



United States Steel Corporation – Gary Works
One North Broadway, MS 70-A
Gary, IN 46402

VIA CERTIFIED MAIL

February 2, 2018

Joseph E. Wainscott, Chairperson
State Emergency Response Commission
Indiana Government Center South
302 West Washington Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2738

Porter County Local Emergency Planning Committee
1995 S. State Road 2
Valparaiso, IN 46385

Subject: Emergency Planning and Community-Right-to-Know
Follow Up Notification Letter
Incident date: April 11, 2017

This letter is written as a follow up regarding a discoloration on Burns' Waterway and a chromium release incident beginning on April 11, 2017, at the U. S. Steel Corporation Gary Works – Midwest Plant ("Midwest") at outfall 304 (NPDES permit IN0000337 effective April 1, 2016) and is based on information available at this time.

A discoloration at the Midwest discharge was noted on April 11, 2017, and reported by telephone to the National Response Center ("NRC"), IDEM, the Coast Guard, and the LEPC starting at 9:30 AM. Based on the discoloration, the facility began to shut down operations.

An investigation revealed that an expansion joint in a pipe carrying chromium-containing wastewater to the Chrome Treatment Plant had broken and the chromium wastewater had entered the facility's North Final Treatment Plant and was subsequently discharged to Burns' Waterway. Samples collected over the next two days revealed that approximately 351 lbs. of chromium compounds were released over the two-day period of April 11-12.

The following response actions were taken:

1. Operations at the facility were shut down, except for water systems necessary for fire protection and non-contact cooling water.
2. The broken expansion joint was repaired and pressure tested successfully.
3. A wastewater treatment additive (ChemTreat P8005L) was added to the final wastewater treatment facility to reduce hexavalent chrome present. Ultimately, 298 of the 351 pounds of chromium compounds released were hexavalent.
4. Samples in and around Burns' Waterway and Lake Michigan, including nearby beaches, were collected and analyzed in cooperation with appropriate environmental agencies. No impact was discovered to either human health or the environment.
5. Visual inspections of the equipment and outfall were conducted.



Further sampling has indicated that the facility is in compliance with water permit limits and U. S. Steel continues to work cooperatively with the appropriate agencies and entities.

The initial report was made by Mark Henry, a U. S. Steel employee and recorded by "Justin" a NRC employee. The report was identified by the NRC as #1175399.

Going forward, U. S. Steel and participating government agencies will continue to monitor water at and around the outfall. In addition, U. S. Steel has made enhancements to the parts of the facility where the release occurred and is reviewing additional measures it can take to allow for earlier detection of future issues.

If you have any questions or require additional information, I can be reached at jehanning@uss.com or (219) 888-4500.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joseph E. Hanning". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping "H" and "N".

Joseph E. Hanning, PE
Director – Environmental Control