

July 26, 2013

**Re: Status Report and Revised Cleanup Schedule for the PPG Chromium Sites**

Dear City Residents,

On June 26, 2009, the City of Jersey City, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and PPG Industries, Inc. signed a settlement entered in the Superior Court of Hudson County to clean up PPG's decades-old chromium sites. The agreement established a five-year goal to clean up all 20 remaining PPG sites with a special emphasis on the former chrome ore processing plant and surrounding sites on Garfield Avenue. Among other things, the settlement required the sites to be cleaned up in accordance with DEP's stringent standards to protect public health. The settlement also created the position of an independent, court-appointed Site Administrator to oversee and facilitate cleanup related activities among the parties. I have served in that position since shortly after the agreement was reached.

The settlement requires an overall plan to establish cleanup completion dates. This so-called "Master Schedule" was put into effect in December 2009. I am pleased to report that much has been done to achieve the goals and objectives of the settlement. This includes:

- Establishing multiple, overlapping exposure prevention measures that protect the public and site workers from chromium contamination, including continuous 24/7 air monitoring of the sites;
- Creating a residential site inspection and cleanup program for residents living near the Garfield Avenue site entirely paid for by PPG;
- Conducting a voluntary, independent blood testing program to evaluate if residents living near the Garfield Avenue sites were being exposed from excavation activities - after 4 rounds of testing, results show no levels of chromium that would indicate increased exposure to contaminated waste;
- Removing all chromium waste to the DEP's standard from Berry Lane Park on Garfield Avenue so that it can be turned into a recreational area for city residents;
- Removing more than 40% of the chromium waste from the main Garfield Ave. site;
- Decontaminating more than 22 million gallons of groundwater; and
- Working with PSE&G to clean up the manufactured gas plant (MGP) waste site, which was not originally included in the Master Schedule, by 2014.

Work to clean up PPG's former chrome ore processing plant on Garfield Avenue has been challenging. There have been many obstacles to progress and the pace of excavation did not proceed as quickly or smoothly as anticipated when the Master Schedule was established.

Recognizing this, we recently conducted a thorough assessment of the feasibility of meeting the December 2014 completion goal. The parties to the 2009 settlement concluded that, even if significant resources were to be added, the 2014 completion goal could not be achieved while continuing to comply with DEP's stringent cleanup requirements and going the extra mile to ensure the protection of workers and the surrounding community. After all, the goal in this process is to complete the cleanup safely, properly and as quickly as possible - not just "as quickly as possible."

(over)

After completing a top-to-bottom review of site management, practices and procedures, as well as examining obstacles, such as limitations to gaining access and/or control over sites that need to be cleaned up, all parties have made significant changes and PPG has added additional resources to move the project forward with a revised date of December 2015. We have overhauled project coordination and organization, including better planning and sequencing, improved internal communication, fundamentally revised the management structure and added resources with more flexibility, so that they can be directed to where they are needed most.

Even with these significant changes, it is important to emphasize that the stringent chromium cleanup standards and exposure prevention measures approved by the DEP adopted from the start of this project have not been modified in any way. The parties remain committed to achieving remediation at every site that is protective of public health now and into the future. This commitment is supported by results. All of the independent measurements of health and safety - ranging from continuous air quality monitoring to regular blood sampling of community volunteers - demonstrate that exposure prevention activities taken during excavation are working.

On June 21, 2013, the Honorable Hector Velazquez, Presiding Judge, Chancery Division entered a Consent Order approving the revised schedule. A copy of the Order and supporting exhibits can be found at the project website: [www.chromiumcleanup.com](http://www.chromiumcleanup.com).

PPG's former chrome ore processing plant on Garfield Avenue will likely continue to present many unique challenges until the remediation is complete. However, project improvements are already producing results. In the weeks since the schedule was revised, cleanup activity - digging up the waste and hauling it away - has more than doubled. I'm encouraged by this response and I am confident that the parties remain committed to our most important objective: cleaning up these sites, as quickly and safely as possible, and in a manner that is consistent with the environmental and redevelopment priorities of the residents of Jersey City.

We plan on having a public meeting before the end of the summer to provide a status update and to answer your questions. Please keep a lookout for notices that will be publicized and mailed to you. I hope to see you at our next public meeting.

Sincerely,



W. Michael McCabe  
Site Administrator