

PROGRESS UPDATE

Kingsford Study Area

Ford Motor Company and the Kingsford Products Company have developed this Progress Update to share information with the community regarding the investigations and activities being conducted in the Kingsford Study Area. Over the past few months we have been implementing our Enhanced Methane Detector Program throughout the study area. In addition, Ford and Kingsford Products hosted Public Information Sessions on March 21, 2000 to provide residents an opportunity to ask questions and discuss concerns with representatives from both companies. This Update shares information about the detector program and from our discussions with community members at the information sessions. Ford and Kingsford Products remain committed to working with the residents of Kingsford, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), and the City of Kingsford to address the environmental conditions in the study area.

ENHANCED METHANE DETECTOR PROGRAM

Ford and Kingsford Products are pleased to report that we did not find methane above natural background levels in any of the more than 950 residences that participated in our Enhanced Methane Detector Program. Ford and Kingsford Products, in cooperation with the Kingsford Public Safety Department (KPSD) and the Breitung Township Fire Department (BTFD), implemented this voluntary program to confirm that each house has the appropriate number of detectors, that the detectors have been properly installed and are functioning well, and to determine whether methane was present in any house. Representatives of ARCADIS Geraghty & Miller, the engineering firm retained by the companies to investigate conditions in the study area, conducted the program. ARCADIS representatives went door-to-door to more than 1,000 residences in the Kingsford study area, accompanied by either a KPSD or BTFD officer, as appropriate.

Approximately 125 houses in the study area have not participated in the program. In most of these cases, we sent out four notices and visited these residences, but were unable

to reach residents to schedule an appointment. We believe some of these residences may be vacant. If you have received a notice saying we would like to check your detectors, but a team has not visited your house, please call the ARCADIS field trailer at 776-0206 to schedule an appointment. We will make every effort possible to accommodate your schedule. You may also leave a message at this number and we will return your call as soon as possible. Participation in the program is voluntary.

While we did not detect any methane related to study area conditions in any of the houses we visited, ARCADIS did identify a few gas appliances that were leaking. ARCADIS technicians informed residents of these problems so that they could take the appropriate steps to correct them.

During the tests, ARCADIS found some methane detectors that were too sensitive to methane and a few that were not sensitive enough. The detectors that were not sensitive enough have been replaced; the others are in the process of being replaced. We also made recommendations to residents regarding the best placement of the methane detectors.

Ford and Kingsford Products arranged and paid for Brooks Electric to install additional outlets for the detectors, where necessary. Some residents indicated that they preferred to move the detectors themselves to the recommended locations. Any residents who have not yet completed this activity are asked to do so as soon as possible. If you have changed your mind and would prefer ARCADIS to do it for you, please call the field trailer and we will be happy to help you.

The enhancement program has allowed us to determine which materials and types of activities may trigger a non-methane-related alarm, and has helped us identify ways we can reduce non-methane-related alarms. Three ARCADIS technicians spent one week testing 45 common consumer products – such as paints, aerosols and nail polish removers – to determine which ones could cause non-methane-related alarms. Based on these results, we developed informational packets that contain fact sheets indicating which materials should be stored and used away from the methane detectors. These packets also contain a pamphlet that details techniques to help you prevent unwanted gases, such as methane, from entering your house. Each household received this packet when ARCADIS tested its detectors. If you would like additional copies of the information package, please call us at 1-800-315-4288 and we will send them to you. Avoiding the use or storage of household products and combustible materials near detectors will reduce the number of non-methane-related alarms.

Ford and Kingsford Products have also finished conducting the detector program at businesses in the study area. Because some of these businesses use compounds or machinery that can cause non-methane-related alarms, we are now evaluating data and working with each business to identify the proper number and placement of methane detectors.

We are encouraged by the results of our Enhanced Methane Detector Program and we believe that our active and passive venting

activities are steadily reducing the methane trapped in pockets deep below the surface.

WOODLAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Ford and Kingsford Products continue to confirm that methane is not present at Woodland Elementary School. Several methane detectors are installed in the school and were tested as part of the detector program on April 13, 2000. As with previous sweeps, we found no methane accumulation in the school. We work closely with school officials to conduct periodic methane sweeps within the school using hand-held instruments. These sweeps are scheduled so as not to interfere with school activities.

Methane probes and monitoring wells have also been installed around the school and are monitored on a regular basis. A methane expert has visited the school and has validated the companies' approach to monitoring the deep methane. Safety at the school is a top priority and we will continue to monitor conditions in the area closely.

