



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY ENGINEER DIVISION, GREAT LAKES AND OHIO RIVER
CORPS OF ENGINEERS
550 MAIN STREET
CINCINNATI, OH 45202

May 3, 2016

Mr. Craig W. Butler
Director, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
P.O. Box 1049
Columbus, OH 43216-1049

Dear Director Butler:

This letter is in response to your letter dated April 26, 2016, regarding the portion of Cleveland Lake Area #1 (CLA-1) and an adjacent area where Ohio EPA has detected elevated levels of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs). As per previous correspondence from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) on March 10 and 21, 2016, USACE continues to advocate for a collaborative, science based discussion with Ohio EPA. Based on our thorough evaluation of sediment data and the location and characteristics of CLA-1, we firmly believe that the lake bottom sediment in this area poses no risk to Cleveland's drinking water.

CLA-1 is nine miles from the shoreline, in about 60 feet of water, and is miles downstream from Cleveland's water intakes. No scientific evidence supports the hypothesis that a "toxic blob" is migrating towards the water intakes.

USACE has shared information with Ohio EPA and the Cleveland Plain Dealer to help inform this discussion, and I strongly encourage coordination among the relevant state and federal organizations, led by the U.S Environmental Protection Agency.

Lake Erie at one time was utilized for many types of industrial disposal practices that would not be acceptable today under the Clean Water Act. While the Corps of Engineers will not characterize and address contaminants of unknown sources in the entire lake bottom, it will support as appropriate, any efforts by Ohio, as the owner of the lake bottom, to investigate the source of the contaminants and build a science-based understanding of their impacts.

Please do not hesitate to contact me directly to discuss your concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard G. Kaiser".

Digitally signed by
KAISER,RICHARD,GEORGE.1100463519
DN: c=US, o=U.S. Government, ou=DoD, ou=PKI,
ou=USA
cn=KAISER,RICHARD,GEORGE.1100463519
Date: 2016.05.03 16:38:08 -0400

Richard G. Kaiser
Brigadier General, U.S. Army
Commanding