



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 2
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NEW YORK, NY 10007-1866

APR 1 2016

Honorable Robert J. Menendez
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20515

Honorable Corey A. Booker
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Menendez and Booker:

Thank you for your letter of March 17, 2016 in which you raise several issues related to the Ringwood Mines/Landfill Superfund site and to the sharing of important information at all New Jersey Superfund Sites. You urged the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to continue monitoring for 1,4-Dioxane in groundwater, surface water and drinking water to ensure that no public health threat emerges. You also requested that the EPA keep both the public and your office apprised of monitoring efforts and results on an ongoing and regular basis. We will continue this monitoring and keep the public and your offices informed.

Data collected from new and existing monitoring wells at the Ringwood Mines site will be used to determine the potential threats posed by the groundwater and, if appropriate, identify alternatives to address such contamination. In addition, the EPA will continue to require periodic monitoring of groundwater and surface water quality at and downstream of the site to ensure that contamination does not impact water quality in the Wanaque Reservoir. The EPA is in close communication with the North Jersey District Water Supply Commission (NJDWSC) on its monitoring efforts. Recent testing by NJDWSC of the Ringwood Creek, Wanaque Reservoir and nearby groundwater monitoring wells has shown no detections of 1,4-Dioxane in surface water or groundwater. We have provided a link on our project website to these monitoring results.

The EPA is committed to using a variety of tools to quickly disseminate information to the Ringwood community when new information becomes available. In addition to sending summary information via email with links to data sets on project websites, we can offer periodic conference calls with community members, local officials and members of the Community Advisory Group (CAG) between CAG meetings. Regular calls can also be scheduled with your offices to discuss the Ringwood Mines site and new developments at other Superfund sites in New Jersey.

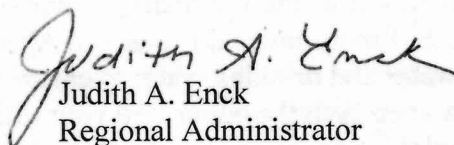
You requested that the EPA assess the potential for improvements to our public notification and community outreach processes and that we include discussions with affected stakeholders to better understand community concerns at all federal Superfund sites in New Jersey. We will do that.

EPA has identified some improvements, including development and use of template "emerging issues" flyers, fact sheets and communications strategies that can be tailored to a site or issued quickly for communicating new developments at Superfund sites. We will also promote greater awareness and use of independent technical assistance resources available to communities through EPA's Technical Assistance Services for Communities program.

The EPA agrees that full transparency and proactive, timely updates to communities on new developments is critically important to the effectiveness of Superfund cleanups and restoring public confidence in the health and safety of their communities. We will continue to keep your office updated on our efforts to improve EPA's notifications and outreach processes.

Thank you for your interest in EPA's cleanup and outreach efforts at the Ringwood Mines site. If you have further questions, please contact me at (212) 637-5000 or have your staff contact Michael McGowan, Chief of the Intergovernmental and Community Affairs Branch, at (212) 637-4972.

Sincerely,


Judith A. Enck
Regional Administrator