



News from the Field, November 2006




In this Pines Update....

This *Pines Update #14* provides the Pines Community with information on the status of the Field Investigation in the Pines Area of Investigation.

As outlined in the Field Sampling Plan, the field investigation will take approximately two years to complete.

The next several editions of the *Pines Updates* will provide snapshots of the progress of the Field Investigation.

Did you Know....

-  A total of 22 monitoring wells have been installed in the Area of Investigation, and a total of 34 wells are being sampled during each sampling event (i.e., all new wells plus 12 existing wells).
-  A total of 23 surface water samples are collected during each sampling event.
-  As outlined in the Field Sampling Plan, a total of 19 sediment samples have been collected.

Field Investigation Update

The Field Investigation for the Pines Area of Investigation is well underway. Since the Work Plan for the Field Investigation was approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) in September 2005, a lot of work has been done.

The **groundwater investigation** continues. As discussed in *Pines Update #13*, groundwater vertical profiling has been completed, piezometers have been installed, and monitoring wells have been installed and developed. As of November 2006, the monitoring wells have been sampled twice (in August 2006 and again in October 2006). Also, groundwater levels have been measured in all monitoring wells and piezometers. The next groundwater sampling will occur in January 2007.

The **surface water investigation** is being conducted in Brown Ditch and other area water bodies. For this portion of the investigation, surface water is being sampled at 23 locations. In addition, surface water levels are being measured. Surface water sampling is being conducted concurrently with the groundwater sampling.

The **sediment sampling** outlined in the Field Sampling Plan is complete. This sampling included collecting sediment from 19 locations for physical and chemical analyses. The photo to the right shows the ENSR field staff in the process of collecting one of these sediment samples.



A number of **private wells** have also been sampled as part of the investigation. The sampling has included an initial interview with the homeowner to gather as much information as possible about the well. This sampling is being conducted concurrently with the groundwater sampling. Groundwater samples were collected in August, September, and October 2006.

Field Investigation Update – Next Steps

Several field investigation activities are planned for January 2007, including:

- Measuring water levels in monitoring wells and piezometers;
- Measuring surface water flow; and
- Sampling monitoring wells;
- Sampling surface water.
- Sampling selected private wells;



Safety Corner

Safety is our #1 Concern!

Keep in mind that some of the work being conducted during the Field Investigation may be in areas where hunting is allowed.

Therefore, we ask all hunters to take additional precautions!

Field Staff will also take additional precautions. In addition to their usual identification (which includes photo identification badges and green hats), field staff will also be wearing proper hunting gear (e.g., bright orange vests, etc.).

Please follow all hunting safety regulations to keep everyone safe!

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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