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**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION I - NEW ENGLAND
1 CONGRESS STREET, BOSTON, MA 02114**

October 7, 1999

Mr. . Daniel Varian
Associate Director
Division of Planning
Rhode Island Department
of Administration
1 Capitol Hill- 4th Floor
Providence, RI 02908-5870

RE: Initiation of Intergovernmental Review
Commencement of Fund-Lead Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS)
Centredale Manor Restoration Superfund Site, North Providence, Rhode Island

Dear Mr. Varian:

This letter notifies you of the commencement of a Superfund project funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Specifically, EPA has initiated initial phase of a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS) at the Site referenced above. This project is subject to the state intergovernmental review process. The project is outlined below.

1. SITE NAME: Centredale Manor Restoration Superfund Site
2. LOCATION OF SITE: North Providence, Rhode Island
3. NPL LISTING STATUS: In January of 2000, the Site is expected to be proposed for the listing on the National Priority List (NPL) established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency pursuant to the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (P.L. 96-510). The State of Rhode Island conveyed its support for the inclusion of the Site on the NPL in a letter dated August 20, 1999 from Governor Lincoln Almond to John DeVillars, EPA Regional Administrator.

4. NATURE OF THE PROBLEM: The Centredale Manor property, portions of the Brook Village property, and sections of Woonasquatucket River and associated pond systems are being investigated by EPA. The Centredale Manor Site is located at 2072 and 2074 Smith Street (Route 44) in North Providence, Rhode Island.. Woonasquatucket River runs along the western property line; a drainage swale runs along the eastern portion of the property until it discharges into the Woonasquatucket River in a wetland area in the southern portion of the property.

The property was previously occupied by a chemical company and a drum reclamation company, which were operating from 1940s to early 1970s. In the mid-1970s, the existing buildings at the property were demolished. In the 1970s, RIDOH conducted a number of investigations at the property in response to complaints of fires, odors and fumes. Much of the property is currently covered by roadway, parking lots, and two high-rise residential buildings which were built in 1982, when approximately 6,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil were excavated and approximately 400 drums were inventoried and reportedly disposed off-site. Legible drum labels and visual inspection of residual materials indicated that caustics, halogenated solvents, PCBs, and inks may have been contained in the drums.

EPA involvement in the Site began when EPA conducted a Preliminary Assessment (PA) of the Centredale Manor property in August of 1986. Following detection of elevated dioxin levels in fish, a study conducted by EPA of the Woonasquatucket River (July, 1988 Project Report) found elevated concentrations of dioxin (2,3,7, 8- TCDD) and PCBs in sediments in portions of the river. EPA completed an Expanded Site Inspection (ESI) of the Site in September of 1998. The soil and sediment sampling on the Centredale Manor property and the river downstream from the site in September of 1998 indicated the presence of dioxin above 1 ppb in some areas, including sediment in Allendale Pond. Further surface soil and sediment sampling conducted in winter and summer of 1999 on the Centredale Manor property confirmed the elevated levels of dioxin on the property and also identified impacted residential properties downstream along the river. Current investigations indicate elevated levels of other compounds, including VOCs, SVOCs, and PCBs at the Centredale Manor property. There is also evidence from historical records and geophysical surveys that buried drums may be present on the property.

EPA Removal Program activities have been on-going since January 1999, and include fence installation to restrict access to areas with elevated dioxin levels, collection of additional samples, flood evaluation study, and installation of interim protective caps over areas with elevated dioxin and PCB levels. EPA has initiated remedial activities in August 1999, when it decided to obligate Superfund money to begin initial phase of the RI/FS under federal lead.

Since January 1999, EPA has been conducting search for Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs), and on September 15, 1999 issued Notice Letters to three PRPs, seeking an agreement with them to conduct and finance the remedial and removal activities. It is too early to know whether these negotiations will be successful.

5. DESCRIPTION OF REMEDIAL ACTIVITIES: This project is expected to consist of an

RI/FS meeting the requirements of Section 300.68 of the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP) (40 CFR Part 300). The project includes the evaluation of the nature and extent of contamination by sampling the soils, sediments, groundwater, surface water, air, assessing the impacts to the public health and the environment and evaluating alternatives for site remediation.

6. COMMUNITY RELATIONS ACTIVITIES: Community relations activities are conducted as part of this project to inform, and receive input from, public officials and the affected community.

A Management Action Committee (MAC) consisting of representatives of various local and state elected offices, state regulatory agencies, and community groups has been established to work with EPA in an advisory role regarding communications with the community and in review of technical documents.

Local repositories holding project-specific documents have been established in Johnston and North Providence public libraries. Other activities include preparing a community relations plan, holding public meetings, organizing press conferences, distributing press releases, speaking to concerned citizens' groups, preparing fact sheets.

7. ESTIMATED COST: Estimated cost of the Remedial Investigation is \$3-4 million, 100 percent funded by the U.S. EPA.

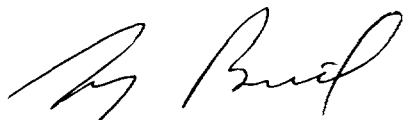
8. PROJECT DATES: Field activities commencement October 1999. Planning for the initial sampling activities is underway. Estimated completion date is June, 2001.

9. STATE CONTACT: Mr. Warren S. Angell
RI Department of Environmental Management
Office of Waste Management
291 Promenade Street
Providence, RI 02908
(401) 277-2797

10. EPA PROJECT MANAGER: Ms. Anna F. Krasko
USEPA Region I
1 Congress Street (HBO)
Boston, MA 02114
(617) 918-1232

Should you wish to submit comments regarding this project, please forward those comments in writing to Ms. Krasko no later than sixty (60) days after receipt of this letter. However, I would appreciate hearing from you at the earliest possible time so that I may ensure that this ongoing project work is not delayed. Should you have any questions or concerns regarding this letter, please call me at (617) 918-1301.

Sincerely,



Larry H. Brill, Chief
Superfund I Branch
Office of Site Remediation and Restoration

cc: Warren Angell, RIDEM
Anna F. Krasko, EPA OSRR ✓
Richard C. Boynton, EPA OSRR
Steve Novick, EPA OSRR
Catherine Garypie, EPA ORC
A. Ralph Mollis, Mayor, North Providence, RI