

## TAG PROGRESS REPORT

DATE: 7/12/06

REPORT PERIOD: 4/1/03-3/31/06

SITE: Velsicol Chemical Corp. (Michigan) MID 000722439<sup>1</sup>

GRANT RECIPIENT: Pine River Superfund Citizen Task Force (CAG)

RECIPIENT GROUP REPRESENTATIVE: Edward Lorenz

### PROGRESS ACHIEVED:

While at this writing we await the completion of the Remedial Investigation (RI) on operable unit (OU) 1 (the old plant site) and the “burn-pit” area of the Gratiot County Golf Course site, the CAG’s technical committee has spent many hours, reviewing the remediation of OU 2 (the Pine River adjacent to the old plant).

We should note here the structure of the Pine River Superfund Task Force related to the review of technical questions. The Task Force created a Technical Advisory Committee, of volunteers, to meet at least monthly to review progress of the remediation at all sites in the watershed. That committee spends about two to three hours each month on the afternoon of the CAG’s monthly meeting. The chair of the Technical Advisory Committee then reports to the full CAG at the monthly general meeting, which occurs in the evening. The CAG decided in 1999, and continues this policy, of not having full-time administrative staff to oversee the EPA TAG grant, but instead to save all possible funds in pursuit of answers to questions raised by the Technical Advisory Committee. That committee has been eagerly awaiting an opportunity to review the RI on OU 1 and the Golf Course. The RI has yet to appear.

As documented in the EPA fact sheet on the site, the remediation of OU 1 has proceeded well and is approaching completion in 2006. The emergency removal action in 1998-99 removed the hot spot of DDT near the old DDT production buildings. From 1999 until 2003 sediments on the south side of the river, closest the old plant were remediated. Since the receipt of the current TAG, an access road was built across the south side of the river and remediation of the north side was completed in 2005. This year, the south side is again dried and final removal of any contaminants that migrated from the north or upstream is being completed. In addition, EPA is in the process in 2006, of remediating as much contaminants from the shore of the old plant site as possible, without destroying the slurry wall that was suppose to keep contaminants in the plant site.

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<sup>1</sup> During this period a second delisted site, the Gratiot County Golf Course (MID 980794531), which had been erroneously delisted in 1983, was reopened as part of the planning for remediation of the Velsicol Chemical site.

## DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED:

The primary difficulty from a community perspective is the delay in getting a RI and Feasibility Study (FS) completed on Operable Unit 1 [the former physical location of the chemical plant] and the delisted Golf Course site. We sought the extension and expansion of the TAG in 20003 in order to have funds for technical advice related to plant site (OU1) and related site remediation was addressed. Subsequent to receiving the grant extension, we were pleased to learn EPA and the state would do a full RI of the site. Unfortunately, the complexity of the site and the need to return to the delisted Golf Course site has delayed production of the documents which we need to review. Therefore, we have spent little of our money and have waited patiently to begin the document review process. As of July 11, 2006, as this report is prepared, we have learned the most recent estimated publication date of the RI (which at one point was the Fall 2005, and recently was July 11, 2006) now has been pushed back at least several weeks.

## PERCENT OF PROJECT COMPLETED TO DATE:

While it is difficult to quantify, if we assume the remediation of the two OUs to require about equal time and money (a dangerous assumption) and that the Gratiot Golf Course site remediation to be about one quarter of each operable unit, we would have the following table:

	Initial % of Clean-up	Completed to Date
Velsicol Chemical Corp OU 1 (Pine River)	45	40
Velsicol Chemical Corp OU 2 (Plant Site)	45	2 <sup>2</sup>
Gratiot County Golf Course	10	0.2 <sup>3</sup>
TOTAL	100%	42.2%

Added to the above would be the massive cost and time potentially associated with remediating the community water supply, which EPA has now documented is contaminated by chemicals leeching from the plant site.

## FUTURE NEEDS:

Because the RI on OU 1 and the Golf Course have yet to appear, the Task Force continues to need TAG funds to promptly launch a review of the RI/FS and subsequent ROD. We respectfully request continuation of our funding until that process is concluded (see attached letter to Sharon Green.

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<sup>2</sup> This would be the presumed time in testing at the site and drafting the RI, which has not yet been finalized.

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