

August 15, 2011

92-002-3TP

Thomas Lukasewicz  
Throop Borough Council President  
Throop Borough Municipal Building  
436 Sanderson Street  
Throop, PA 18512

Re: Request from Throop Resident

Throop Borough Council:

This letter addresses your request for a response from Gould to questions posed by Throop Borough resident, Rich Lombardo, at the Throop Borough Council meeting on Monday evening, August 8, 2011.

1) Mr. Lombardo's first question was whether there have been any penalties due to the length of time construction activities at the Marjol Battery Site (Site) have taken. There have not been any penalties imposed on Gould at the Marjol Site. The regulatory agencies were actively participating throughout the construction period both with an on-site presence and at the weekly progress meetings where schedule was discussed. The primary focus of all parties was to complete the work safely with minimal release of lead through air and water which was accomplished. At no time did the agencies express a concern that the work was not being completed fast enough.

2) Mr. Lombardo's second question was regarding why it has been so hard to establish vegetation at the Site. Construction of the Final Remedy at the Site required the disturbance of over 47 acres of land that are highly exposed to the sun and wind due to the topography and the orientation of the slopes. As part of the Final Remedy and as required by the NPDES permit for the Site, Gould and its contractor have been working to re-establish vegetation over these disturbed areas. Gould has met with representatives of the Lackawanna County Conservation District, has contacted and met with agronomists, and has followed their suggestions with respect to establishing vegetation. The vegetation at the Site is growing well on much of the Site; however, it has not yet met the specifications. The requirement for the Site is more stringent than for most sites - 90% perennial grass coverage as opposed to the 70% grass coverage that is standard in NPDES permits. It is expected that with two more growing seasons (fall 2011 and spring 2012), Gould should be able to meet the NPDES 90% vegetation requirement for the Site which will then allow basin conversion to take place in summer of 2012.



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3) Mr. Lombardo's third question concerned the stormwater discharge from the Site. Stormwater is discharging from the site in a manner that is consistent with the approved design and the site permits. All measures to control erosion and sedimentation are in place and operating at the site. The permit for stormwater discharges during construction at the Site will remain active until vegetation is established in accordance with the specifications. As per PADEP's January 27, 2011 letter, stormwater discharge (i.e. turbidity) monitoring is not required on "non-working" days (days when there are no earth moving activities). Gould has elected to continue monthly sampling for total and dissolved lead, even though the potential for lead contamination in surface runoff has been eliminated now that the remedy is complete. The sampling results continue to demonstrate that the lead levels in the stormwater discharge are well below the permitted levels.

Maureen Essenthier, USEPA, stated in her June 22, 2011 e-mail to Mr. Lombardo,

"Stormwater that collects in the sedimentation basin and discharges to Sulfur Creek does not contain sediment from contaminated areas. Even during the construction phase, when contaminated material was actively managed at the site, stormwater discharge from the site never violated the lead restrictions of the stormwater discharge permit."

We plan to post this letter on the Marjol cleanup website for anyone who might be interested. You are also welcome to share it with Mr. Lombardo or anyone else as you think appropriate. If you have any additional questions, please contact me at (570)383-9313.

Sincerely,

ADVANCED GEOSERVICES CORP.

*Lisa M. Ayers*

Lisa M. Ayers  
Community Relations Representative

cc: James F. Cronmiller  
Barbara Forslund  
Kevin O'Rourke