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Congress of the United States
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August 22, 2023

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The Honorable Debra Shore
Regional Administrator
U.S. EPA Region 5
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604

Dear Administrator Shore:

This letter is to follow up regarding the status of the remediation efforts at the Arkema Inc. property located in the Wyandotte and Riverview communities.

This site has long been a project I have been tracking closely, as you know, and for the Downriver communities in Southeast Michigan the prolonged clean-up effort at this site, and others, is raising growing concerns of about the future of the site, as well as its safety to the public and environment. To be very blunt, it is unacceptable that it has been over three decades, and this site still has not been fully cleaned up.

The efforts under your leadership at the Arkema property have been appreciated but we need to see more action. I thank you for the response I received in February 2022 to my letter. I also commend the hard-working men and women at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Great Lakes National Program Office (GLNPO) for their long-standing commitment to this project and the surrounding projects. The dredging project in the Upper Trenton Channel (UTC) to remove contaminants in the Detroit River is long overdue, and we need to see an elevated urgency from all parties involved, especially EPA, in these projects to get them completed expeditiously and effectively.

Public pressure is beginning to mount on local officials who are calling for measurable progress and stand ready to assist EPA in its remediation efforts. But many in the communities feel this is not a high priority for EPA and have been frustrated with a lack of communication and coordination as the timeline continues to stretch. These communities have been asking EPA for a clear status update and have not received a satisfactory response.

I appreciate your willingness to meet with local stakeholders in the past to discuss Arkema, the progress on the UTC dredging project, and future reuse of the site. Redevelopment of the Arkema site is a crucial issue to my constituents and deserves serious coordination between all responsible parties and our local stakeholders to execute a long-term vision for future use. To

that end, it is crucial for local stakeholders to have an accurate timeline for when they can expect dredging to be completed and the Arkema property to be cleaned up. I understand this is a lengthy process and by no means should we sacrifice quality for expedience, but these communities have been waiting for decades and need far better communication on the exact status of the clean-up effort. Additionally, there is a clear need to establish deadlines for this project to increase accountability and insight for all parties to keep progress on the right track.

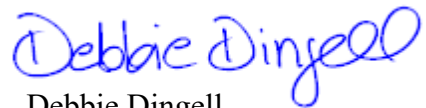
Please provide a full status update on the remediation efforts at the Arkema property, as well as responses to the following questions:

1. Has EPA finalized and published a Statement of Basis for the final clean-up decision at the Arkema East Plant Site? If not, when can we expect to see it released?
2. What steps has EPA Region 5 taken to improve the coordination of the multiple interconnect projects ongoing in the Downriver communities and how will this expedite the clean-up process long-term at Arkema and other sites?
3. In EPA's February 2022 response, you said EPA "will give every consideration to the possibility of assigning an EPA staff member to coordinate with local stakeholders." Has EPA assigned any staff for coordination efforts?
4. Does EPA Region 5 need any additional resources or authorities to complete the Arkema project or other projects in a timely manner?
5. Have the Great Lakes Legacy Act (GLLA) UTC dredging project participants completed the analysis and design of the water treatment system mentioned in your February 2022 letter?
6. Does EPA still anticipate, as stated in your February 2022 letter, the dredging work in the Trenton Channel beginning in 2024? If so, do you have a more precise start date and how long do you expect this dredging project to last?
7. Can you confirm that the public is still not exposed to any contamination from the Arkema property?
8. Finally, when does EPA expect the Arkema property to be fully ready for redevelopment of the site to begin?

We have a historic opportunity to change the face of the Detroit Riverfront, but this will require stepping up our collective work and effectively coordinating together. I look forward to receiving a full status update on the Arkema site and strongly urge the EPA to elevate the remediation of this property, as well as the surrounding sites impacting its progress, as a top priority. Additionally, it will be important for EPA to proactively engage the Downriver communities and keep them apprised of all progress, timelines, and expectations, if this will be successful.

Thank you for your attention in this important matter. I remain committed to working with you, and all parties, to see this effort through successfully for the long-term health and prosperity of these communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Debbie Dingell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress