



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

REGION 6  
1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200  
DALLAS TX 75202-2733

September 26, 2016

Mr. W.K. Breazeale, President  
Rapides Parish School Board  
Post Office Box 1230  
Pineville, Louisiana 71309

Dear Mr. Breazeale:

As a follow up to your discussion with Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) Secretary Brown, we write to formally provide you copies of the surface soil and air sampling results conducted at Rapides Training Academy (RTA) (formerly known as J.S. Slocum School) as a follow-up to the surface soil sampling conducted in February 2016. In June, EPA conducted air sampling to monitor for the presence of potential contaminants in the school yard. EPA also collected additional soil samples for dioxin analyses. The work was conducted as part of the "Making a Visible Difference" initiative where EPA is attempting to address concerns voiced by citizens in Alexandria and Pineville.

EPA believes the results of the soil sampling reveal potential risks for school age children from exposure to dioxin that might arise from ingestion, skin contact or inhalation while on the playground. Using the dioxin residential screening level of 50 parts per trillion (ppt), all screening areas or decision units (DU) exceed the residential screening level. These DUs include the area of the playground. Screening levels are used when a site is initially investigated to determine if levels of contamination are present that warrant further investigation. See attachments A and B for a summary of the soil sampling results. This information has also been posted to our public website.

The soil sampling data shows concentrations of dioxin that are higher than those recommended for areas regularly used by school age children. EPA advises that the children not play in the RTA playground until a protective long-term solution is identified and implemented. As you are aware from your discussion with LDEQ Secretary Brown, the state has contacted the potential responsible party to request a plan to address the contamination. LDEQ and EPA are working on a long-term solution and will continue to keep you apprised.

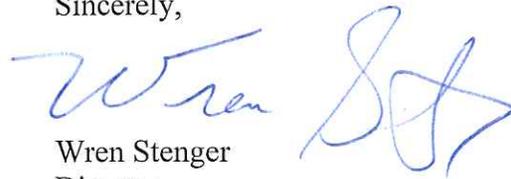
EPA also conducted air sampling and the results are similar to the results of testing performed by LDEQ in 2013-2015. The concentration levels of some of the contaminants from the EPA testing are potentially higher than the EPA long-term screening levels for toxics in ambient air. EPA does not have a federal regulatory standard for toxics in ambient air, therefore the results were compared to the Louisiana Toxic Air Pollutant Ambient Air Standards (LAC33:III Table 51.2) and all results are within the acceptable risk range. See attachments C and D for a summary of the air sampling results.

EPA conducted dust sampling inside the school on September 17, 2016, to evaluate the potential concentrations of dioxin in the school. Results will be reported to the community when they become available.

We invite you to visit two web sites: <https://wcms.epa.gov/la/making-visible-difference-alexandriapineville-la> to learn more about the EPA initiative and <https://www.epa.gov/dioxin> to learn more about dioxins. We are also compiling a comprehensive report detailing the results of air, soil and groundwater data to present to the Community Sustainability Network and citizens of the community in 2017.

Please feel free to contact EPA Diana Greiner at (214) 665-6492 or LDEQ Lourdes Iturralde at (225) 219-3710 if you or the other school board members have questions or would like to request a conference call to discuss the sampling results. We look forward to hearing from you and assisting with any potential concerns. Copies of the sampling reports can be sent to you upon request.

Sincerely,



Wren Stenger  
Director  
Multimedia Division

#### Attachments

cc: Dr. Chuck Carr Brown, LDEQ  
Denise Bennett, LDEQ  
Lourdes Iturralde, LDEQ  
Bijan Sharafkhani, LDEQ  
James Downs, Rapides Parish School District  
Roy Rachel, Rapides Parish School District  
Heather Gawne, Stella-Jones Corporation  
Danny Vines, Kisatchie Treating, LLC  
Hollis Ervin, Kisatchie Treating, LLC  
Ray Brown, Roy O. Martin/Colfax Treating LLP  
Natalie Monroe, Roy O. Martin/Colfax Treating LLP  
Honorable Jacques Roy, City of Alexandria  
Charles Johnson, City of Alexandria  
Honorable Clarence Fields, City of Pineville  
Marion (Junior) Simpson, Environmental Compliance Officer for Pineville  
Senator W. Jay Luneau, Louisiana Senate, District 29  
Representative Lowell C. Hazel, Louisiana State Representative, District 27  
Representative Jeff Hall, Louisiana State Representative, District 26  
Matt Johns, Rapides Area Planning Commission

