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July 29, 2016

**VIA REGULAR MAIL AND EMAIL**

The Honorable Barry P. Sarkisian, P.J. Ch.  
Superior Court of New Jersey  
Brennan Courthouse  
583 Newark Avenue  
Jersey City, New Jersey 07306

Re: **PROGRESS REPORT: New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, et al. v. Honeywell International, Inc. et al. v. City of Jersey City et al.**, Superior Court of New Jersey, Chancery Division, Hudson County, Civil Action No. HUD-C-77-05; Partial Consent Judgment Concerning the PPG Sites

Dear Judge Sarkisian:

I respectfully submit this Progress Report pursuant to my responsibilities as independent Site Administrator operating under the Partial Consent Judgment entered on June 26, 2009, as amended ("**JCO**").

Effective January 4, 2016, I became Site Administrator pursuant to the December 2, 2015 "Order Setting Transition Timeline and Appointing Ronald Riccio as New Site Administrator." Under paragraph 1(b)(i)1 of the "Order Administratively Dismissing This Matter Without Prejudice and Retaining Jurisdiction" entered by Your Honor on May 4, 2016 (the "**May 2016 Order**") I am required to submit Progress Reports to the Court twice per year.

This is my first Progress Report. A second Progress Report will be submitted to Your Honor in December 2016.

Since my appointment there have been no disputes or disagreements that could not be resolved by the Parties.<sup>1</sup> This is a testament to the good faith of Parties.

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<sup>1</sup> As used herein, the Parties are PPG Industries, ("PPG"), the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection ("DEP") and the City of Jersey City ("City").

I am also serving as Court appointed Mediator pursuant to the February 22, 2016 “Order Referring Third-Party Complaint and Referring Certain Matters to Mediation and Entering Stay” (the “**Mediation Order**”). A summary of the progress of the Mediation is included in this Progress Report.

## **I. Site Administrator Transition**

Between October 2015 and the effective date of my appointment (January 4, 2016) as Site Administrator, the former Site Administrator, Michael McCabe, was extremely helpful and gracious in assisting my transition. I thank him for his assistance. As a result, the Site Administrator transition process has been seamless.

Since January 4, and even before that date, I have taken proactive steps so that I could “hit the ground running” as Site Administrator. Some of my efforts include:

- Attending numerous meetings and having daily communications with PPG, DEP and the City to accommodate and assess their interests/perspectives/concerns regarding cleanup of the PPG chromium sites.
- Attending several meetings and having regular communications with the Jersey City Redevelopment Authority (“**JCRA**”) and Hampshire Urban Renewal Redevelopment, LLC (“**Hampshire**”) to accommodate and assess their interests/perspectives/concerns regarding cleanup of the PPG chromium sites as well as the future redevelopment of the Garfield Avenue Group (“**GAG**”) sites.
- Attending meetings with affected, or potentially affected, business owners and property owners in and around the GAG sites, including, among others, the owners of Ten West Apparel, Al Smith Moving, the Halsted Bag Company, the owner of the Forrest Street properties, and Spectrum Health Care.
- Attending meetings with the Jersey City Environmental Commission.
- Attending meetings with community leaders.
- Attending a public “Meet and Greet” at the Bethune Center in Jersey City.
- Attending a public meeting at the Bethune Center at which representatives of DEP, the City, PPG and the JCRA were present to address questions and comments from the public.
- Responding to public inquiries both by phone and electronically.

## **II. Monitoring The Master Schedule**

Paragraph 49(a) of the JCO requires the Site Administrator to, among other things, establish a judicially enforceable Master Schedule for the filing and review of submittals by PPG and to ensure that good faith efforts are made to meet the goals established in the Master Schedule. The last Master Schedule approved by the Court was dated as of October 13, 2015 and was the subject of an Order dated November 6, 2015 (the “**2015 Master Schedule**”).

The Parties, under my supervision, have prepared a revised Master Schedule dated as of July 29, 2016 (the “**Revised Master Schedule**”). A copy of the Revised Master

Schedule, enclosed for Your Honor's consideration, takes into account the most recent information concerning the milestones for completion of the investigation and remediation of the PPG chromium sites.

My staff<sup>2</sup> and I have worked with DEP, the City and PPG to establish the most aggressive milestones possible for the safe, effective, expeditious and efficient performance for remediation and restoration of the PPG chromium sites. In that regard, revised procedures have been developed to carefully track the progress of the work, such as the use of Gantt charts, submittal tracking logs and weekly conference calls and/or meetings with technical personnel and others. These procedures provide an early warning system to alert everyone whether milestones will be achieved, whether adjustments are necessary due to unforeseen ground conditions, and how best to respond to unanticipated problems.

I respectfully direct Your Honor's attention to the areas of the Revised Master Schedule shaded in green. Those green areas illustrate completion of tasks. Your Honor will notice in the "Comments" column of the Revised Master Schedule that milestones are difficult to predict for sites that are currently the subject of litigation. The Comments also take into account other complexities that can impact adherence to projected milestones.

