ADMINISTRATOR'S VISIT TO EAST CHICAGO, INDIANA

Issue: **EPA Reviewing the Indiana Department of Environmental Management's RCRA Permit for Tradebe Treatment and Recycling, LLC – East Chicago, Indiana**

Message:

- EPA is engaged in the deliberative process over whether Tradebe's thermal desorption units (TDUs) should be exempt from the RCRA permit being renewed by IDEM.
- EPA and Tradebe held a technical discussion on April 12, 2017.

Background/Status:

Tradebe is a waste management company at 4343 Kennedy Avenue, East Chicago, Indiana, operating under a RCRA permit subject to renewal by IDEM. Historically, IDEM has exempted two TDUs at the facility that are used by Tradebe to recycle and sell solvent degreasers from hazardous waste feeds, pursuant to RCRA's recycling exemption at 40 C.F.R. § 261.6(c). In July, 2016, the Environmental Technology Council, a national trade association, wrote to EPA asking EPA to review the TDUs' exemption status in light of alleged similarities with a TDU in EPA Region 6 that was judicially determined to require a permit due to significant amounts of fuel blending and thermal destruction of hazardous wastes. See U.S. v. Rineco Chemical Industries, Inc., 2009 WL 801608 (E.D. Ark., 2009). ETC stated that it would consider a RCRA citizen's suit if Tradebe's TDUs remain un-permitted. Since the letter, EPA has had consultations with IDEM and separate meetings with ETC and Tradebe, and is currently evaluating technical information obtained from Tradebe in order to make an appropriate decision in this matter.

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