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RHODE ISLAND

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

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July 13, 2004

Ms. Kymberlee Keckler
EPA-NE, CSTAG Member
1 Congress Street (HBT)
Boston, MA 02114-2023

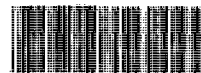
RE: Centredale Manor Restoration Project Superfund Site, CSTAG meeting

Dear Ms. Keckler,

Pursuant to your invitation to give a presentation during the Contaminated Sediments Technical Advisory Group (CSTAG) meeting and our telephone and electronic correspondence, I respectfully submit this letter to you with the purpose of describing the State of Rhode Island's vision for the Centredale Manor Superfund Site. Our vision is consistent with several of the Principles for Managing Contaminated Sediment Risks at Hazardous Waste Sites. The State's focus is broken into three main themes: community involvement, revisiting the interim action to ensure permanency of the remedy, and returning the site to beneficial reuse.

Community involvement has been a cornerstone of the work performed so far, including three removal actions within site boundaries. Two of those removal actions have come within the Centredale Manor/Brook Village property, and have featured constant communication with the managers of both buildings. However, there is a greater community at large that deserves the same inclusion. As the second risk management principle states, *we must continue to involve the community as often as possible*. Through the tireless efforts of the Town of North Providence and groups such as the Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council and the Northern Rhode Island Conservation District, information is disseminated to the public. We must renew those efforts, as well as solicit constructive dialogue from residents and local leadership in the risk assessments that are currently underway, as well as the identification of future land uses.

Speaking of local leadership, the Town of North Providence has been a steadfast partner in all that has been accomplished so far. We have coordinated with their representatives every step of the way, and their cooperation is greatly appreciated. As the project moves forward, coordination with the Town of Johnston and City of Providence will become just as important as the relationship that currently exists with the Town of North Providence. This association strikes to the heart of the third risk management principle. The Town of Johnston and City of Providence should be kept apprised of the progress being made on the project, and we must make every attempt to include their leadership, as well as solicit their input.



Finally, to achieve the ultimate goal of Superfund, a remedy must be chosen and implemented. To date, the project has included three removal actions that have provided immediate protection to human health and the environment. Of the three actions, only the second provided a long-term solution to the problem of removing the contamination from the sediment and nearby floodplain. In that second action, soils were excavated and sent to an off-site treatment facility. The other two actions comprised of capping areas affected by the spread of contaminants. It must be understood that these caps were originally constructed as an interim solution by the EPA removals program to mitigate the risk posed by surficial surface soils at that time. The current condition and long-term effectiveness of these interim caps must be revisited during the remedy selection component of the Record of Decision to ensure permanency of the remedy.

The State remains committed to working with EPA, the community and the stakeholders to return the Woonasquatucket River to recreational uses. Community members have expressed great interest in being able to again use the river and its surroundings for primary and secondary contact activities. The Governor of Rhode Island has recognized this urgency and declared that the goal of the Woonasquatucket River, along with the Blackstone and Pawcatuck Rivers, is to be fishable/swimmable by 2015. While most of the focus on the remedy will fall under ensuring the Woonasquatucket River returns to a fishable, swimmable condition, the a greater vision for, and the ultimate goal of, the Superfund remedy is for the entire area to once again have productive, beneficial uses, including the areas that have been capped as part of the interim actions and other areas of the watershed.

In closing, the State of Rhode Island appreciates the opportunity to provide input to the CSTAG and the participants in the meeting. If you have any questions or would like to discuss the site further, do not hesitate to contact me at (401) 222-2797, extension 7142 or by e-mail at lmaccaro@dem.state.ri.us.

Sincerely,



Louis R. Maccarone, II, Engineer
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