



ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

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PAT QUINN, GOVERNOR LISA BONNETT, DIRECTOR

May 15, 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 January 2013. This letter is Update 6.

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 will meet with the DePue Group on May 20th to discuss resolving outstanding issues and finalization of the report. Additional field work is underway to support a groundwater model that will be incorporated into the closure plan for the stack. The draft closure report for the phosphogypsum stack is anticipated to be submitted later in 2013.

Operable Unit 3 – Former Plant Site Area: Illinois EPA sent a third round of review comments on the Phase 2 remedial investigation report to the DePue Group on May 9, 2013. Illinois EPA anticipates receiving a revised report incorporating Illinois EPA and Village comments by July 22, 2013.

Operable Unit 4 – Off-Site Soils: On April 3, Illinois EPA submitted another round of review comments to the DePue Group on the Design Study to address contamination within the Village. Most issues have been resolved; however, significant issues remain, including the remediation objectives for arsenic and lead in soil. Illinois EPA is considering revising its remediation objective for lead, based on the revised reference blood level of 5 micrograms per deciliter (previously 10 ug/dL) recently established by the Centers for Disease Control. Illinois EPA anticipates additional guidance regarding lead risk assessment and remediation objectives may be available from Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) in the fall.

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. Resolution of the human health risk assessment may be delayed until guidance is received from USEPA on how to incorporate new risk assessment information about lead.

Interim Consent Order: The DePue Group has requested time extensions in submittal of some responses to comments, but has complied with the schedule thus far. Due to the extended time it has taken to resolve some issues, the schedule may be revised to more accurately reflect the current status of each operable unit.

Community Outreach: Illinois EPA continues to attend the Community Advisory Group (CAG) meetings, which are generally held every six weeks. The next CAG meeting is scheduled for May 29th. Illinois EPA is also in the process of scheduling another meeting with the local Hispanic community, possibly for mid-June.

Illinois EPA anticipates providing the next update in August. 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.

Sincerely,



Charlene Falco

Project Manager

Federal Site Remediation Section

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