

News Release
Village of DePue, Illinois

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DePue Superfund clean-up campaign moving ahead

The campaign to restore Lake DePue, remove hazardous substances from the surrounding area and address residents' health risks is moving ahead.

Mayor Eric Bryant said that petitions of support are coming in from adults, teens and school children. Almost 5,500 have already been submitted. And resolutions from Illinois municipalities representing more than 634,000 residents have arrived at the village office.

Northwestern University's law clinic has been leading regular discussions with attorney general's representatives. Clinic director Nancy Loeb said that a joint meeting of the village mayor, attorney general's staff and Illinois EPA representatives was held recently to discuss issues about the status of the 1995 Interim Consent Order's implementation. She said that the village is considering various legal options to force remedial action.

"The attorney general's office recognized, when it agreed to look into the status of the consent order last December, that the quality of life of people working and living around the site continues to be threatened until the contamination at and from the site are dealt with," Bryant said. "Scott Mulford, spokesman for the Office of the Attorney General, said early-on that the Village of DePue has a right to be concerned about the pace of these matters and to have access to information related to its progress."

According to Bryant, the village has experts and analysts who are evaluating various studies on human health, conducted for ExxonMobil and CBS corporations, to determine if they are scientifically valid. The village also wants to be certain that the studies properly address residents' health issues that may have been caused by plant operations.

The mayor said the DePue Action Committee will be scheduling meetings with state and federal elected officials, who represent village residents, to request support of immediate clean-up efforts. He added that enough studies have been done which found contamination and it is time to start the remediation.

Petitions for adults, teens and school children are available on the Internet at villageofdepue.com.

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