



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

August 9, 2017

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF:
LU-16J

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Mr. Jeff Danko
Environmental Project Geologist
1 Stanton Street
Marinette, WI 54143

RE: Response to Tyco Comments on USEPA semi-annual sampling requirements
Tyco Fire Products, LP, Stanton Street Facility, Marinette, Wisconsin
EPA RCRA Administrative Order Docket No. RCRA-05-2009-0007
EPA Facility ID WID 006 125 215

Dear Mr. Danko:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is in receipt of the July 7, 2017 letter from Tyco Fire Products LP (Tyco). In the letter, Tyco requested EPA to reconsider its denial of Tyco's recommendation to reduce groundwater sampling requirements from semi-annually to annually. EPA's basis for the denial was that "the overwhelming majority of monitoring wells have either an increasing trend, insufficient data to evaluate a trend, or have randomly fluctuating arsenic concentrations over time" and the 2015 Barrier Wall Groundwater Monitoring Plan Update which states that "sampling frequency will be decreased to annually (during the spring quarter) of 2017, unless increasing trends in total arsenic concentrations are observed; in which case, semi-annual groundwater sampling will continue for at least 1 additional year."

EPA acknowledges that there are seven monitoring wells (MW107M, MW117S/M/D, and MW118S/M/D) subject to Tyco's request for reducing groundwater sampling requirements with an insufficient number of data points to evaluate trends, and that this was anticipated. EPA considers these wells to be critical for evaluating potential recontamination to the River based on their proximity to the barrier wall and screened location within the bedrock. Without enough data to establish a trend, and in the absence of assurance that the barrier wall is not leaking, Tyco must continue to collect semi-annual groundwater samples through 2018.

EPA also acknowledges that 29 monitoring wells without a significant trend in total arsenic concentrations can be assessed for stability. However, EPA's Statistical Analysis of Groundwater Monitoring Data at RCRA Facilities Unified Guidance does not specify criteria for using the coefficient of variation (CV) as an indication of stability. Therefore, Tyco's choice to compare CV values to 1.0 is arbitrary, and as noted by Tyco, masks the data from the extremely high concentrations found onsite.

EPA does not approve of Tyco's recommendation to commence annual groundwater sampling activities in 2017. Tyco must plan to collect semi-annual groundwater samples through the remainder of the current 5-year review period. Tyco and EPA can re-evaluate sampling frequency again during the 2018 5-year review.

Sincerely,



Conor Neal, Geologist and Project Manager
Corrective Action Section 2
Remediation and Reuse Branch
Land and Chemicals Division
U.S. EPA, Region 5

Ecc: Kristin DuFresne, WDNR
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Ryan Suennen, Tyco Fire Protection Products