DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
KANSAS CITY DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
700 FEDERAL BUILDING
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI 64106-2896

March 9, 2010

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:
Environmental Programs Branch
Planning, Programs and Project Management Division

Dear Community Members:

This letter is to update you on recent sampling events at the former Nebraska Ordnance Plant Site (FNOP). The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) routinely takes groundwater samples from a number of monitoring wells and privately owned residential supply wells surrounding the perimeter of the FNOP. In addition, the Metropolitan Utilities District (M.U.D.) collects groundwater samples from a series of monitoring wells that they own and operate separately. Three specific groundwater monitoring wells were recently confirmed to have no Trichloroethylene (TCE) present after a second round of sampling.

M.U.D. recently reported to USACE, Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and appropriate state agencies that samples from three of their monitoring wells located between the FNOP site and west of the Platte West Well Field had results inconsistent with the known groundwater conditions. The routine semi-annual samples were taken in November 2009 and following the normal reporting and quality control processes, which can take up to 60 days, reported the results to USACE on January 22, 2010. The monitoring well results indicated the presence of TCE which is a contaminant in the groundwater at the FNOP.

USACE immediately requested that M.U.D. re-sample these monitoring wells in order to verify the results. New groundwater samples were taken by M.U.D. in February 2010. At the same time, USACE also collected samples from the same monitoring wells. The results from both M.U.D. and USACE samples do not indicate any detectable levels of contamination related to the FNOP site. Concurrent with the M.U.D. re-sampling, USACE also collected samples from 23 residential supply wells and 32 of the USACE monitoring wells in the vicinity including wells located on the perimeter of the groundwater plume. Initial results from these 55 wells indicate no detectable levels of contamination related to the FNOP site in these wells.

USACE is confident, based upon these new re-sample results and the wealth of groundwater data taken to date at the FNOP, that the remedy remains effective and there is no current risk to human health and the environment. USACE is also confident that the groundwater plumes at the FNOP remain in containment.

USACE intends to sample these three M.U.D. wells on a quarterly basis for the next year as a precautionary measure and to ensure continued protectiveness at the FNOP site. USACE currently maintains an aggressive site-wide sampling program. USACE will continue this program and is in the process of evaluating the monitoring program to determine if additional or more frequent sampling is warranted. M.U.D. will also continue to sample their wells semi-annually with the next event scheduled for the spring of 2010.

All results have been shared with the USEPA and the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality. M.U.D. will include their results in their Annual Groundwater Monitoring Report for 2009, due to be published soon. USACE will include all of our sample results in the Quarterly and Annual Reports for 2010, which will all be available on the USACE website - http://www.nwk.usace.army.mil/projects/mead/. If you have any questions regarding this issue, please feel free to call me at 816-389-3172 or send email to kristine.m.stein@usace.army.mil.

Sincerely,

Kristine M. Stein
Project Manager, US Army Corps of Engineers