

# PROGRESS UPDATE

## *Kingsford Study Area*

Ford Motor Company (Ford) and the Kingsford Products Company (Kingsford Products) have developed this *Progress Update* to share information with the community regarding the investigations and activities being conducted in the Kingsford Study Area. This issue of the *Update* will address ongoing and upcoming investigation work. 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.

### **PILOT GROUNDWATER TREATMENT SYSTEM**

Ford and Kingsford Products, in coordination with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) and the City of Kingsford, have been conducting an investigation of the water quality in the Menominee River. As part of our cooperative efforts, we will be building and operating a pilot groundwater treatment system at the river. This project is part of the companies' continuing efforts to investigate environmental conditions in the Kingsford Study Area. The results of the project will help us determine appropriate conclusions regarding groundwater near the river. ARCADIS Geraghty & Miller, the engineering firm retained by the companies to investigate conditions in the study area, will conduct the project.

The project is being undertaken to control the flow of an impacted groundwater seep into the river and to allow ARCADIS to characterize groundwater conditions in the vicinity of the seep. ARCADIS has already installed two extraction wells that will capture the affected seep water and send it into the pilot system where it will be assessed and pre-treated. We are working with the City and the Iron Mountain/Kingsford wastewater treatment plant for final treatment of the impacted groundwater. The project is expected to continue through the end of 2001. The pilot project will be evaluating and treating impacted groundwater from the study area only, not drinking water. The City drinking water supply meets federal and state drinking water standards. The City's well fields are located outside of the study area. Ford and Kingsford Products will keep the community informed regarding the status and results of the project.

In order to construct the system, access the wells and perform the project, Ford and Kingsford Products are building a gravel access road to the

river off of Breitung Avenue. The road is being built at the location where the City of Kingsford had already planned to build a road. Construction of the road and the system began in late September, and should be completed by early December. As part of the project, a small area will be used for pre-treatment of the groundwater. This area will contain a small shed to house equipment, along with a water holding tank approximately eight feet in diameter and eight feet in height. You may see construction equipment — such as graders, excavators and dump trucks — during the construction activities.

Another part of our investigation into the river water quality involves a biological community assessment. This assessment is intended to determine the health of the river ecosystem. Results of the summer field work from the biological community assessment will be shared with the public once they have been reviewed by the MDEQ.

### **TRUCK TRAFFIC**

Some residents have asked about the tanker trucks they have seen traveling to and from the river. These trucks are used on a daily basis to collect impacted groundwater from the seep near the river. As agreed to by the MDEQ and the City, the water is transported to the City of Kingsford maintenance garage on Carter Avenue, where it is discharged and subsequently treated in the Iron Mountain/Kingsford wastewater treatment plant.

### **CHARCOAL DISPOSAL AREA**

The Charcoal Disposal Area is located near Cowboy Lake outside of the study area. Previous sampling results have found charcoal, coal and construction debris at and beneath the surface at this area. In accordance with a work plan approved by the MDEQ, ARCADIS conducted an investigation of

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the Charcoal Disposal Area in early August. During the investigation, which lasted just over one week, ARCADIS dug several test pits, drilled three monitoring wells and completed soil borings. The results of the investigation are currently being analyzed and will be submitted to the MDEQ for review.

#### ***RIVERSIDE DISPOSAL AREA***

As mentioned in a previous *Progress Update*, we have installed a soil vapor extraction system at the Riverside Disposal Area (RDA) to reduce a localized methane pocket. The system uses an enclosed flare to burn methane gas that is removed from below the surface by a vacuum pump. The flare is working well. The flare complies with air quality and safety standards and is being operated in accordance with an MDEQ air permit. We will continue to work 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.

#### ***METHANE DETECTOR PROGRAM***

Earlier this year, we completed our visits to residences within the study area to check for the

presence of methane and to test methane detectors. As most of you know, we did not find any methane above natural background levels in any of the more than 950 residences we visited. Based on data collected since the completion of our methane detector enhancement program, the frequency of reported alarms has decreased since we began the program. Ford and Kingsford Products have also finished conducting the methane 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 will be working with each business to identify the proper number and placement of methane detectors.

#### ***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.