



# ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

1021 NORTH GRAND AVENUE EAST, P.O. BOX 19276, SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62794-9276 • (217) 782-2829

PAT QUINN, GOVERNOR

LISA BONNETT, DIRECTOR

(217) 524-1663

December 9, 2014

Mike Ribordy  
Chief, Emergency Response Section 2  
Emergency Response Branch 2  
U.S. EPA, Region 5  
77 West Jackson Boulevard, SE-5J  
Chicago, IL 60604

Re: BNSF - Sangamon Street Corridor  
LPC# 0316315325 – Cook County  
SF/Tech

Dear Mr. Ribordy:

I am requesting the Region 5 Offices of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) assign an On-Scene Coordinator to conduct a time-critical removal assessment and possible removal action at the Sangamon Street Corridor Site in Chicago, Cook County, Illinois.

The Sangamon Street Corridor Site is located in a mixture of residential and industrial properties within the Pilsen Neighborhood. The site is located east of Sangamon Street between West 21<sup>st</sup> Street to the south and West 16<sup>th</sup> Street to the north. The abandoned rail line runs north to south and follows the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway (BNSF Railway) right of way just west of Interstate 94 (see attached map).

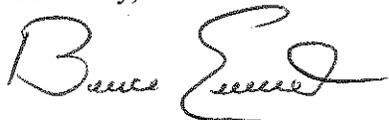
In 2012, U.S. EPA Region 5 conducted a time-critical removal action at the Loewenthal Metals Site located at 947 West Cullerton in Chicago. During that investigation and subsequent removal action, it was discovered that heavy metal contamination was present along an adjacent abandoned railroad right of way east of the Loewenthal Metals Site.

In 2013, at the request of U.S. EPA Region 5, BNSF Railway conducted an investigation of potential soil contamination along this right of way. During the investigation, 89 soil samples were collected along this route and analyzed for heavy metals. The results indicated that the majority of the samples contained lead levels that exceeded removal management levels and state residential remediation objectives. Samples were also analyzed for Toxicity Characteristic Leaching Procedure (TCLP) methods for metals. The TCLP values for lead ranged from 6 to 53.5 mg/L.

Due to the fact these conditions exist within an area of Chicago that is highly populated, it is recommended that a time-critical removal action be considered. If you have any questions, please have your On-Scene Coordinator contact me as soon as possible at the number above. If you would need assistance from Illinois EPA at any time throughout this process, please contact me as well.

Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to hearing from U.S. EPA for this project and future removal activities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bruce Everett".

Bruce Everetts  
Office of Site Evaluation  
Division of Remediation Management  
Bureau of Land

bcc: Division File, w/ attachments  
Sam Borries, U.S. EPA, w/o attachments, via e-mail  
Jay Timm, OCR, w/o attachments, via e-mail  
Dean Studer, OCR, w/o attachments, via e-mail

