Pines Update

Issue 13, July 2006
Town of Pines, Indiana

News from the Field, Summer 2006

In this Pines Update….

This *Pines Update #13* provides the Pines Community with information on the status of the Field Investigation in the Pines Area of Investigation, and in particular, the groundwater investigation phase. As outlined in the Field Sampling Plan, the field investigation will take approximately two years to complete. The next several *Pines Updates* will provide snapshots of the progress of the Field Investigation.

Did you Know….

- ☞ Access Agreements were developed for over 70 sampling locations. NIPSCO, Brown, and ENSR thank you for your time and effort spent assisting with this process.
- ☞ The USGS has completed its study of levels of boron in drinking water wells in the Beverly Shores area and around the area around the Pines Elementary School. This study has concluded that the levels of boron present are naturally occurring.

Groundwater Investigation Phase

The groundwater investigation phase of the Field Investigation for the Pines Area of Investigation is well underway. To date, groundwater vertical profiling has been completed, piezometers have been installed, and monitoring wells have been installed and developed. Each of these tasks is discussed below.

The groundwater investigation began in late May, when several **"vertical profiles"** were completed. This technique used a truck-mounted sampling device that had a groundwater sampler attached to it. At each sampling location, the sampling device was extended into the ground to collect groundwater samples to depths up to approximately 25 feet. At each location, groundwater samples were collected in 5 foot intervals. The data collected from this sampling was used to determine the depth the monitoring wells are to be installed.

In June, **piezometers** were installed in the Area of Investigation. A piezometer is a small well (usually about 1 inch in diameter) that is used to measure the depth below the ground surface that groundwater is first encountered (called the "water table" or "water level"). Water levels will be measured each season during the Field Investigation.

The Field Sampling Plan calls for installing twenty-three (23) **monitoring wells** in July. *Pines Update #11* provided a detailed description of what a monitoring well is and how it's installed (see www.pinesupdate.com). A monitoring well is a long, narrow hole in the ground by which groundwater can be reached. A specialized drill rig is used to create the hole, and then the well is assembled and placed into the hole. The well is constructed of a 2-inch diameter plastic pipe attached to a smaller section (either 5- or 10-foot long) of plastic pipe that contains

many slots (holes) in it (this piece is called the "screen"). The slots allow the groundwater to enter the well. Sand is then packed around the screen to allow groundwater to flow into the well, and clay is placed on top of the sand to prevent rain and surface water from entering the well. Finally, a locked protective casing is placed on the well at the ground surface, which will protect the well from damage and allow future sampling of the well. After the well is installed, it is cleaned of sediment and ready for sampling. In this cleaning process (called "developing" a well), water is pumped out of the well until it runs clear.

Representatives from the USEPA and IDEM have been present in the Area of Investigation during these field activities.

Field Investigation Update – Next Steps

Several field investigation activities are planned for late Summer and early Fall 2006, including:

- Measuring water levels in monitoring wells and piezometers;
- Sampling monitoring wells;
- Sampling selected private wells;
- Measuring surface water flow;
- Sampling surface water and sediment;
- Continuing to evaluate the ecological habitat in the Area of Investigation; and
- Sampling soil

Safety Corner

Safety is our #1 Concern!

As a reminder, the field investigation will require the use of heavy equipment. **For your safety we request that all warnings and directions given by the on-site staff are followed.** Also, note that the field staff (ENSR and its subcontractors) are identifiable by photo identification badges and green hats. The hats and badges will have the labels "ENSR" and "Pines Area of Investigation, Remedial Investigation Personnel." If you have questions or concerns about the field work, please contact the communications coordinator (address shown below).

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Our Commitment….

NIPSCO and Brown are committed to keeping you informed on the progress of the investigation of the Pines Area of Investigation. Look for future *Pines Updates* to update you to our progress. We also have a website to provide continual updates on the project:

www.pinesupdate.com

Please contact the Communications Coordinator at the address listed below to be placed on the mailing list.

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