### **III. Remediation Standards And The Preeminence Of Public Safety**

The DEP has been vigilant in requiring and monitoring compliance with its most stringent standards for the remediation of soils and groundwater at the PPG chromium sites. In that regard, no one disagrees that DEP's most stringent standards govern the cleanup. Those standards call for the remediation of hexavalent chromium in soil to 20 mg/kg (for residential properties, to 20 feet below ground surface) in accordance with the DEP Commissioner's February 2007 Chromium Policy, and the remediation of total chromium in groundwater to 70 ug/l, which is the groundwater quality standard designated by NJDEP for use of the groundwater as potable water. PPG agreed to comply with these standards in remediating the PPG sites. It should be noted that the groundwater at the PPG sites is not a source of drinking water.

My staff and I have worked with DEP and the independent Technical Consultant<sup>3</sup> to ensure that these standards are strictly met. In that regard, great care has been taken to ensure that all aspects of the cleanup are conducted with the highest regard for public safety.

All of the objective public health and safety measurements confirm that activities taken to protect the public during remediation have been and continue to be effective. For example, sophisticated air monitoring is being conducted continuously until the sites have been restored to identify potential chromium releases. The air monitoring results are posted on the Chromium Cleanup Partnership web site.

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<sup>2</sup> My staff includes James D. Ray, Esq. and Nancy R. Colson, Administrative Assistant.

<sup>3</sup> The JCO authorizes the Site Administrator to engage a "Technical Consultant" to advise the Site Administrator and DEP on technical matters. Weston Solutions has been functioning as the Technical Consultant since 2009. A new contract was entered between Weston Solutions and Ronald Riccio, Site Administrator, dated January 4, 2016.

My staff and I also oversee a Blood Monitoring Program. This Program, which is a component of the Health Study required by the JCO and was requested by neighborhood residents in early public meetings after the 2009 JCO was entered, has been independently administered by the Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences Institute (EOHSI) at Rutgers University. It has served as additional validation that the multiple exposure prevention and safety measures implemented during the cleanup have protected the public.

The seventh round of blood sampling of volunteers from the Garfield Avenue community was completed in July 2016. As in previous rounds of sampling, independent laboratory results show that there have been no discernable chromium exposure levels attributable to the remediation. A final report of all of the rounds of blood sampling will be completed later this year and will be posted on the Chromium Cleanup Partnership web site.

My staff and I also oversee a Residential Inspection Program. This Program is broadcast to the public via the Chromium Cleanup Partnership web site, through newsletters, as well as at public meetings and word of mouth. The Program offers residents who live within defined areas of certain PPG chromium sites the opportunity to request an inspection of their homes if they suspect chromium waste is in, or on, their property. Since implementation of this Program in 2010, 80 property owners joined the Program. Of the responses received, 32 inspections were conducted and 23 properties were sampled. Of those properties sampled, five were determined to have exceedances unrelated to the PPG sites. Of those five, PPG has voluntarily remediated three properties thus far. Currently, I am actively communicating with at least 12 homeowners to schedule inspections and, if required, sampling and remediation.

Some affected buildings located on or near the PPG chromium sites have not been fully remediated, as yet. In order to protect against potential exposures to occupants, Interim Remedial Measures (“**IRMs**”) have been installed at specific areas within these buildings. The IRMs used at the PPG sites serve as temporary safeguards to prevent exposure to hexavalent chromium, such as areas of concrete floors that have been coated with epoxy to impede hexavalent chromium “bloom” through the flooring materials. Inspections of IRMs are performed weekly, twice per month, monthly or quarterly depending upon, among other things, the potential for exposure. IRM Inspection Reports are regularly generated and shared with the affected property owners.

#### **IV. Summary of Remediation Progress at PPG Sites**

##### **A. Remediation of the GAG Sites (Exclusive of GAG Roadways and GAG Offsite Properties)**

Attached to the Master Schedule are two figures, **Figure 1** and **Figure 2**. These figures depict the “Garfield Avenue Group” of sites (the “**GAG Sites**”). The GAG Sites include the following parcels, broken down as “Phases,” shown on **Figure 1** and **Figure 2**:

- Interim Remedial Measure (IRM) #1, located within Site 114;
- Phases 1A and 1B, considered the Southwest (SW) Area within Site 114;

- Phase 1C, located within Site 114;
- Phase 2A, located within Site 114, addressed under Public Service Electric and Gas Company's remedial action;
- Phase 2B, which includes Phases 2B-1 through 2B-4, located within Site 114;
- Phase 3A, which includes Site 132 and most of Site 143;
- Phase 3B North, which includes a portion of Site 132, a portion of Site 137, and the remainder of Site 143;
- Phase 3B South, which includes Site 133 West, a portion of Site 137, the former Fishbein property, the Ten West Apparel property, and a small portion of Halladay Street South;
- Phase 3C, which includes Site 133 East, the remainder of Halladay Street South, and Site 135 North.

