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Subject: SRP Program Update

Please see the message below from Assistant Commissioner Irene Kropp:

I am writing to update you on the status of the legislative reform stakeholder process initiated in 2007 by the Department of Environmental Protection's Site Remediation program.

As you know, a series of eleven draft white papers, which summarized the topics that were discussed, were posted on our website on August 29, 2007. In response, a number of you provided comments on the draft white papers which were posted on the website on October 11, 2007. The final versions of the white papers were posted on our web site on Friday, April 11, 2008.

On April 15, 2008 Commissioner Lisa P. Jackson will provide testimony before the Assembly Environment and Solid Waste Committee and the Senate Environment Committee concerning the proposed reforms to the Department of Environmental Protection's Site Remediation program.

The Department's recommendations include, but are not limited to: licensing environmental consultants who perform remedial investigations and actions in New Jersey; remedy selection, including incentives for permanent remedies; developing an engineering and institutional controls permit process; standards for replacement of underground storage tanks; strengthening site remediation enforcement; establishing a remediation guarantee fund to protect against remedy failure and cover future order of magnitude changes; expanding the use of the Hazardous Discharge Site Remediation Fund; expanding local notification requirements related to the changes in use of contaminated sites.

The testimony will include many of the topics identified during the stakeholder process. These topics are priorities for the Department because they address improvements to our business practices, which will allow the department to remediate contaminated sites more effectively.

Testimony will also focus on reforms that allow the Department to address large caseloads while dealing with declining resource issues. These reforms are intended to ensure protective cleanups and encourage remediating parties to act more expeditiously so cases move forward, property is returned to productive use, and municipalities are not burdened with warehoused sites.

Some topics we discussed are not included in the testimony - risk-based corrective actions, acute exposure/hot spot removal; expanded community participation in remedy selection; and cumulative risks. We believe some of these issues are addressed under

proposed regulations, some are still under discussion and some are being addressed in other forums.

As this process continues we will share information and updates via e-mail or web postings.

Thank you,

Irene Kropp
Assistant Commissioner
NJDEP - Site Remediation Program