



SUPERFUND RECORD
Consolidate
17
6923

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
State House
Providence, Rhode Island 02903-1196
401-222-2080

LINCOLN ALMOND
GOVERNOR

August 20, 1999

John DeVillars, Regional Administrator
United States Environmental Protection Agency-Region I
1 Congress Street
Boston, MA 02114-2023

Dear Mr. DeVillars:

I am writing to convey the State of Rhode Island's support for the inclusion of the former Metro-Atlantic Chemical property (currently occupied by the Centredale Manor and Brook Village housing facilities) on the federal National Priorities List. In doing so, I must emphasize that the investigation and ultimate remediation of the environmental contamination emanating from this site must be done with the highest sensitivity to the needs of the surrounding community and the downstream neighborhoods.

Community representatives have repeatedly expressed their desire to see the Woonasquatucket River cleaned up and the dioxin problem solved. Mayor Mollis of North Providence and the local Management Action Committee have indicated their support for NPL listing of this site through the attached letter. Without a viable responsible party readily available to clean up the pollution, we look to the Superfund program to restore this community resource to the point where it is not presenting a risk to public health or this urban ecosystem.

As the site progresses through the Superfund process, we also urge you to be sensitive to the downstream efforts to redevelop Brownfields and construct the Woonasquatucket River Greenway. There have been countless hours invested by many parties to bring these properties back to beneficial reuse as well as begin the design and construction of this critical urban greenway. Related efforts, including the construction of the children's instructional Buttonhole Golf Course, are also underway. We must ensure that the Superfund process complements these urban restoration efforts rather than adding more barriers, and environmental stigma, to this area.

6923

John DeVillars, Regional Administrator

August 20, 1999

Page 2

In closing, we encourage EPA to continue the search for viable responsible parties to be held accountable for this serious environmental problem. The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management will work closely with your Superfund program representatives to ensure that a protective, cost-effective clean up is instituted to restore this resource and protect the surrounding community from this chemical contamination.

I also wish to thank you for your support to date on characterizing the problem, taking immediate measures to protect the public, and including community leaders at all levels in the discussions on the resolution to these problems. We hope that the intergovernmental communication and cooperation continues as the site progresses through the Superfund process.

Sincerely,


Lincoln Almond

cc: Jan Reitsma, Director, Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
John Swen, Director, Rhode Island Economic Development Corporation
Senator John Chafee
Senator Jack Reed
Representative Patrick Kennedy
Representative Bob Weygand