

October 15, 2002

**Hedy V. Alavi, Associate Director
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**Dr. Mitch Lasat, Director
Hazardous Substance Research Centers (HSRC) Program
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
National Center for Environmental Research
Mail Code 8722R
1200 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, D.C. 20460**

Dear Dr. Lasat:

Enclosed please find the quarterly report for the period of July 1 – September 30, 2002 regarding the outreach activities of the Center for Hazardous Substances in Urban Environments.

The report encompasses two parts, A and B. Part A includes the general activities that support the outreach efforts and are conducted by the participating institutions within the Center (Johns Hopkins University, University of Maryland, Morgan State University, New Jersey Institute of Technology, and University of Connecticut). Part B includes organized information on the current TOSC and TAB outreach projects in EPA Regions I, II and III, covering the items under reporting requirements of the grant (outreach activities quarterly report form.)

Please contact me at 410-516-7091 or hedy.alavi@jhu.edu if you need further information.

Sincerely,

Hedy V. Alavi, Ph.D., P.E., DEE

**cc: Chris Perkins (UConn, Region I)
Fred Ellerbusch (NJIT, Region II)
Robyn Gilden (UMD, Region III)
Guangming Chen (Morgan State University)
Ed Bouwer, Center Director**

**Center for Hazardous Substances in Urban
Environments**

Outreach Quarterly Report

July 1 - September 30, 2002

Part A

General Activities Supporting Outreach Efforts

New Jersey Institute of Technology Lead Projects in EPA Region 2

During this quarter, apart from the projects and inquiries described in more detail below, NJIT:

- **Finalized a collateral funding request with U.S. EPA Region 2,**
- **Finalized the U.S. EPA Region 2 Brownfields Redevelopment Guidance Document,**
- **Continued to develop the U.S. EPA Region 2 Expert System Model, a PowerPoint presentation on current status was sent to Region 2 contacts,**
- **Continued redesigning the NHSRC Internet site,**
- **Developed a budget for 2002 TAB funds for the CHSUE,**
- **Developed a fact sheet for the U.S. EPA Region 2 Brownfields Internet site,**
- **Participated in the environmental cleanup conference conducted by the Southwest Center Rio de Janeiro - presentations were made on applications of Field Analytic Methods.**
- **Conducted a workshop held in Thailand on establishing sampling and analysis programs at the government level for compliance monitoring purposes.**
- **Held discussions with the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey on possible collaboration for dredge spoil staging and subsequent land use planning for staging properties.**

- **Participated in**
 - **7/9/02 - conference call with Region 2 and HQ on outreach, TOSC TAB and suggestions from EPA Region 2,**
 - **7/22/02 - NJ Brownfields Task Force meeting, specific discussions with representatives from Gloucester City and Voorhees Township about future projects. See Voorhees (below) for more information.**
 - **7/25/02 - presenting an introduction to Environmental Health course for Nurses in New Brunswick, NJ,**
 - **7/26/02 - The Staten Island Economic Development Corporation meeting about Brownfields redevelopment initiatives in Staten Island and possible TAB involvement,**
 - **7/29/02 - presenting a introduction to Environmental Health course for Nurses in Albany, New York**
 - **8/21/02 - Quarterly conference call hosted by EPA headquarters; offered to be on planning committee for CHSUE Maryland meeting,**
 - **8/21/02 - Offering support to assist with an expert panel on groundwater use for drinking water in Queens, New York City DEP,**
 - **9/3/02 - a conference call with NG Kaul U.S. EPA regarding the Ft. Edwards community group interested in the PCB clean-up of the Hudson River. See Ft Edwards (below) for more information,**
 - **9/3/02 - a conference call with Wyatt Kenoly of the Concerned Citizens Coalition who are adjacent to a New Jersey Natural Gas Coal Gasification Site that will be cleaned up. See Long Branch (below) for more information.**

Currently, two parallel efforts are taking place:

- 1) Assessment of funding to support TAB and TOSC programs in Region 2; and
- 2) Fielding expressions of interest from communities that are seeking support from either program.

