



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY REGION III 1650 Arch Street Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029 September 4, 2003

To: Addressees

Re: Malvern TCE Superfund Site Extension of Opportunity to Participate in Third Round *De Minimis* Settlement

Dear Sir or Madam:

The purpose of this letter is to extend the time allowed for you to decide to participate in a *De Minimis* Settlement from September 10, 2003 to October 1, 2003 and to explain the reason for this decision.

On December 9, 2002, an action for contribution ("Private Party Contribution Action") was filed by the companies that are conducting the cleanup at the Malvern TCE Superfund Site ("Site"). In response to inquiries from many parties that were sued in this civil action, on March 20, 2003, the United States Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") sent a letter asking if parties were interested in accepting a *De Minimis* Settlement with EPA.

EPA received many responses to its March 20, 2003 mailing and due to the requests made by many of you, EPA issued a Malvern *De Minimis* Settlement offer to you on August 18, 2003. The August 18, 2003, letter explained the terms and conditions of EPA's offer. This letter gave you until September 10, 2003 to agree to EPA's settlement offer.

The reason EPA set a short time frame for agreeing to settlement was based on your current costs of litigation. It was EPA's hope that a quick response would allow the court to reduce your ongoing litigation expense. EPA has been informed by your Initial Liaison Counsel for the Malvern Defendants, Philip L. Hinerman, that there is no imminent litigation deadline in the Private Party Contribution Action. Mr. Hinerman as well as other attorneys who represent many of you have asked for a short extension in the time for you to decide if you want to accept EPA's settlement offer. The primary reason for the extension of time is to allow your attorneys to obtain more information concerning the premium payment that is required by EPA's settlement offer.

EPA has agreed to meet Mr. Hinerman on September 9, 2003, for the purpose of discussing EPA's basis for its premium. EPA has also agreed to extend the original deadline to allow Mr. Hinerman to share this information with you.

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EPA has agreed to extend the time to respond from September 10, 2003 until October 1, 2003. If you have any questions relating to the foregoing, you may call Leo J. Mullin, Cost Recovery Expert, at (215) 814-3172.

Sincerely Henry J Sokolowski, P.E.,

Chief, Superfund Enforcement & Federal Facilities Branch

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