

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 their historical operations in the Kingsford area. Ford and Kingsford Products developed this newsletter to share information about the investigations and 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 environmental conditions in the study area and to keeping the community informed.

NEW WORK ACTIVITIES FOR 2004

Ford and Kingsford Products will be conducting additional work this year in the study area. Some of this work will result in an increase in truck traffic and the number of construction contractors present. The companies will take steps to minimize disruptions in the community. ARCADIS, the engineering firm retained by Ford and Kingsford Products, continues to coordinate the investigation, response and ongoing monitoring efforts. Following is an overview of planned activities for 2004.

INVESTIGATION & SAMPLING

For the past seven years, Ford and Kingsford Products have been conducting an extensive investigation of soil and groundwater conditions in the area. In general, the study area is bordered on the north by Woodward Avenue, on the east by Hooper Street, and on the west and south by the Menominee River.

During 2004, ARCADIS will conduct additional investigation activities in the study

area to further our understanding of subsurface conditions. This work will include drilling additional soil borings and installing a number of new monitoring wells and soil vapor probes. In addition, a number of new groundwater extraction wells will be installed near the Menominee River.

GROUNDWATER SAMPLING

The companies continue to monitor groundwater in the study area. The City regularly tests the drinking water supply to ensure that it meets federal and state drinking water standards. The municipal water wells are located outside and upgradient of the study area and the municipal water supply is not affected by the study area.

This year, the companies will conduct additional groundwater sampling in the study area to better understand groundwater flow direction and characteristics. These activities will involve sampling the new and existing monitoring wells.

GROUNDWATER TREATMENT PLANT

As reported in previous *Progress Updates*, Ford and Kingsford Products, in coordination with the City, built and are operating the second phase of a pilot groundwater treatment system near the Menominee River. At the pilot treatment plant, groundwater is collected and pre-treated to reduce the concentration of

organic substances, followed by final treatment at the Iron Mountain/Kingsford Wastewater Treatment Plant.

The companies will begin construction this year of a full-scale groundwater treatment plant near the River. The City Council has approved the project. Construction is expected to start around June 1, and will continue through the 2005 work season. The community may see an increased volume of contractor traffic during construction.

Once completed, the new plant will appropriately treat the extracted groundwater. The new plant will not need to send treated groundwater to the Iron Mountain/Kingsford Wastewater Treatment Plant, but will discharge directly to the Menominee River under a state permit.

METHANE REMOVAL AND MONITORING

ARCADIS has been operating active and passive vents at various locations in the study area to remove methane. Starting this spring, ARCADIS will enhance these ongoing activities for monitoring, testing, and venting methane in order to gather additional data and refine the overall program(s). As part of this process, ARCADIS will use portable venting units to evaluate if methane is present. If methane is present at a given location, ARCADIS will measure how quickly the methane can be removed, the effects of methane removal below the surface, and whether methane returns once it is removed.

The results of these activities will help determine the most appropriate and effective methods for dealing with methane that may be present. Depending on the rate at which the methane returns (if at all), the approaches may range from monitoring to periodic venting to installing a permanent venting system.

LODAL PARK & RIVERSIDE DISPOSAL AREA

As mentioned in previous *Progress Updates*, Ford and Kingsford Products are

augmenting the existing cover at Lodal Park (the former Southwest Pit) under an Interim Response Action Plan (IRAP). The IRAP involves enhancing the existing cover to ensure a minimum of 30 inches of clean soil cover, and installing/improving storm water drainage and controls. ARCADIS has completed installation of the soil cover and storm water controls. Final grading and seeding of the area will be completed as soon as possible this spring.

A soil cover of 30 inches was also put in place at the former Riverside Disposal Area (RDA) as part of a reuse plan for the area. Ford and Kingsford Products have constructed a regulation-size soccer field and supporting facilities. Remaining work involves over-seeding the playing field to ensure maximum turf growth, and installing bleachers and goals. A concession stand/locker room complex and utilities are already complete.

NORTHEAST PIT ACTIVITIES

This summer, ARCADIS will initiate response activities at the former Northeast Pit, an area west of the old Ford and Kingsford Products plant site. Primary activities involve soil excavation, waste consolidation and construction of a cover 30 inches thick consisting of several layers, including clean soil, a waterproof liner and an asphalt surface. The cover will be suitable for use as a passenger car parking lot to facilitate future development. Appropriate storm water controls will also be provided.

The work, which will occur under an IRAP, is scheduled to start around May 1 and last approximately 14 weeks.

ONGOING ACTIVITIES

RESIDENTIAL METHANE DETECTOR PROGRAM

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

ARCADIS regularly checks methane detectors, follows up on methane detector soundings and conducts periodic methane checks to verify conditions inside houses. Since the companies took over the detector program, methane has not been detected above very low, natural "background" levels in any houses, except for a few instances where ARCADIS found gas leaks from appliances, such as gas stoves, hot water heaters, furnaces and gas lines. Residents were notified about these problems to facilitate repairs, which could help them avoid potentially serious problems from their leaking appliances and gas lines.

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 ever 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.

NON-RESIDENTIAL METHANE DETECTION PROGRAM

ARCADIS is also administering a methane detection program for non-residential structures in the study area, such as commercial, industrial and institutional buildings. Soil vapor probes are placed in shallow soils adjacent to these buildings to monitor for the potential presence of methane. ARCADIS routinely monitors these soil vapor probes.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Ford and Kingsford Products are currently working to develop a comprehensive approach to conduct additional work in the study area. Once this approach has been finalized, the companies will share the details and a proposed work schedule with the community. We will also be available to respond to community questions and issues regarding the work.

COMMUNITY INFORMATION LINE

Ford and Kingsford Products understand that community members are interested in activities in the study area. In addition to the *Progress Updates*, the companies operate a community information line to respond directly to residents.

If you would like a copy of previous *Progress Updates*, or if you have questions about activities in the study area, please call 1-800-315-4288. The information line operates Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Central time. You may leave a message at this number during other hours, and your call will be returned as soon as possible.