

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 5

77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD

CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

JAN 12 2012

AL-11-002-1532

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF:

The Honorable Herb Kohl
United State Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Kohl:

Thank you for your November 22, 2011 letter regarding public involvement in the process to reevaluate the cleanup plan for Menominee River sediment that has been contaminated with arsenic from the Ansul facility in Marinette, Wisconsin.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency held a formal public comment period before selecting the existing cleanup plan for contamination in soil, groundwater, and river sediment from Ansul operations. EPA carefully considered public comments before selecting the existing cleanup plan – which is being implemented through a 2009 Administrative Order on Consent, entered pursuant to the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act. EPA will continue to provide the public with information on the cleanup at the Ansul site. Ansul's most recent proposal has been placed on EPA's website at <http://www.epa.gov/region5/cleanup/rcra/ansul/index.html>.

On December 1, 2011, EPA met in Chicago with Ansul representatives to discuss the company's proposal to revise the cleanup plan. EPA also plans to meet with the City of Marinette Common Council prior to completing our review of the company's new proposal. If EPA were to move forward with any significant changes to the existing cleanup plan, there would be an opportunity for the public to comment. We have also shared this information with Marinette Mayor Robert Harbick, State Representative John Nygren and State Senator Dave Hansen.

Ansul's sediment cleanup work is necessary to restore beneficial uses of the Menominee River Area of Concern, <http://www.epa.gov/greatlakes/aoc/menominee.html>. Ansul has already begun work by constructing a sub-surface barrier wall around the site to prevent further migration of contaminated groundwater into the Menominee River.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Ronna Beckmann or Denise Gawlinski, the Region 5 Congressional Liaisons, at (312) 886-3000.

Sincerely,

Susan Hedman
Regional Administrator