

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. Ford and Kingsford Products remain committed to working with the residents of Kingsford, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, and the City of Kingsford to address environmental conditions in the study area.

METHANE MONITORING & VENTING

Ford and Kingsford Products continue to monitor the methane in the Kingsford study area and to remove methane in the subsurface as it is located. There has been significant progress in removing methane from the Riverside Disposal Area (RDA). We have also had good results in removing methane from the subsurface in an area at Woodward and Westwood. In fact, the active soil vapor extraction system is no longer operating at this location; however, we are continuing to monitor for methane to see if it returns to this area. Active soil vapor extraction systems are also being used at other locations in the Kingsford study area, including Breen and Garfield, Grant and Emmet, and Lodal Park.

In addition to the active venting systems, we use passive venting systems in the form of flagpoles. The flagpoles are relocated as necessary to vent methane without significantly disrupting community activities. Both the active and passive venting systems are operated under a permit issued by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ). ARCADIS, the engineering firm retained by Ford and Kingsford Products, will continue monitoring and operating the active soil vapor extraction systems and the passive venting systems.

METHANE SITUATION—AIRPORT

ARCADIS recently investigated the presence of methane in the shallow soil at the southern portion of Ford Airport. **The MDEQ**

conducted an independent investigation, and determined that the methane at the airport is not related to the methane in the Kingsford study area. Officials at the airport are working with the MDEQ to address the situation. A summary of our airport investigation activities is described below.

Michigan Consolidated Gas detected methane at the airport during an inspection of a natural gas pipeline on July 17, 2001. Upon notification, ARCADIS immediately conducted an investigation of the airport buildings as a safety precaution and found no methane in any buildings. ARCADIS continued to conduct daily monitoring in the airport buildings over a three-month period. **No methane was ever detected within the airport buildings or hangars.** This information was provided to the airport staff and hangar occupants.

In addition to investigating the interior of the buildings, ARCADIS conducted vapor monitoring in the soil outside the airport buildings. The results from field instrument readings indicate that the methane at the airport is formed differently than the methane in the Easton Estates area and the Riverside Disposal Area. Laboratory analyses of soil and groundwater samples confirm that the methane present at the airport is from a different and more recent source than the methane associated with the Kingsford study area.

Sampling results show that elevated methane levels at the airport are only within the upper ten feet of soils and no methane is present in the deeper soils. Analyses indicate

that the methane at the airport is generated from decaying organic material in the shallow soil and that no methane is migrating from a deeper source or from locations within the Kingsford study area.

ARCADIS and the MDEQ most recently conducted sampling at the airport on February 26, 2002, which involved the collection and analysis of groundwater in the area. ARCADIS and the MDEQ each collected a set of groundwater samples. The samples were collected at the same location at the same time and under the same conditions. The groundwater samples were then sent to the same laboratory for analysis. The results from the ARCADIS samples showed no detectable levels of methane in the groundwater at the airport. Analysis of the MDEQ's sample also indicates that no methane is present in the groundwater.

ARCADIS has submitted all of its investigation results to the MDEQ. Copies of the investigation results also have been provided to officials with Dickinson County, the airport, and the City of Kingsford. MDEQ has installed a passive venting system at the airport to vent the methane. As mentioned above, airport officials are working with the MDEQ on appropriate activities to address the situation. Ford and Kingsford Products had nothing to do with the creation of the methane found at the airport.

GROUNDWATER CONDITIONS & PILOT GROUNDWATER TREATMENT SYSTEM

The companies continue to monitor groundwater in the Kingsford study area that contains methane and other substances. In most of the area, groundwater containing these substances is very deep and residents are unlikely to come into contact with it. The groundwater beneath the Kingsford study area does not flow toward the City's drinking water well fields. The well fields are located outside of the Kingsford study area. The City regularly tests the drinking water supply to ensure it continues to meet federal and state drinking water standards.

Ford and Kingsford Products, in coordination with the MDEQ and the City of Kingsford, have built and are operating a pilot groundwater treatment system at the Menominee River. After groundwater is collected, it is pre-treated to remove methane and to reduce the concentration of organic substances. The treated groundwater is then sent to the Kingsford/Iron Mountain wastewater treatment plant for final treatment.

