



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

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF:

R-19J

DEC 20 2005

Honorable Sander M. Levin
United States Senator
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Levin:

Thank you for your letter of October 27, 2005, in which you urged the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to take immediate action to remediate additional Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB) contamination that has been found in St. Clair Shores, Michigan.

As discussed with you on December 15, 2005, EPA has remained in contact with St. Clair Shores and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) representatives to continue discussions of potential remedies to this situation. As you know, EPA and MDEQ conducted a joint investigation to identify the source of the contamination. A feasibility study was developed based on the results of that assessment and identified several options for the site. The EPA has also been reviewing and critiquing the feasibility study in order to determine the appropriate course of action to eliminate the immediate threat of re-contamination of the sewers and canals.

The EPA has determined that the best course of action is to trap the material in place until a long-term solution for the PCB contamination issue in St. Clair Shores can be developed. EPA plans to accomplish this by installing an impermeable slip liner into the storm sewers in the area identified during the assessment to be the current source of contamination. The sewers to be lined will include removal of the adhesion of the impermeable liner. This decontamination will include removal of the sediments in the section of sewer and includes the high level PCB contaminated sediments referenced in your letter. This effort will reduce risk of PCBs entering the environment. Since a complete cleanup of the subject source area and removal of all contamination at the site is anticipated to be well in excess of the statutory limitations of the Removal Program, we will continue to work with MDEQ to evaluate whether additional activities should occur by prescoring the site for potential placement on the National Priorities List.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have any further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Mary Canavan or Phil Hoffman, the Region 5 Congressional Liaisons.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas V. Skinner". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping "S" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Thomas V. Skinner
Regional Administrator

cc: Steve Chester, Director, MDEQ