**February and June 2016 Soil Sampling Data Summary for J.S. Slocum School  
(Rapides Training Academy):**

<b>Sample Location</b>	<b>(February 2016) Benzo (a) pyrene (BAP) parts per million (ppm)</b>	<b>(February 2016) LDEQ RECAP<sup>1</sup> Residential Screening value for BAP ppm</b>	<b>(February 2016) Penta-chlorophenol (PCP) ppm</b>	<b>(February 2016) LDEQ RECAP<sup>1</sup> Residential Screening value for PCP for comparison ppm</b>	<b>(June 2016) Dioxin Results Toxic Equivalency Quotient (TEQ) Parts per trillion (ppt)</b>	<b>(June 2016) EPA Dioxin Residential Screening Level ppt</b>
JSS-DU-18 <sup>2</sup>	0.138	0.33	0.243	2.8	<b>191</b>	50
JSS-DU-20	0.090	0.33	0.173	2.8	<b>133</b>	50
JSS-DU-21	0.217	0.33	0.215	2.8	<b>240</b>	50
JSS-DU-22	NS <sup>3</sup>	-	NS <sup>3</sup>	-	NS <sup>3</sup>	-
JSS-DU-23	0.043	0.33	U <sup>4</sup>	2.8	NS <sup>3</sup>	-
JSS-DU-24/	<b>0.699</b>	0.33	U <sup>4</sup>	2.8	NS <sup>3</sup>	-
JSS-DU-13 <sup>5</sup>	-	-	-	-	4.45	50
JSS-DU-25	0.090	0.33	0.145	2.8	<b>181</b>	50

<sup>1</sup> Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality Risk Evaluation Corrective Action Program

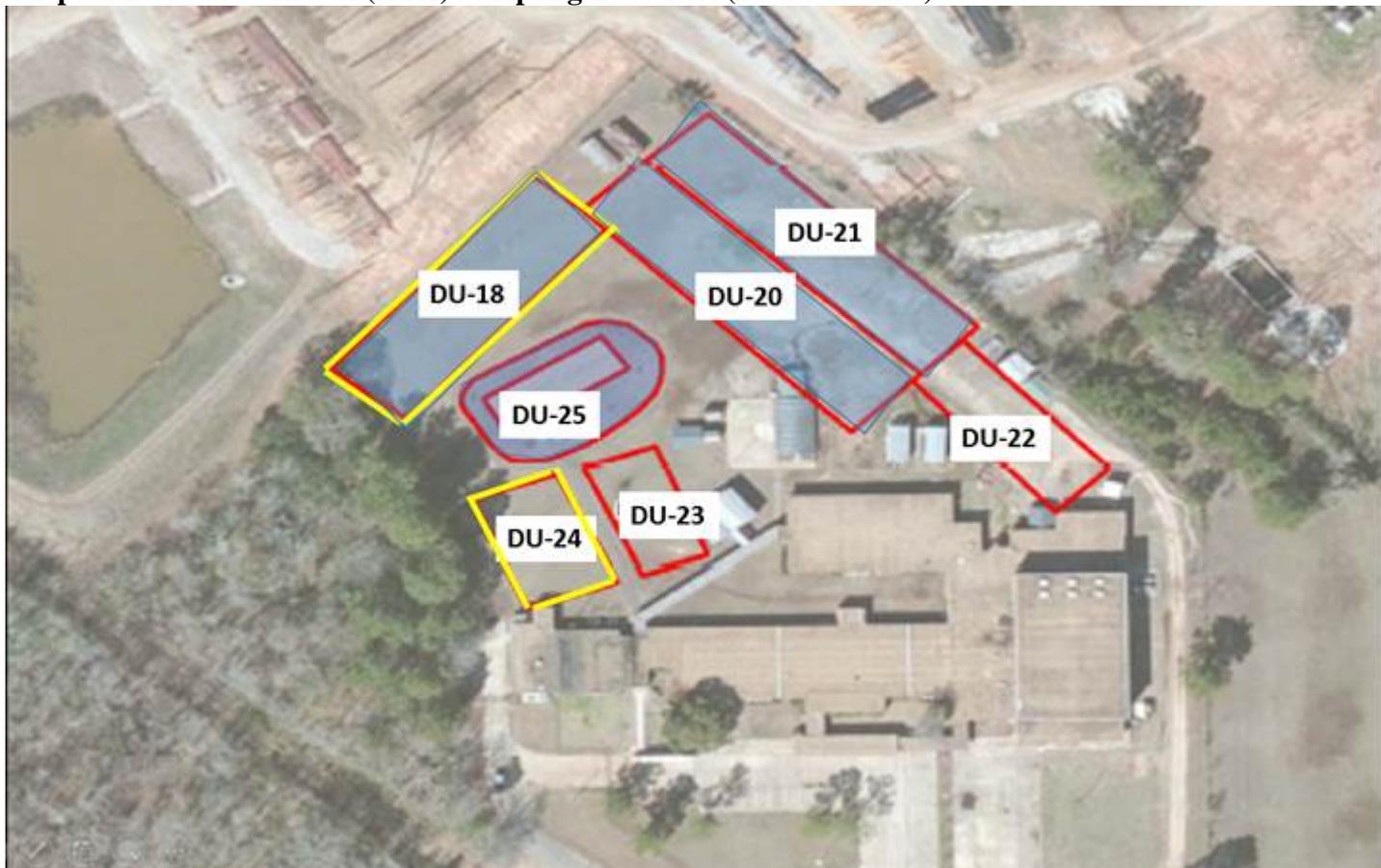
<sup>2</sup> DU-18 field-test results show elevated concentrations of total target contaminants, and is therefore a potential area of concern.

