



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 2
290 Broadway
New York, NY 10007-1866

RECEIVED
MAY 04 2016
BOROUGH MANAGER

APR 29 2016

Scott Heck, Borough Manager
Borough of Ringwood
60 Margaret King Avenue
Ringwood, New Jersey 07456

Dear Mr. Heck:

Thank you for your two letters dated April 5, 2016 concerning the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) cleanup efforts at the Ringwood Mines/Landfill Superfund Site. In these letters, you request a meeting with EPA to discuss EPA's failure to analyze site-related samples for the presence of 1,4-dioxane. You also express concern regarding EPA's dissemination of environmental information to the Ringwood Community Advisory Group (CAG) and the public.

As you are aware, representatives of EPA and the Borough of Ringwood participated in a conference call on April 15, 2016 to discuss issues raised in your letters. Vincent Mann, a representative of the Ringwood Community Advisory Group (CAG), also participated in this conference call, as did Brian Bussa, a representative of Ford.

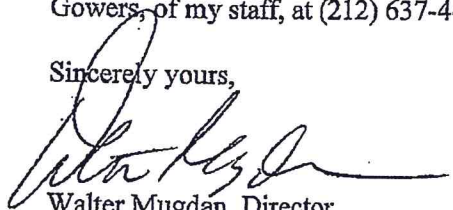
In your correspondence you suggest that subsequent to the issuance of EPA's Contract Laboratory Program's (CLP) Statement of Work in August 2007, EPA's laboratory should have analyzed split-samples collected for 1,4-dioxane, and that EPA should have required Ford to do so as well. Please note that 1,4-dioxane was not included on the Trace-level Target Compound List used by our CLP from August 2007 until August 2014. However, during this timeframe 1,4-dioxane remained a target compound for aqueous samples expected to contain concentrations above drinking water levels (i.e., low concentration water) as well as low and medium concentration soil samples. EPA's decision to not require trace level analysis for 1,4-dioxane in samples analyzed through its CLP was based upon poor laboratory experiences in analyzing for 1,4-dioxane at these levels. Given that organic contaminants detected in groundwater at the site are routinely present at or near drinking water standards, EPA's groundwater and surface water split samples have been and continue to be analyzed for trace level contaminants. Analyses required of Ford's consultant during this timeframe are consistent with those utilized by EPA. In August 2014, 1,4-dioxane was moved to the semi-volatile organic Target Compound List used by our CLP and is now routinely analyzed for in EPA's split samples and samples collected by Ford's environmental consultant, when semi-volatile organic analyses are required.

You also urged EPA to share all site-related information with the public, including drinking water data generated by the North Jersey District Water Supply Commission (NJDWSC) and the Borough of Ringwood, as soon as it becomes available. EPA agrees that timely updates to communities on new developments at Superfund sites is important to the effectiveness of cleanup efforts. To that end, EPA has made the results of its investigations, as well as drinking water results provided by the NJDWSC, available to the public on its site-specific webpage. Furthermore, EPA has released Community Updates to inform the public of the results of groundwater and drinking water data, as they becomes available. In addition, EPA representatives have, and will continue to share available groundwater and drinking water data with the community during routine meetings of the Ringwood CAG.

Finally, you express concern as to whether EPA still believes that the Contingency Remedy selected for the O'Connor Disposal Area (OCDA) in the June 30, 2014 Record of Decision will be protective of human health and the environment, once implemented. EPA does not believe that the recent detections of 1,4-dioxane in groundwater and surface water in the Peters Mine Pit Area of the site call into question the protectiveness of the containment remedy for the OCDA. EPA representatives have reiterated this determination during recent meetings of the Ringwood CAG and in discussions with the media. However, EPA will continue to evaluate new site-related data as it is generated to ensure the protectiveness of this cleanup plan.

If you have any questions regarding this matter or the site in general, please contact Joseph Gowers, of my staff, at (212) 637-4413.

Sincerely yours,



Walter Mugdan, Director
Emergency and Remedial Response Division