



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION III
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029

APR 19 2017

The Honorable John C. Carney, Jr.
Governor of Delaware
Tatnall Building
150 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. South
2nd Floor
Dover, Delaware 19901

Dear Governor Carney:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is considering proposing the Hockessin Ground Water Plume (Site), located in Hockessin, New Castle County, Delaware, to the Superfund National Priorities List (NPL), pursuant to authority under Section 105 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), as amended, 42 U.S.C. Section 9605. The NPL is a list of priority sites with releases of hazardous substances, pollutants or contaminants that require evaluation for possible remediation. It is EPA's policy to determine the State's position on sites that EPA is considering placing on the NPL. With this letter, EPA is seeking the concurrence of the State of Delaware on adding this Site to the NPL.

This Site is located in a commercial section of the town of Hockessin, Delaware where multiple comingled groundwater plumes containing tetrachloroethylene (PCE) and other hazardous compounds are impacting public drinking water wells. The site was discovered in 2002 when a statewide public drinking water supply sampling report found possible PCE in public supply wells in the watershed area. In response to the discovery of contamination in the wells, the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) investigated multiple commercial businesses in the Hockessin area that were thought to use PCE and other volatile organic contaminants. The extent of the groundwater plumes is not fully understood or delineated. The DNREC has requested EPA's assistance with the management and remediation of this Site due to the complex karst geology, and hydrology. The affected public drinking water wells and three residential wells that were also found to be contaminated are treated, and the treated drinking water meets all state and federal safe drinking water standards.

Throughout the listing and subsequent Superfund cleanup process, EPA is committed to working cooperatively with the State and local communities in an open and transparent manner. EPA will attempt to find a responsible party to fund the cleanup of the property, but if no responsible parties are found, EPA would need to finance the cleanup. Prior to any fund-financed remedial action, EPA and the State will collaborate in the development of a Superfund contract to provide the assurances required by CERCLA including, but not limited to, the State's statutory cost share of 10% for the remedial action and assumption of operation and maintenance responsibilities.



With your concurrence, EPA intends to propose the Hockessin Ground Water Plume to the NPL in September of 2017. A written response to this letter from your office is requested by May 31, 2017, indicating whether Delaware supports placement of the site on the NPL. Adherence to this date is critical to successfully including this site in an upcoming NPL rule-making process. EPA will continue to work closely with and seek input from DNREC as the listing process proceeds. We appreciate your consideration of this matter.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or have your staff contact Mr. Brian Hamilton, EPA's Delaware Liaison at 215-814-5497.

Sincerely,



Cecil Rodrigues
Acting Regional Administrator

cc: Honorable Shawn M. Garvin
Secretary, Delaware Department of Natural Resources
and Environmental Control

