, IL.

EPA representatives will discuss the cleanup at a media briefing at 11 a.m., Friday, Oct. 27, at the site. Local officials are also expected to attend.

The \$600,000 cleanup, managed by a Chicago-based Superfund emergency response team, included the removal of a chemical laboratory, more than 20 underground storage tanks and above-ground storage tanks, well over 200 drums and containers, uncontained elemental mercury, and a variety of asbestos-containing materials.

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Last Updated: 10/27/2000 9:57

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa234.htm>

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For Immediate Release: October 30, 2000

No. 00-OPA236

FEDERAL AGENCIES TO UNVEIL SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEM IN THE LOOP

NOTE TO EDITORS: Special arrangements can be made for photographers who want a birds-eye view of the rooftop installation, by calling Karen Thompson.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), General Services Administration (GSA), and Department of Energy (DOE) today unveiled a solar energy system on the rooftop of the Metcalfe Federal Building, 77 West Jackson Blvd.

"EPA, in partnership with GSA, DOE, and private industry, is responding to the Million Solar Roofs Initiative, which encourages clean, energy efficient technologies," said Romulo L. Diaz, Jr., EPA assistant administrator in Washington, D.C., who was instrumental in getting EPA's funding for the \$100,000 project. The project, in the works for over three years, also backs President Clinton's 1999 Executive Order calling for Federal agencies to seek out environmentally preferable products, and the city's campaign to make Chicago a center for green technology.

"The Metcalfe solar energy project will reduce carbon dioxide emissions equal to the emissions produced from driving an average passenger car 25,117 miles -- or once around the world," said EPA Regional Administrator Francis X. Lyons. "We hope to set an example that will start a new trend in the use of renewable energy in downtown Chicago."

Eighty-four solar panels are on the building's roof. The panels contain

photovoltaic cells that convert sunlight into direct current -- "DC" electricity. A power inverter then changes the DC into "AC" electricity and loads it directly into the building's power grid.

"Last year about this time, we were celebrating the fact that the Metcalfe Federal Building was among only 25 percent of buildings nationwide that received the Energy Star label," said Norbert Kieszowski, deputy assistant regional administrator of GSA's Public Buildings Service. "Today our challenge is to develop new ways to make solar energy cost-effective on a large scale -- to power entire buildings -- and to educate people about the exciting possibilities of solar energy."

Peter Dreyfuss, Department of Energy deputy chief of staff and national coordinator of the Million Solar Roofs Initiative, applauded the addition of the Metcalfe Federal Building to the Million Solar Roofs Initiative. "We are now ahead of our goal of 2,000 solar energy systems on Federal buildings this year, and are on track to meet the installation goal of 20,000 by 2010," he said. "Federal agencies have invested more than \$10 million into solar energy systems over the past three years, offsetting over 16,000 MBTU's (million British Thermal Units) of energy generated by burning fossil fuels each year," said Dreyfuss.

As part of the educational effort, a kiosk in the lobby of the building will display, in real-time, the energy being produced by the solar panels and offer other information on energy choices and their environmental consequences.

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Last Updated: 10/31/2000 15:10

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa236.htm>

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For Immediate Release: November 1, 2000

No. 00-OPA237

EPA COMPLETES 5-YEAR REVIEWS OF WISCONSIN SUPERFUND SITES: MOSS- AMERICAN, NORTHERN ENGRAVING, AND TWO LEMBERGER SITES

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently completed 5-year status reviews of four Wisconsin sites on the Superfund National Priorities List (NPL). The sites are Moss-American (Milwaukee), Northern Engraving Co. (Sparta), and the Lemberger Landfill and Lemberger Transport and Recycling sites (Whitelaw).

The Superfund law requires regular reviews (at least every 5 years) of sites where construction of the cleanup remedy is complete, but hazardous waste remains managed on site.

The Moss-American site was contaminated by a wood-preserving facility that used creosote until it closed in 1976. From 1995 to 1999, about 10,000 gallons of creosote was removed from the ground-water/soil interface of one of the most contaminated site areas. A ground-water routing and in-place biological treatment system was installed, and a construction contract was awarded for thermal treatment of about 25,000 cubic yards of the more highly-contaminated soils. For these portions of the cleanup, EPA recommends continued monitoring of the site until both Federal and state cleanup standards are met on a consistent basis. Ground-water system construction, under a 1997 Explanation of Significant Differences document, was completed from October 1999 to July 2000. With management of contaminated ground water and soils under way, future site work will focus on contaminated sediment in the Little Menomonee River. Cleanup progress for the entire site, including any progress on river sediment cleanup, will be evaluated in a 5-year review

due from EPA no later than May 2003.

A copy of the 5-year review for Moss-American and other site-related documents are available at the Mill Road Library, 6431 North 76th St., Milwaukee.

The Northern Engraving site contains an operating automobile parts manufacturing business. A 1987-1988 cleanup at the site addressed contaminated sludges and soils in a lagoon, drainage ditch, seepage pit, and sludge dump area. The site was deleted from the NPL in 1997. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) inspected the site in August 2000 for EPA and found the remedy to be still protective, with drainage systems and maintenance at the site considered adequate. Significantly, in its comments on this 5-year review, the WDNR recommends that Northern Engraving submit an annual letter report to EPA which includes the results of a yearly inspection.

A copy of the 5-year review for Northern Engraving and other site-related documents are available at Sparta Public Library, 124 W. Main St.

The Lemberger Landfill and Lemberger Transport and Recycling sites, which are 1/4-mile apart, were formerly mixed-waste landfills that closed in 1976. In 1985, contamination was found in several local residential wells. New, deeper wells were then provided to these residents. In 1992, a group of potentially responsible parties entered into a consent decree with EPA to address the contaminated ground water and to construct a landfill cap, with construction completed in 1996. In 1994, the Lemberger Transport and Recycling site was also the focus of a project to remove 1,380 drums, as well as construction of a multi-layer landfill cap. The 5-year review of the site noted several problems in the operation of the sites' ground-water and leachate extraction systems. The most significant of these is expected to be resolved in the near future by the installation of two more ground-water extraction wells and possible improvements in the leachate extraction methods. The cap and other details of the remedy appear to be performing as expected.

A copy of the 5-year review for the Lemberger sites and other documents are available at Manitowoc Public Library, 808 Hamilton St.; Whitelaw Village Hall, 232 East Menasha Ave.; and Town of Franklin Chairman Harvey Jannette's office, 11716 San Road, Whitelaw.

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Last Updated: 11/1/2000 17:37

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa237.htm>

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For Immediate Release: November 1, 2000

No. 00-OPA228

EPA SETTLES 2 CHICAGO AREA HAZARDOUS CHEMICAL RELEASE CASES, STOCK YARDS PACKING AND UOP

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently settled two cases with Chicago area facilities -- Stock Yards Packing and UOP -- involving violations of Federal laws on the reporting of hazardous chemicals.

