



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

March 2, 2009

THE ADMINISTRATOR

[See Attached List of Addressees]

Dear Ms. Riddick, et al.:

Thank you for your letter dated January 30, 2009, concerning the dioxin contamination in the Saginaw Bay watershed. I share your concerns about transparency, public participation, and the extensive contamination at the Dow site. I assure you that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is committed to making sure that decisions concerning the site provide meaningful opportunities for public involvement.

It is also important to address your concerns about EPA's current approach at the site. To that end, I have dispatched a high-level team from my office and EPA Region 5 to meet with you and report back to me about your concerns and options for addressing the site. The team will also meet with Dow and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. My goal is to ensure an expeditious and robust cleanup, and I will take steps to ensure that the dioxin contamination is addressed in a manner that is protective of human health and the environment – and that the process is open and transparent.

Region 5 will not proceed with further negotiations with Dow until the team has reported back to me and I have reviewed the situation.

I believe my Senior Policy Counsel, Robert Sussman, has already been in contact with you. He or others from the EPA staff will be in touch concerning the details of the meeting. If you have any questions in the meantime, please contact Bob or Wendy Carney, EPA Region 5, at (312) 353-6553. EPA looks forward to working with you as we take the first steps toward achieving a comprehensive remedy at this site.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lisa P. Jackson".

Lisa P. Jackson

cc: The Dow Chemical Company  
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality

## LIST OF ADDRESSEES

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