Three new promising projects have developed during the Third Quarter - these are designated as New in the descriptions that follow. At this time we continue to work through scope clarification or development as well as resource estimates; while not all of these projects have been firmly designated as either TAB or TOSC, once the scoping has been completed, the appropriate designations will be made.

Camden, NJ (NJIT) - TOSC

Under the Superfund pilot project in the City of Camden, the 5.9 acre Martin-Aaron site has been identified by community members and industrial interests alike as potentially usable. The site was host to a former barrel recycler that has been subject to EPA and NJDEP removal actions. The community has developed a plan that calls for locating a farmers market on the site, while a neighboring industry has expressed an interest to use the land for expansion. The City would like to use this project to not only arrive at a best use option but also to empower the community and create academic linkages. At this stage, the City believes that community members would benefit from capacity building in the form of risk skills training modeled after the North Camden training conducted through the NHSRC several years ago. The City also believes a planning (with economic/feasibility components) analysis would be useful to determine the viability and desirability of either or both land-use options. At present we are waiting for the City's concurrence, to develop a budget to assemble a team of experienced academic practitioners to address Risk skills training for the community and Planning analysis (using graduate student support to explore options and components). A final component will be facilitation related to redevelopment in a former industrial area.

Camden, NJ (Fettersville Community Organization/Macedonia Historical Association) - TOSC

This community group is seeking support for the use of Phytoremediation/retrieving of a City owned Brownfield site using the Paulownia tree, which the community hopes will begin improving the neighboring properties of this disadvantaged community along the Delaware River. Fettersville has a rich history including serving as a key stop on the Underground Railroad. A meeting was held in September with City of Camden representatives to review City and community interest - both of which were expressed as high. The community would like assistance in the form of a hydrologist and geologist on utilization of perched water as a source of water for garden and tree plantings and assistance on the utility of phytoremediation for this type of property. A site visit will be conducted in the Fourth Quarter; once specifics are determined, we will begin the process of matching needs to expertise.

Environmental Quality Board, Puerto Rico

EQB is seeking public outreach for support of its Voluntary Cleanup Program (VCP) initiative through an island wide conference. A planning session for the next steps in implementing the VCP was held in April and the island wide conference has been set for October 10, 2002. During the third quarter additional planning sessions were held and coordinated with Region 2. The conference will focus on the VCP program launch and the new federal Brownfields legislation.

Voorhees, NJ - NEW

Following a brief meeting at the New Jersey Brownfields Roundtable and a series of fax and e-mail correspondence, NHSRC reviewed some preliminary literature from the Voorhees Township Buzbee Task Force. The Task Force is focused on the proposed clean-up of the Buzbee Landfill. The Township had written to Senator Corzine and the matter had been directed to the Region 2 Administrator, which referred the matter to us. During the quarter, we learned that the Task Force and Township wish to redevelop the site into recreational and office park while the Responsible Parties (Township is a Responsible Party but not in agreement with the majority) desire to maintain the restricted access to the landfill - in order to keep the current institutional control solution scenario. In either case the existing cap needs replacement or improvement. A meeting of the Task Force will be held on October 2 and NHSRC will participate to assess the role of TOSC or TAB.

Long Branch, NJ - NEW

A conference call with a Long Branch concerned citizens member was held in September to review how TOSC might assist community members with the cleanup of a former Coal Gasification site that is near a residential area; within 1/4 mile are about 500 people including 2 housing authority sites which are "next door." He mentioned that this was an environmental justice issue in that the group feels it was shut out of the process. They would like to get technical support to explain what the responsible party and its engineers are doing with the cleanup. This is a CERCLIS listed site but NJDEP lead cleanup. The group has filed a petition with ATSDR who has accepted it and will conduct a study. We agreed that a site visit would be scheduled during the Fourth Quarter but not finalized until additional information promised by the citizen group such as the NJDEP site inspection document, ATSDR petition, etc. is received.