UOP, LLC, 25 East Algonquin Rd., Des Plaines, IL, has agreed to pay a \$6,188 civil penalty and complete an environmental project costing \$84,060. EPA alleges that at 2:40 p.m. on October 29, 1998, UOP's McCook, IL, research and development and manufacturing facility experienced an airborne chemical release of 1,142 lb, of which 36 lb was benzene from a storage tank. Federal laws require prompt reporting of all benzene releases above 10 lb to the National Response Center, the Illinois Emergency Response Commission (IERC), and the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC). UOP waited until the next day, beginning at about 11:00 a.m. to inform the authorities of the release. The facility also did not submit written follow-up reports until November 23, 1998 (to the IERC) and December 18, 1998 (to the LEPC).

Under terms of the settlement, UOP has, along with the fine, agreed to build a new secondary containment system around some of its temporary chemical storage locations.

Benzene, which is an ingredient in petroleum products used by UOP, causes irritation to the eyes, nose, and skin, as well as headaches, nausea, and respiratory problems. It is a suspected human carcinogen.

Stock Yards Packing Co., Inc., 340 North Oakley Blvd., Chicago, has

agreed to pay a \$11,855 civil penalty. EPA alleges that the company failed to submit the Emergency and Hazardous Chemical Inventory Form for anhydrous ammonia to the IERC and the LEPC from 1996 to 1998. Federal laws require reporting of on-site anhydrous ammonia above 500 lb by March 1 every year.

Anhydrous ammonia, which is used in the company's refrigeration system, may be fatal if inhaled for prolonged periods of time, causes burns to the skin, and may cause irritation to the eyes, nose, and throat.

Since 1989, EPA Region 5 has filed 222 separate complaints for hazardous chemical reporting violations, resulting in 209 settlements worth \$4.98 million in total fines and \$3.40 million in environmental projects.

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Last Updated: 11/1/2000 11:05

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa228.htm>

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For Immediate Release: November 2, 2000

No. 00-OPA239

EPA PROPOSES CLEANUP PLAN FOR ENVIRO-CHEM THIRD SITE; PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD TO BEGIN

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has proposed a \$4.5 million cleanup plan for four areas of contamination at the Enviro-Chem Third Site (Zionsville, IN). A public comment period on the plan is set to begin, with written comments accepted by EPA from November 13 through December 13, 2000.

EPA's proposed plan, based on a recently completed Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis, evaluated several alternatives for contaminated soil, ground water, and a pool of mixed chemical liquids beneath the ground surface of the site.

To address the contamination, EPA recommends:

- Installation of containment walls and a dewatering system that will remove much of the subsurface liquid chemical pools, plus chemical oxidation to treat any remaining chemical pools;
- Installation of a soil-vapor extraction system to address chemical contamination in the shallow soil area; and
- Installation of pumping and treatment systems to address two ground-water contamination plumes.

Copies of the site analysis and other documents will be available for review at Hussey Memorial Library, 250 North 5th St., Zionsville. The administrative record, containing the information upon which EPA will base its final decision, is also available for review at the library and at

EPA's Chicago Records Center.

Comments on the proposed Enviro-Chem Third Site plan may be sent to Susan Pastor, Community Involvement Coordinator, U.S. EPA, Office of Public Affairs (P-19J), 77 W. Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL 60604, fax 312-353-1155, e-mail pastor.susan@epa.gov.

Soil cleanup at the neighboring Enviro-Chem Superfund site is still in progress. Recent sampling of the soil-vapor extraction system operating at the site indicates the soil contamination levels have been reduced significantly since it was installed in 1998. Additional soil tests, to determine if the soil-vapor system can be shut down permanently, will begin soon. Recent samples of shallow ground water at Enviro-Chem indicate that contamination still remains and needs to be addressed as part of the cleanup plan for that site.

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Last Updated: 11/2/2000 16:51

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa239.htm>

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For Immediate Release: November 2, 2000

No. 00-OPA238

EPA COMPLETES 5-YEAR REVIEW OF HI-MILL MANUFACTURING SITE; MONITORING TO CONTINUE

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today that a required 5-year review of cleanup at the Hi-Mill Manufacturing Superfund site (Highland Township, MI) has been completed. The review confirmed that the cleanup remedy continues to be effective and protective of human health and the environment.

The Superfund law requires reviews of sites at least every 5 years where cleanup is complete, but where pollutants are still managed on-site.

The site has been an industrial property since 1946, when Hi-Mill first began fabricating copper, aluminum, and brass tubing parts and fittings. A degreasing agent that was used for cleaning metal parts until 1988 caused the soil and ground-water contamination at the site.

Hi-Mill was placed on EPA's Superfund National Priorities List in 1990. EPA's investigation of site conditions and contamination was completed in 1992. EPA issued a Record of Decision in September 1993, requesting that no action with ground-water monitoring and institutional controls be taken. EPA made this decision primarily because the ground water near the facility will probably never be used for residential purposes.

Under EPA oversight, since October 1995, Hi-Mill has performed quarterly water-quality testing at 19 to 23 separate ground-water points on or near its property.

This past spring, Hi-Mill proposed to EPA that it perform a voluntary cleanup of the most contaminated ground-water area. Hi-Mill also

requested that the frequency and extent of its required ground-water monitoring be reduced.

Upon review of the monitoring data, as well as an inspection of current site conditions, EPA approved Hi-Mill's requests to reduce monitoring and to proceed with the voluntary cleanup. Under the reduced monitoring program, 2 wells will be sampled quarterly, 3 wells will be sampled twice a year, and 18 wells will be sampled annually. The first round of ground-water treatment under Hi-Mill's voluntary action was completed this summer. EPA expects a report from Hi-Mill in 2001, upon completion of the voluntary cleanup.

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) supports Hi-Mill's voluntary extent-of-contamination study and voluntary clean-up of chlorinated solvents in ground water. Regarding the request for a reduction in the scope and frequency of ground-water monitoring, MDEQ recommended that no reduction take place until the voluntary cleanup was completed and its success evaluated.

The next 5-year review will be conducted by June 2005.

Site documents, including the 5-year review, are available at EPA's Chicago records center and at the Highland Township Library, 205 West Livingston St., Highland.

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Last Updated: 11/2/2000 16:19

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa238.htm>

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For Immediate Release: November 7, 2000

No. 00-OPA242

EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH WISCONSIN COLOR PRESS; INCLUDES \$56,707 FINE

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently reached agreement with Wisconsin Color Press, Inc., regarding alleged violations of federally enforceable State clean-air regulations at the company's printing plant, 5400 West Good Hope Rd., Milwaukee, WI. A \$56,707 penalty was assessed.

The agreement resolves an EPA administrative complaint filed Dec. 21, 1999, alleging Wisconsin Color Press failed to do timely compliance emission tests on devices controlling ozone-forming volatile organic compound (VOC) emissions from four lithographic printing presses, and failed to submit timely written compliance certification.

"EPA's goal is to protect public health and the environment," said Bharat Mathur, director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "We will take all necessary steps to ensure compliance with clean-air regulations."

