

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 4
ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER
61 FORSYTH STREET
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8960

July 20, 2005

Mr. Michael Slenska, P.E. Environmental Manager Beazer East, Inc. C/O Three Rivers Management, Inc. One Oxford Centre, Suite 3000 Pittsburgh, PA 15219-6401

Subject: Cabot/Koppers Superfund Site, Gainesville, Florida

Dear Mr. Slenska:

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is in receipt of your letter dated July 18, 2005, wherein you notified EPA of your intention to proceed on July 21st, with a modified version of Beazer's Floridan Monitoring Addendum. EPA strongly disagrees with your assertion that Beazer's plan substantially meets the requirements, or is otherwise a sub-set, of EPA's Revised Floridan Aquifer Monitoring Plan. Consequently, your July 18th proposal is rejected by EPA.

Specifically, your proposal is rejected for the following reasons:

(1) EPA does not approve the well construction (i.e., 100-foot open bore holes) specified in Beazer's July 18, 2005, plan. EPA has conveyed concerns regarding this on several occasions. As explained in EPA's July 12, 2005, letter, Beazer's proposed well construction "provides long, open bore holes which would promote vertical mixing of groundwater between aquifer zones. Problems presented with this construction include: significant dilution of contaminant concentrations, potential for transfer of contaminated water between zones, and inability to assess horizontal extent of contamination." Hydrogeologic literature is replete with cases of serious flaws in interpretation of contaminant distribution resulting from monitoring wells with long, open intervals; such wells are generally not considered acceptable for groundwater monitoring purposes. EPA has directed Beazer to utilize multilevel system specifications for the transect wells to seal specific zones of the Floridan aquifer, minimizing the potential for transfer of contaminated water between zones, and allowing samples to be collected at discrete depths. Completion of wells with long, open intervals weeks or months prior to their conversion to multilevel monitoring wells has the potential to cause a long-term inability to effectively monitor the groundwater using the multilevel monitoring system.

(2) Beazer's July 18, 2005, plan does not include the installation of additional Floridan aquifer wells near the four source areas at the Site. EPA has directed Beazer to install a monitoring well near each of the four source areas at the Site in the Floridan aquifer (see Figure 1 of EPA's "Revised Floridan Aquifer Monitoring Plan Addendum", enclosed with EPA's July 12, 2005, letter). These wells are required to be installed in addition to wells in the eight locations further downgradient of the source areas.

On July 12, 2005, EPA directed Beazer to implement EPA's "Revised Floridan Aquifer Monitoring Plan Addendum". Unless Beazer is prepared to comply with the specifications of EPA's July 12, 2005, plan, Beazer would be subject to statutory penalties pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 9606(b). Moreover, if Beazer does not fully implement EPA's "Revised Floridan Aquifer Monitoring Plan Addendum, then pursuant to UAO Section XXVI. <u>Enforcement and Reservations</u>, EPA is prepared to implement the plan and, thereafter, Beazer would be subject to treble damages pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 9607(c)(3). EPA reserves the right to take any and all other enforcement including penalties, damages, costs, and injunctions, including but not limited to those described in CERCLA §§ 106(a), 106 (b)(1), 107(a), and 107(c)(3). Please be advised that any work that Beazer performs at the Site that is not approved by EPA will not be considered by EPA to be carried out in compliance with CERCLA.

Pursuant to the terms specified in the 1991 UAO (XI.A.) and the 1994 UAO Amendment, please notify EPA of Beazer's intent to implement EPA's "Revised Floridan Aquifer Monitoring Plan Addendum" within seven (7) days of receipt of this letter. As you requested, your letter of July 18, and this response, will be placed in the Administrative Record for this Site.

Sincerely,

Winston A. Smith, Director Waste Management Division

cc: Kelsey Helton, FDEP John Mousa, ACEPD Brett Goodman, GRU Rick Hutton, GRU