



Office of the City Manager

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July 26, 2010

Mr. Scott Miller, Remedial Project Manager
United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region IV, Superfund North Florida Section
61 Forsyth Street, SW
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

RE: Request to EPA to Extend Proposed Plan Public Comment Period

Dear Mr. Miller,

The City of Gainesville has expressed great concern about the need for a sufficient time for an adequate public involvement process and citizen participation during the development of a Remedial Plan by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for the Cabot-Koppers Superfund Site.

On June 24, 2010, Honorable Mayor Lowe expressed these concerns to you and requested that the EPA postpone release of the Proposed Plan for the remediation of the Koppers portion of the Cabot/Koppers Superfund site in Gainesville Florida until July 15, 2010. The purpose for this request was to allow time for the TAG recipient (Protect Gainesville Citizens) to be able to retain consulting services to assist the community in understanding and providing meaningful input into the process.

EPA agreed to the City's request to delay the release date of the Proposed Plan to July 15, 2010, but stated that while they desired to include greater community involvement in the USEPA actions, "we also have a responsibility to complete site cleanup as expeditiously as possible." We are currently aware that the Proposed Plan has been released on July 15, 2010 and that USEPA has publically noticed that a public meeting has been scheduled on August 5, 2010, in Gainesville to discuss the Proposed Plan. USEPA has also set the public comment period for thirty (30) days between July 15, 2010 and August 15, 2010. We are aware that as standard procedure the EPA allows a minimum thirty (30) day public comment period with the release of the Proposed Plan. However we have also expressed to you on numerous occasions an interest in requesting an extension to this public comment period to allow for greater public participation and a thorough review of the Proposed Plan. While the City appreciates the EPA's commitment to complete the site cleanup process "as expeditiously as possible", we ask that the EPA carefully consider the amount of work that will need to go into reviewing the Proposed Plan and providing valuable feedback to the EPA.

The Local Intergovernmental Review Team (Local Team) (consisting of representatives from the Alachua County Environmental Protection Department, Gainesville Regional Utilities, Alachua County Health Department, Gainesville City Manager's office, as well as City Consultants) has been reviewing and providing comments and recommendations to the EPA and FDEP on a variety of technical documents which support the remedial plan for the Cabot-Koppers Superfund Site.

The Local Team is proposing to hold two (2) public meetings on the Proposed Plan. Dates for these meetings have yet to be set, but will be obviously affected by the end of the public comment period set by EPA. The Team plans to work with the community stakeholders (Homeowners/Residents, Neighborhood Associations, TAG group, and other interested parties) to request their review of the Proposed Plan. Upon completion of the community review, the Team will hold a public meeting to get public input on the Proposed Plan.

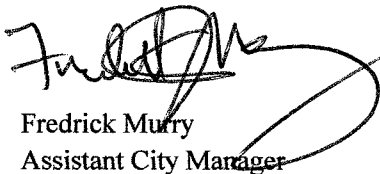
Once the public input has been received, the Team will incorporate the comments and information into the preliminary documents which will be presented to the City and County Commission at a Joint City/County Commission meeting, which will be the second public meeting. It is our expectation that the public will provide additional comments which will be incorporated into the final document to be submitted to the USEPA.

In addition to the aforementioned City/County hosted meetings, the EPA hosted public meeting in Gainesville to discuss the Proposed Plan set for August 5, 2010 is only 10 days prior to the close of the thirty (30) day public comment period and is not sufficient in our opinion to allow adequate public and local stakeholder review and input to USEPA.

With this in mind, the City formally requests that the EPA extend this public comment period by an additional sixty (60) days (to provide a total of 90 days of comment period) in order to provide adequate time for public and City and County Commission input. This would allow for a deadline of October 15, 2010 for City and County Commission comments on the Proposed Plan to EPA.

I appreciate your consideration of this request, and appreciate EPA's on-going commitment to the Koppers site remediation. If you have any questions or would like to discuss this further please do not hesitate to call me at (352) 334-5010.

Sincerely,



Fredrick Murry
Assistant City Manager

Cc:

Honorable Mayor and City Commissioners
Honorable Chair and County Commissioners
Russ Blackburn, City Manager
Marion Radson, City Attorney
Chris Bird, ACEPD Director

Honorable US Senator Bill Nelson
Stan Meiburg, US EPA Region 4 Administrator
Randy Reid, County Manager
Bob Hunzinger, GRU General Manager