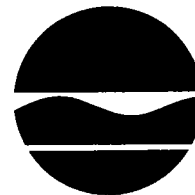


New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

Division of Solid & Hazardous Materials
Bureau of Hazardous Waste Facilities
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John P. Cahill
Commissioner

December 29, 1997

Ms. Justina Wesley
Project Manager
HTRW Branch
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Baltimore District
P.O. Box 1715
Baltimore, MD 21203-1715

Dear Ms. Wesley:

Re: Lake Ontario Ordnance Works - 60% Design Meeting

I would like to thank you for being invited to the December 4, 1997 meeting on the 60 % Remedial Design for the Lake Ontario Ordnance Works (LOOW). As you are aware, the Department considers the remediation of contamination, due to Federal Government activities at the former LOOW, to be a priority. The meeting was very productive and will assist in achieving the remedial goals of the project.

Based on discussions held at the December 4, 1997 meeting, I would like to clarify the Department's understanding and position on several issues raised.

Funding:

As stated in the October 14, 1997 letter from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District, the interim removal actions which are the subject of the 60 % Remedial Design were not included in the final list of projects to be funded for 1998. The USACE is pursuing to receive partial (up to \$2 Million) funds through the Pre-placed Remedial Action Contractor (PRAC) program. In order to receive funding from this source the design must be ready when the money becomes available. Even if the design is finalized, the approval to receive funding via this program is not guaranteed. The Department again expresses its strong opposition to further delays in the remediation of the former Lake Ontario Ordnance Works (LOOW) in the town of Porter, Niagara County. It is imperative that Department of Defense officials, in charge of funding decisions, be made aware of the importance of this project and all possible funding sources explored so that the approved interim remedial actions can be implemented as soon as possible.

Project Schedule:

It is the Department's understanding that, due to funding constraints, the Interim removal Actions will be broken into two portions. The first portion of the project will include the TNT pipelines, chemical waste sewer line and associated lift stations, Asbestos abatement of buildings on the Somerset Group property, and removal of Miscellaneous chemicals and oils at the Somerset Group property. Dependant on funding, this portion is to be implemented during the 1998 field season. The interim removal actions for area A (buried drum trench) and area B (former burn area) will be addressed in the second portion. The Department concurs that, given the limited funding available, the prioritization of the projects in the first portion is a reasonable approach.

Clean Up Levels:

The cleanup goal of the Department is to restore inactive hazardous waste sites to predisposal conditions, to the extent feasible and authorized by law. However, it is recognized that restoration to predisposal conditions will not always be technically or economically feasible. When it has been determined that the cleanup of a site to predisposal conditions is not possible or feasible, the Department follows the guidelines listed in NYSDEC TAGM number HWR-94-4046. As an alternative to the cleanup objectives listed in Appendix A of TAGM HWR-94-4046, a human health risk assessment may be undertaken to determine a site specific cleanup level. The proposal of alternative cleanup levels must be approved by New York State prior to their application as part of a remedial design.

Project Specific Comments:

TNT Lines:

Due to potential explosives hazards, the USACE needs to determine the amount of unexploded ordnance (UXO) technician support needed for this project. The Cost of UXO support will need to be factored into the projected costs.

The results of the Waterways Experimental Station (WES) treatability studies on TNT contaminated materials is crucial to the finalization of the remedial design. The results must be forwarded to the Department as soon as possible for review.

A procedure for "post-removal" sampling and decision making needs to be determined.

Chemical Waste Sewer Lines:

It was determined at the meeting that the same approach will be used for the underground lines as is proposed for the In-Place closure of the TNT lines (video survey, tie-in

evaluation, pressure washing and removal of liquids and solids, post-cleaning confirmation and sealing of the lines).

Asbestos Abatement:

Based on discussions held at our December 4, 1997 meeting, it is the Department's understanding that a supplemental asbestos survey has been conducted and that the results of the survey will be available in the near future. Pending review of the survey results, the scope, magnitude and cost of asbestos abatement can be estimated.

Area B (Former Burn Pit):

Sufficient soils characterization data is not currently available to accurately estimate the volumes of material which will require hazardous or non-hazardous disposal. Since this project is not scheduled for implementation as part of the 1998 field season, further evaluation of the costs/benefits of additional characterization sampling should be performed.

The Department again would like to express its position in pursuing the implementation of the approved interim removal actions as soon as possible. If you have any questions, please contact me at (518) 457-9253.

Sincerely,



Kent D. Johnson
Engineering Geologist II

cc: D. Brouwer, New York COE
J. Syms, Somerset Group
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T. Sharp, Town of Lewiston
T. Beachy, Town of Porter
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J. Strickland, DEC Region 9
C. Stein, USEPA Region II