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

The Milwaukee metropolitan area does not meet the health-based standard for ozone.

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Last Updated: 11/13/2000 17:48

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa242.htm>

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For Immediate Release: November 7, 2000

No. 00-OPA241

EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH PRAEFKE BRAKE & SUPPLY; INCLUDES \$28,105 FINE

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently reached agreement with Praefke Brake & Supply Co. on alleged violations of Federal regulations on asbestos--a hazardous air pollutant--at the company's plant, 8075 North 76th St., Milwaukee, WI. A \$28,105 penalty was assessed.

Praefke removed worn linings from brake shoes and reinstalled new linings, some of which contained asbestos, at the plant until it moved its operations to 133 Oak St., West Bend, WI.

The agreement resolves an EPA administrative complaint filed April 19, 2000, alleging Praefke failed to:

- * do visible emissions monitoring;
- * keep records of the required monitoring; and
- * properly label its asbestos-containing waste.

"EPA is committed to enforcing regulations for hazardous air pollutants to protect public health and the environment," said Bharat Mathur, director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "We will take all necessary steps to ensure that companies comply with the Clean Air Act."

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.

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Last Updated: 11/7/2000 18:06

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa241.htm>

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For Immediate Release: November 8, 2000

No. 00-OPA249

EPA SETTLES WITH VENTURA FOODS FOR CHEMICAL RELEASE REPORTING AND RECORDKEEPING VIOLATIONS; INCLUDES \$34,554 FINE, \$128,905 IN ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently settled an administrative complaint against Ventura Foods, LLC. (Albert Lea, MN), for alleged violation of Federal laws on the reporting of a hazardous chemical release, as well as alleged failure to maintain required hazardous chemical records. Under its Consent Agreement and Final Order with EPA, the company will pay a \$34,554 fine and complete environmental projects costing \$128,905, for a total settlement of \$163,459.

EPA alleged that on August 30, 1998, the company's facility at 919-14th St., failed to promptly report the release of an estimated 1,000 lb to 1,500 lb of ammonia into the air. Federal laws require facilities to immediately notify the National Response Center (NRC) and the State emergency response commission upon any release of ammonia above 100 lb.

The release was reported to the NRC and the Minnesota Emergency Response Commission (MERC) on August 31, 1998, about 22 hours after the incident occurred. Ventura Foods had also failed to provide written follow-up report to the MERC, 130 days after the incident.

The company was also cited for alleged failure to provide completed

emergency and hazardous chemical inventory forms, for the storage of 8,600 lb of ammonia, to the MERC and the Albert Lea Fire Department for calendar years 1996 and 1997.

Under terms of the settlement, Ventura Foods will conduct two environmental projects: purchase and donate hazardous materials response equipment to the Albert Lea Fire Department at a cost of \$30,915, and to install and operate ammonia release detection systems at a cost of \$97,900 at four of its facilities, located in Albert Lea; Birmingham, AL; St. Joseph, MO; and Saginaw, TX.

Ammonia may be fatal if inhaled, causes burns to the skin and eyes, and can lead to respiratory tract irritation and blindness.

Since 1989, EPA Region 5 has filed 222 separate complains for hazardous chemical reporting violations, resulting in 209 settlements worth \$4.98 million in total fines and \$3.40 million in environmental projects.

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Last Updated: 11/13/2000 18:03

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa249.htm>

Media Contact: Megan Gavin
(312) 353-5282

For Immediate Release: November 8, 2000

No. 00-OPA244

NORTH PARK VILLAGE WINS CONSERVATION AND NATIVE LANDSCAPING AWARD

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 and Chicago Wilderness has named the North Park Village Nature Center in Chicago among five winners of Conservation and Native Landscaping Awards. The first annual awards ceremony will be held on November 11 at Brookfield Zoo. Other winning municipalities are the City of Crystal Lake, the Village of Sugar Grove, the St. Charles Park District, and Roselle Public Works. They are being recognized for their extensive and creative use of natural landscaping to support native plants and animals that contribute to the region's outstanding biodiversity. North Park Village Nature Center was recognized for creating a native plant garden.

Native landscaping projects will be awarded each year for educating the public about the value of native plants. Their efforts must help increase biodiversity, provide habitat for birds and butterflies, and prevent pollution. The winning projects also will save money for municipalities by eliminating the use of pesticides.

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Last Updated: 11/13/2000 17:54

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa244.htm>

Media Contact: Megan Gavin
(312) 353-5282

For Immediate Release: November 8, 2000

No. 00-OPA248

SUGAR GROVE WINS CONSERVATION AND NATIVE LANDSCAPING AWARD

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Chicago Wilderness has named the Village of Sugar Grove among five winners of Conservation and Native Landscaping Awards. The first annual awards ceremony will be held on November 11 at Brookfield Zoo.

Other winning municipalities are the City of Crystal Lake, the St. Charles Park District, the North Park Village Nature Center in Chicago, and Roselle Public Works. They are being recognized for their extensive and creative use of natural landscaping to support native plants and animals that contribute to the region's outstanding biodiversity.

The Village of Sugar Grove was recognized for restoring a prairie.

Native landscaping projects will be awarded each year for educating the public about the value of native plants. Their efforts must help increase biodiversity, provide habitat for birds and butterflies, and prevent pollution.

The winning projects also will save money for municipalities by eliminating the use of pesticides.

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Last Updated: 11/13/2000 17:59

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa248.htm>

Media Contact: Megan Gavin
(312) 353-5282

For Immediate Release: November 8, 2000

No. 00-OPA245

CRYSTAL LAKE WINS CONSERVATION AND NATIVE LANDSCAPING AWARD

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Chicago Wilderness has named the City of Crystal Lake among five winners of Conservation and Native Landscaping Awards. The first annual awards ceremony will be held on November 11 at Brookfield Zoo.

Other winning municipalities are the North Park Village Nature Center in Chicago, the Village of Sugar Grove, the St. Charles Park District, and Roselle Public Works. They are being recognized for their extensive and creative use of natural landscaping to support native plants and animals that contribute to the region's outstanding biodiversity.

Crystal Lake was recognized for its restoration of Crystal Cove pond.

Native landscaping projects will be awarded each year for educating the public about the value of native plants. Their efforts must help increase biodiversity, provide habitat for birds and butterflies, and prevent pollution.

The winning projects also will save money for municipalities by eliminating the use of pesticides.

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Last Updated: 11/13/2000 18:01

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa245.htm>

Technical Contact: Rae Trine
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Media Contact: William Omohundro
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Legal Contact: Alan Walts
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For Immediate Release: November 8, 2000

No. 00-OPA243

EPA CITES RITCHIE ENGINEERING; INCLUDES \$49,335 FINE

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently filed an administrative complaint against Ritchie Engineering Co., Inc., for alleged violations of Federal clean-air regulations at the company's plant, 1120 Fuller Dr., Garrett, IN. A \$49,335 penalty is proposed.

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

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

On November 2, Ritchie filed an answer to the complaint and requested a hearing. It may request an informal meeting with EPA anytime to discuss the allegations.

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

"EPA's mission is to protect public health and the environment," said

Bharat Mathur, director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "We will take whatever steps are needed to ensure compliance with the Clean Air Act."

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

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Last Updated: 11/13/2000 17:50

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa243.htm>

Media Contact: Megan Gavin
(312) 353-5282

For Immediate Release: November 8, 2000

No. 00-OPA246

ROSELLE PUBLIC WORKS WINS CONSERVATION AND NATIVE LANDSCAPING AWARD

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Chicago Wilderness has named Roselle Public Works among five winners of Conservation and Native Landscaping Awards. The first annual awards ceremony will be held on November 11 at Brookfield Zoo. Other winning municipalities are the the City of Crystal Lake, the Village of Sugar Grove, the St. Charles Park District, and the North Park Village Nature Center in Chicago. They are being recognized for their extensive and creative use of natural landscaping to support native plants and animals that contribute to the region's outstanding biodiversity. Roselle Public Works was recognized for its restoration of the Central Avenue wetlands.

Native landscaping projects will be awarded each year for educating the public about the value of native plants. Their efforts must help increase biodiversity, provide habitat for birds and butterflies, and prevent pollution. The winning projects also will save money for municipalities by eliminating the use of pesticides.

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Last Updated: 11/13/2000 17:56

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa246.htm>

Media Contact: Megan Gavin
(312) 353-5282

For Immediate Release: November 8, 2000

No. 00-OPA247

ST. CHARLES PARK DISTRICT WINS CONSERVATION AND NATIVE LANDSCAPING AWARD

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Chicago Wilderness has named the St. Charles Park District among five winners of Conservation and Native Landscaping Awards. The first annual awards ceremony will be held on November 11 at Brookfield Zoo. Other winning municipalities are the North Park Village Nature Center in Chicago, the City of Crystal Lake, the Village of Sugar Grove, and Roselle Public Works. They are being recognized for their extensive and creative use of natural landscaping to support native plants and animals that contribute to the region's outstanding biodiversity. St. Charles Park District was recognized for creating a native plant education area.

Native landscaping projects will be awarded each year for educating the public about the value of native plants. Their efforts must help increase biodiversity, provide habitat for birds and butterflies, and prevent pollution. The winning projects also will save money for municipalities by eliminating the use of pesticides.

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Last Updated: 11/13/2000 17:57

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa247.htm>

Technical Contact: Margaret Sieffert
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Legal Contact: Jeffrey Clay
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For Immediate Release: November 15, 2000

No. 00-OPA255

EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH ACME HARD CHROME; INCLUDES \$30,000 FINE

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently reached agreement with Acme Hard Chrome, Inc., on alleged violations of Federal regulations on chromium--a hazardous air pollutant--and State clean-air regulations at the company's electroplating plant, 555 Freedom Ave., Alliance, OH. A \$30,000 penalty was assessed.

The agreement resolves an EPA administrative complaint filed August 4, 1999, alleging Acme failed to do a timely performance test of four of its 10 hard-chrome plating tanks. The complaint also said that three of the tanks failed to meet the chromium emission limit and that the company had installed five of the tanks before getting State installation permits.

Federal regulations for hard-chrome plating tanks and anodizing tanks became effective Jan. 25, 1997. Performance testing had to be done before July 25, 1997, for existing sources.

"EPA is committed to enforcing regulations for hazardous air pollutants, to protect public health and the environment," said Bharat Mathur, director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "We will take all necessary steps to ensure that companies comply with the Clean Air Act."

Hexavalent chromium, a highly hazardous cancer-causing substance, is found in chromic-acid mist released into the atmosphere as part of the electroplating process. Chromic acid is also a respiratory irritant, whose short-term effects include coughing and wheezing. Noncancerous long-

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

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Last Updated: 12/11/2000 12:28

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa255.htm>

Media Contact: Susan Pastor
(312) 353-1325

For Immediate Release: November 29, 2000

No. 00-OPA258

**EPA, WDNR CO-HOST SMU 56/57 WRAP-UP
MEETING IN GREEN BAY, 7 P.M., TUESDAY,
DECEMBER 5**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) will hold a wrap-up meeting to discuss the recently completed cleanup of PCB-contaminated sediments at Sediment Management Unit 56/57 on the Lower Fox River. The meeting will be 7 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 5, at the Brown County Library, Lower Level, 515 Pine St., Green Bay, WI.

Staff from EPA and WDNR will give short presentations. Representatives from Fort James Corporation, the company that paid for the cleanup, are also expected.

For more information, call Susan Pastor, Community Involvement Coordinator, 800-621- 8431, ext. 31325, or e-mail, pastor.susan@epa.gov.

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Last Updated: 11/29/2000 11:49

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa258.htm>

Technical Contact: Terese VanDonsel
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For Immediate Release: November 30, 2000

No. 00-OPA259

EPA HOLDS PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS FIELDS BROOK SITE 7 P.M., MONDAY, DEC. 11

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 today announced a public meeting to update the community on activity at the Fields Brook Superfund site, Ashtabula, OH. The meeting will be held at 7 p.m., Monday, Dec. 11, Ashtabula Chamber of Commerce, 4536 Main Ave., Ashtabula.

EPA representatives will discuss various aspects of the project, including:

* The recent discovery of a larger-than-expected layer of liquid solvent and contaminated soil found below brook sediment and floodplain soils in the upper industrial area of the Fields Brook watershed; and

* Cleanup accomplishments at other areas of the site during calendar year 2000.

A fact sheet covering both issues will be available at the meeting or from Denise Battaglia, 800-621-8431, ext. 69859, or e-mail, battaglia.denise@epa.gov.

The Fields Brook project, under EPA and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers oversight, is being paid for by a group of 25 companies. An agreement to proceed with the cleanup and reimburse the Federal government \$2.5 million for past costs and natural resource damages was reached between the companies, EPA, and the U.S. Department of Justice in May 1999.

Fields Brook's 4-mile main channel flows through an industrialized section of Ashtabula, and then through residential neighborhoods before it reaches the Ashtabula River. Historical discharges and runoff from these

areas have contaminated the floodplain soils and sediment with PCB's, chlorinated benzenes and solvents, low-level radionuclides, and other hazardous substances.

Site documents are available at Ashtabula County District Library, 335 West 44th St., and Kent State Campus Library, 3325 West 13th St., both in Ashtabula.

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Last Updated: 11/30/2000 11:23

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa259.htm>

Technical Contact: Kendall Moore
(312) 353-1147

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(312) 353-8547

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For Immediate Release: December 1, 2000

No. 00-OPA260

EPA SETTLES WITH CADON PLATING; INCLUDES \$2,950 FINE, ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently signed an agreement with Cadon Plating Co. (Wyandotte, MI), for violation of Federal rules on the reporting of toxic chemicals. The company will pay a \$2,950 fine and complete an environmental project costing at least \$250,000.

