



## Visual Inspections On-going in the Pines Area of Investigation

### In this Pines Update....

This *Pines Update* provides information about the visual inspections conducted in the Pines Area of Investigation. This *Pines Update* explains how the visual inspections are conducted and what you can do to help.

This and other past issues can be found at [www.pinesupdate.com](http://www.pinesupdate.com).

### Did you know...

- Over 100 access agreements have been obtained so far to conduct visual inspections on properties in the Town of Pines.
- Visual inspections on road and rights-of-ways are complete!
- You can help! Let us know if you suspect that coal combustion by-products are located on your property. Please contact Ms. Caryn DeJesus at 800-722-2440.

As part of the US EPA approved Field Sampling Plan (FSP), the locations of suspected coal combustion by-products located within the Area of Investigation are to be field verified by visual inspection. Visual inspections have been completed on roads and road rights-of-way within the Area of Investigation. Currently, locations where suspected coal combustion by-products might extend to or have been placed on private property are being visually inspected. The details of this visual investigation are described below.

### How are the visual inspections being conducted?

The visual inspection includes an examination by a geologist of the soil and/or suspected coal combustion by-product within the top 6 inches of the ground surface. A small diameter probe is being used to collect a sample of soil beneath the ground surface. The probe is inserted into the ground, which secures a small plug of soil in the opening of the probe (see picture below). When the probe is removed from the ground, the materials in the probe are examined by a geologist, who records the presence or absence of suspected coal combustion by-products.



At each property (where property owners have given permission) the visual inspection is now being conducted by inspecting the soil on a systematic basis. A probe sample is collected approximately every 50 feet or less. Each sample is then visually inspected. The presence or absence of suspected coal combustion by-products is documented, and a pin flag is temporarily placed where the sample

was collected. This process is repeated as necessary to define the edges of areas where there are coal combustion by-products.

After the geologist completes the examinations, the geographic coordinates at each location (where the pin flags have been placed) are collected using a Global Positioning Satellite (GPS) system.

This process is conducted at each property. It is anticipated that the visual inspections will take several weeks to complete.



### What can you do to help?

If you know where there might be coal combustion by-products on your property, let us know! Your help allows us to locate where these materials have been placed within the Area of Investigation. If you already signed an access agreement allowing the work to be conducted, feel free to let the field investigation crew know where you believe the materials have been placed on your property. If you have not been asked to sign an agreement but believe these materials are present on your property, please contact us! Please contact Ms. Caryn DeJesus at 800-722-2440. Once an access agreement has been completed, a visual inspection on your property can be conducted.



### What happens after the visual inspections are complete?

When the visual inspections are complete, the information from all the properties inspected (including those completed earlier for the roads and road rights-of-ways) will be used to identify areas where coal combustion by-products are located within the Area of Investigation. This information will be used in the Remedial Investigation Report for the Area of Investigation.

Information from the visual inspections will then be used in the Human Health Risk Assessment (HHRA) and the Ecological Risk Assessment (ERA). These risk assessments will evaluate potential current and future risks to human health and the environment associated with potential exposure to constituents by humans and animals (and plants) through various pathways. One of the exposure pathways to be evaluated is human and animal contact with constituents derived from coal combustion by-products. Knowing where coal combustion by-products are located within the Area of Investigation will help with these evaluations. The next step will be decided once the risk assessments are complete.

#### 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](http://www.pinesupdate.com)

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

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