

Progress Update Kingsford Study Area

Since 1997, Ford Motor Company (Ford) and The Kingsford Products Company (Kingsford Products) have been working closely with community members, the City of Kingsford, Breitung Township and others to address environmental issues associated with the companies' historical operations in the Kingsford area. Ford and Kingsford Products developed this newsletter to share information about activities being conducted in the Kingsford Study Area.

INTRODUCTION

Ford and Kingsford Products, in coordination with the City of Kingsford and Breitung Township, have continued to make significant progress in addressing environmental issues in the Kingsford Study Area. The companies remain committed to addressing these issues and keeping the community informed.

PUBLIC MEETING SCHEDULED

Ford and Kingsford Products will host a public meeting on **Wednesday, January 19 at 7 p.m. at the Kingsford High School Auditorium**. ARCADIS, the engineering firm working on behalf of Ford and Kingsford Products, will give a presentation highlighting the Kingsford Study Area's history, progress to date and future plans.

After the presentation, the public will have the opportunity to ask questions. Additional detailed information will also be available at several stations in the hallway outside of the auditorium at the end of the meeting.

FORD AND KINGSFORD PRODUCTS REACH AGREEMENT WITH STATE ON STUDY AREA

The State of Michigan, Ford and Kingsford Products have reached agreement on a Consent Judgment regarding long-term environmental response and monitoring activities in the Kingsford Study Area. For a number of years, the companies have been cooperatively working with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), local officials and the community to address issues associated with

their historical operations in the Kingsford Study Area. Building upon the significant progress that the companies have already achieved, the Consent Judgment formalizes a comprehensive framework for the long-term operation and monitoring of the companies' environmental response programs within the Kingsford Study Area.

CONSENT JUDGMENT REQUIREMENTS: WHAT IT MEANS FOR KINGSFORD STUDY AREA RESIDENTS

Several existing environmental response programs for the Kingsford Study Area, which are being continued and expanded as outlined in the Consent Judgment, will be of interest to residents. All of the following features of the environmental response programs will be offered free of charge to Kingsford Study Area property owners.

- For residential structures, continuous methane detectors, including necessary maintenance.
- For commercial, industrial or institutional structures, the installation of a soil vapor probe monitoring network to monitor for potential methane.
- Annual inspections of residential and commercial structures, including an offer to seal cracks or openings in the lowest level of the structure that could potentially provide a route for vapor entry.

- Installation of a vapor control system designed to minimize the potential for methane from subsurface sources from accumulating beneath a residential or commercial structure.
- Continuation of periodic/temporary methane venting and monitoring activities, and operation and maintenance of active soil vapor extraction systems, as necessary.

Other continuing environmental response programs of interest to residents include:

- Implementation of monitoring programs for certain activities, such as maintenance of utilities and excavation, that may be undertaken in areas where methane could potentially be present.
- Continuation of groundwater and methane monitoring and investigation/evaluation activities.
- Construction of a groundwater treatment system.
- Finalizing response activities at the former disposal areas and facilitating subsequent development of these properties.

VAPOR CONTROL SYSTEMS

Vapor control systems are designed to minimize the potential for methane from subsurface sources from accumulating beneath a structure. Vapor control systems are a preventative measure and additional safety factor in addressing environmental conditions in the Kingsford Study Area.

The vapor control system consists of an extraction pipe inserted below the lowest level of the building structure that will vent potential vapors from the subsurface to the outside of the structure, minimizing the potential for accumulation. The exact placement of the pipe will be determined based on the structure, and the owner's preferences. Vapor control systems work similarly for both residential and

commercial structures. Free installation of the vapor control system is part of the long-term environmental response and monitoring activities in the Kingsford Study Area as set forth in the Consent Judgment.

If you would like to have a vapor control system installed at your home or business, please call the community information line at **1-800-315-4288** or the **ARCADIS field office at (906) 776-0206**.



An area home with a vapor control system where the pipe vents through the roof at the back of the house. The vapor control system pipe is the farthest right, and has a small wind turbine at the top of the extraction pipe. This is one option for extending the pipe outside the structure and above the roof line.

GROUNDWATER TREATMENT PLANT

Construction of a full-scale groundwater extraction and treatment system is well underway. The new system will replace the pilot-scale groundwater treatment system currently in operation.

Once completed, the new groundwater treatment plant will treat extracted groundwater, and will discharge treated water directly to the Menominee River under a permit from the State of Michigan. The permit will require monitoring of the discharged water to assure it meets state water quality requirements.

RESIDENTIAL METHANE DETECTOR PROGRAM

ARCADIS, on behalf of Ford and Kingsford Products, continues to coordinate the methane detector program to help ensure that methane is identified well before a potential safety hazard could develop in a house.

ARCADIS will continue to regularly check methane detectors, follow up on methane detector soundings and conduct periodic methane checks to verify conditions inside houses.

If your methane detector sounds, leave your house at once and call 911. The Kingsford Public Safety Department or the Breitung Township Fire Department will respond and coordinate any necessary follow-up activities. This procedure should be followed even though no methane from the ground has been found in any of the houses since the methane detector program was initiated in 1998.

If you would like a methane detector installed in your home, please call the community information line at **1-800-315-4288** or the **ARCADIS field office at (906) 776-0206.**

NON-RESIDENTIAL METHANE DETECTION PROGRAM

ARCADIS also continues to coordinate the methane detection program for non-residential structures in the Kingsford Study Area. Soil vapor probes are placed adjacent to the foundations of commercial, industrial or institutional buildings to monitor for the potential presence of methane. ARCADIS continues to administer this program, including the soil vapor probe installation and routine monitoring.

METHANE REMOVAL AND MONITORING

ARCADIS will continue its ongoing methane monitoring, venting and evaluation programs to ensure that methane in the Kingsford Study Area is appropriately addressed.

LODAL PARK & RIVERSIDE DISPOSAL AREA

Activities outlined in the Interim Response Action Plan have been completed at Lodal Park and the former Riverside Disposal Area. The soccer field facility was completed during the summer of 2004 and was used during the fall.

NORTHEAST PIT

Environmental response construction activities at the former Northeast Pit, an area west of the old Ford and Kingsford Products plant site, have been essentially completed. Primary activities included soil excavation, waste removal and/or consolidation, and construction of a cover 30 inches thick consisting of several layers, including clean soil or rock, a waterproof liner and an asphalt surface. Appropriate storm water controls were also installed. The site is now suitable for use as a passenger car parking lot to facilitate future development.

COMMUNITY INFORMATION LINE AND WEBSITE

Ford and Kingsford Products understand that community members are interested in activities in the Kingsford Study Area. In addition to *Progress Updates*, the companies operate a community information line to respond directly to residents and have developed a website to provide a summary of the available information.

If you would like a copy of previous *Progress Updates*, or if you have questions about activities in the Kingsford Study Area, please call **1-800-315-4288** or visit **www.kingsfordstudyarea.com**.