



Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

Rachel Carson State Office Building

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June 20, 2007

Secretary

717-787-2814

Mr. Michael J. Masch, Secretary
Office of the Budget
238 Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Secretary Masch:

As you know, the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Fund is one of the Commonwealth's most important tools when responding to environmental threats, protecting the public's safety, and revitalizing our communities, but because it has lacked a dedicated funding source since 2002, it faces an uncertain future.

Without this valuable program, the Commonwealth must cease operations on many of the projects currently underway, adversely affecting the quality of life for our residents and hindering Pennsylvania's economic future.

This potential program shutdown has significant implications to the Commonwealth. Without a working Hazardous Sites Cleanup Fund, most of the state's dangerous toxic waste sites will remain public health hazards for years to come. In addition, the Commonwealth will no longer have the ability to respond quickly and thoroughly to new environmental emergencies.

We are hopeful that the administration and the General Assembly will be successful in identifying a long-term, dedicated funding source for the program. However, as a contingency, the Department of Environmental Protection has developed plans for a phased shutdown of these activities.

The shutdown of the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Act (HSCA) programs will occur in three phases. The first phase, which DEP will begin immediately, will be to institute a freeze on HSCA-funded vacancies and cease any and all discretionary funding. Contractual obligations not related to contaminated site remediation - such as technical support for criminal investigations, laboratory support and regional contracts - would be cancelled or suspended. New site response contracts (including new state Superfund contracts) should not be processed until the program has been stabilized and new work priorities established.

DEP is currently evaluating a statewide list of HSCA projects and identifying sites that should receive priority status for continuation, using the following criteria:

