



## Office of the Mayor

Paul R. Soglin, Mayor

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March 9, 2012

Department of Natural Resources  
Secretary Cathy Stepp  
101 S. Webster Street, GEF 2  
Madison, WI 53707-7921

Dear Secretary Stepp,

I write regarding the ongoing issues surrounding the soil vapor and water contamination caused by Madison Kipp Corporation. Last week, a public meeting was held by City of Madison Alder Marsha Rummel in coordination with Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WI DNR) and City of Madison staff. Representatives from my office, Madison Water Utility, City Engineering and Madison-Dane County Public Health attended the over two hour meeting. They report the environment at the meeting was hostile and, as a result, not particularly productive.

Two facts were plainly evident during the meeting. The first is that the neighbors surrounding Madison Kipp Corporation are extremely angry with the situation, particularly that the investigation and remediation of the problem has gone on for 17 years. Secondly, it appears that the neighborhood has lost trust in Madison Kipp and their contractors. It further seemed apparent that residents of the area are additionally losing trust in WI DNR.

I fully understand the frustrations of the neighboring residents. It is my hope that WI DNR will work with the affected neighbors to build back trust. I hope you agree that it is in everyone's best interest to determine the extent of the contamination as soon as possible and to move forward with appropriate remediation. The traditional process of having the responsible party coordinate and perform the investigation and remediation is not effective or appropriate in this situation. Madison Kipp has created too much distrust and the current legal actions brought against Madison Kipp are slowing every step to a crawl.

As an alternative, I think it is appropriate to have WI DNR take control of the more immediate aspects of the investigation and remediation. Specifically, I am requesting that WI DNR hire and direct contractors to:

1. Collect and analyze all off-site soil vapor sampling (both soil probes and sub-slab sampling).
2. Install vapor mitigation systems in homes where they are deemed necessary due to proximity to known contamination or the presence of excess PCE vapors.
3. Sample and remove contaminated soils outside Madison Kipp's boundaries, including the rain garden northeast of the Madison Kipp property.
4. Monitor shallow ground water at offsite wells for PCE and its breakdown products.
5. Delineate the vertical and horizontal extent of the groundwater plume.
6. Perform a remedial options study to evaluate the existing groundwater treatment system and identify additional options for treating the groundwater.

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Clearly, Madison Kipp must pay the costs for this work and I am confident that WI DNR can accomplish this through cost recovery.

I realize this is a departure from past practice at the WI DNR, but the current situation warrants this decisive action. Improvements in speed and transparency of action would go a long way in earning back the trust of the neighbors.

Finally, I urge you to consider adding citizen representation to the negotiation meeting involving Madison Kipp. The neighbor's demand for a voice in the process is legitimate and will help to ensure that future steps consider the needs of the neighborhood. If at all possible, the representation should come from someone who represents the households on Marquette and Waubesa Streets.

Thank you in advance for your prompt consideration of these requests. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul R. Soglin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "P" and "S".

Paul R. Soglin  
Mayor

PRS/kc

Cc: Representative Chris Taylor  
Senator Mark Miller  
Alder Marsha Rummel  
Mark Meunier, Madison Kipp Corporation