



OAK LEAVES


Volume V ***SPECIAL** June, 1993 **EDITION*** Number 4

As was reported in the May edition of *Oak Leaves*, the EPA has initiated some activity along the West Branch of the DuPage River which affects many residents of River Oaks. This **SPECIAL EDITION** of the Newsletter contains additional information which should be of interest.

OTHER


BULLETINS OF NOTE



 **VOLUNTEER NEEDED TO DELIVER MEALS TO HOMEBOUND, ONE HOUR A WEEK:** Millie Murphy, Lot 1, is looking for someone who would be willing to help her deliver hot "meals on wheels" to local homebound residents. She needs someone for one hour each Wednesday between 10:30 to 11:30 A.M.

If you'd like to help, please contact Millie at 393-4615.



 The ROIA Board of Directors has decided to change its monthly meetings from the first Thursday of each month to the third Thursday of each month. The time for these meetings is 7:30 P.M., at a location announced in the Newsletter. (Or call a Board member for the particulars.) Just to keep the members on their toes, the July Board meeting is an exception to the rule:

July Board Meeting: Thursday, July 22nd, 7:30 P.M. At the Christiansens', 2 S 600 River Oaks Dr.

August Board Meeting: Thursday, August 19th, 7:30 P.M. At the Sinnotts', 2 S 571 River Oaks Dr.

The River & the EPA

A meeting was held Wednesday, June 2nd at the Koenigs' with a representative of CH2M Hill Engineers concerning the study being conducted by the EPA regarding potential thorium contamination in the West Branch of the DuPage River. The Kerr McGee facility in West Chicago discharged tailings contaminated with thorium and other pollutants into Kress Creek from 1930 to 1972. Kress Creek flows into the West Branch of the DuPage River (WBDR), and there is a concern that the contaminated material has made its way down the WBDR.

The EPA has hired CH2M to conduct tests from the site of the Kerr McGee plant downstream to the Warrenville dam on the WBDR, an area of about 4.3 miles. The area to be tested extends for 400 feet on either side of the WBDR, and includes roughly half of River Oaks. This limit was derived from using the boundaries of a theoretical 100 year flood without regard to the contour of the land, thus a significant portion of River Oaks is included within the 400' limit even though River Oaks' land elevation at 400' is significantly above the highwater limit of a 100 year flood. According to Warrenville officials, a 100 year flood is when the water level in the WBDR reaches elevation 702. The current elevation of the WBDR is approximately 692. The approximate limit of a 100 year flood of the WBDR (in River Oaks) is indicated on the attached drawing.

The drawing accompanying this article also shows the area in River Oaks subject to the EPA survey. River Oaks has approximately 800' of frontage along the WBDR. "Walk over" surveys will be conducted at roughly 150 foot to check for radiation. This means that 4-6 "walk over" surveys will be conducted in River Oaks. In the next phase of testing, soil samples will be taken. The soil samples will be obtained using a small auger to remove a 2-3" (wide) by 1' (deep) sample of topsoil. Sample sites will be restored to the original contour, and the disturbed turf will be replaced. The sites for the soil samples will be distributed randomly throughout the 800 foot x 4.3 mile area to be tested, and will be determined at a later date.

Currently, the only known hazardous areas (the K-M facility, some locations in West Chicago and certain areas of Kress Creek) were contaminated as a result of direct deposit of the tailings - that is areas where the tailings were placed, or used as fill.

The River & the EPA - continued

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ccording to the engineer, no known hazardous area has been identified where sedimentation was the method of deposit. Any contamination along River Oaks' WBDR frontage would result from sedimentation deposit from up-stream tailing deposits.

Thorium does not easily leach or dissolve, thus contamination most usually results from direct deposit of thorium-bearing material. Other than ingestion of thorium-bearing dirt, the main route of entry is the inhalation of dust generated from contaminated tailings or sediments. A survey conducted in the 1970's indicated that any polluted sediments would be found within one foot of ground level.

In order for the engineers and the EPA to complete their work as quickly as possible, it is essential that property owners give their permission for the survey /sampling work to be conducted. Attached to this bulletin is a sample form for use in responding to this request. The ROIA Board has already forwarded its permission to CH2M to test the Common Areas, and urges River Oaks residents within the boundaries of the survey to mail their forms as soon as possible {check the attached map to see if you are within the survey boundry}.

The general procedure for the study is: determination of the area to be surveyed {this is complete}; "walk over" survey; soil sampling; testing; data analysis; risk assessment; reporting. This whole process will likely take 2+ years. It is hoped that the sampling can be completed within 3 months. Property owners who participate in the survey/sampling can obtain the results of the survey/sampling on their property prior to the publication of the final report. These individual results are confidential until the final report is published.

According to the engineer, approximately 250 property owners have to be contacted to initiate the survey/sampling program. Because the survey and sampling process cannot begin until permission to access the property has been granted, it is very important that the forms be returned as soon a possible. The EPA has the power to seek a court order to compel property access for the survey/sampling process, therefore refusal to grant permission or failure to return the form only results in additional delay and further expense of your tax dollars.

Return the form to Ann Koenig, or mail to: Rebecca Frey, US EPA, Region 5, 77 West Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL 60604

Access Agreement

I, _____, as owner of property identified to me by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) as being possibly contaminated from the Kerr-McGee Kress Creek/West Branch DuPage River Superfund site, hereby voluntarily grant to the EPA, its officers, agents, employees and contractors (hereinafter collectively referred to as "U.S.EPA") unconditional entry and access to my property for the purposes of conducting a Remedial Investigation (RI) pursuant to the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), 42 U.S.C. §§ 9601 to 9675.

I understand that, in conducting the RI, it may be necessary for the U.S. EPA to perform radiological surveys, indoor radon air sampling; and to collect surface water, sediment and soil samples.

I understand that the U.S. EPA will restore locations where soil samples were collected from my yard as close as possible to its original condition prior to sampling.

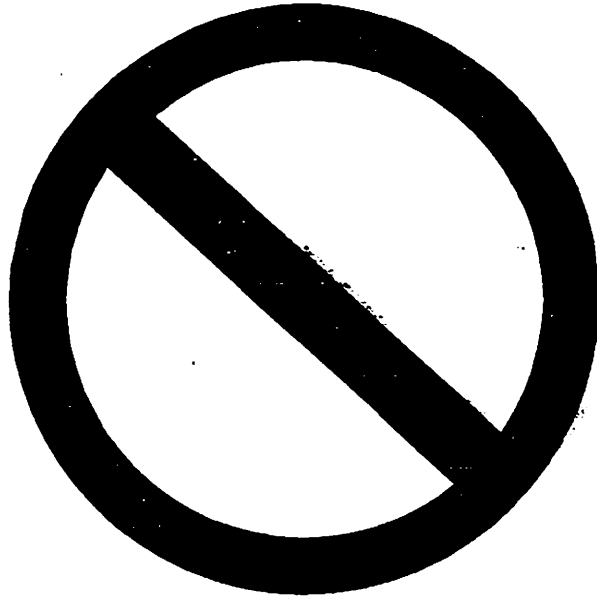
SO AGREED:

Signature of Property Owner

Date

Address

Name (printed)



HAZARD WARNING !!

The recent rains have resulted in high water levels in and around the Common Areas. The high water is submerging various pieces of electrial equipment !

Water and electricity DO NOT MIX! Until the water subsides:

PLEASE DO NOT ALLOW YOU CHILDREN TO PLAY IN
THE COMMON AREAS OR AROUND ELECTRICAL
EQUIPMENT SUCH AS TRANSFORMERS.

