



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION II
290 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10007-1866

April 4, 2016

BY ELECTRONIC MAIL

Robert Law, Ph.D.
de maximis, inc.
186 Center Street, Suite 290
Clinton, New Jersey 08809

Re: River Mile (RM) 10.9 SPME Sampling – Administrative Settlement Agreement and Order on Consent for Removal Action CERCLA Docket No. 02-2012-2025 (Agreement)

Dear Dr. Law:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is in receipt of the Cooperating Parties Group (CPG) letter dated March 30, 2016 in which EPA was informed that CPG does not intend to analyze the SPME fibers and co-located sediment samples.

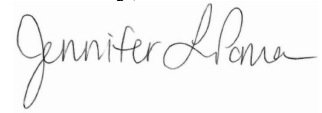
EPA's review of the SPME retrieval effort on March 8-10, 2016 concludes that debris or ice moving in the river likely caught on the SPME samplers and resulted in the conditions noted in your aforementioned letter. It is EPA's understanding that during the course of the December 9-11, 2015 SPME deployment effort, Keegan Roberts of CDM, EPA's oversight contractor, inquired with CPG's contractor AECOM as to why portions of the samplers above the sediment bed were not being cut to reduce the length of the sampler sticking into the water column, which could potentially snag debris or ice floating down the Passaic River. It is EPA's understanding that Richard Purdy of AECOM informed Keegan Roberts that the samplers were not cut to shorter lengths given the time that would be required to cut the samplers, and the time during which the tide would be low enough to allow the field to work at the sample stations. AECOM's evaluation of modifications to the SPME fiber sampling tubes by possibly shortening the portion above the sediment surface to minimize damage from floating debris, as noted in your aforementioned letter, would be a logical modification and EPA would be interested in learning more about the results of AECOM's evaluation.

If CPG does not intend to analyze the SPME fibers and co-located sediments from the March 8-10, 2016 retrieval, EPA expects that CPG will deploy SPME samplers as part of the initial monitoring event at some point over the next two months, which coincides with two years since the CPG demobilized from RM10.9. EPA expects that there will be a full deployment of SPME samplers, at all ten locations, in one event. If there are concerns that remain with the installation of SPME samplers at Stations 609 and 610, due to wading through water around the boat launch bulkhead in consideration with air and water temperatures, EPA encourages further consideration and discussion regarding use of a boat to access the shoreline near those stations.

Please inform EPA as soon as possible as to your intended schedule to deploy SPME samplers and of any proposed modifications to the SPME samplers. EPA can be available for a conference call to discuss.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jennifer LaPoma". The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored background.

Jennifer LaPoma, Remedial Project Manager
Lower Passaic River Study Area RI/FS

Cc: W. Hyatt, CPG
R. Basso, EPA
S. Flanagan, EPA