Cadon was cited for failing to report to EPA and the State of Michigan the required data on nitrate and zinc compounds used at its facility, 3715 Eleventh St., in 1996. In addition to the fine, the metal parts coating company has agreed to install new air pollution control systems to reduce volatile organic compound emissions for at least \$250,000.

The Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act requires certain manufacturers to provide information on specific toxic chemicals being manufactured or used at their facilities, to EPA and the State annually.

EPA uses this and other information to update its national toxic chemical inventory, through a national computerized database.

Cadon has submitted applications for permits for use of certain chemicals and has until December 31, 2000 to complete its environmental project.

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Last Updated: 12/11/2000 11:06

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa260.htm>

Technical Contact: Shaun Burke
(312) 353-5713

Media Contact: William Omohundro
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Legal Contact: Alan Walts
(312) 353-8894

For Immediate Release: December 1, 2000

No. 00-OPA264

EPA CITES TWO COMPANIES FOR VIOLATING NEW ARCHITECTURAL COATINGS RULE

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently cited Tamms Industries, Inc. (3835 State Rte. 72, Kirkland, IL), and Poly-Carb, Inc. (33095 Bainbridge Rd., Cleveland, OH), for alleged violations of the new architectural coatings rule of the Clean Air Act. This is the first time violations of the rule, which required compliance in September 1999, have been alleged in the Region.

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

VOC's emitted by these coatings can contribute to ozone (smog) levels that violate national health-based outdoor air quality standards. EPA said both Tamms Industries and Poly-Carb made and sold coatings that contained more VOC's than the rule allows.

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

"EPA's mission is to protect public health and the environment," said George Czerniak, chief of the regional Air Enforcement and Compliance

Assurance Branch. "We will take whatever steps are needed to ensure compliance with the Clean Air Act."

Ground-level ozone (smog) can cause breathing problems, reduced lung function, eye irritation, stuffy nose, and reduced resistance to colds and other infections. Ozone can also aggravate asthma and speed up the aging of lung tissue.

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Last Updated: 12/11/2000 12:16

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa264.htm>

Media Contact: Mick Hans
(312) 353-5050

WDNR Contact: Jamie Dunn

(715) 635-4049

For Immediate Release: December 1, 2000

No. 00-OPA263

EPA PROPOSES ASHLAND/NORTHERN STATES POWER LAKEFRONT SITE FOR NATIONAL PRIORITIES LIST

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has proposed the Ashland/Northern States Power Lakefront site (Ashland, WI) for addition to the National Priorities List (NPL) of Superfund hazardous waste sites.

A total of eight new sites were named to the NPL today, including one site in Region 5: Texaco-Indian Refinery Lawrenceville, Lawrenceville, IL. Sites on the NPL are eligible for long-term cleanup under the EPA Superfund program. One other Region 5 site was proposed for the NPL: Chanute Air Force Base, Rantoul, IL. A total of 13 sites were proposed for the NPL today. Currently, there are 1,231 final sites on the NPL and 63 proposed sites. A total of 757 NPL sites have reached construction completion status.

With the proposed listing, a 60-day public comment period begins. Extensive Superfund information is online at www.epa.gov/superfund/sites/index.htm.

The 30-acre Ashland site has a long history of industrial use. The site area includes an Xcel Energy (formerly Northern States Power) property at 301 Lakeshore Drive East (U.S. Highway 2) that contained a manufactured gas plant from 1885 to 1947, a portion of the Wisconsin Central Limited Railroad corridor, and Kreher Park, which was built upon wood waste from lumber mills that ceased operating in the early 1930's. About 10 acres of Chequamegon Bay, which is next to the park, have been closed to swimming and boating due to sediment contamination.

The Ashland site is being proposed for the NPL based on past investigations by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) and Xcel Energy. The investigations indicate that a number of hazardous chemicals and volatile organic compounds from the former gas plant have contaminated soils and ground water and migrated to Chequamegon Bay.

Some activity is currently going on at the site. Xcel Energy recently started construction of a limited coal tar (a.k.a. free product) recovery and treatment system on the former gas plant property. In addition, preparing to remove contaminated soils in Kreher Park, WDNR has drafted a preliminary document that may be used in a formal Superfund Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study.

Chequamegon Bay is a recreational area with a marina directly adjacent to the site. The common tern, a state endangered species, nests in the bay. The Ashland Water Utility, which serves about 9,000 people, has a water intake in the bay about 1,900 feet offshore from Kreher Park.

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Last Updated: 12/11/2000 11:01

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa263.htm>

Technical Contact: Pamela Grace
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Media Contact: Karen Thompson
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Legal Contact: Karl Karg
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For Immediate Release: December 1, 2000

No. 00-OPA261

EPA SETTLES WITH DETROIT PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT ON ASBESTOS VIOLATIONS; INCLUDES \$2.4 MILLION CLEANUP

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently settled a civil administrative complaint against the Detroit Public School District for alleged violations of the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act. The District will spend close to \$2.4 million for school asbestos clean-up projects, which began on July 28, 2000 and will be completed on August 31, 2001.

"The district is committed to establishing a model program that will reduce and eliminate all environmental hazards (including asbestos) that students and District employees may be exposed to at the schools," said Nathaniel V. Taylor, Detroit Public School District CEO/Associate Superintendent.

"When we filed this complaint in April, we were most concerned about a timely resolution," said EPA Regional Administrator Francis X. Lyons. "With the cooperation of Detroit School district officials we have protected public health in schools and accomplished that goal."

The Asbestos Act requires school districts to conduct asbestos inspections every three years to determine if the material has become damaged or deteriorated (friable) and whether it poses a health risk to students and faculty. A January 2000 report showed 256 of the Detroit School District's 263 school buildings did not meet Federal requirements.

Asbestos is a naturally occurring mineral and was commonly used for soundproofing (ceiling and floor tiles), fireproofing (sprayed on ceilings and I-beams), and as a thermal insulation material (pipe and boiler wrap). Exposure to airborne asbestos fibers can cause people to develop asbestosis, a lung disease, and mesothelioma, a type of lung cancer, after years of exposure.

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Last Updated: 12/11/2000 11:04

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa261.htm>

Technical Contact: John Summerhays
(312) 886-6067

Media Contact: William Omohundro
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: December 4, 2000

No. 00-OPA265

EPA: CLEVELAND AND STEUBENVILLE NOW MEET HEALTH-BASED SOOT STANDARD

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 announced today that Cleveland and Steubenville, OH, are now meeting the health-based, outdoor-air standard for airborne particles (soot, dust, ash).

EPA Great Lakes Regional Administrator Francis X. Lyons has signed the authorization for redesignating Cleveland and Steubenville to attainment for particulates.

"All areas of Ohio now meet the health-based particulate standard," Lyons said. "This is a significant achievement, and we congratulate Ohio for taking the steps needed to improve air quality for its citizens."

