



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

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

NOV 07 2014

Mr. Ryke Longest, Director
Duke Environmental Law and Policy Clinic
Box 90360
Durham, North Carolina 27708-0360

Dear Mr. Longest:

Thank you for your October 13, 2014, letter concerning a petition requesting that a Preliminary Assessment (PA) be conducted at areas near the Alcoa-Badin Works Site in Badin, North Carolina under Section 105(d) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). Your letter was received on October 23, 2014.

There are two sites currently listed in the Environmental Protection Agency's CERCLIS inventory that are associated with this facility; the Alcoa Badin Works Site (NCD003162542) and the Alcoa Badin Landfill (NCD986171320), both of which are being addressed by the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources (NCDENR) under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) program. From the information contained in your letter, I understand that you are requesting that the EPA conduct a PA at two areas adjacent to, or near, these two existing Sites to determine the eligibility of these areas for further assessment under CERCLA. The first area, Area 1, abuts the Alcoa Badin Landfill and consists of portions of Little Mountain Creek. The second area, Area 2, is the ball field across from the Alcoa Badin Works facility. Your petition also states that there are other areas in need of investigation; namely, a third component consisting of areas in the community where spent potliners may have been disposed of prior to 1988, and a fourth component requesting ecological risk assessment of PCB contamination in fish downstream.

In response to your petition regarding Area 1, Area 2 and areas where spent potliners may have been disposed, the EPA has initiated Pre-CERCLIS Screening Assessments (PSAs). A PSA is an initial review of existing information, including the information that you have submitted, on a potential Superfund site to determine if a release, or a potential release of a hazardous substance has occurred and is eligible for further remedial evaluation under CERCLA authority; and whether the Site should be entered into the active site inventory for further assessment. If the results of the PSAs indicate that any of the sites are CERCLA eligible, PAs will be conducted.

Regarding the fourth component, please note that ecological risk assessments are not generally conducted during the Site assessment process. While a formal ecological risk assessment has not been conducted in the areas downstream from the Alcoa Badin facility, the State of North Carolina, EPA, and Alcoa have collected water, sediment, and fish tissue samples in Badin Lake and throughout the Yadkin-Pee Dee River system. Alcoa conducted sampling in order to support RCRA's Corrective Action remedy design for impacted sediments adjacent to the Alcoa Badin Works storm-water outfall in Badin Lake. The EPA and the State conducted sampling to identify any potential risks to human health due to PCBs in the Yadkin-Pee Dee River system and to provide data for comparison to PCB analyses from other river basins in the State. Documents concerning these sampling efforts are available online:

Documents about downstream sampling can be found here:

http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/wm/sf/yadkin_peekereservoirspcb_sampling


Health Risk Assessments based on the sampling can be found here:

http://epi.publichealth.nc.gov/oe/hace/by_site.html

We will inform you of our findings once the PSAs are completed. If the PSAs determine that PAs should be conducted, the EPA will complete the PAs within one year of the date of receipt of your petition.

Per your conversations with our Region 4 Environmental Justice Coordinator, Cynthia Peurifoy, arrangements are underway to schedule a conference call with you regarding this matter. We appreciate your desire to protect and preserve the environment and hope you find this information helpful. If I may be of further assistance, please contact Carolyn Callihan at (404) 562-8913.

Sincerely,



Franklin E. Hill, Director
Superfund Division