Ft Edwards, NY - TOSC - NEW

Region 2 Ft. Edwards Field Office requested TOSC community services support for the Fort Edwards Superfund project (website for the project is www.epa.gov/udson). NHSRC agreed that with the visibility of this Hudson River clean-up some support would be necessary, dependent on scope of services. At this stage what distinguishes the community group from others is that this group had not believed that taking action, as outlined in recent project descriptions was needed. During the latter part of the month, NHSRC was requested to prepare a collateral funding request for support of the Fort Edwards community; budget and scope were developed and submitted.

Ithaca, NY (formerly named Niagara County, NY)

In August, the previously unnamed community organization, which was seeking support for technical assistance and potential application of advanced technology in support of investigation and remediation, was revealed to be Ithaca, NY. This group was seeking funding for community outreach involving a review of a NYSE&G coal tar site cleanup involving ~100 homes which was being lead by the state superfund program. TOSC services were explained how NHSRC might support the community efforts but the Center was not in a position to grant funds. At this point, a City funded consultant assists with review of technical literature for the group. We could serve as peer reviewer or sequence in after City funding runs out. The community group wanted to deliberate before further discussions.

- **Joint/Transition Projects with the University of Connecticut**

The following projects are being transitioned to the University of Connecticut. There will likely be additional projects that will be transferred in the coming months.

Regional Growth Partnership, Connecticut (pilot) - NJIT/Tufts/Uconn

The Regional Growth Partnership (RGP) is a Brownfields Pilot recipient and also lead agency for a smart growth project that involves the Quinnipiac River Conservation and Development Corridor. A workshop was presented on Brownfields legislation and its impact on the liability framework and tools for managing liability. A follow-up to this workshop is planned for the summer to help the Board gain a better understanding of the decision-making process for acquisition of contaminated properties. It is planned that this session and research will help the Board create a model process to be used in its deliberations along the Corridor.

New Bedford, Massachusetts (Pilot/Showcase) - NJIT/UConn

This TAB project was to have focused on working with the city to develop a leadership training and facilitation project that will improve community organization and visioning capacity. The training, was to be in close cooperation with the Morse Cutting Tool site neighborhood, and has continued to be in the process of clarification of goals. However, it could cover capacity building for leadership skills, regulatory processes, and risk and environmental and redevelopment strategies. Training may also include a facilitated discussion on reuse planning for the Morse site and lenders workshop. Although we had anticipated transferring this project to the new center in the Third quarter, we now expect to do so during the Fourth Quarter.

University of Connecticut Lead Projects in EPA Region 1

- **Environmental Resources Institute (ERI) staff participated in two community meetings regarding a Brownfield (former chrome plating facility) in the center of a residential/light industrial/ retail area. ERI provided a fact sheet translated into Spanish (over 50% of the residents are Spanish speaking) at the request of the State of Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Hartford Health Dept. Meetings appear to have been successful in disseminating appropriate information regarding investigation and sampling activities on the site.**

- **ERI staff attended community and local church meetings regarding homes, churches and a middle school built over a municipal/industrial waste dump in Hamden CT. ERI staff met with DEP officials and attended an administrative hearing regarding enforcement of a DEP order regarding the school and potential health risks to local residents and school age children. ERI has been asked to review geostability and structural integrity reports which are expected in the near future. ERI will be attending community meetings regarding exposure/health concerns in upcoming months.**

- **ERI has been calling contacts listed for the USEPA Region 1 Brownfield Pilot regarding the availability of TAB services are available. All contacts were unaware of these services were available and three so far have expressed an interest. Danbury, CT has three Brownfield projects with mercury contamination. We are meeting with them next month to determine where we can be of assistance.**

