

J. HNAT - SER



State of Wisconsin \ DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Scott McCallum, Governor
Darrell Bazzell, Secretary

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July 16, 2002

Bill Bolen
US EPA Region 5
77 West Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604

FID: 341 055 770
Berts: 02-41-306192

Subject: Request for Removal Assistance

Dear Mr. Bolen:

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) requests U.S. EPA Region 5 Emergency Response Branch assistance to evaluate the threat posed by the **Kaiser Property, Milwaukee, Milwaukee County** in Wisconsin, a former tannery, paint manufacturing and solvent facility. The site has also been known to house automobile chop shops, drug lab(s) and a recycling center. It has been operated in some capacity for approximately 100 years. The property covers a city block and has around 12 buildings. WDNR would like all the buildings on site inspected and inventoried to determine the threat posed to human health and the environment by this property. The site is located adjacent to the Lincoln Creek.

After gaining verbal access to the Kaiser Property, USEPA and WDNR staff conducted an inspection of one of the buildings and observed numerous rusted drums of chemicals in various parts of the building. Unknown liquids are on the floors, in cisterns both inside and outside the building as well as vat and settling tanks. I will forward the digital photos taken during the site visit on July 13, 2002.

I have also attached a narrative of the property's operational history, the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewage District (MMSD) Project and issues related to the situation at the site. This site came to our attention last week when a 24" pipe was unearthed during the MMSD flood control project which caused a discharge of materials from the pipe to the creek. The pipe was excavated and appears to be coming from the Kaiser Property. The discharged materials were witnessed by WDNR staff and appeared to be black in color and have a petroleum odor. MMSD took action to prevent further discharge by temporarily plugging the pipe, removing the pipe to within 6 feet of the Kaiser Property. The pipe was then plugged and a catch basin installed to allow for pumping of materials from the pipe should more materials accumulate.

Please contact me (608) 267-5063 if you have any questions or concerns about this request. We appreciate the prompt response to our initial verbal request on July 12th by OSC Walter Nied.

Sincerely,

Amy S. Walden
Federal Removals Coordinator
Bureau for Remediation and Redevelopment

cc: Jim Schmidt/Scott Ferguson/John Hnat - SER