



# ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

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PAT QUINN, GOVERNOR

JOHN J. KIM, INTERIM DIRECTOR

January 7, 2013

The Honorable Sue Rezin  
Illinois General Assembly - Senate  
103 Fifth Street  
P.O. Box 260  
Peru, Illinois 61354

The Honorable Frank Mautino  
Illinois General Assembly – House of  
Representatives  
221 E. St. Paul Street  
Spring Valley, Illinois 61362

Refer to: 0110300003 – Bureau County  
New Jersey Zinc/Mobil Chemical  
Superfund/Technical Reports

Dear Senator Rezin and Representative Mautino:

In June 2011, Illinois EPA committed to providing a quarterly update to elected officials regarding progress on the New Jersey Zinc Superfund site in DePue, Illinois. Illinois EPA's last update was provided to you in August 10, 2012. This letter is Update 5.

The DePue Group, consisting of the two responsible parties for the site, CBS Corporation and ExxonMobil Corporation, is conducting investigation and response actions at the site pursuant to an Interim Consent Order and under Illinois Environmental Protection Agency oversight. The site has been a National Priorities List Superfund site since 1999.

## Current Status:

**Operable Unit 1 – South Ditch:** The DePue Group implemented an interim remedy for the South Ditch in 2005. Any future work at the South Ditch will be conducted as part of Operable Unit 5, Lake DePue. Pursuant to the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), a review of the South Ditch must be conducted every five years to verify the protectiveness of the remedy. The first review was conducted in 2010, and concluded that the interim remedy remains protective of human health and the environment in the short term because access is restricted and significantly contaminated sediments have been removed. The next five year review is scheduled for 2015.

**Operable Unit 2 – Phosphogypsum Stack:** The DePue Group submitted a comprehensive hydrogeological study of the phosphogypsum stack area and associated groundwater data. Illinois EPA completed its review at the end of September and received responses from the DePue Group by the end of November. Illinois EPA anticipates submitting follow up comments during the second week of January 2013.

**Operable Unit 3 – Former Plant Site Area:** Illinois EPA sent a second round of review comments on the Phase 2 remedial investigation report to the DePue Group on December 4, 2012. According to the site schedule, the DePue Group will submit responses to these comments and a document revision by February 18, 2013.

The DePue Group has expressed a desire to implement a presumptive remedy for OU3, consistent with the terms of the Interim Consent Order and USEPA guidance.

**Operable Unit 4 – Off-Site Soils:** On October 16, 2012, Illinois EPA submitted a second round of review comments to the DePue Group on the Design Study to address contamination within the Village. Significant issues remain to be resolved, including the remediation objective for arsenic in soil. Illinois EPA received responses from the DePue Group to the latest round of comments on January 3, 2013. These responses are currently under review. Illinois EPA hopes to resolve all remaining issues associated with OU4 before the end of March 2013.

**Operable Unit 5 – Lake DePue:** Illinois EPA and the DePue Group are working to resolve final issues associated with the human health and ecological risk assessments. The human health assessment should be finalized within the next four to six weeks. Illinois EPA has completed their review of the revised ecological risk assessment. Illinois EPA's review was completed later than planned due to the extent of the outstanding issues and to accommodate a review by USEPA, Region 5. The DePue Group and Illinois EPA remain far apart in reaching agreement on interpretation of data.

**Interim Consent Order:** The DePue Group has complied with the schedule thus far. Illinois EPA has extended its review of some documents by an additional 8 to 22 days and in case by a few weeks, in accordance with the Interim Consent Order, because of the need for workload balancing and to accommodate a review by USEPA, Region 5.

**Community Outreach:** Illinois EPA continues to attend the Community Advisory Group (CAG) meetings, which are generally held monthly. While the June and July meetings were well attended by the community, subsequent meetings have been sparsely attended by the general public. The next CAG meeting is scheduled for January 16th. Illinois EPA had tentatively planned an outreach meeting to Hispanic families in DePue in October. However, since various issues associated with OU4 have not yet been resolved, no new information is available at this time to present to the public.

Illinois EPA anticipates providing the next update in April. Please feel free to contact Illinois EPA at any time with any questions or concerns you may have. You may reach me at 217-785-2891 or at [Charlene.Falco@illinois.gov](mailto:Charlene.Falco@illinois.gov).

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Sincerely,



Charlene Falco

Project Manager

Federal Site Remediation Section

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