

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

January 30, 2019

Ms. Liesl Eichler Clark  
Director  
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality  
525 West Allegan Street  
P.O. Box 30473  
Lansing, MI 48909-7973

The Honorable Andrew Wheeler  
Acting Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington D.C. 20460

Dear Director Clark and Acting Administrator Wheeler:

This letter is regarding the recent violation notice issued on January 22, 2019, by the Michigan Department of Environment Quality (MDEQ) to the owner and operators of the demolition and abatement activities at the former McLouth Steel site in Trenton, Michigan. The incident has raised concerns in the Downriver communities, and it is our collective responsibility to ensure public health and the environment is protected at all times.

As we all know, there is a long history of environmental violations at this site spanning several decades. Demolition and remediation of this site in a safe and effective manner is critical for the future of this region. MDEQ and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) are critical to ensuring this actually happens. People are looking for reassurances during the remediation and redevelopment phase, as well as a full understanding of the response to this violation.

As a result of the violation notice last week, concerned citizens, families, and local officials are asking questions and seeking reassurances. The City of Riverview Brownfield Authority has asked for an immediate halt of remediation activities until there is confidence restored in the process. They have also requested a resolution of all violations prior to work recommencing, continuing unannounced inspections by appropriate agencies, and for the state to independently collect and test ground and air samples. This incident must be taken seriously. Our future generations—our children—attend schools less than a mile from this site and are put at risk with each violation.

It is critical the public has a full understanding of the involvement and the steps you will be taking to keep the public safe moving forward. To this end, we respectfully seek answers to the following questions from each of your agencies and ask you to provide a clear and understandable plan for the public:

1. What immediate steps were taken to address these violations? Please provide the exact timeline for responding to this incident and the process for identifying violations. How quickly were the asbestos violations in this case identified and communicated to the responsible parties?

2. What specific actions are MDEQ and EPA taking to prevent future violations of any kind during the lifetime of this redevelopment project?
3. What actions are EPA and MDEQ taking to ensure that any potential contamination does not affect families who live in surrounding Downriver communities?
4. There is an elementary school and high school within one mile of the site. How is asbestos monitored outside of the specific site? What specific actions are being taken to protect children? Will any air or ground monitoring devices be installed within or outside the perimeter of the site?
5. Will a representative from MDEQ and/or EPA plan to be on-site regularly moving forward? Please clarify each of your agencies plans to monitor the health and safety of this site.
6. How is MDEQ and EPA working together between agencies and with stakeholders?
7. It is my understanding, the Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration and MDEQ are mandated to make frequent unannounced inspections to the site. Did any of these inspections occur prior to the January 22 violation notice and will these inspections be carried out moving forward?
8. How has the partial government shutdown affected safety and oversight responsibilities on-site for this project?

The residents of Riverview, Trenton, and Grosse Ile are holding all of us responsible to protect these communities. As demolition and redevelopment activities at the former McLouth Steel site proceed, ensuring all Downriver residents are safe must always remain our number one priority. Thank you in advance for your attention and work on this important matter. We look forward to a full and prompt response.

Sincerely,



DEBBIE DINGELL  
Member of Congress

cc:

21<sup>st</sup> Century Salvage  
Next Generation Environmental  
Crown Enterprises, LLC