University of Maryland Lead Projects in EPA Region 3

- **Created Power Point presentations on common toxic chemicals for posting on Center website and Envirottools.org to improve access to information on contaminants.**
- **In process of writing article for *Policy, Politics, and Nursing Practice* Journal on topic of Community Involvement at hazardous waste sites highlighting the School Siting Issues to raise awareness of data gaps and need for legislation to protect children and staff from hazardous exposures. Also to be included is a summary of the HSRC Outreach program and capabilities.**
- **Attempting to Plan an Environmental Justice conference for Center participants, UMB graduate students, and other interested parties with the help of EPA, MDE, and Environmental Defense.**
- **Assisting to develop poster presentations on community involvement at hazardous waste sites for an Environmental Journalists conference in October.**
- **Center-wide, particularly Region 3, involvement in planning the next TOSC/EPA conference to be hosted in Baltimore in March 2003.**
- **7/12/02 – presented information on Center activities to Environmental Health Nursing Class at University of Maryland School of Nursing in order to raise awareness of Center activities and elicit interest and help from graduate students.**
- **7/23/02 – received request for information from Brook-Hancock-Jefferson Metropolitan Planning Commission, WV/OH on how to include public involvement in writing a Brownfield's Assessment Pilot Grant. Project manager collected literature search material and websites and sent them to the commission and spoke at length on the phone with a representative.**
- **7/24/02 – attended MD Governor's Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities.**
- **7/26/02 – attended congressional briefing hosted by PSR on current legislative issues requiring political attention including Persistent Organic Pollutants, Coal fire power plants, and Homeland Security Department.**
- **7/31/02 – attended public meeting in Elkton, MD to hear EPA's plan for remediation at the Maryland Sand, Gravel, and Stone Superfund site. Observed process and content to better prepare for future community meetings. Made contact with CIC, Lisa Brown, and forwarded her information to provide to the community on private well water testing, a concern identified during the meeting.**
- **8/29/02 – attended meeting with Lois Gibbs and Center for Health, Environment, and Justice to gain community perspective on assessment, remediation, and redevelopment processes and where improvements can be made.**
- **9/13/02 – Program Manager attended GIS conference to discover how technologies can be used to improve identification of needs and increase community understanding and involvement.**

**Center for Hazardous Substances in Urban
Environments**

Outreach Quarterly Report

July 1 – September 30, 2002

Part B

TOSC and TAB Outreach Projects

**Center for Hazardous Substances in Urban Environment
Outreach Activities Quarterly Report**

TOSC [X] TAB []

Period: *Third Quarter 2002*
Institution/Center: *New Jersey Institute of Technology - York Center for Environmental Engineering and Science - Northeast Hazardous Substance Research Center*
Outreach Director/Manager: *Fred Ellerbusch*
Project/Community Name: *Voorhees Buzbee Landfill Task Force*
Location (City, State, EPA Region): *Voorhees Township, NJ, Region 2*
Contacts: Community: *KK Wu*
State: *Steve Kehayes, NJDEP*
EPA Region: *Larry D'Andrea, USEPA Region 2*

Project Manager/Coordinator: *Fred Ellerbusch*
Project Status: **Date Initiated:** *Preliminary discussions* **Expected Completion Date:**
2003
Signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU): **Yes:** [] **No:** [] **Why?** _____
Expected Extension on MOU: **Yes:** [] **No:** []
Project Total Estimated Cost:
Project Environmental Issues and the Center Commitments:

The Task Force is focused on the proposed clean-up of the Buzbee Landfill. The Township had written to Senator Corzine and the matter had been directed to the Region 2 Administrator, which referred the matter to us to provide technical support to the Task Force.

Activities Conducted (Community Meetings, Workshops, Document Review, Site Visitation, Report Preparation), Dates, and Approximate Costs:

Following a brief meeting at the New Jersey Brownfields Roundtable and a series of fax and e-mail correspondence, NHSRC reviewed some preliminary literature from the Voorhees Township Buzbee Task Force. During the quarter, we learned that the Task Force and Township wish to redevelop the site into recreational and office park while the Responsible Parties (Township is a Responsible Party but not in agreement with the majority) desire to maintain the restricted access to the landfill - in order to keep the current institutional control solution scenario. In either case the existing cap needs replacement or improvement. A meeting of the Task Force will be held on October 2 and NHSRC will participate to assess the role of TOSC or TAB.

