

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, March 25, 2010 10:05 PM

To: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Subject: Bingham Facility Update - March 25

Friends and neighbors:

Earlier today we reported to the N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources our findings regarding a strong odor coming from a septic tank at the Bingham Facility that personnel on the site recently detected. (That report is attached to this e-mail.) After extensive testing by two separate companies, we have identified that the samples contained chemicals related to work being done in the construction of the new building on site. The chemicals are toluene, a common solvent; ethylene glycol, an antifreeze; and propylene glycol, a coolant. These chemicals have been used during recent work on Building 3, including the addition of propylene glycol into the cooling system, the installation of epoxy flooring and various finishing activities.

The chemicals reached the septic tank through the sewer lines from the new building. Because we have shut down the wastewater treatment systems on the site, these chemicals have been completely contained; that is, since we are no longer treating the wastewater on site, these chemicals remained inside a storage area used for holding wastewater until it can be pumped and hauled away. As a reminder, no wastewater is currently being treated on the site, so no water is being sent to the holding ponds or being spray irrigated on the site.

Before the identification of the chemicals, the wastewater was being hauled to OWASA for treatment, but OWASA considers the concentration of toluene in particular to be too high for treatment in its system. Therefore, we have contacted Clean Harbors, a specialist in this field, to dispose of the contaminated wastewater and to clean out the pipes, septic tank and storage basins. That process began Monday. Once the cleanup is complete, we will resume the previous pump and haul activities to OWASA.

While we are thankful that the contamination has been contained within our system, we are concerned that these chemicals were allowed to be washed down the drain in the first place. To ensure that such a mistake does not happen again, we will be more closely monitoring construction activities by our contractors and educating them about the absolute necessity of disposing of all wastes in a manner consistent with all laws and regulations and with our capabilities on the site.

Also attached you will find two other reports that we sent to DENR yesterday. One is in response to the March 3 Notice of Violation about a pipe fitting failure on the spray field. DENR had required us to repair the piping even though we are no longer spray irrigating at the time, so we have complied with that requirement.

The other report details our long-term approach to the treatment and disposal of wastewater at the Bingham Facility, which DENR had requested in a letter February 23. As you will be able to see in this detailed schedule of tasks for us and our consultants, McKim & Creed, we are determined to solve the problems at the Bingham Facility in a thorough but timely way.

Sincerely,

Dwayne