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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 7

11201 Renner Boulevard
Lenexa, Kansas 66219

OFFICE OF THE
REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR

FEB 25 2016

The Honorable Bill Otto
Missouri House of Representatives
210 West Capitol Avenue
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101-6806

Dear Representative Otto:

Thank you for your February 9, 2016, letter inquiring about the community dialogue proposed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency at the West Lake Landfill Superfund site.

As a public agency, the EPA strives to continually listen and communicate with the public regarding the West Lake Landfill Superfund site. This dialogue will enhance that communication so the agency can further its understanding of the community's concerns about the site from a wide spectrum of stakeholders. Public involvement is an integral part of the Superfund process, and the agency considers community acceptance as part of the remedy selection process.

We are hopeful the participants will leave the discussions better prepared to offer their formal comments to the agency when the proposed decision for addressing the site is released later this year. The dialogue meetings will be open to the public, so not only will the participants be better prepared to offer comments, but those who attend will benefit as well.

The EPA is initiating this dialogue now because we are in a critical phase of the Superfund process as we conclude our evaluation of the cleanup remedy. We envision that a meeting summary will be prepared after each meeting, which will be made publicly available on the EPA's West Lake Landfill webpage.

The EPA has a national program that provides neutral facilitators for sites such as the West Lake Landfill. The agency's Conflict Prevention and Resolution Center manages a national contract to retain professional facilitators and mediators experienced in community involvement and outreach.

If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact me at (913) 551-7006, or your staff may contact Intergovernmental Liaison Ben Washburn at (913) 551-7364.

Sincerely,

Mark Hague



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