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

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF:

MAY 09 2012

S-6J

Mr. Paul Kysel
President
PINES Group
[redacted]
Exemption 6

Dear Mr. Kysel:

Thank you for your letter of April 20, 2012 to Regional Administrator Susan Hedman regarding the Town of Pines Superfund Alternative Site.

Your letter requests that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency post the PINES Group's reports and remove EPA's reviews of those reports from the EPA website. Additionally, you have requested that EPA reevaluate the reports. After considering the concerns presented in your letter we respectfully decline your request.

Regional health physicist, Eugene Jablonowski, who has also worked in the past with Larry Jensen, reviewed both the PINES Group's reports and the contractor's response to those reports. Both the contractor and Mr. Jablonowski found numerous flaws in the PINES Group's reports, and we are confident that their work is scientifically sound. On February 29, 2012, EPA provided its comments to the PINES Group citing various problems with the quality of the PINES risk assessment and the data it was based on. We stand by that review. As a result, the reports will not be posted on EPA's website. However, the reports were carefully considered and reviewed, and therefore will be part of the administrative record supporting selection of a remedy for the site. Due to concerns about potential risks that were raised by the PINES group and a few members of the community at the last public open house, we posted the February 29, 2012 response to the PINES group's reports on our website.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have any further questions, please contact Matthew Ohl, Remedial Project Manager, at (312) 886-4442 or ohl.matthew@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

for Richard C. Karl, Director
Superfund Division

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