Activities Planned:

Continue contact with the Task Force, meeting attendance and document review.

**Center for Hazardous Substances in Urban Environment
Outreach Activities Quarterly Report**

TOSC [X]

TAB []

Period: From **Date:** July 1, 2002 To **Date:** September 30, 2002

Institution/Center: UConn/ ERI

Outreach Director/Manager: Christopher Perkins

Project/Community Name: Massachusetts Military Reservation

Location (City, State, EPA Region): Bourne, MA Region 1

Contacts: Community: Richard Hugus and other community members to the Impact Area Review Team

State: N/A

EPA Region: Jim Murphy

Project Manager/Coordinator: Kevin Hood

Project Status: Ongoing **Date Initiated:** Initiated by previous center **Expected Completion**

Date: N/A

Signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU): Yes: [?] No: [] **Why?** Carryover from previous Center

Expected Extension on MOU: Yes: [] No: []

Project Total Estimated Cost: \$ 25,000

Project Environmental Issues and the Center Commitments: The primary environmental issue is the large-scale contamination of the Massachusetts Military Reservation with explosive and other contaminants and the migration of these contaminants into the surrounding residential areas via 19 individual contaminant plumes.

Activities Conducted (Community Meetings, Workshops, Document Review, Site Visitation, Report Preparation), Dates, and Approximate Costs:

During this quarter ERI staff attended two IART community meetings on Cape Cod during this reporting period.

ERI staff participated in 4 hour site tour and held a private meeting with community members.

ERI has raised several questions regarding the models used for contaminant distribution in groundwater and will be reviewing those models.

ERI will soon be attending technical meetings on a regular basis and observing sample collection methods on site.

In response to issues raised by the community IART members, ERI staff is conducting research on modeling methods, sampling methods and potential real estate value impacts.

ERI is finalizing a subcontract agreement with the remaining member of the TOSC (Jim Stahl) to serve on the TOSC board.

Activities Planned:

Review and comment upon appropriate consultant documents.

Attend Monthly meetings.

Attend weekly Technical Transfer Meeting in Boston

**Center for Hazardous Substances in Urban Environment
Outreach Activities Quarterly Report**

TOSC [X] TAB []

Period: *Third Quarter 2002*
Institution/Center: *New Jersey Institute of Technology - York Center for Environmental Engineering and Science - Northeast Hazardous Substance Research Center*
Outreach Director/Manager: *Fred Ellerbusch*
Project/Community Name: *Ft. Edwards*
Location (City, State, EPA Region): *Ft. Edwards, NY, Region 2*
Contacts: Community:
 State:
 EPA Region: *NG Kaul, USEPA Region 2*
Project Manager/Coordinator: *Fred Ellerbusch*
Project Status: **Date Initiated:** *Preliminary discussions & budget* **Expected Completion Date:** *2003*
Signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU): **Yes:** [] **No:** [] **Why?** _____
Expected Extension on MOU: **Yes:** [] **No:** []
Project Total Estimated Cost: *\$50,000*
Project Environmental Issues and the Center Commitments:

Region 2 Ft. Edwards Field Office requested TOSC community services support for the Fort Edwards Superfund project (website for the project is www.epa.gov/hudson). NHSRC agreed that with the visibility of this Hudson River clean-up some support would be necessary, dependent on scope of services. At this stage what distinguishes the community group from others is that this group had not believed that taking action, as outlined in recent project descriptions was needed.

Activities Conducted (Community Meetings, Workshops, Document Review, Site Visitation, Report Preparation), Dates, and Approximate Costs:

Discussions were held with EPA representatives during the quarter. During the latter part of August, NHSRC was requested to prepare a collateral funding request for support of the Fort Edwards community; budget and scope were developed and submitted.

Activities Planned:

Continue contact with U.S. EPA to further refine scope of services to match funding levels.

