

DEC 18 1985



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 5

230 SOUTH DEARBORN ST.  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60604

*USS LEAD  
IND 047030226*

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF:

5RA -14

13 DEC 1985

Honorable Peter J. Visclosky  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Visclosky:

Thank you for your letter of November 21, 1985, regarding lead contamination in the vicinity of the United States Smelting Lead Refinery in East Chicago, Indiana.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region V, is very concerned about lead contamination within the Region. Our Emergency Response Section has several projects underway which address the problem. There are two sites in Minneapolis, Minnesota, where we are providing site security through fencing and preventing dust emissions by covering the contaminated area. There are major sites in Troy and Arcanum, Ohio, where similar action is being taken, and where lead-contaminated soil is being removed from front yards, where children play. At the Lee's Farm site in Wisconsin, we are developing an innovative on-site treatment process for removing lead from soil and other materials. This process produces material clean enough to be left on the site, and nearly pure lead, which can be sold commercially.

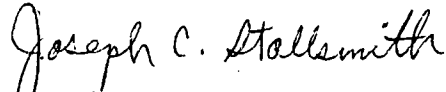
The letter from the Indiana State Board of Health has been referred to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), along with a study of lead contamination in the area for an assessment of the public health hazard, created by the lead in the area.

A site assessment by an On-Scene Coordinator was completed on December 2, 1985. If public health threats are confirmed by the OSC and CDC, I will order responsible parties to take immediate action to abate those threats. If such action is not taken, a determination will be made to see if the immediate removal provisions of Superfund apply. After the immediate issues have been addressed, the site will be scored under the Hazard Ranking System, to determine if it is eligible for the National Priorities List.

Once the above questions and comments have been addressed, we will be in a better position to offer specific recommendations on the sampling program.

If you have any questions in this matter, please feel free to contact Steve Wolfe at AC 317/633-8542.

Very truly yours,



Joseph C. Stallsmith, Chief  
Operations Branch  
Division of Water Pollution Control

cc: U.S EPA, Water Division  
Robert Steinwurtzel, Attorney  
Ellen Siakotos, Deputy Attorney General  
Jackie Strecker, Land Pollution Control ✓  
Harry Williams, Air Pollution Control