

PINE RIVER SUPERFUND CITIZEN TASK FORCE
P.O. BOX 172
ST. LOUIS, MICHIGAN 48880
February 18, 2006

Ms. Kay Edly
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
Water Bureau
P.O. Box 30273
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Ms. Edly,

The Pine River Superfund Citizen Task Force requests that the Pine River in Gratiot County, Michigan be included in the highest priority list as published in your Draft 303(d) and 305(b) Integrated Report.

Despite the completion of a remedial action on a portion of the Pine River by USEPA, the river remains a significant source of contamination as evidenced by the following:

- **USEPA and MDEQ studies find that the Pine River remains a repository for contaminants** such as DDT, PBB, heavy metals, petroleum hydrocarbons and a variety of SVOCs and VOCs.
- **Caged fish studies conducted by MDEQ show significant uptake of DDT in fish** at various points along the Pine River downstream of the St. Louis Dam and into Midland County
- **The former Velsicol Chemical plant site along the Pine River continues to be an ongoing and significant source of a variety of contaminants migrating into the Pine River** according to the 2005 USEPA document entitled *Final Source Migration Investigation Report* (WA No. 232-ANLA-0532).
- **The Pine River remains under a no-consumption ban for fish from the Alma Dam into Midland County** (ending at the confluence of the Chippewa and Tittabawassee Rivers).
- **Contaminants from the former Velsicol Chemical plant in St. Louis, and PBB in particular, continue to be found in Great Lakes fish in Saginaw Bay.**

All of these facts make it inappropriate to remove the Pine River from the highest priority list. Premature removal of the river from that list sends incorrect information to governmental agencies, especially USEPA and the Congress, who receive and utilize this report in setting remediation priorities. More importantly, should the report be read by uninformed citizens, it would undermine the impact of the health warnings that exist concerning the Pine River.

We request that you amend the report and re-instate the Pine River to the highest priority list. We have spoken with our local officials, and with state and federal representatives, some of whom are willing to meet with you concerning this necessary correction.

We await your response.

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Rebecca Frey, USEPA Interim RPM, Velsicol Superfund Site
Hon. Carl Levin, U.S. Senate
Hon. Debbie Stabenow, U.S. Senate
Hon. Dave Camp, U.S. House of Representatives
Mike Goschka, State Senate
Scott Hummel, State Representative
Hon. George Kubin, Mayor, St. Louis, MI
Hon. Melvin Nyman, Mayor, Alma, MI