



April 6, 2022

Newell Operating Company  
Attn: Kristin Jones  
6655 Peachtree Dunwoody Road  
Atlanta, GA 30328  
Via electronic mail to [Kristin.Jones@newellco.com](mailto:Kristin.Jones@newellco.com)

SUBJECT: Review of the Site Investigation – Additional Investigation Needed  
Mirro Plt 9 (Former) – LGU, 1512 Washington Street, Manitowoc, WI  
BRRTS #: 02-36-545108, FID #: 436033730

Dear Ms. Jones:

On February 25, 2022, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) received the *NR 716 Site Investigation Report* (SIR) prepared by Ramboll US Consulting, Inc. (Ramboll), on behalf of Newell Operating Company (Newell), for Mirro Plt 9 (Former) – LGU, 1512 Washington Street, Manitowoc, Wisconsin. The SIR was submitted with a fee for DNR review and response. The SIR was reviewed for compliance with Wis. Admin. Code ch. NR 716.

### Review

The DNR reviewed the SIR and all available historical site investigation documentation in the case file and determined that additional work is needed to meet the requirements of Wis. Admin. Code ch. NR 716 to complete the site investigation. The degree and extent of contamination identified at the site has not been adequately characterized and documented.

### Background

The site has been used historically for heavy industrial operations and aluminum cookware manufacturing by the Mirro company. The City of Manitowoc Community Development Authority (CDA) previously acquired the site in 2016 and has the local government unit (LGU) environmental liability exemption. The Mirro buildings that were on-site have all been demolished but some foundations remain. Investigation of the site has been ongoing for years and volatile organic compounds (VOCs), polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), metals, and perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) have been detected in soil and/or groundwater. Newell is the responsible party (RP) for the contamination at the site. Stantec Consulting Services, Inc. (Stantec), on behalf of the CDA as an exempt LGU, has been conducting site investigation activities at the site since 2016. After completing investigation work in 2019, the CDA submitted a request for review of the site investigation on July 16, 2020. It was determined that additional investigation was needed, which was documented in a letter issued by DNR on September 16, 2020. Ramboll, on behalf of Newell, submitted a NR 716 Site Investigation Work Plan (SIWP) on October 16, 2020, to address the additional investigation needed. The DNR approved the SIWP on November 17, 2020. The additional investigation occurred throughout 2020 and 2021.

## **Enforcement Status**

A notice of violation (NOV) was issued to Newell on June 16, 2020, for failure to submit a site investigation work plan. With the site investigation work plan submitted in October 2020 with fee, the site investigation work that was completed in 2020 and 2021, and the SIR submitted in 2022 with fee, the DNR has determined that Newell has complied with the enforcement requirements and is taken out of active enforcement.

## **Completion of the Site Investigation**

After reviewing the SIR and all available historical site investigation documentation in the case file submitted to date, the DNR has determined that additional work is necessary to complete the site investigation. The degree and extent of contamination currently identified at the site has not been adequately defined and documented with respect to Wis. Admin. Code ch. NR 716. The findings and interpretations by the DNR regarding the completeness of the site investigation are summarized below:

### Degree and Extent of Contamination in All Affected Media

Degree and extent of contamination is not completely defined. Additional off-site investigation is needed for the contamination found. Wis. Admin. Code § NR 716.11 outlines the requirements for the field investigation. The following comments are addressed by environmental media and contaminant type:

#### 1. Soil & Groundwater

- PCBs in Soil: PCBs are delineated for the primary source areas: Loading Dock, SB-10 and SB-82 area and Area 8. Outside of these areas, PCBs have been sporadically detected throughout the property above soil standards, so it should indicate on the figures delineating PCB contamination in soil that PCBs may be detected above groundwater pathway and/or direct contact residual contaminant levels (RCLs) throughout the property. PCBs have been adequately delineated in soil off-site in the rights-of-way (ROWs).
- PCBs in Groundwater: PCBs have been delineated in groundwater.
- VOCs in Soil and Groundwater: With the additional sampling completed in 2020 & 2021 and justifications for the GP-2, GP-5, and SB-3 areas provided in the SIR, DNR concurs the investigation for VOCs in soil is complete. New VOC detections in SB-205, SB-209, SB-224, TMP-229B, and TMP-232 are included in the VOC soil delineation. VOCs in soil are delineated on-site and in the ROWs, so no additional investigation is needed. While there may be some historic petroleum contamination present in soil and groundwater, the two areas of petroleum VOC contamination (SB-213 and SB-216 locations for reference) on the east and west sides along the property boundary and in the ROWs need to be delineated for this case since the previous closed cases for Mirro Plt #9 – West Side, BRRTS # 02-36-216391 and Mirro Plt #9 (East Side), BRRTS # 03-36-000085 were closed with no residual contamination above standards. No additional investigation is needed for VOCs in groundwater.
- PAHs and Metals in Soil: Based on the data collected, PAHs and metals need to be delineated property-wide on-site for fill impacts in soil greater than groundwater pathway and/or direct contact RCLs. The City of Manitowoc should be notified at the time of case closure for the PAH contamination in the ROWs. No additional investigation is needed for PAHS and metals in soil.
- PAHs in Groundwater: PAHs have been delineated in groundwater.