Federally enforceable State air-pollution control regulations are responsible for the air being cleaner, EPA said. EPA has also approved a State plan designed to ensure that Cleveland and Steubenville continue to meet the particulate standard. The plan requires the areas to consider the impacts of future activities on air quality and to manage those activities, making whatever changes are needed to keep the air clean.

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

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Last Updated: 12/11/2000 11:09

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa265.htm>

Technical Contact: Tony Rutter
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For Immediate Release: December 5, 2000

No. 00-OPA266

CLEANUP COMPLETE AT LEAD BATTERY RECYCLER SITE

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 announced today that cleanup of the Lead Battery Recycler site, 5715 Angola Rd., Toledo, OH, is now complete.

EPA's involvement at the 3-acre site began in 1994 and 1995 when a Chicago-based Superfund team monitored the removal of a variety of hazardous and non-hazardous materials, primarily soil contaminated when lead automotive batteries were broken apart and drained of spent acids from 1981 to 1983. In June 1998, EPA proposed a plan to remove the contaminated soil, including some from nearby properties. EPA signed a decision document, which explained the final clean-up plan in September 1998.

Most of the clean-up activity, paid for by the former site owners, took place from late August through November 2000, with joint oversight by EPA and Ohio EPA.

The project included:

- * Excavation of about 10,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil from the site, to reach an industrial clean-up level of 1,540 parts per million (considered safe for future workers at the site);
- * Off-site excavation of about 3,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil, along the road in front of the site and along the railroad tracks behind the site, to reach a residential level of 400 parts per million (considered safe for small children to play);

- * Treatment of the excavated soil using a technology that binds the lead with other chemicals so that it no longer poses a health risk;
- * Final disposal of the soil at an EPA-approved landfill in New Boston, MI;
- * Backfill of the excavated areas with soil or gravel; and
- * Teardown of a 15,000-square-foot building at the site.

EPA and Ohio EPA monitored air quality on and near the site throughout the project, with no problems reported. Steps were also taken to minimize dust and construction vehicle traffic created by the project.

Lead is a probable cancer-causing agent and known to cause developmental problems in children.

Site documents are available at the Reynolds Corners Branch Library, 4833 Dorr St., Toledo.

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Last Updated: 12/11/2000 12:13

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa266.htm>

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For Immediate Release: December 6, 2000

No. 00-OPA268

EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH FCI; INCLUDES \$9,900 FINE AND \$54,790 ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently reached agreement with FCI, Inc., on alleged violations of a clean-air regulation at the company's wood office-furniture manufacturing plant, 1750 North Lawndale Ave., Chicago.

The agreement, which includes a \$9,900 fine and a supplemental environmental project costing \$54,790, resolves an EPA administrative complaint filed on May 12, 2000, alleging FCI exceeded emissions limits on a vinyl sealer that is a volatile organic compound (VOC).

As its environmental project, FCI will complete a work practice improvement plan, a waste minimization program, an operator training program, an environmental compliance management program, and a program to develop and use coatings, thinners, and cleanup solvents with lower VOC content.

"We are pleased that FCI has agreed to complete this project to better protect public health and the environment," said George Czerniak, chief of the regional Air Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Branch.

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

VOC's combine in the air with other chemicals on warm days to form ground-level ozone, which can cause breathing problems, reduced lung function, eye irritation, stuffy nose, and reduced resistance to colds and other infections. Ozone can aggravate asthma and damage lung tissue. Children, the elderly, and people with chronic respiratory diseases are the most sensitive. Ozone can also damage crops and trees.

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Last Updated: 12/11/2000 11:23

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa268.htm>

Technical Contact: Mike McAteer
(312) 886-4663

Media Contact: Leo Rosales
(312) 353-6198

Legal Contact: Thomas J. Martin
(312) 886-4273

For Immediate Release: December 8, 2000

No. 00-OPA269

EPA: 20 COMPANIES AGREE TO INVESTIGATE SAUGET AREA 2 SITE

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 and a group of 20 companies have recently signed an administrative order on consent, under the federal Superfund law, requiring the companies to conduct a comprehensive investigation and environmental analysis of the Sauget Area 2 site, near East St. Louis, IL.

The project will be funded by a group of companies that own portions of the site or which were formerly involved in the disposal of wastes. The work will begin in Spring 2001. They will provide a full report to EPA and the community by Summer or Fall 2002.

Composed of five former disposal areas in Cahokia, Sauget, and East St. Louis, the site is located west of Illinois Route 3 along the Mississippi River. The five source areas, known as sites O, P, Q, R, and S, total about 150 acres. Between October 1999 and April 2000, EPA conducted a time-critical cleanup at site Q, a large landfill next to the Mississippi River, which extends from about Monsanto Ave. to Cargill Rd. Though limited in scope, the cleanup resulted in the removal of about 3,200 drums and 15,000 tons of contaminated soil. The consent order requires the companies to conduct a comprehensive analysis, called a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study, of the remaining contamination at site Q, as well as contamination in the other four source areas.

The companies will sample soil, waste, surface water, sediments, and ground water at all five source areas. They will also complete a risk

assessment that estimates potential impacts on human and ecological communities near Sauget Area 2, including the Mississippi River.

During 1999 and early 2000, a group of companies (including some of those in the group of 20 at Sauget Area 2), conducted a comparable investigation of the nearby Sauget Area 1 site, pursuant to a similar order on consent. EPA provided oversight for this project as well. A copy of the Sauget Area 1 data report, including sample results and maps detailing the known areas of contamination, will be available at the Cahokia Public Library by the third week of January 2001.

EPA will hold a meeting in Spring 2001 to discuss the projects at both Sauget Area 1 and Sauget Area 2. For more information, call community involvement coordinator Leo Rosales at 800-621-8431, xt. 36198.

All of the Sauget Area 1 and Sauget Area 2 source areas were used for industrial and municipal disposal, starting in the 1930's. EPA concerns at the two sites include contamination by polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB's), dioxins, heavy metals, and a number of other industrial chemicals.

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Last Updated: 12/11/2000 12:03

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa269.htm>

Technical Contact: Gregory Carlson
(312) 886-0124

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Legal Contact: Jeffrey Cahn
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Deirdre Tanaka
(312) 886-6730

For Immediate Release: December 13, 2000

No. 00-OPA271

EPA SETTLES WITH WISCONSIN COMPANIES ON WETLANDS VIOLATIONS

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 recently settled with two Wisconsin companies for alleged wetlands violations.

EPA signed a consent agreement and final order with A. W. Oakes and Sons, Inc. and Daniel D. Oakes (Racine, WI), which have agreed to pay a \$47,500 fine. They have already replaced a wetland in Racine County. In a May 2000 administrative complaint, EPA alleged that between September and October 1998, while excavating a landfill, Oakes and Sons used dump trucks and bulldozers to discharge about 27,000 cubic yards of clay, sand, and silt into about 1.4 acres of a shallow marsh on a farm near Raymond, WI. The company did not have a permit to discharge the material.

