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

MAR 2 5 2015

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF:

Mr. Larry Wawronowicz
Tribal Natural Resource Director
Lac Du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians
P.O. Box 67
2500 Highway 47 North
Lac Du Flambeau, Wisconsin 54538

RE: Tower Standard and Haskell Lake Sites

Dear Mr. Wawronowicz:

The Environmental Protection Agency received your May 14, 2014 letter regarding petroleum groundwater contamination with the Lac du Flambeau reservation. We are writing to affirm that EPA will continue to be involved in the project referred to as Tower Standard, which includes the areas mentioned in your letter. As you may be aware, my staff has been in contact with Lac Du Flambeau tribal environmental staff over the past year as we have conducted private well sampling near the Tower Standard site.

EPA has jurisdiction over leaking underground storage tank (LUST) sites located in Indian Country. Since the Haskell Lake site is within the exterior boundaries of the Lac du Flambeau reservation, we are, and will remain, in the lead on this project.

In general, EPA works with owners and operators to clean up LUST sites and provide oversight to the owners with respect to those cleanups. In those cases where there is no identified or viable owner/operator, or when there is a release that requires prompt action to protect human health or the environment, EPA can initiate a process to access federal LUST trust funds to implement corrective action.

In 2014, EPA Region 5 accessed the LUST Trust fund in order to conduct private well sampling to determine if groundwater contamination has impacted the drinking water wells. Going forward, we will be contacting the current owners of the property who are the responsible parties for the Tower Standard site to determine their willingness and ability to pay for work at the site. We understand that the State of Wisconsin has reopened the site under its Petroleum Environmental Cleanup Fund Award program, which may provide funding for additional work going forward.

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Additionally, Region 5 has begun the process of requesting EPA's Office of Underground Storage Tanks for additional funds to investigate ground water contamination at the Tower Standard site and surrounding area.

We understand your concerns about the Haskell Lake area and residents, and appreciate the valuable input that we have received from the tribe about the Haskell Lake area. We intend to develop an initial plan for investigation, and will consult with you on a government to government basis about that plan before implementing it. The EPA looks forward to working with you and your staff to ensure that this area is assessed and remediated in accordance with federal requirements. If you have any questions concerning the site, please contact me at (312) 886-1479 or your staff may contact Sherry Kamke at (312) 353-5794.

Sincerely,

Gary Victorine

Gary Victorine, Chief
RCRA Branch
Land and Chemicals Division

cc: Kristen Hansen, Environmental Specialist
Judy Fassbender, WDNR