



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION III
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029

AUG 16 2010

Mr. Frank Dawson, Chairman
Steering Committee
Anacostia Watershed Restoration Partnership
Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
777 North Capitol Street, NE
Suite 300
Washington, D.C. 20002

Dear Mr. Dawson:

This letter is in regard to our recent conversation concerning the status of several contaminated sites along the Lower Anacostia River and to update you on the efforts of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region III (EPA) to address this contamination. The Anacostia Watershed is a significant priority for EPA and our state and local partners. As the Anacostia Watershed Restoration Plan documents, considerable progress is being made to address the environmental challenges of the Anacostia Watershed through various programs of EPA and other federal agencies, the State of Maryland and the District of Columbia, local governments, and private voluntary efforts.

As EPA has previously discussed with the Anacostia Watershed Restoration Partnership, EPA and the District Department of the Environment (DDOE) have identified six land-based sites within the District of Columbia which potentially contribute to contamination of the Lower Anacostia River. At these sites, the principal contaminants of concern are polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons. Currently, we are on a path to ensure that these sites are comprehensively evaluated and cleaned up as part of an overall strategy to address contamination in the Lower Anacostia River.

Site assessment and cleanup work is progressing at the Washington Navy Yard, the Southeast Federal Center, and Poplar Point. A current update on each of these three sites is provided below:

The Washington Navy Yard: This site is listed on the Superfund National Priorities List, under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA). EPA, the Department of the Navy, and DDOE are working within the framework of a binding Federal Facilities Agreement to evaluate the extent of contamination at the site and to ensure that it will be addressed in compliance with CERCLA. Work has been done which should address the potential impact of the facility on the Anacostia, including relining storm sewers after removal of PCB-contaminated sediment and excavation of PCB-, petroleum-, and lead-contaminated soil from several



locations. Current work is focused on the selection of appropriate remedies for land-based portions of the site, the analysis of adjacent river sediments, and an assessment to determine if further work is necessary to protect groundwater.

The Southeast Federal Center: EPA is working with the General Services Administration to evaluate and clean up parcels at the site as they are planned for redevelopment. This work is being performed under authority of an order issued by EPA under Section 3013 of the federal Resource Conservation Recovery Act (RCRA). To date, the entire facility has been investigated and 11 acres have been cleaned up and made available for redevelopment.

Poplar Point: This site is the subject of a 2008 order between the National Park Service and DDOE under which a CERCLA Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study will be completed.

EPA is working with DDOE to ensure that work is progressing in a transparent manner that provides for appropriate public participation under legally enforceable instruments at the three remaining sites: Kenilworth Landfill, Washington Gas Light and PEPCO Benning Road. Ongoing discussions are underway among EPA, the District of Columbia, and the National Park Service regarding the Kenilworth Landfill and Washington Gas Light sites to ensure that plans are put in place in the near future, pursuant to legally enforceable agreements that provide for comprehensive assessment of potential contamination. DDOE is currently evaluating local authorities that could be used to investigate and clean up the PEPCO Benning Road site.

EPA is closely monitoring the efforts of the authorities with legal responsibility and jurisdiction over these sites. If measures to comprehensively address these sites in a transparent and legally enforceable manner are not in effect by mid December 2010, EPA intends to address these sites using appropriate Federal authorities.

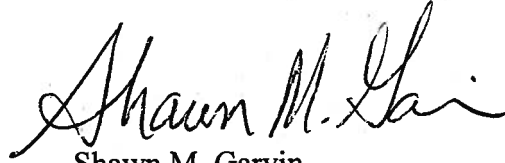
In addition to the six identified potential land-based sources of contamination located within the District of Columbia, the Tidal Potomac Total Maximum Daily Load cites PCBs entering the Lower Anacostia River from Maryland. We are currently working with the Maryland Department of the Environment on plans to track down potential upstream sources of PCBs.

Contributions by the Anacostia Watershed Restoration Partnership are key to achieving the accomplishments to date and are needed in the future to achieve our mutual goals for the watershed. We look forward to our continued work with you to clean up and restore the Anacostia Watershed.



If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or have your staff contact Ms. Amie Howell, EPA's District of Columbia Liaison, at (215) 814-5722.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shawn M. Garvin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Shawn M. Garvin
Regional Administrator

