



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION II
EDISON, NEW JERSEY 08837

January 10, 2017

Robert Schick, P.E.
Director
Division of Environmental Remediation
New York State Department of Environmental
Conservation
625 Broadway
Albany, New York 12233-7011

Re: Carville National Leather EPA Site ID: A-295 Johnstown, New York

Dear Director Schick:

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has completed a removal action at the Carville National Leather Site (Site) conducted at 10 Knox Avenue, Johnstown, New York. The Site was referred to EPA by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation on July 26, 2016.

The Site is a former family-owned leather processing business that had been operating as such since 1976. In 2013 the business closed its doors and the owner filed for Chapter 11 (reorg) bankruptcy protection. The Site is located in a heavily wooded residential neighborhood surrounded by trees on three sides and the Cayadutta Creek, a navigable waterway of the US, which borders the Site on the south side of the property. A former railroad right-of-way that was converted to a bike/jogging trail borders the Site on the south side of the property.

The threat at the Site was the presence of hundreds of drums and other containers of chemicals in an abandoned building that had no power or functioning fire detection/suppression system. Some of the entrances to the premises were unlocked and vandals had accessed the building and overturned drums of chemicals. A red dye was spilled inside the building which migrated outside and into a parking lot near the jogging trail.

On August 4, 2016, EPA field tested drums on the Site to determine if a removal action under CERCLA was warranted. Based on the test results a CERCLA removal action was determined necessary to prevent the threat of further releases to the environment.

On August 10, 2016 EPA and its contractors mobilized to the Site to initiate the removal action. The removal action consisted of clearing weeds and underbrush from the perimeter of the buildings and constructing a barrier fence between the jogging trail and the main building. EPA identified drums and chemicals that needed to be disposed of and those that could be repurposed either to original suppliers or by other area tanneries.

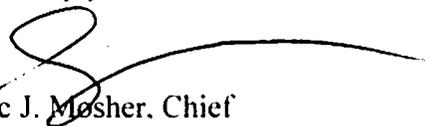
On December 16, 2016, all removal response activities as specified in the Scope of Work in the Site Action Memorandum have been completed. During the course of the removal action EPA and its contractor removed thousands of gallons of hazardous chemical wastes from the former leather processing facility, the main building, and an on-site waste-water treatment plant. EPA was also able to mitigate a 20' x 100' release of a red dye from the main building at the Site.

The wastes that were removed included 32 drums of liquid and solid chemicals, 2,400 gallons of contaminated rinse water, 1,700 gallons of chemicals returned for reuse, 4 tons of rinsed poly drums for recycling, 325 pounds of e-waste (computers, printers, telephones, etc.), 300+ fluorescent light bulbs, and 325 pounds of rinsed metal drums. These wastes have been shipped off-site for recycling and/or permanent disposal.

The immediate threats to human health welfare and the environment posed by the hazardous substances present on-site have been addressed. Specific details of the removal action are presented in the Pollution Reports prepared for the Site and are available at the following website: www.epaosc.org/CarvilleLeather.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me at (732) 321-4368 or for technical issues or OSC Paul Kahn at (732) 321-6617.

Sincerely yours,



Eric J. Mosher, Chief
Response and Prevention Branch
Emergency and Remedial Response Division

Cc: Paul Kahn, EPA-RPB/RS
Christopher Jimenez, EPA-RPB/RS

James Quinn, Director
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
Bureau of Technical Support
625 Broadway, 11th Floor
Albany, New York 12233-7020

Andrew Frank, P.E.
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
232 Golf Course Road
Warrensburg, NY 12885