EPA also settled with Walker Cranberry Co. (Wisconsin Rapids, WI), for \$9,500, resolving a May 1993 administrative complaint alleging that the company filled in about 6 acres of wetlands in Wood County without a permit. The company has since received an After-the-Fact permit.

Wetlands include marshes, swamps, bogs, and similar areas between water and dry land. They are among the most environmentally beneficial types of areas. They filter pollutants and provide erosion and flood control. They also harbor unique soils and plants that provide food and habitat for fish and wildlife.

Under the Clean Water Act, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers must issue a permit before any waters of the United States, including wetlands, are filled. EPA may order restoration of illegally filled wetlands and seek penalties of up to \$27,500 per day of violation.

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Last Updated: 12/14/2000 10:11

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa271.htm>

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For Immediate Release: December 15, 2000

No. 00-OPA273

EPA PROPOSES APPROVAL OF ILLINOIS' EMISSIONS TRADING PROGRAM

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 today proposed to approve Illinois' innovative "cap and trade" program for emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOC's)--ozone precursors--in the Metro Chicago area.

The Illinois program is the first VOC cap and trade program in the country.

Under this program, Illinois issues credits to VOC sources that require each source to emit 12 percent less than its 1994 to 1996 emissions. The source then has a choice: cut emissions by 12 percent, or buy credits from another source that will cut its emissions by that amount, in addition to its own 12 percent reduction.

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

The proposed approval, signed today by Regional Administrator Francis X. Lyons, will be open to public comment for 30 days after it is published in the Federal Register. The proposed approval notice will be available at <http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/EPA-AIR> the same day it is published in the Federal Register.

"We congratulate Illinois for taking this ground-breaking approach to reducing emissions that cause ozone. This approach will reward companies that develop new ways to cut their VOC emissions," Lyons said.

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

Metro Chicago currently does not meet the national health-based standard for ozone and is classified by EPA as a severe nonattainment area for the air pollutant. The Metro Chicago ozone nonattainment area includes Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry, and Will Counties, Oswego Township in Kendall County, and Aux Sable and Goose Lake Townships in Grundy County.

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URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news00/00opa273.htm>

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

For Immediate Release: December 15, 2000

No. 00-OPA272

EPA CITES 12 COMPANIES AND ONE INDIVIDUAL FOR CLEAN-AIR VIOLATIONS

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 notified 12 companies and one individual in September, October, and November that it believes they have violated Federal or federally enforceable State clean-air regulations, or both.

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

"EPA's mission is to protect public health and the environment," said George Czerniak, chief of the regional Air Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Branch. "We will take whatever steps are needed to ensure compliance with the Clean Air Act."

[Note to Editors: Companies alleged to have violated Federal clean-air regulations receive a Finding of Violation (FOV), and companies alleged to have violated federally enforceable State regulations receive a Notice of Violation (NOV). Some companies receive both.]

COMPANIES AND INDIVIDUAL RECEIVING FOV'S

Laminated Products, Inc.

5718 - 52nd St.

Kenosha, WI

EPA alleges Laminated Products failed to implement required work practice standards, including worker training and leak inspection and maintenance, for organic hazardous air pollutants at its wood manufacturing plant.

Technical Contact: Farro Assadi, 312-886-1424

Legal Contact: Jeffrey Trevino, 312-886-6729

Patrick J. Acker €
Pewaukee High School €
Pewaukee, WI €
EPA alleges Mr. Acker, a building and grounds supervisor at Pewaukee €
High School, failed to comply with Federal asbestos regulations at a €
Pewaukee High School renovation site. €
Technical Contact: Andrew J. Bielanski, 312-886-1105 €
Legal Contact: James Cha, 312-886-0813 €

Raybestos Products Co. €
1204 Darlington Ave. €
Crawfordsville, IN €
EPA alleges Raybestos failed to comply with Federal regulations on the €
halogenated cleaning solvent trichloroethylene, a hazardous air pollutant, €
used in its batch cleaning machine. €
Technical Contact: Nhien Pham, 312-353-8657 €
Legal Contact: Thomas Kenney, 312-886-0708 €

Mayville Limestone, Inc. €
W2848 State Highway #33 €
Mayville, WI €
EPA alleges Mayville Limestone failed to comply with Federal €
regulations for nonmetallic mineral processing plants at its Mayville, WI, €
facility. €
Technical Contact: Manojkumar Patel, 312-353-3565 €
Legal Contact: Alan Walts, 312-353-8894 €

Hutchinson Utilities Commission €
225 Michigan St. €
Hutchinson, MN €
EPA alleges Hutchinson Utilities Commission failed to comply with €
Federal monitoring, recordkeeping, and reporting regulations at its electric €
generating plant. €
Technical Contact: Greg Chomycia, 312-353-8217 €
Legal Contact: Karl Karg, 312-886-7948 €

DMI Automotive, Inc. €
1200 Durant Dr. €
Howell, MI €
EPA alleges DMI Automotive failed to comply with Federal regulations €
on chromium (a hazardous air pollutant) at its electroplating plant. €
Technical Contact: Joseph Cardile, 312-353-2151 €

Legal Contact: Kris Vezner, 312-886-6827 €

Tamms Industries, Inc. €

3835 State Rte. 72 €

Kirkland, IL €

EPA alleges Tamms Industries failed to comply with the new architectural € coatings rule of the Clean Air Act. The rule limits the volatile organic € compound (VOC) content of architectural coatings such as interior and € exterior paints. €

Technical Contact: Shaun Burke, 312-353-5713 €

Legal Contact: Alan Walts, 312-353-8894 €

Poly-Carb, Inc. €

33095 Bainbridge Rd. €

Cleveland, OH €

EPA alleges Poly-Carb failed to comply with the new architectural € coatings rule of the Clean Air Act. The rule limits the volatile organic € compound (VOC) content of architectural coatings such as exterior and € interior paints. €

Technical Contact: Shaun Burke, 312-353-5713 €

Legal Contact: Alan Walts, 312-353-8894 €

COMPANIES RECEIVING NOV'S €

SRS Environmental, Inc. €

dba Sybill, Inc. €

111 Military Ave. €

Detroit, MI €

EPA alleges SRS Environmental, doing business as Sybill, Inc., failed to € comply with numerous permit conditions in its federally enforceable € permit issued by Wayne County. In addition, the company installed € processing tanks and a boiler without first seeking appropriate installation € permits. €

Technical Contact: Jeffrey Gahris, 312-886-6794 €

Legal Contact: Karl Karg, 312-886-7948 €

Murphy Oil USA (#2) €

24th Ave. and 26th St. €

Superior, WI €

EPA alleges Murphy Oil failed to comply with federally enforceable State € clean-air regulations at its Superior, WI, petroleum refinery. €

Technical Contact: Spiros Bourgikos, 312-886-6862 €

Legal Contact: Jose Deleon, 312-353-7456 €

Mayville Limestone, Inc. €
W2848 State Highway #33 €
Mayville, WI €

EPA alleges Mayville Limestone failed to comply with federally €
enforceable State clean-air regulations at its nonmetallic mineral €
processing plant that makes limestone minerals for agriculture. €

