THE CITY OF Kalamazoo

Office of the City Manager
241 West South Street
Kalamazoo, MI 49007-4796
Phone: 269.337.8046
Fax: 269.337.8182
www.kalamazoocity.org

February 10, 2017

Mr. Michael Berkoff, RPM
United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region 5 – Mail Code: SR-6J
77 West Jackson Street
Chicago, Illinois 60604

RE: Continued Involvement by the City of Kalamazoo with the Allied Landfill Site (OU-1)

Dear Mr. Berkoff:

Thank you for your continued efforts with the Kalamazoo River/Allied Superfund Site (Site). Thank you, as well, for your concerns regarding the recent health issues of Jerome Kisscorni, Assistant City Manager. Jerome is improving daily and will be returning to his duties here at the City shortly.

Unfortunately, due to Jerome's health issues, the City was unable to completely respond during the meeting with International Paper and the bankruptcy trustee. While the information and proposal provided by International Paper was of interest to the City, considerable more discussion will be necessary in order to fully respond to this opportunity. The City does consider this information to be a good starting point for continuing discussions between all the parties involved, including USEPA-Region 5, and the City feels it would be in the parties' mutual interests for such follow up discussions to occur soon.

The City remains committed to working with all the parties to ensure that the remedy for the Site is designed and implemented consistent with the protectiveness and reuse objectives in the Record of Decision (ROD). In that connection, brownfield efforts near the Site are already underway. For example, the redevelopment of the former Performance Paper property located north of Alcott Street continues with Kalamazoo County recently committing to move their Human Services Department offices to the former Illinois Envelope Building on that property. The rehabilitation of this critical area along Portage Creek (including the Site and other properties around it) is extremely vital to our community.

City staff will be in contact with both International Paper and the bankruptcy trustee to determine when follow-up meetings can be scheduled to discuss productive and holistic ways the Site and surrounding properties can be best utilized during and after the remediation process. It is requested that USEPA-Region 5 encourage and, as may be appropriate, facilitate efforts among the interested parties to pursue a resolution of all outstanding Site remedy planning matters in a timely manner. City staff will also be contacting your office in the near future to determine what the appropriate next steps in this process will be.

The City appreciates the opportunity it has had to be directly involved throughout the RI/FS and ROD process for the Site. The City understands and appreciates the many efforts you have made to ensure that public input and community considerations were considered. For those same reasons, the City desires to remain appropriately engaged throughout the Site's RD/RA stage in the Superfund process.

I look forward to our future meetings and contacts. Please call me if you have questions.

Sincerely,

James Ritsema
City Manager

cc: Steven Ginski, International Paper
Jay A. Steinberg, President, Lyondell Environmental Response Trustee
file

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Jay A. Steinberg, President
Lyondell Environmental Response Trustee
35 East Wacker Drive
Suite 1550
Chicago, IL 60601

RE: Continued Involvement by the City of Kalamazoo with the Allied Landfill Site (OU-1)

Dear Mr. Steinberg:

Thank you so very much for organizing and presenting at the meeting that was held recently in Chicago, Illinois with the City of Kalamazoo. Please find attached a letter to Michael Berkoff, USEPA-Region 5, which outlines the City's continued interest in the Allied Landfill Site.

I would respectfully request that you contact City Attorney Clyde Robinson at (269) 337-8185 as soon as it is convenient to set up a follow up meeting in line with the City's continuing interest in pursuing, with all the parties, a mutually acceptable plan for designing and implementing the Site remedy consistent with the Record of Decision.

Sincerely,

James Ritsema

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Mr. Steven Ginski, Corporate Counsel
International Paper

via email

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Sincerely,

James Ritsema