US EPA RECORDS CENTER REGION 5
515049

TO: BOB HARTMAN
FROM: BOB LEHNINGER
RE: REILLY TAR & CHEMICAL CORPORATION / FILING OF RCRA CASE
DATE: AUGUST 28, 1980

The above named corporation is the primary defendant in a law suit which will be filed on September 2 by the U.S. Attorney for the District of Minnesota. The attached complaint is, with just a few changes, the same one which will be filed. I will route a copy of the final complaint to you when I receive it w/in the next few days.

The defendants are:
Reilly Tar and Chemical Corporation
1510 Market Square Center
151 North Delaware Street
Indianapolis, IN

Housing and Redevelopment Authority of
St. Louis Park, MN.

Oak Park Village Associates
Rustic Oaks Condominiums, Inc.
Phillips Investment Co.

Discussion of Defendants:

Since 1917 Reilly Tar and Chemical Corporation operated a plant in St. Louis Park, MN (a western suburb of Minneapolis) whereby coal tar was refined into creosote oil and where wood products were chemically treated. The coal tar operation ceased in 1971,

while the wood treatment operation ceased in 1972.

In June, 1973, the City of St. Louis Park purchased all of the Reilly Tar site and transferred ownership to the defendant Housing and Redevelopment Authority.

The other defendants are developers who are named only to get them w/in the Court's jurisdiction since they purchased some of the site from the Housing Authority.

The Complaint:

The U.S. alleges that pursuant to the operation of Reilly Tar's plant, enormous amounts of hazardous waste, containing such ~~deadlie~~ toxic chemicals as polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH's) have leached into the soil and have contaminated the aquifers which supply water to the area's residents

The relief we are seeking is for the necessary study and investigation to determine how to contain and treat the problem; the implementation of a clean up plan and monitoring equipment.

We found out ~~about~~ about this case through the State of Minnesotta who filed a complaint against Reilly in 1970 for air + surface water violations. It was amended in 1978 after it became apparent that the ground water was also contaminated. That case is still pending.