Technical Contact: Manojkumar Patel, 312-353-3565 €

Legal Contact: Alan Walts, 312-353-8894 €

FPM, LLC €

1501 South Lively Blvd. €
Elk Grove Village, IL €

EPA alleges FPM failed to comply with federally enforceable State clean-€
air regulations at its FPM Heat Treating metal heat treating plant, 8201 €
West Calumet Rd., Milwaukee, WI. €

Technical Contact: Jennifer Darrow, 312-886-6315 €

Legal Contact: Stuart Hersh, 312-886-6235 €

Raybestos Products Co. €

1204 Darlington Ave. €
Crawfordsville, IN €

EPA alleges Raybestos failed to comply with federally enforceable State €
regulations on control of volatile organic compounds at its Crawfordsville €
plant. €

Technical Contact: Nhien Pham, 312-353-8657 €

Legal Contact: Thomas Kenney, 312-886-0708 €

General Motors Corp. €

GMC Lansing Plant 2 €
2801 West Saginaw St. €
Lansing, MI €

EPA alleges GM violated the both Federal and federally enforceable State €
regulations on prevention of significant deterioration (PSD) of air quality €
by exceeding volatile organic compound (VOC) emission limits in its €
State installation permit at its auto assembly plant Craft Centre. Before €
new air pollution sources can be built, or existing sources modified, in €
areas that have attained national health-based standards for all air €
pollutants, companies must get permits that restrict their emissions and €
prevent significant deterioration of air quality in those areas. €

Technical Contact: Farro Assadi, 312-886-1424 €

Legal Contact: Cynthia King, 312-886-6831 €

IBP, Inc.
Highway 92
Joslin, IL

EPA alleges IBP violated federally enforceable State regulations on prevention of significant deterioration (PSD) of air quality by modifying its method of operation that resulted in a significant net increase in emissions of hydrogen sulfide at its facility which includes a slaughterhouse, tannery, hide plant, rendering plant, cold storage warehouse, wastewater treatment plant, and four boilers. Before new air pollution sources can be built, or existing sources modified, in areas that have attained national health- based standards for all air pollutants, companies must get permits that restrict their emissions and prevent significant deterioration of air quality in those areas.

Technical Contact: Nicholas Autry, 312-886-2258

Legal Contact: Ivan Lieben, 312-886-2242

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Technical Contact: Duane Heaton
(312) 886-6399

Media Contact: Phillipa Cannon
(312) 353-6218

For Immediate Release: December 19, 2000

No. 00-OPA274

EPA GRANT WILL FUND MONITORING OF GREAT LAKES' WETLANDS

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Great Lakes National Program Office recently has awarded \$400,000 to the Great Lakes Commission, Ann Arbor, MI, to support a joint U.S. and Canadian project that will monitor the size and ecological health of Great Lakes coastal wetlands. About 15 participating government and non-government organizations provided an additional \$200,000 to the project.

A group of scientists will lead the project, monitoring, interpreting, and distributing data about the wetlands. The information gathered will be entered into a database that will be available to the public.

"We know that Great Lakes coastal wetlands are a valuable resource," said Gary V. Gulezian, EPA Great Lakes National Program Director. "But until now, we have had no system to determine whether these wetlands are being lost or degraded."

Great Lakes coastal wetlands are important because they keep the lakes clean by filtering pollutants, provide habitat for large numbers of birds and animals, facilitate fish spawning, and provide staging and feeding areas for migratory birds. Some Great Lakes wetlands support the growing of wild rice. Several types of wetlands exist around the lakes including Kakagon Sloughs near Lake Superior, wet prairie and sedge meadows around western Green Bay on Lake Michigan, and extensive coastal marshes around Lake Huron's Saginaw Bay.

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Media Contact: Mick Hans
(312) 353-5050

For Immediate Release: December 20, 2000

No. 00-OPA270

MERCURY CONTAMINATION UPDATE: EPA SENDS LETTERS TO 188 GAS UTILITIES URGING CLOSER LOOK

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has sent letters to 188 natural gas utility companies encouraging them to re-examine management of their mercury-containing equipment. Since August, at least five natural gas companies in Illinois and Michigan have disclosed more than 900 incidents of contamination in homes and businesses.

EPA's letter strongly encourages natural gas companies in the six-state Region 5 area (IL, IN, MI, MN, OH, and WI) to take a closer look at their mercury handling practices, particularly where older mercury-containing regulator equipment and manometers (larger gas-flow regulators primarily used in commercial buildings) have been or will be replaced. Many of the contamination incidents disclosed to EPA occurred when gas company employees or contractors spilled mercury while replacing older equipment.

Prior to sending the letter, EPA Region 5 Superfund management met with officers of the American Gas Association (AGA) to discuss the issue.

Mercury, a silvery-white liquid, gives off an odorless vapor that can damage the brain, lungs, and kidneys when inhaled in high concentrations. Signs of mercury poisoning include headaches, insomnia, tremors, nausea, skin rashes, and increased blood pressure.

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Technical Contact: Karla Auker
(440) 250-1741

Media Contact: Ginny Narsete
(312) 886-4359

Mick Hans
(312) 353-5050

For Immediate Release: December 20, 2000

No. 00-OPA275

MORE DRUMS FOUND AT JOHN MERCER SITE; JANUARY MEETING WILL BE SCHEDULED

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today that more buried drums have been found at the John Mercer site in St. Albans Township, OH. The site, near the intersection of Hardscrabble and Battee Roads, received an undetermined number of industrial chemical drums in the 1970's. The drums contain waste materials, including solvents, resins, paint, and dried paint debris. The present site owners have told EPA that the late John Mercer owned the property and brought the drums to the site for disposal.

A Cleveland-based EPA Superfund emergency response team is overseeing the cleanup, which began October 23, 2000. Initially 280 drums were removed from a ravine, most of which were empty. A second disposal area has so far yielded about 300 drums. In addition, two more areas with buried drums have been identified and a third site is being investigated. The excavated drums are secured at the site in roll-off boxes, awaiting proper disposal at an EPA- approved facility.

EPA believes there is no immediate health risk to the neighboring community. However, some of the materials are flammable and some of the drums show signs of leakage and decay. Sampling results of ground water at the site, and residential wells in the general area, are expected by the second week of January.

The drums were generated by the Hanna Paint and Chemical Co., located in Columbus, OH. Hanna was purchased by Akzo Nobel Coatings, Inc.

Although Akzo Nobel did not own Hanna when the drums were generated, under a Superfund consent decree with EPA, they are paying for excavation and disposal of the drums and contaminated soil, as well as sampling of ground water wells.

EPA hopes to gather more information about where and when drums were buried on the property, as well as information about any sources of the drums besides Hanna.

EPA will announce a community meeting to answer questions about the project in January. For more information, contact Community Involvement Coordinator Ginny Narsete, 800-621-8431, ext. 64359, e-mail: narsete.virginia@epa.gov.

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