



Major Accomplishments for the Pines Area of Investigation!

Introduction

Over the past two years, a great deal of work has been done on both the municipal water service extension and the investigation in the Pines Area of Investigation. Northern Indiana Public Service Company (NIPSCO) and Brown Inc. (Brown) are pleased to share these accomplishments with the Pines community.

Municipal Water Service Extended to 270 Homes

Municipal water service has now been extended to 270 homes. This work was a significant effort undertaken by NIPSCO and Brown, and represents a significant improvement to the infrastructure in the Town of Pines.

This work was completed in two phases:

- The construction of a municipal water service extension to an initial 130 homes in the Town of Pines was completed in December of 2003.
- In April 2004, NIPSCO and Brown offered to extend the municipal service line to an additional 140 homes. Construction work began in Spring 2004, and was substantially complete as of July 1, 2005.
- By December 2005, all road repair, landscape, and other restoration will be complete.

Home/Property Improvements

The construction of the municipal water service extension provides many benefits to residents and the Town:

- During construction, it was discovered that a number of homes had failing or broken well pumps. The construction crew was directed to adjust its schedule to bring the water service to these homes sooner than normally scheduled. The schedule adjustment kept the homeowners from having to possibly repair or replace the broken pumps, thus, ultimately, saving these homeowners the repair expense.



- As a part of the construction, fire hydrants were installed around the town. These hydrants provide residents and volunteer fire-fighters an important increase in fire safety.
- Home insurance costs should decrease because of the new hydrants. Many insurance companies take into account the distance to a fire hydrant in setting rates.
- A connection to a public water service and the increased safety of fire hydrants should increase property value.

Milestones Achieved in Investigation

Many activities have been underway since NIPSCO and Brown committed to conduct an investigation in the Pines Area of Investigation. These activities have been summarized in previous *Pines Updates*, which are available on-line at www.pinesupdate.com. Other information about these activities is also available at this web address.

- Proposed Site Management Strategy submitted to USEPA for review and approval. (June 2004)
- USEPA and their supporting agencies provided comments on the proposed SMS; the strategy document was revised and resubmitted to USEPA. (September 2004)
- Proposed Sampling and Analysis Plan for the Municipal Service Water Extension Project submitted to USEPA for review and approval. (October 2004)
- Revised SMS was conditionally approved by the USEPA. (November 2004)
- Revised Sampling and Analysis Plan for Yard 520 submitted to USEPA for review and approval. (December 2004)
- SMS approved by USEPA. (January 2005)
- Proposed Remedial Investigation/ Feasibility Study (RI/FS) Work Plan submitted to USEPA for review and approval. (January 2005)
- USEPA and their supporting agencies provided comments on the proposed RI/FS Work Plan



Note: Remember to water the newly seeded areas on your property!

- and on the Yard 520 SAP. (March 2005)
- Revised RI/FS Work Plan submitted to USEPA for review and approval. (May 2005)
- Revised Yard 520 SAP submitted to USEPA for review and approval. (June 2005)

As can be seen from the list above, a great deal of progress has been made in just a year. This schedule is much more aggressive than most projects of this type and size.

Commitment to Community Involvement

NIPSCO, Brown, and USEPA are committed to keeping the community informed and involved. The activities undertaken to keep the community involved have included the following:

- USEPA Meetings:
 - 5/1/02 Public Meeting
 - 7/17/02 Public Meeting
 - 10/24-25/02 Community interviews
 - 2/4/03 Public Meeting
 - 9/8/03 Attended Alderman Antich-Carr's community meeting
 - 4/13/04 Public Availability/ Public Meeting

- 7/7-8/04 Community interviews
- 6/28/05 Community training in Superfund Process
- USEPA provided its Community Involvement Plan in December 2004. This plan is available on the USEPA website.
- USEPA solicited and awarded a Technical Assistance Plan to a local community group (the P.I.N.E.S.), to assist the community in reviewing technical documents prepared for the Area of Investigation.
- The Technical Assistance Plan (TAP) was signed by P.I.N.E.S., NIPSCO and Brown.
- In April 2005, representatives from USEPA, the U.S. Geological Survey and the state of Indiana updated the community on the construction activities, status of the RI/FS, and the results of the boron-isotope study on wells in Beverly Shores and Pine Township.

Further, NIPSCO and Brown have provided the community with several Pines Updates:

- Issue 1, June 2004 - Administrative Orders on Consent Signed

- Issue 2, July 2004 - Site Management Strategy Plan
- Issue 3, October 2004 - Coal Combustion By-Products
- Issue 4, November 2004 - Construction Update and Safety Information
- Issue 5, January 2005 - Boron and Molybdenum
- Issue 6, February 2005 - Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study Work Plan
- Issue 7, April 2005 - What is Groundwater?
- Issue 8, May 2005 - Technical Assistance Plan

Next Steps

The completion of the municipal water service extension represents a significant milestone. On going work includes supplying bottled water to designated homes in the Area of Investigation. Also, the revised Remedial Investigation/ Feasibility Study Work Plan was submitted to USEPA on May 23, 2005. Upon USEPA approval of the Work Plan, the field investigation will proceed. Future Pines Updates will detail these activities.

Our Commitment....

NIPSCO and Brown 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 have also created a website to provide continual updates on the project:

www.pinesupdate.com

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
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