UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF
SOLID WASTE AND EMERGENCY
RESPONSE

JAN 19 2012

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Region 3 Request for a Emergency Removal Action at the Dimock Residential Groundwater Site in Dimock Township, Susquehanna County, Pennsylvania

FROM: Gilberto Irizarry, Director
Program Operations and Coordination Division

TO: Lawrence M. Stanton, Director
Office of Emergency Management

This memorandum requests your concurrence with the response proposed under the Region 3 Action Memorandum request for an emergency removal action at the Dimock Residential Groundwater Site. The actual approval of this action memo is done by the Region 3 Approving Official (Associate Director of the EPA Region 3, Office of Preparedness and Response, Hazardous Site Cleanup Division) or designee. Region 3 has submitted this action memo for concurrence to OEM under the nationally significant or precedent-setting policy. The site is not on the National Priorities List (NPL).

This removal action has been reviewed by a number of headquarters offices, including OGC, OECA, OSWER, and the Office of the Administrator.

Based on information from the draft final action memo and discussions with Region 3 and other pertinent headquarters offices, I recommend that we concur with the action proposed by Region 3. Please indicate your decision on the attached concurrence memorandum.

Attachment

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

SUBJECT: Concurrence on a Request for Funding for a Removal Action at the Dimock Residential Groundwater Site, Intersection of PA Routes 29 & 2024 Dimock Township, Susquehanna County, Pennsylvania

FROM: Dennis P. Carney, Associate Division Director
Hazardous Site Cleanup Division (3HS30)
Office of Preparedness and Response

DATE: 1/18/12

TO: Lawrence M. Stanton, Director
Office of Emergency Management

ATTN: Gilberto Irizarry, Director
Program Operations and Coordination Division

ISSUE:

EPA Region III is requesting concurrence on the attached "Request for Funding for a Removal Action at the Dimock Residential Groundwater Site, Intersection of PA Routes 29 & 2024 Dimock Township, Susquehanna County, Pennsylvania. Based on available data, the OSC has determined that home wells in the Dimock area contain hazardous substances some of which are not naturally found in the environment. The hazardous substances are at levels that present health concerns at four of the homes. These specific homes have been dependent upon donated water for drinking and/or household use and the reliability of the sources for donated water is at this point uncertain. The presence of hazardous substances constitutes a release or substantial threat of a release and the situation meets the criteria for conducting a removal action under Section 300.415 of the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP). The OSC has determined that funds in the amount of $100,000 are needed to mitigate the health concerns initially at four homes and therefore proposed the actions included in this Action Memorandum. The action includes home well sampling at approximately 61 homes within the Site area, based upon historical information and a sampling rationale developed. This sampling may result in recommendations for further EPA action, including the provision of alternate water at additional homes.

The OSC has determined that this Site meets the criteria for a Removal Action under Section 300.415 of the NCP. Because the conditions at the Site meet the criteria set forth in Section 300.415 of the NCP, and the Region finds that the conditions at the Site described above constitute a public health concern warranting attention, I am requesting your concurrence on the request for funding for the removal action based on redelegation of authority R-14-2 pertaining to nationally significant or precedent-setting removals. This approval is provided pursuant to

EPA delegation of authority 14-2 which gives the Associate Division Director of the EPA Region III, Office of Preparedness and Response, Hazardous Site Cleanup Division authority to approve CERCLA removal actions.

Because the action appears to be nationally significant and/or precedent-setting, the Region will continue to coordinate closely with Headquarters. EPA also will maintain coordination and communications with PADEP. In taking this action, EPA is aware of and has considered the potential applicability of the natural gas exclusion under CERCLA, the Bentsen Amendment under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), and the exclusions to the definition of 'underground injection' under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). EPA has concluded that this action is appropriate under CERCLA at this time.

The Action Memorandum is attached for your review. My approval awaits your concurrence.

Concur

Director, Office of Emergency Management — 1/19/2012 Date

According to the redelegation, authority to non-concur remains with Assistant Administrator. If you choose not to concur on this action, please forward this memorandum to the Assistant Administrator.

Non-Concur:

Assistant Administrator for Solid Waste and Emergency Response — Date

cc: Mathy Stanislaus, AA-OSWER

Attachment: January 18, 2012 Action Memorandum