- **Metals in Groundwater:** Other metals beyond just iron and manganese are being found above the enforcement standard in groundwater. Additional justification is needed as to why metals are being detected above standards in groundwater. Based on the justification, additional metals investigation sampling may be needed.
- **PFAS in Soil and Groundwater:** PFAS has been found at almost every location sampled in soil and groundwater. Additional investigation is needed in all directions to define the extent of PFAS groundwater contamination. Provide justification on whether additional soil sampling is needed to define extent. The Remedial Action Options Report should address PFAS in soil and groundwater.

The above comments are for investigation purposes only. Groundwater monitoring from the current well network and any new wells that may be installed will still be needed, as applicable, for remedial purposes to establish stable and/or receding contaminant trends over time.

## 2. Vapor/Utilities/Sherman Creek/Sediment/Surface Water

- Further tunnel and utility corridor evaluations were completed during site investigation activities in 2020. As outlined in the SIWP submitted on October 16, 2020, based on these evaluations, an interim report of findings would be prepared along with a work plan addendum to include sampling of sediment, soil, and/or vapor in the utilities, if necessary. A work plan addendum was not submitted, but additional action is needed to address these pathways.
- **Vapor:** Vapor needs to be evaluated based on chlorinated VOC and petroleum VOC screening criteria as outlined in *Addressing Vapor Intrusion at Remediation & Redevelopment Site in Wisconsin* (RR-800); go to [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov) and search “RR-800.” Potential vapor migration pathways include the utility tunnel network off-site to the west, off-site utilities (in-pipe sanitary sewer is main concern), utility backfill, and off-site properties that would screen in based on chlorinated VOC impacted soil screening criteria. An evaluation and work plan needs to be submitted to address these potential vapor migration pathways.
  - On-site vapor assessment would need to occur as part of future development on the property. Any occupied buildings/structures constructed on this property will need vapor assessment sampling to determine if vapors are a concern. New buildings should be designed with vapor mitigation systems that could be converted to an active system if needed based on sub-slab vapor sampling results. Any new utilities installed where low permeable soils are present should have plugs to prevent potential vapor and groundwater migration through granular fill material in the utility trench.
- **Sediment and Surface Water:** Sediment needs to be evaluated. It needs to be determined if sediment is within the storm sewer and Sherman Creek by observing manholes and catch basins for sediment accumulation. The City of Manitowoc should be contacted to determine if the catch basins have recently been cleaned out. Analyze sediment for PCBs and collect surface water samples at those same locations. VOC, metal, and PAH sampling is not necessary.

## **Schedule**

Even though the site investigation is not fully complete, there has been enough site investigation sampling to move forward with a Remedial Action Options Report (RAOR). The RAOR can be completed concurrently with

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the additional site investigation. In consideration of administrative code requirements, the DNR is requesting implementation of the following schedule:

- Per Wis. Admin. Code § NR 716.09(1), the DNR is requesting the submittal of a supplemental site investigation work plan within 60 days of the date of this letter. The work plan must comply with Wis. Admin. Code § NR 716.09(2). A fee is recommended for DNR review and response.
- Per Wis. Admin. Code § NR 716.11(2g), the additional site investigation activities must begin within 90 days of the submittal of the work plan.
- Per Wis. Admin. Code § NR 716.14, all sampling results are required to be submitted to DNR and the property owner within 10 days of receiving the laboratory data.
- Per Wis. Admin. Code § NR 716.15(1), a supplemental site investigation report shall be submitted within 60 days after completion of the field investigation. A fee is recommended for DNR review and response.
- NR 700 semi-annual progress reports will be required until the case is closed.

The DNR appreciates your efforts to restore the environment at this site. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact me, the DNR Project Manager, at (920) 510-3472 or at [Tauren.Beggs@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Tauren.Beggs@wisconsin.gov).

Sincerely,



Tauren R. Beggs  
Hydrogeologist  
Remediation & Redevelopment Program

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