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Tishie Woodwell
Vice President
Environmental Affairs

VIA REGULAR AND ELECTRONIC MAIL

August 17, 2020

Ms. Tamara Ohl
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency – Region V
77 West Jackson Blvd (MC-LU-16J)
Chicago, IL 60604

**RE: Monthly Progress Report
RCRA Corrective Action
U. S. Steel – Gary Works
IND 005 444 062**

Dear Ms. Ohl:

In accordance with Section XV, Paragraph 1 and Attachment II of the RCRA 3008(h) Administrative Order on Consent (Order), enclosed is the Monthly Progress **Report No. 259** for the project period of **July 1** through **July 31, 2020**. If you should have any comments or require additional information, please call Kevin Stetter at (412) 433-4070.

I certify that this Monthly Report was prepared under my direction or supervision in accordance with a system designed to evaluate the information submitted. I certify that the information contained in or accompanying this submittal is true, accurate, and complete. As to those identified portion(s) of this submittal for which I cannot personally verify the accuracy, I certify that this submittal and all attachments were prepared in accordance with procedures designed to assure that qualified personnel properly gathered and evaluated the information submitted. Based on my inquiry of the person or persons who manage the system, or those directly responsible for gathering the information, or the immediate supervisor of such person(s), the information submitted is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for knowing violators.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tishie Woodwell".

Tishie Woodwell

Enclosures

cc: M. R. Rupnow
D. M. Shelton
K. T. Stetter
R. Marshall (IDEM)

MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT NO. 259

July 1 through July 31

U. S. STEEL GARY WORKS

GARY, INDIANA

RCRA ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER ON CONSENT

IND 005 444 062

This Monthly Progress Report (Report) is submitted in compliance with Section XV, Paragraph 1 and Attachment II of the above referenced Consent Order. As specified in the Consent Order, progress reports will be submitted monthly. This report includes the period from July 1, 2020 through July 31, 2020. The next report (September 15, 2020) will include the period from August 1, 2020 through August 30, 2020.

A. ACTIVITIES INITIATED, UNDERTAKEN AND COMPLETED

• **Agency Involvement**

- Call with USEPA on July 16 regarding CAMU TSCA renewal and ISM transducers.
- The USGS was onsite to conduct routine monitoring on July 22.

• **Public Involvement**

- None.

• **Miscellaneous**

- Submitted RCRA monthly June progress report on July 15.

• **Facility-Wide RCRA Facility Investigation (RFI)**

- Installed monitoring well within excavation footprint at Gary Railway on July 7.
- Completed VAS borings and well installation for Area 2 additional site investigation on July 15.
- Submitted revised Area 1 Technology Screening Matrix and responses to comments (RTC) to USEPA on July 20.

- Received conditional approval of CA750 Surface Water Sampling Plan from USEPA on July 28.
 - Received approval of extension request from USEPA for revisions to Areas 3 and 4 Technology Screening Matrices on July 30.
 - **Vessel Slip Turning Basin - Curtain**
 - None.
 - **CAMU NPDES Permit**
 - On July 28, USS submitted the Discharge Monitoring Report to IDEM for June 2020.
 - **TSCA PCB Alternate Disposal Method Approval**
 - Updating TSCA application and CAMU O&M Plan.
 - **CAMU Leachate and Groundwater Monitoring**
 - CAMU leachate monthly sampling was performed on July 27.
 - **CAMU – Operation and Maintenance Plan**
 - IDW waste was disposed in the CAMU on July 9, 2020. Disposal consisted of 35 gallons of purged water from HWD-2 groundwater sampling and 83 gallons of purged water from HWD-5 groundwater sampling. Air monitoring was being conducted during the disposal period.
 - Cleaned out leachate collection piping at CAMU Unit 1 and started CAMU evaporative spray system on July 30.
 - Routine Operation and Maintenance at the CAMU continues.
 - **CAMU Air Monitoring and Operations Plan (AMOP)**
 - Air monitoring of VOCs (BTEX) and SVOCs (naphthalene) per revised AMOP.
 - PM₁₀ monitoring at the CAMU per revised AMOP.
 - Ammonia monitoring started in conjunction with evaporative spray system.
- ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR August 2020

- **Facility Wide RFI**
 - Continue extended Area 2 air sparge pilot study.
 - Submit 2nd Quarter HWD-2 monitoring report to IDEM.
 - Submit 2nd Quarter HWD-5 monitoring report to IDEM.
 - Solicit proposals from contractors for Area 5 ISM implementation.
 - Monitoring and drainage tile evacuation at the Gary Railway.
- **Vessel Slip Turning Basin (VSTB)**
 - None.
- **CAMU**
 - Continue air monitoring at the CAMU per the revised AMOP.
 - Continue monthly monitoring of CAMU leachate.
 - Start CAMU Annual groundwater sampling.

C. DEVIATIONS IN REPLY TO: PLANNED ACTIVITIES MADE DURING REPORT PERIOD

- None.

D. U. S. STEEL CAMU DISPOSAL REQUESTS & AGENCY RESPONSE

- None.

E. SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL EVENTS

- None.

F. NPDES VIOLATIONS

- NPDES - Discoloration at Outfall 030.

Date - July 31, 2020

Event – At approximately 9:00 A.M., there was elevated turbidity in the discharge from Outfall 030, causing a discoloration to the Grand Calumet River downstream of the outfall.

Investigation revealed that higher than normal turbidity was coming from #1 Thickener at the QBOP steelmaking gas cleaning water treatment process. After the discoloration was observed, flow to #1 thickener was reduced and, at approximately 10:20 A.M., the effluent from #1 thickener quickly cleared up until it was visually free from solids. Shortly after the effluent from #1 thickener cleared up, the clarity of the discharge of Outfall 030 began to improve quickly and eventually returned to normal. Composite and grab samples for all NPDES permit parameters were taken during the event at Outfalls 603, 028, and 030. Analytical sample results indicate that NPDES permit discharge limits were not exceeded. IDEM inspectors responded to the incident, confirmed that conditions appeared to be normal following the event, and requested instream monitoring of the Grand Calumet River, which indicated that constituents were in-line with normal water quality.