**Center for Hazardous Substances in Urban Environment
Outreach Activities Quarterly Report**

TOSC [] TAB []

Period: *Third Quarter 2002*
Institution/Center: *New Jersey Institute of Technology - York Center for Environmental Engineering and Science - Northeast Hazardous Substance Research Center*
Outreach Director/Manager: *Fred Ellerbusch*
Project/Community Name: *Ithaca, NY*
Location (City, State, EPA Region): *Ithaca, NY, Region 2*
Contacts: Community:
 State: Steve Kehayes, NJDEP
 EPA Region:
Project Manager/Coordinator: *Fred Ellerbusch*
Project Status: Date Initiated: Initial discussions
Expected Completion Date: _____
Signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU): Yes: [] No: [X]
Why? Community not ready
Expected Extension on MOU: Yes: [] No: []
Project Total Estimated Cost: Unknown at this time
Project Environmental Issues and the Center Commitments:

In August, the previously unnamed community organization, which had been reported as Niagara County, was revealed to be Ithaca, NY. A citizens group in Ithaca was seeking support for technical assistance and potential application of advanced technology in support of investigation and remediation. This group was seeking funding for community outreach involving a review of a NYSE&G coal tar site cleanup involving ~100 homes which was being lead by the state superfund program.

Activities Conducted (Community Meetings, Workshops, Document Review, Site Visitation, Report Preparation), Dates, and Approximate Costs:

During a telephone conference, TOSC services were explained how NHSRC might support the community efforts but the Center was not in a position to grant funds. At this point, a City funded consultant assists with review of technical literature for the group. We could serve as peer reviewer or sequence in after City funding runs out. The community group wanted to deliberate before further discussions.

Activities Planned:

At this time, no additional activities are planned unless the community group requests assistance.

**Center for Hazardous Substances in Urban Environment
Outreach Activities Quarterly Report**

TOSC [] TAB [X]

Period: **From Date:** 7/10/02 **To** **Date:** 9/25/02

Institution/Center: University of Maryland School of Nursing

Outreach Director/Manager: Dr. Barbara Sattler

Project/Community Name: Pen Argyl

Location (City, State, EPA Region):

Contacts: Community: Rick Loomis, Cleanwater Action; Jaymes Vettraino, Borough of Pen Argyl Manager; Judy Piper, Mayor Pen Argyl.

State:

EPA Region:

Project Manager/Coordinator: Robyn C. Gilden, RN, MS

Project Status: **Date Initiated:** 7/10/02 **Expected Completion Date:** _____

Signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU): Yes: [] No: [X] Why? _____

Expected Extension on MOU: Yes: [] No: []

Project Total Estimated Cost: \$ _____

Project Environmental Issues and the Center Commitments: Community of Pen Argyl is concerned about possible health effects from an existing landfill and the further effects of a proposed 27-acre expansion of the site. They requested information on possible health effects related to living near a landfill and guidance on developing a health study to be conducted by the community and PA Department of Health. They are also interested in the fate of a vacant industrial complex adjacent to the landfill, which is unoccupied for various reasons including perceived contamination, and is blight to the community.

Activities Conducted (Community Meetings, Workshops, Document Review, Site Visitation, Report Preparation), Dates, and Approximate Costs:

Performed literature and Internet search to gather background data on the community and site. 7/10/02 – attended council meeting in Pen Argyl to answer community’s concerns about the landfill and possible health effects. Convened a team consisting of Outreach Director, Program Manager, Nurse Consultant, and Graduate Nursing Student. Continued email and phone contact regarding guidance on health survey to be conducted by community and PA Health Department. 8/21/02 - conference call with community members

Activities Planned:

Public meeting with Guest Speaker on health effects related to living near a landfill. Guidance on developing a survey tool and conducting a health study. Health fair.

Activities Planned: Community would like review of environmental testing data to determine appropriateness of techniques and risks posed by results and to be advised what further questions need to be asked and what rights they have under the VRP system. The community would also like to improve channels of communication between NiSource, DEQ, and themselves.