The construction of the second phase of the groundwater treatment system has been completed and provides total capacity of up to 100 gallons per minute, along with additional treatment capabilities. The companies will continue to work with the MDEQ, the City, and the wastewater treatment plant to ensure the success of the groundwater pilot study.

METHANE DETECTOR ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

Because many businesses have operations that use materials that would interfere with a methane detector, ARCADIS has created a methane monitoring program for such businesses. ARCADIS has installed monitoring probes near these businesses in the Kingsford study area. Currently, the probes are monitored on a quarterly basis. No methane has been found in any of the business probes.

METHANE CHARACTERISTICS & DETECTION

Methane is a natural compound used for heating and cooking. It is neither toxic nor harmful to the body if one breathes it. Methane concentrations ranging from 5 percent to 15 percent in air in a confined area may present a potential fire hazard. At higher levels, asphyxiation could occur in a confined space.

Methane detectors provided by ARCADIS to area houses and businesses are designed to sound long before a safety hazard exists. The detectors will sound at levels from 0.5 percent to 1.25 percent of methane in air.

As the community already knows, ARCADIS visited over 950 residences in the Kingsford study area to monitor for the presence of methane and to ensure that the methane detectors were properly placed and functioning. No methane was detected above natural background levels during these visits. While we did not detect methane related to study area conditions, 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. Additionally, ARCADIS recently completed installing methane detectors with strobe lights for hearing impaired residents. A report that summarizes the findings of the residential methane detector program is available for review at the Kingsford City Hall and the Kingsford Public Safety Department.

Should your methane detector sound, we urge you to call the Kingsford Public Safety Department or the Breitung Township Fire Department from a neighbor's house as a safety precaution. All households that were visited received a packet of information on methane detectors. If you need another packet, please call our community information line at 1-800-315-4288. We encourage residents and businesses that are not already participating in the methane detector program to do so. Please call the community information line to sign up for this free program.

ONGOING ACTIVITIES & UPCOMING WORK

Remedial investigation activities and other studies have produced considerable data on conditions in the Kingsford study area. This information is being used to determine appropriate response activities. In fact, study area information includes data from 444 soil borings, 127 monitoring wells, 116 gas probes, 49 test pits, and more than 733 analytical samples.

Ford and Kingsford Products are in the process of finalizing the remedial investigation report, which summarizes the investigation activities that have been performed over the past several years. The companies submitted

a draft report to the MDEQ and met with the agency to discuss its comments on the report. Once the MDEQ approves the final report, it will be available to the public.

Because conducting a remedial investigation and writing a final remedial investigation report is a lengthy process, Ford and Kingsford Products have put together Interim Response Action Plans (IRAPs) to more quickly address several environmental conditions. These plans are described below.

Ford and Kingsford Products have submitted an IRAP to the MDEQ for the Riverside Disposal Area. To expedite the response activities, ARCADIS has already constructed a cap at the RDA, which consisted of placing approximately two feet of soil over the area and grading the soil. ARCADIS also installed a road, gutters, a water main, and sewer lines in the area. In addition, the companies are working with the City of Kingsford on the reuse of the area as a soccer field. ARCADIS expects to complete construction of the new soccer field by the end of this year. Constructing a cap and reusing former environmental areas are common redevelopment practices across the United States.

Ford and Kingsford Products also submitted an IRAP to the MDEQ for the Lodal Park area and are working on finalizing the plan with the MDEQ. The IRAP consists of maintaining the existing soil cover and intermittently operating the existing soil vapor extraction system. The MDEQ has already concluded that Lodal Park is safe for playing on or walking across.

The companies submitted an IRAP to the MDEQ for the Northeast Pit, an area of the old plant property. Ford and Kingsford Products intend to place an impermeable cap over the area. ARCADIS continues to monitor the Northeast Pit area for tar seeps and will continue to remove tar that comes to the surface.

In addition to these activities, ARCADIS is investigating other areas of the old plant property. The companies will continue to work

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with the MDEQ to address environmental conditions in this area.

COMMUNITY INFORMATION LINE

If you would like a copy of previous *Progress Updates*, or if you have any questions regarding activities in the Kingsford study area, please call our 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.