



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY
GRAND RAPIDS DISTRICT OFFICE



PHILLIP D. ROOS
DIRECTOR

July 31, 2023

VIA EMAIL ONLY

Dave Latchana
Associate General Counsel
Wolverine World Wide, Incorporated
9341 Courtland Drive, NE
Rockford, Michigan 49351

Dear Dave Latchana:

SUBJECT: Notice of Approval with Conditions of the Revised Tannery Interceptor System Response Activity Plan Submitted Under the Wolverine World Wide, Incorporated Consent Decree Court Case No.: 1:18-cv-00039 Facility ID No.: 41000451

The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE), Remediation and Redevelopment Division, has reviewed the Revised Tannery Interceptor System Response Activity Plan (ResAP) for the property located at 181 North Main Street in Rockford, Kent County, Michigan submitted by Rose & Westra, a Division of GZA GeoEnvironmental, Incorporated (GZA) on behalf of Wolverine World Wide, Incorporated (Wolverine) on May 9, 2023. The Tannery Interceptor System is a requirement of the Consent Decree (effective February 19, 2020) as described in Paragraph 7.7 of the Consent Decree. EGLE approved the Final Tannery Interceptor System ResAP submitted by GZA on behalf of Wolverine on March 31, 2022. Based on further modeling and on-site pump testing conducted by Wolverine in 2022, the proposed interceptor/extraction system design was modified and proposed in a ResAP Addendum that was submitted by Wolverine in December 2022 and denied by EGLE in March 2023. This Revised Tannery Interceptor System ResAP was prepared to address and respond to EGLE's March 2023 denial letter in accordance with Paragraph 7.14 of the Consent Decree.

As outlined in Section 15 of the Consent Decree, after receipt of any submission relating to Response Activities that is required to be submitted for EGLE approval, EGLE may notify the Defendant that the plan is approved with conditions if applicable. The May 9, 2023, Revised Tannery Interceptor System ResAP has been approved with the following conditions:

1. Section 11.3 Anticipated Operations Troubleshooting

Summaries of the operations and maintenance activities of the system will be included in the monthly performance monitoring reports to EGLE.

2. Section 13.0 Schedule

Phase I will begin as soon as possible after the frost law restrictions are lifted in Spring 2024.

3. Section 14.0 Pre-design Investigation Data and Sheet No. 2

The pre-design investigation must also evaluate if additional deep extraction wells are warranted near TA-MW-303D and TA-MW-301D, in addition to the currently listed location between TA-GW-06 and TA-MW-304A/B.

4. Section 15.0 Performance Monitoring Plan

Add in clarification within this section that a minimum gradient below the river piezometers will be maintained within the trench and deep piezometers based on the pressure transducer readings which will be collected in real time multiple times a day. If the minimum gradient is being approached or reached, then that will trigger the pumping rates to be adjusted.

5. Section 10.1.7 Pressure Transducers and Section 15.0 Performance Monitoring Plan

Although comparison and evaluation of groundwater flow direction along the monitoring sections for the entire site will happen weekly, the report text will be clarified to explain that the programmable logic controller will be monitoring these elevations and obtaining multiple readings each day to trigger if adjustments to the system are needed in real time using a minimum gradient threshold.

6. Section 15.0 Performance Monitoring Plan

All existing wells located between the trenches and the Rogue River are included in the bi-weekly groundwater elevation monitoring.

7. Section 17.0 Groundwater Sampling

All river piezometers installed as part of the performance monitoring will be sampled under the sampling program as previously requested in EGLE's March 10, 2023, denial letter.

8. Section 17.0 Groundwater Sampling

After the two-year performance monitoring period, a new sampling frequency can be proposed in the long-term monitoring plan. EGLE is not commenting at this time on the frequency of sampling needed for any of the monitoring wells after the first two years.

If the above conditions are not met, EGLE approval of the Revised Tannery Interceptor System ResAP is withdrawn.

This approval with conditions of the Revised Tannery Interceptor System ResAP is based upon the representations and information contained in the submittal, therefore, EGLE expresses no opinion as to whether other conditions that may exist will be adequately addressed by the response activities that are proposed.

If you should have further questions or concerns, please contact Leah Gies, Remediation and Redevelopment Division, Grand Rapids District Office, at 616-215-4781 or at GiesL1@Michigan.gov, or you may contact me directly.

Sincerely,

Karen Vorce

Karen Vorce
District Supervisor
Grand Rapids District Office
Remediation Division
616-439-8008

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