



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

MAR - 8 2011

THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: OIG Report Close Out, Report No. 11-P-0034

TO: Karl Brooks
Region 7 Administrator

We have reviewed your March 1, 2011 final response to our report, *EPA Should Improve Its Oversight of Long-Term Monitoring at Wheeling Disposal Superfund Site in Missouri* (Report No. 11-P-0034, December 20, 2010). Region 7 agreed with the OIG recommendations. Your response is complete. It describes the region's planned or completed actions, and includes actual or estimated completion dates, to address our recommendations.

A summary of the region's proposed and/or completed corrective actions follows:

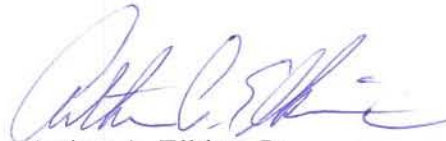
- Recommendation 1 – Region 7 instructed the Wheeling Potentially Responsible Party (PRP) group to review and update performance standards. On January 26, 2011, Region 7 received an updated list of surface water and ground water performance standards. Region 7 verified the accuracy of the updated standards. The updated performance standards will be incorporated into the annual sampling reports submitted by the Wheeling PRP group for future monitoring events conducted at the Wheeling Disposal Site.
- Recommendation 2 – Region 7 has confirmed that the Wheeling PRP group is working with the laboratory to review all analytic methods to ensure that proper reporting limits will be achieved for all future analysis conducted for the Wheeling Disposal Site. The review of analytic methods will be completed by June 30, 2011. Region 7 is monitoring these actions and will verify proper analytic methods were utilized for future monitoring events conducted at the Wheeling Disposal Site.
- Recommendation 3 – Region 7 will document in an addendum to the 2009 Five-Year Review that iron, aluminum, and any other compounds exceeding applicable standards are controlled at the site. This action will be completed by September 30, 2011.

- Recommendation 4 – Region 7 completed a Screening Level Ecological Risk Assessment (SLERA) for the Wheeling Disposal Site on October 13, 2010. The result of the SLERA is that the remedy for the site is protective of the environment, and no changes to the remedy are necessary. Therefore, a further ecological risk assessment is not necessary.

Region 7 will issue an addendum to the 2009 Five-Year Review by September 30, 2011. The addendum will include the results of the ecological risk assessment, and state that Region 7 has found the remedy to be both protective of human health and the environment.

We will close these OIG recommendations in our tracking systems. The region should continue to track completion of corrective actions in the Agency's tracking system (MATS). The region must consult with OIG in advance of modifying the agreed to corrective actions.

We recognize the region's actions to improve management and performance issues at the Wheeling Disposal Superfund Site. If you have any questions, please contact Wade Najjum, Assistant Inspector General for Program Evaluation at (202) 566-0827, or Carolyn Copper at (202) 566-0829.



Arthur A. Elkins, Jr.

cc: Cecilia Tapia
Robert Jackson
Mark Bialek
Wade Najjum
Elizabeth Grossman
Carolyn Copper
David Cooper
Patrick Milligan
Kathy Finazzo