

Received 4/4/08 Melanie Morash, EPA



RHODE ISLAND

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908-5767

TDD 401-222-4462

27 March 2008

Mr. Steven R. Novick, Chief
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Emergency Response & Removal II, EPRB, OSRR
One Congress St, Suite 1100 (HBR)
Boston, MA 02114-2023

RE Request for Assistance
Birch Swamp Site
Birch Swamp Road
Warren, RI
CERCLA ID No: RIN000105871

Dear Mr. Novick:

The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM or Department) hereby requests your program's assistance at the above referenced site. The Birch Swamp Site was identified during a CERCLA Pre-Remedial Preliminary Assessment/Site Inspection (PA/SI) of an adjacent site, the Bristol Sandblasting Site in 2005, during which PCB, lead, mercury and SVOC contaminated sediments of the Kickemuit River were identified. Due to the distance from the Bristol Sandblasting site, and the fact that the Kickemuit River is a public drinking water supply, RIDEM identified the Birch Swamp Site (which borders the Kickemuit River to the west) as another potential source of the sediment contamination, and requested the EPA Removal Program's help with investigating the Birch Swamp site. Based on limited information we know about the Birch Swamp Site, it operated as an automotive salvage yard and subsequently a military surplus salvage yard during an unknown period of time until at least the late 1980's.

At the request of RIDEM (attached), the EPA Removal Program completed a PA/SI Report for the Birch Swamp Site dated November 2007. Data collected during the PA/SI indicated soil samples on site are contaminated with PCBs, lead, arsenic, and numerous SVOCs above the Rhode Island Residential Direct Exposure Criteria. It is believed that these contaminants could be contributing to the sediment contamination in the Kickemuit River.

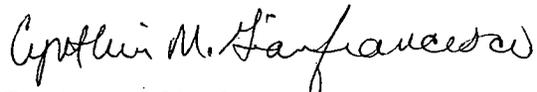
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The Birch Swamp Road area is not serviced by public water and residents utilize groundwater for their drinking water supply. In addition, the majority of residents in the towns of Warren, Bristol and Barrington receive their drinking water from the Bristol County Water Authority, which operates the Kickemuit Reservoir. The public water supply intake for the Kickemuit Reservoir is less than ½ mile downstream from the site.

At this time, the RIDEM does not possess funding to initiate investigatory or remediation work at this site. Therefore, we request that your program conduct a removal action to remediate the threat from the site to groundwater and the Kickemuit Reservoir.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding this letter or need additional information at (401) 222-4700 extension 7126 or cynthia.gianfrancesco@dem.ri.gov.

Sincerely,



Cynthia M. Gianfrancesco
Principal Environmental Scientist
Office of Waste Management

cc: Leo Hellested, RIDEM OWM Chief
Matthew DeStefano, RIDEM OWM Supervising Engineer
Joan Taylor, RIDEM OWM Environmental Scientist
Nancy Smith, EPA
Melanie Morash, OSC, EPA