



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

NOV 29 2011

R5-11-001-8869C

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF:

The Honorable Reid Ribble
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Ribble:

Thank you for your November 8, 2011 letter regarding public involvement in the process to reevaluate the cleanup plan for Menominee River sediment that has been contaminated with arsenic from the Ansul facility in Marinette, Wisconsin.

On December 1, 2011, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is planning to meet in Chicago with Ansul representatives to discuss the company's proposal to revise the cleanup plan. The company's proposal is available at www.epa.gov/reg5rcra/wptdiv/sites/ansul/index.html. EPA also plans to meet with the City of Marinette Common Council prior to completing our review of the company's new proposal. If EPA were to move forward with any significant changes to the existing cleanup plan, there would be an opportunity for the public to comment.

EPA held a formal public comment period before selecting the existing cleanup plan for contamination in soil, groundwater, and river sediment from Ansul operations. EPA carefully considered these public comments before selecting the existing cleanup plan – which is being implemented through a 2009 Administrative Order on Consent, entered pursuant to the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act.

Ansul's sediment cleanup work is necessary to restore beneficial uses of the Menominee River Area of Concern, <http://www.epa.gov/greatlakes/aoc/menominee.html>. Ansul has already begun work by constructing a sub-surface barrier wall around the site to prevent further migration of contaminated groundwater into the Menominee River.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions and to arrange a call, please contact me, or your staff may contact Ronna Beckmann or Denise Gawlinski, the Region 5 Congressional Liaisons, at (312) 886-3000.

Sincerely,

Susan Hedman
Regional Administrator