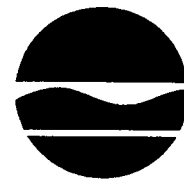


New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
Regional Engineer, Region 7

615 Erie Boulevard West, Syracuse, New York 13204-2400

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Erin M. Crotty
Commissioner

August 2, 2004

Ms. Pam Mackesey
108 East Green Street
Ithaca, NY 14850

RE: Emerson Power Transmission
City of Ithaca, Tompkins County

Dear Ms. Mackesey:

Commissioner Crotty has asked this office to respond to the May 25, 2004 letter you forwarded her from many residents near and/or concerned about the Emerson Power Transmission site in Ithaca.

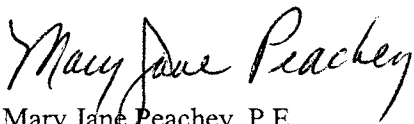
Below please find, in order, a response to each item raised in the May letter.

1. The first meeting to update the public is scheduled for August 4, 2004 at the Holiday Inn in Ithaca. A fact sheet was developed and mailed to many residents, including those that signed the May 25, 2004 letter.
2. Given the past and current contaminant concentrations at the Emerson facility, various releases have occurred at this site over the nearly 100 years of operation. Environmental laws, general knowledge, and industrial practices have evolved over that time. File review indicates this Department has not authorized on-site waste disposal; waste dumping has not been permitted. Federal and State law requirements remain in effect.
3. The site classification is under review and revision to a class 2 is being evaluated based on available and new data. This Department, in conjunction with the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), also expects Emerson to more aggressively investigate and remediate site-related contamination. Additional work plans for these activities are being developed by Emerson for Department review and approval.
4. Based on recent data, indoor air testing will be performed. Sampling limits will be determined based on data and the need to define the nature and extent of vapors. The distance may be more or less than 1500 feet; the data will dictate the extent.
- 5 & 7. Your requests for a health study and an evaluation are most appropriately addressed by the NYSDOH. Of course, this Department will provide assistance to them as needed.

6. Decisions for vapor mitigation systems will be based on data generated for specific locations. NYSDOH will advise this Department if systems are needed. Assuming Emerson Power is responsible, this Department will request Emerson install mitigation systems. State Superfund can be used if no viable responsible party is identified or if they refuse.
8. A copy of this response will be sent to each legible name and address provided.

Thank you for your interest in this matter.

Very truly yours,



Mary Jane Peachey, P.E.
Regional Engineer

MJP:klw

cc: Henriette Hamel, NYSDOH
Steve Maybee, TCHD
Susan Pratt, Assemblywoman Lifton's office
Attached List