<sup>3</sup> NS – Not Sampled. Decision Unit 22 had a high amount of gravel and was not sampled. Decision Units 23 and 24 were not sampled for dioxin because there was not a presence of pentachlorophenol.

<sup>4</sup> The “U” qualifier means the compound was analyzed for, but not detected.

<sup>5</sup> DU-13 was the background location (in Pineville Soccer Park) for the dioxin surface soil sampling conducted June 2016.

## Map with J.S. Slocum Soil (RTA) Sampling Locations (Decision Units)



-  Decision Units in red are denoted with “DU” prefix and represents the area where EPA conducted incremental composite sampling. DU-22 was not sampled due to the presence of too much gravel.
  -  Decision Units highlighted in yellow indicate areas of potential concern with elevated levels of BAP (DU-24) and total contaminants (DU-18) [from February 2016 sampling results].
  -  Decision Units in blue—previously noted as areas of potential concern because of the presence of pentachlorophenol - now denotes areas of concern due to dioxin results.
-

### Air Sampling Data Summary for J.S. Slocum (Rapides Training Academy)

<u>Contaminants associated with creosoting process</u>	C – Causes Cancer N – non-carcinogenic	2013 – 2015 LDEQ Air Sampling Results* (ug/m3)	LAC33:III Table 51.2 [8-hr avg] (ug/m3)	2016 Air Sampling Results from the JS Slocum (RTA) schoolyard** (ug/m3) Highest result	2016 Air Sampling Results from the JS Slocum (RTA) schoolyard** (ug/m3) Background	EPA Screening Level for Long-term Toxics and resident ambient air (ug/m3)
Naphthalene	N	91.556 (summed)	1190 (summed)	1.010	0.030	0.083 – C 3.1 - N
Acenaphthylene	N	0.035		0.023	ND	-
Acenaphthene	N	5.468		2.021	0.007	-
1,1-Biphenyl	N	2.429	23.8			0.42
Fluorene	N	1.967		2.860	0.006	-
Dibenzofuran	N	2.924				-
Phenanthrene	N	1.967		2.684	0.007	-
Anthracene	N	0.187		0.238	ND	-
Pyrene	N	0.106		0.315	ND	-
Fluoranthene	N	0.208		0.578		-
Benzo (a) anthracene	C	ND		0.003	ND	0.0092
Chrysene	C	ND		0.006	ND	0.092
Benzo (a) pyrene	C	ND		ND	ND	0.00092
Benzo (b) fluoroanthene	C	ND		ND	ND	0.0092
Benzo(k) fluoranthene	C	ND		ND	ND	0.0092
Indeno (1,2,3-cd) pyrene	C	ND		ND	ND	0.0092
Dibenzo (a,h) anthracene	C	ND		ND		0.00084

- \* Data values in this table are the highest results reported in the July 14, 2015 LDEQ report. [“Summed” value means other chemical forms of naphthalene – (2-Methylnaphthalene) are included]
- \*\* Data values are the highest results from the June 2016 EPA sampling event (A-JSS-2 and -3)

**Map of the Air Sampling Locations at the JS Slocum School (Rapides Training Academy)**



**Notes:**

**The EPA background sample for air was collected at the Pineville water tower on Hwy 28.**