



League of Women Voters
of Bloomington-Monroe County

EPA Region 5 Records Ctr.



237769

Tom Alcamo, Remedial Project Manager
Office of Superfund (SR-6J), E.P.A. Region 5
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604-3590

August 16, 2007

Dear Mr. Alcamo,

Members of the Natural Resources Committee and Board of the League of Women Voters of Bloomington-Monroe County have reviewed the changes proposed by the EPA in the cleanup plan for the Neal's Landfill Superfund site. We favor option four.

We applaud the proposed excavation and removal of contaminated sediment and soil from the floodplain around Neal's, the banks and the streambed of Conard's Branch. We trust that sediment and soil removal will involve chasing sediments with PCB levels above the residential standard, and hope that measurements will include sampling of streambed sediments at least as far as Richland Creek.

Since water-borne sediment carrying PCBs is the major vector for PCB movement, and since such sediment is most abundant in ground water runoff incidental to storm events, the capacity to efficiently collect runoff water is very important. Accordingly, we also view with favor the proposed improvement of water collection from the Neal's site. Both these measures should help protect the health of the public and the environment.

Since the present 450 gpm carbon-based treatment plant is usually overwhelmed and bypassed by PCB-laden water during storm events, improvements to treatment capacity based on increasing the size of the plant or providing for impoundment of ground water from peak storm events with retention and for later treatment would both be desirable.

Considering that increasing the size and operation of an enlarged plant would be very expensive, and that the enlarged plant would be oversized for most of its functional life, a better engineering approach would seem to be to add storm water storage capacity at Neal's. The two million gallon figure suggested under option four is reasonable considering historical storm water events gauged at the treatment facility at the north end of the Neal's site near where the flow enters Conard's Branch. The addition of such an impoundment would also provide passive PCB removal through sedimentation and would thus prolong the life of the carbon in the treatment plant. A down side to a storm water storage facility, if open to the air, would be the potential for PCB volatilization and for bioturbation and wildlife exposure to the accumulated PCB-laden sediment.

Yours truly,

Sally Hegeman, President, League of Women Voters of Bloomington - Monroe County

George Hegeman, Chair, Natural Resources Committee