UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 7
11201 RENNER BOULEVARD
LENEXA, KS 66219

MAY 23 2014

OFFICE OF
THE REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR

Douglas Clemens
10518 Boylston Dr.
St. Ann, MO 63074

Dear Mr. Clemens:

Following the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's receipt of your request, and a similar request from Mr. Ed Smith representing the Missouri Coalition for the Environment, EPA Region 7 believes that the release of these documents is consistent with our transparency objectives and past practices on releasing information relevant to the public. Accordingly, EPA will release the submittals under the pre-construction Order as quickly as practicable following their receipt. The length it requires will depend largely on the technical and administrative requirements for posting documents to the West Lake web site. In most cases this would require approximately five business days in order to meet federal requirements such as 508 compliance[1].

The CAG provides a central organizing and communication function that is beneficial to both the community and the EPA. EPA looks to the CAG to assist it in fostering community awareness and providing input so that we can make the best decisions possible. While EPA is committed to making these documents available, EPA cannot ignore its responsibilities to the community, as well as its legal obligations, in exercising its best judgment to advance site work in as timely a manner as possible to achieve the objectives of this time critical removal action. This means that EPA will proceed as it does in all removal actions of this nature; we will review, comment, revise, and approve work plans, with the advice of our technical experts, in as prompt a manner as possible. I assure you though that EPA considers expert input from other sources in its decision making.

[1] Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29 U.S.C. § 794d), requires that individuals with disabilities, who are members of the public seeking information or services from a Federal agency, have access to and use of information and data that is comparable to that provided to the public who are not individuals with disabilities, unless an undue burden would be imposed on the agency.

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For the sake of allowing the CAG to fully realize its purpose as the central group for advising EPA on community interests and concerns, and in an effort to avoid fragmenting communications and information, we encourage all parties to work through the CAG in its requests. This will also reduce the overall burden on the EPA imposed by responding to multiple interested parties and will allow EPA to concentrate its attention and energies on the important work required at this site.

Sincerely,

Karl Brooks