To: Byl, John[JByl@wnj.com]
Cc: Clark, Jacqueline[clark.jacqueline@epa.gov]; Williams, Thomas[williams.tom@epa.gov]; Asque, Gillian[asque.gillian@epa.gov]
From: Nelson, Leverett
Sent: Thur 1/11/2018 2:48:26 AM
Subject: Re: EPA orders further assessment work at Wolverine tannery, landfill in Rockford, Michigan

Thank you, John. -Rett

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 10, 2018, at 7:22 PM, Byl, John <JByl@wnj.com> wrote:

Rett, here is the press release issued by Wolverine. You can also find the press release and other information on the Wolverine blog: WeAreWolverine.com

Wolverine Worldwide Expressed Continued Commitment to Working with the MDEQ and EPA

Today Wolverine Worldwide expressed our continued commitment to working with the MDEQ and EPA. The anticipated agency filings will formalize processes for sampling, testing and immediate water solutions.

"We have been working collaboratively with the MDEQ and EPA to address their concerns and implement solutions to give the community confidence in its water. The anticipated actions by the MDEQ and EPA stem from efforts already underway and formalize the work and testing already being done by Wolverine," said Chris Hufnagel, Wolverine's senior vice president and head of strategy. "This is our hometown and these are our friends, families and neighbors. We are committed to doing the right thing and seeing this through to the end."

To read the full press release, click the link below.

WOLVERINE WORLDWIDE EXPRESSES CONTINUED COMMITMENT TO WORKING WITH THE MDEQ AND EPA

John V. Byl

Warner Norcross & Judd LLP

Direct – 616-752-2149

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jbyl@wnj.com

From: Nelson, Leverett [mailto:nelson.leverett@epa.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, January 10, 2018 6:06 PM
To: Byl, John <JByl@wnj.com>
Cc: Clark, Jacqueline <clark.jacqueline@epa.gov>; Williams, Thomas <williams.tom@epa.gov>; Asque, Gillian <asque.gillian@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: EPA orders further assessment work at Wolverine tannery, landfill in Rockford, Michigan

John-

The news release was just issued. You should receive a .pdf of the UAO including attachments in the next several minutes, if you don't have it already. Thank you

-Rett

T. Leverett Nelson

Regional Counsel

U.S. EPA, Region 5

Chicago, IL

From: Lippert, Allison
Sent: Wednesday, January 10, 2018 4:58 PM
To: Kaplan, Robert <kaplan.robert@epa.gov>; Stepp, Cathy <stepp.cathy@epa.gov>; Chu, Ed <Chu.Ed@epa.gov>; Nelson, Leverett <nelson.leverett@epa.gov>; Kelley, Jeff

<kelley.jeff@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: EPA orders further assessment work at Wolverine tannery, landfill in Rockford, Michigan

Press release is out

From: Allison Lippert [mailto:lippert.allison@epa.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, January 10, 2018 4:54 PM
To: Lippert, Allison <lippert.allison@epa.gov>
Subject: EPA orders further assessment work at Wolverine tannery, landfill in Rockford, Michigan

<image002.jpg>
CONTACT: Allison Lippert, lippert.allison@epa.gov, 312-353-0967

EPA orders further assessment work at Wolverine tannery, landfill in Rockford, Michigan

CHICAGO (January 10, 2018) – Today, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency issued an administrative order to Wolverine World Wide Inc. to conduct further assessment and potential cleanup work at its former tannery and at the House Street landfill in Rockford, Mich. The order requires additional investigation and characterization of soil, groundwater and river sediment contaminated with hazardous substances including arsenic, chromium, mercury and ammonia. This is EPA's most recent activity in its ongoing response to Wolverine contamination issues.

EPA is working with the state of Michigan on a coordinated enforcement approach at the Wolverine sites in and around Rockford that are contaminated with PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) and hazardous constituents. Also today, Michigan issued an order to Wolverine to address drinking water contamination from its operations.

Last month, EPA staff assisted Michigan's response efforts by sampling for PFAS in surface water from the Rogue River and Rum Creek, groundwater from two Wolverine industrial properties and drinking water at affected residences. EPA will notify residents of their individual sampling results as soon as they are available.

Wolverine manufactures several footwear brands and historically treated its products with PFAS compounds. The tanning process also used chrome and other hazardous substances. Contamination is believed to be from the company's former tannery, shoe factory manufacturing operations and related waste disposal activities.

For more information: https://www.epa.gov/mi/wolverine-world-wide-tannery

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