BREEN STREET DUMP

The former Breen Street Dump is located at the west end of Breen Street on property that was once owned by Ford and Kingsford Products. Kingsford residents historically used this area to dispose of household waste. In 1997, Ford and Kingsford Products sampled the groundwater at the base of the former dump area. The results indicated that no constituents are present in the groundwater that are consistent with the operations of the former plant. The results further indicated that this area is not the source of methane. We will continue to work closely with the MDEQ to evaluate the next steps for this area.

CHARCOAL DISPOSAL AREA AND HYDROELECTRIC DAM

The Charcoal Disposal Area is located near Cowboy Lake outside of the study area. Sampling results have found charcoal, coal and construction debris at and beneath the surface at this area. Ford and Kingsford

Products are working with MDEQ to determine the next steps for this area.

MDEQ conducted a groundwater investigation in the vicinity of the Hydroelectric Dam at Cowboy Lake in September 1999 and has indicated to us that no methane above naturally occurring background levels was detected in groundwater. MDEQ's results confirm that methane detected at the dam is not related to methane from the study area.

RIVERSIDE DISPOSAL AREA

Our previous tests in the Riverside Disposal Area (RDA) showed that most of the surface waste materials within the area meet the MDEQ's residential criteria for direct contact. Our results also found that there were two localized areas within the RDA that did not meet these standards. Waste materials present at these two localized areas are not representative of the soils in the surrounding community. In order to minimize the potential for direct contact with waste materials in the former disposal area, Ford and Kingsford Products, in cooperation with the City of Kingsford, fenced this area.

Our test results also indicate that materials from the RDA are not leaching into the groundwater. Ford and Kingsford Products are working with the City and MDEQ to develop a long-term solution to prevent direct contact with waste materials in the former disposal area. We plan to reduce the methane in the vicinity of the RDA by installing a soil vapor extraction system with an attached enclosed flare. The soil vapor extraction system will remove the methane gas trapped underground, and the flare will burn off the methane. The flare will be enclosed for safety purposes and will not have a visible flame. The flare will comply with air quality and safety standards and will be operated in accordance with an MDEQ air permit. We will continue to cooperate with the City and the MDEQ as we move forward with our work at the RDA, and we will keep residents informed of our activities.

SOUTHWEST PIT (LODAL PARK AREA) AND NORTHEAST PIT

As discussed in previous *Progress Updates*, Ford and Kingsford Products sampled the Northeast Pit in August 1999. Based on these results, additional work is planned for this summer to complete the waste characterization. The companies are also continuing to monitor the area for tar seeps, and residents are encouraged to avoid any areas with visible tar. Ford and Kingsford Products are working with the MDEQ to determine the appropriate next steps to take at the Northeast Pit.

Based on the results of previous sampling, the MDEQ has concluded that walking across or playing in the Lodal Park area is safe. Materials present in this area – mostly wood fragments, charred wood and charcoal – are covered by a layer of sand between two-and-a-half and five feet thick. The test results also indicate that materials from the Southwest Pit are not leaching into groundwater.

GROUNDWATER AND SURFACE WATER

As discussed in prior issues of the *Progress Update* and at meetings, the city drinking water supply is safe. Although there are constituents, primarily from organics, present in the deep groundwater below the study area, the municipal water supply that services nearly all of the residents in the study area meets federal and state drinking water standards. The City's well fields are located outside of the study area. Since the groundwater beneath the study area flows away from the well fields, any constituents from within the study area are not affecting the wells.

At the request of the MDEQ, ARCADIS has diverted and captured some groundwater seeps that were entering the Menominee River. Ford and Kingsford Products are working with the MDEQ to determine what future work activities may take place regarding the Menominee River and the groundwater.

**Kingsford Study Area
103 West "A" Street
Iron Mountain, MI 49801**

FUTURE WORK ACTIVITIES

- Ford and Kingsford Products plan to complete the residential phase of the Enhanced Methane Detector Program by early summer. The program will continue until everyone who wants to participate has been visited. We will keep working with area businesses to determine the proper number and placement of methane detectors.

- ARCADIS has summarized the data that has been collected into a Remedial Investigation Report. Ford and Kingsford Products submitted the report to the MDEQ at the end of May. This document will be available to the public once MDEQ reviews and approves it.

Ford and Kingsford Products understand that this process has been time consuming and may be frustrating for residents. Our first priority has been to ensure

the safety of the community in relation to the methane. While we are continuing to work with MDEQ to ensure that the methane is under control, we are also working diligently with the agency to address other issues and concerns associated with the study area. We appreciate and thank the community for its continued patience as we move forward.

COMMUNITY INFORMATION LINE

If you would like a copy of previous *Progress Updates*, or if you have any questions regarding activities in the study area, please call the Community Information Line at 1-800-315-4288. This line operates between 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Central time, Monday through Friday. You may also leave a message at this number during other hours. We will return your call as soon as possible.