

**Thank you for adding your voice in opposition to the current “cleanup” plan for Tremont City Barrel Fill, a Superfund Alternative Site in German Township, Clark County, OH.** You are in good company, standing with our Ohio EPA, our Clark County Commissioners, Springfield City Commissioners, German Township Trustees, and the Clark County Combined Health District, all saying “We want the Barrel Fill cleaned up right!”

**Please send letters to any and/or all of the following decision-makers.** We ask US EPA Region 5 to change what they have announced as the “final plan” for cleaning up the site. Their announcement was over two years ago, and currently they are reassessing the points assigned to the site, or the Hazardous Ranking Score. We do not know what that may mean. In the meantime, the barrels are leaking.

### **Letters to US EPA Region 5**

#### **1) Ms. Susan Hedman, US EPA Region 5 Administrator**

US EPA Region 5, 77 W. Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL 60604

#### **2) Gina McCarthy, US EPA Administrator**

US EPA, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20460

### **Letters/Calls to Congressional Delegation**

Rep. John Boehner

by phone (Springfield office) - 937-322-1120

by email - <http://boehner.house.gov/contact/>

Sen. Sherrod Brown

by phone - 202-224-2315

by email - <http://www.brown.senate.gov/contact/>

Sen. Rob Portman

by phone - 202-224-3353

by email - <https://www.portman.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/contact-form>

### **Letter/Call to Pres. Obama:**

by phone - 202-456-1111

by email - <http://www.whitehouse.gov/contact/submit-questions-and-comments>

Tremont City Barrel Fill Talking Points Compiled by People for Safe Water – March 2014

1) Tremont City Barrel Fill contains 51,500 55-gallon barrels of hazardous and non-hazardous wastes. Additionally, industrial waste was dumped over the top of the barrels before they were buried. Over 3 million gallons of hazardous and industrial wastes are onsite; some in barrels, some as contaminated soil. Because the site is above a sand and gravel aquifer with a carbonate aquifer below that, this is no storage site for hazardous wastes! Additionally, groundwater below the site flows in the direction of the Springfield wellfields.

2) The current proposed cleanup plan will allow untreated hazardous wastes to be dug up and then reburied onsite. *According to US EPA's own current best practices for storing hazardous wastes, this is unallowable.* Why, then, is this being allowed at Tremont City Barrel Fill?

3) US EPA Region 5 signed off on the Remedial Investigation (RI) in 2006, a flawed study which contains numerous misrepresentations and a very significant omission about the site geology. Then in 2011 Region 5 wrote a legal decision (called a ROD, or Record of Decision) on how to cleanup the site.

Three examples, any one of which should stop the current plan dead in its tracks, follow:

a) In the ROD, *"The US EPA estimates the time for groundwater contamination to migrate from the Barrel Fill to the deep sand and gravel aquifer to be approximately 1000 years...."* **This 1000 year time of travel calculation is not based on any data from the RI and does not reflect current groundwater science.**

b) The RI misrepresents the existence of numerous hazardous chemicals, classified as Dense Non-aqueous Phase Liquids (DNAPLs), at the site. Many of these chemicals are highly toxic, and their existence at the site is well documented. Being denser than water, when released from containment they would migrate vertically below the site and into the aquifers. **In stating, "The presence of DNAPL was not detected at the Barrel Fill....It is possible that such materials are present," Region 5 is ignoring US EPA's own identification that 38 (33%) of the 114 chemicals present at the Barrel Fill site are identified as DNAPLs.**

c) **The RI omits any discussion of the deepest aquifer at the site and its role in transporting contaminants from the area of the Barrel Fill to the Springfield Wellfield, despite acknowledging it in detail in previous site investigations.** *That aquifer is the carbonate, or limestone, aquifer, which is the major source of recharge to Springfield's aquifer. Our aquifer is part of the most productive Sole Source sand and gravel aquifer in the country, according to a leading scientist at Ohio EPA.* It is this aquifer that has given Springfield its name and which continues to give the residents of Clark County an extraordinary abundance of pure water!

4) The cleanup costs for this site are the responsibility of viable corporations. Ohio EPA has closely analyzed the estimates for the previous and acceptable cleanup plan, Plan 4a, and the current and unacceptable cleanup plan 9a. Close examination reveals that the estimated cost of Plan 4a is considerably overstated and that the estimated cost of Plan 9a is considerably underestimated.

5) Hindsight has taught us that this site never should have been permitted in the first place. We now know how to neutralize and safely store hazardous wastes. We stand with our local public officials, our Ohio EPA, and the US EPA's own oversight board, the National Remedy Review Board, in demanding that hazardous wastes be permanently removed from this site and stored elsewhere and that the Barrel Fill be cleaned up right!

Please call us with questions or for further explanation – Marilyn Welker, President, People for Safe Water – 937-484-6988; Peter Townsend – Hydrogeological Consultant – 937-215-0578.)

Thank you!