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INDUSTRI-PLEX SUPERFUND SITE CLEANUP UNDERWAY

BOSTON-- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) today announced that construction of the long-term solution to contamination problems at the Industriplex Superfund Hazardous Waste Site in Woburn, MA has begun. The Industriplex Remedial Trust, a group of current and former owners of land at the site, have selected Chemical Waste Management, Inc. of Oak Brook, Illinois to perform the cleanup work. The Industriplex Remedial Trust represents 26 parties who reached a legal settlement with EPA to pay for and coordinate site cleanup under EPA and DEP supervision.

Chemical Waste Management, Inc. has completed cleanup work at more than 6000 hazardous waste sites, including 18 sites handled federal Superfund hazardous waste sites. The firm will conduct cleanup work at the Woburn site during the next three years according to a design developed by the Industriplex Remedial Trust and recently approved by EPA and the MA DEP. The design will meet the requirements of the 1989 decision by EPA to provide a remedy that will ensure long-term protection of public health and the environment at the site.

This first phase of cleanup will reduce risks from potential exposure to contaminated soil, groundwater and wetlands, and will address odor problems that have been associated with one of the piles of hides disposed during former site operations.

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Contaminated soil areas that have been determined to present a public health threat will be covered with a cap of clean soil and man-made layers to prevent physical contact. The cleanup contractor will also dredge a contaminated wetland area and create a new wetland area to enhance existing wildlife habitat. EPA will impose institutional controls at the site, such as deed restrictions, to assure that future land use will not pose risks from disturbance of contaminants or capped areas.

The Industriplex Remedial Trust is working with Woburn Police and community leaders to discuss ways to minimize the potential adverse impact of cleanup-related trucking on local traffic patterns. A public meeting will be announced for early this fall to discuss the cleanup and respond to community questions.

The Industriplex site has been the location of industrial operations including chemical manufacturing and disposal since the 1850s. The site covers about 245 acres one mile northwest of the intersection of Routes 93 and 95. It is currently a mixture of undeveloped land and properties developed as an industrial park. The major sources of contamination are lead, arsenic and chromium in soil, emissions of hydrogen sulfide gas from buried animal hide waste, and benzene and toluene in groundwater. Groundwater on the site is not being used for drinking water.

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