



Administrative Orders on Consent Signed:

- *Municipal Water or Bottled Water to be Supplied to Additional Areas of the Town*
 - *Investigation to Begin*

Introduction

The US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) tested a number of private wells in the vicinity of the Town of Pines between 2000 and 2002. Boron and/or molybdenum were detected in some wells above current USEPA guidelines in two distinct areas of the Town. Based on these tests, USEPA decided to extend municipal water service to residences in these two areas. This extension was installed in 2003 by Northern Indiana Public Service Company (NIPSCO) and Brown, Inc. (Brown).



In 2003, USEPA tested a number of additional wells in the vicinity of the Town of Pines. This testing indicated that boron and/or molybdenum were detected in additional wells at levels above current USEPA guidelines.

Recently, USEPA, NIPSCO, and Brown have agreed to undertake the following actions:

- An investigation of the nature and occurrence of boron and molybdenum in groundwater;
- An extension of the municipal water service; and

- Supplying bottled water to additional residences.

These undertakings are documented in two Administrative Orders on Consent (AOCs). This fact sheet provides a brief introduction to the AOCs, and reviews the work to be accomplished under these orders.

Brief History

NIPSCO supplies electricity to the Town of Pines, a community of over 300 homes, as well as most of and northwest Indiana. The nearby Michigan City Generating Station, which is owned and operated by NIPSCO, uses coal as its energy source for the production of electricity. NIPSCO is not alone in the use of coal for energy. For many years many organizations burned coal, including the Indiana State Prison and other local industry. The burning of coal results in coal combustion byproducts, or CCBs.

There are beneficial reuses for CCBs, such as roofing granules, blasting abrasives, waste stabilization, and as a replacement for Portland cement in concrete. CCBs from the Michigan City Generating Station have been used in this manner; however, some of the CCBs that were not reused were disposed at a permitted Restricted Waste Facility. This facility, called "Yard 520" is operated by Brown.

CCBs from Michigan City Generating Station are no longer being disposed of at this facility.

Boron and molybdenum are naturally present in groundwater and soil. They can also be present in the environment from human activities. Their presence in groundwater in the Pines area may be associated with the disposal of CCBs in Yard 520, or with the re-use of CCBs by the Town and County as road bed or fill material, or may be naturally occurring. The source of the boron and molybdenum and the presence of these elements at Yard 520 and in the community is the focus of an upcoming investigation.

Two Administrative Orders on Consent (AOCs) Signed



NIPSCO, Brown, and USEPA have entered into two AOCs.

The first AOC, referred to as **AOC I**, was signed in January 2003. Under AOC I, municipal water service was extended to 130 homes in two particular areas of the Town of Pines. This work was completed in December 2003.

In April 2004, AOC I was amended. The **Amendment to AOC I** specifies that municipal water service be extended to a larger area of the Town of Pines. The Amendment to AOC I also specifies

that bottled water be supplied to this area until the extension is completed, and that bottled water be supplied to certain residences outside the area until an investigation into the presence of boron and molybdenum in groundwater is completed. The construction of the municipal water service extension to approximately 140 homes will begin in the Spring of 2004 and will be completed by June 1, 2005.

A second order, referred to as **AOC II**, specifies that NIPSCO and

Brown will complete an investigation into the nature and occurrence of boron and molybdenum in groundwater, and the potential impacts of CCBs within the area of investigation. The investigation will also evaluate the potential risks to human health and the environment.

Next Steps

NIPSCO and Brown are beginning the extension of the municipal water service. At the same time, they are developing (for approval by USEPA) a strategy plan for the investigation of the area.

Our Commitment....

We are committed to keeping you informed on the progress of the municipal water service extension and the investigation of the Pines Area of Investigation. Look for future *Pines Updates* (such as this one) to update you to our progress.

We've also developed a mailing list for the site. Please contact the Communications Coordinator at the address listed below to be placed on the mailing list.

**Communications Coordinator
720 W. US Hwy 20
Michigan City, IN 46360**

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