

 **MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT**  
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Shari T. Wilson  
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Robert M. Summers, Ph.D.  
Deputy Secretary

**CERTIFIED MAIL**

August 13, 2009

Mr. Russell Becker  
Environmental Program Manager  
Severstal Sparrows Point  
1430 Sparrows Point Boulevard  
Sparrows Point, Maryland 21219

Dear Mr. Becker:

The Maryland Department of the Environment continues to evaluate the work conducted to date under the Consent Decree (Docket No. JFM-97-558 & JFM-97-559 effective date October 8, 1997). Although Severstal and prior owners of the steel mill have made significant progress addressing specific items in the Consent Decree, including conducting a site wide environmental site assessment, stabilizing Greys Landfill, and operating a remediation system at the Rod & Wire Mill Sludge Bin Storage Area, there is a great deal of assessment and remedial work yet to be accomplished and required by the Consent Decree. The Department has identified the following items that require a detailed and timely response from Severstal.

**Community Outreach Plan**

In an October 22, 2008 letter to Mr. Thomas Russo, MDE offered several suggestions for enhanced community outreach. It is essential to craft and implement an effective community outreach plan including periodic meetings, a website with appropriately updated content and citizen group involvement in order to inform the community of the work already completed and ongoing efforts, to address misinformation that may be circulated, and to receive citizen input. To date, it is my understanding that Severstal has held one community meeting and has plans to hold meetings in the future and develop a website. The Department is not aware of a specific schedule for these activities. The Department requests that the company develop and submit to MDE a complete community outreach plan by December 31, 2009.

### **Off-site Sediment Sampling Plan**

As detailed in the August 6, 2009 letter from the Maryland Office of the Attorney General to counsel for Mittal and Severstal, MDE fully intends to require Mittal and Severstal to perform sediment evaluation under the consent decree. A work plan for evaluating the impacts to off-site sediment must be submitted to MDE and EPA within sixty (60) days of receipt of this letter. The work plan must include a detailed schedule for completing the work upon approval of the plan. The plan may utilize the results of sediment sampling already completed by AES Sparrows Point LNG and the Maryland Port Administration.

### **Coke Oven Area**

As noted in the February 19, 2009 letter from EPA, the site wide investigation completed between 2005 and 2007 has identified significant levels of groundwater contamination in the Coke Oven area with measurable levels of Benzene in surface water samples. The Department is concerned that the groundwater remediation is not being adequately and aggressively approached to prevent further offsite release of benzene and other contaminants. The Department is also concerned that the movement of the groundwater plume may be affected by the periodic operation of the Graving Dock at the adjacent Shipyard property.

The Department recently reviewed the Coke Oven Area Special Study Area: Dual Phase Interim Measures: Soil Vapor Extraction (SVE), Air Sparging and Groundwater Pumping Phase I (Pilot Testing) work plan dated July 2009 and while the plan appears technically sufficient to gather information required to design and implement remediation, the Department comments will request that Severstal provide a detailed description of the interim remediation system or systems due to the size of the area affected, the location of each system, the intended area of influence of each system, a testing program to demonstrate that the system(s) achieve hydraulic control of the contamination plume and a detailed aggressive installation schedule for system installation, which we understand may progress from temporary trailer mounted or portable system(s) to a larger more permanent system(s) in the final report as noted on page 11 of the work plan.

### **Coke Point Landfill**

The Department requires a written update within thirty (30) days of receipt of this letter on the status of the recycling efforts at the Coke Point Landfill. The update should include a description of the removal process and amount of material removed. The update should include a description of the schedule for implementing the slope stabilization for the landfill and for addressing any deficiencies in the sediment control noted during previous inspections.

The Department prefers to work in a cooperative manner to achieve the substantive requirements of the Consent Decree in order to protect human health and the environment. Failure to pursue these requirements in a timely manner may subject the company to a claim for stipulated penalties as provided for in the Consent Decree.

Mr. Russell Becker  
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The Department is also committed to assigning the staff necessary to ensure timely review of current and future submissions, to conduct on-site oversight of field activities, and other activities related to oversight. To carry out this work, a technical team, headed by Ms. Barbara Brown as the new project coordinator, has been assigned to this site. In addition, please be advised that beginning September 1, 2009, MDE will charge for its oversight costs, as is required by Section 7-221 of the Environment Article, *Annotated Code of Maryland*. Detailed invoices will be submitted to the company for costs incurred on a quarterly basis as is customary.

If you would like to discuss these issues further, please contact me or Mr. Mitch McCalmon, Deputy Director, Land Management Administration at 410-537-3304.

Sincerely,



Horacio Tablada, Director  
Land Management Administration

cc: Abraham Ferdas, Director, EPA Region III Land and Chemicals Division  
Shari T. Wilson, Secretary

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