Also depicted on **Figure 1** and **Figure 2** are roadways and adjacent properties that have been impacted by hexavalent chromium, including:

- Phase 4, CCPW<sup>4</sup>-impacted roadways surrounding the GAG Group of Sites (the "**GAG Roadways**"), including Halladay Street North, Forrest Street, Carteret Avenue, and Garfield Avenue (from Carteret Avenue to the Light Rail); and
- Phase 5, the "**GAG Offsite Properties**" include CCPW-impacted properties adjacent to the GAG Sites, including the former Halsted Bag Company, Forrest Street Properties, and Al Smith Moving.

The GAG Roadways and GAG Offsite Properties are discussed further below (see Sections C. and D.).

Excavation and partial backfilling of all Phases of the GAG Sites have been completed as of this Progress Report, with the exception of a small area of Site 133 East adjacent to the Al Smith Moving building and Building 51 and the parcels encompassing Phase 3B South and the GAG Roadways.

PPG is in litigation with Ten West Apparel over access to the portion of Phase 3B South owned by Ten West Apparel, as well as other legal issues. Excavation of the portions of Phase 3B South, not owned by Ten West Apparel, has been delayed due to the proximity of these parcels to the Ten West Apparel warehouse and the concern about potential damage to the warehouse should further excavation be performed in surrounding areas.

With respect to the GAG Sites - the group of sites that represent the focus of community interest that have been the most challenging to date in terms of planning and complexity – through June 30, 2016, approximately 858,000 tons of CCPW-contaminated soils/materials have been removed. In addition, through June 30, 2016, approximately 79 million gallons of contaminated water have been treated and removed.

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<sup>4</sup> "CCPW" refers to chromate chemical production waste and is more particularly defined in the JCO.

## B. Restoration of GAG Sites

PPG, DEP and the City have agreed that “restoration” of the affected sites is defined to mean installation of a “capillary break” and final remediation grading.<sup>5</sup> A “capillary break” is a sufficient height of soil, coarse graded stone or other material above the groundwater that is designed to prevent the upward migration of dissolved phase contaminants through capillary action (e.g., capillary rise). Installing a capillary break prevents direct human exposure to hexavalent chromium that may be deposited by the evaporation of water on porous surfaces (more commonly referred to as “blooms”).

In 2015, PPG, the City, DEP, JCRA and Hampshire agreed upon the design parameters for a “Capillary Rise Study” to, among other things, evaluate different materials to best serve as the capillary break on and at the GAG Sites. This study is scheduled to conclude by the end of Summer 2016.<sup>6</sup> A Capillary Rise Study Report will be submitted to DEP by December 31, 2016. DEP shall then make a final determination of the capillary break methodology by March 31, 2017. Following the capillary break methodology determination, PPG will be able to commence restoration of the GAG Sites that have been remediated. PPG is independently pursuing a Chromium Concentration Study to investigate the conditions under which blooming may occur.

The Revised Master Schedule contemplates that most of the GAG Sites shall achieve “Restoration Complete” by October 2017, with the exception of the small area of Site 133 East adjacent to the Al Smith Moving building, Building 51 within Site 135 South and a small area of Site 135 South adjacent to Building 51, and the parcels encompassing Phase 3B South, including the Ten West Apparel site.

## C. Remediation of the GAG Roadways

The GAG Roadways include the portions of Halladay Street North, Forrest Street, Carteret Avenue and Garfield Avenue shown on **Figure 1** and **Figure 2**. PPG has completed field activities for the predesign investigation of Halladay Street North and Forrest Street. PPG is in discussions with Jersey City regarding road closure planning in order to conduct the predesign investigation for the Garfield Avenue roadway. The proposed remediation plans for the GAG Roadways await compilation and validation of the sampling/delineation data.

The remediation plan for the Carteret Avenue section of the GAG Roadways is complicated by the presence of a 96 inch steel combined sewer pipe that extends from the Garfield Avenue intersection to beyond the intersection of Carteret Avenue and Pacific Avenue. PPG has completed field activities for its predesign investigation in the section of Carteret Avenue between Garfield Avenue and Pacific Avenue. Testing shows that soils contaminated by CCPW surround large portions of the pipe. The CCPW-impacted

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<sup>5</sup> This term is defined in note 5 of the Revised Master Schedule.

<sup>6</sup> The Study parameters called for completion of test cell observations for Fall 2015, Winter 2016, Spring 2016 and Summer 2016, at a minimum.

soils/materials that surround the pipe cannot be remediated with the pipe in place for fear of damage being done to the pipe. PPG and the City are working on an approach to coordinate installation of a new pipe, removal of the existing pipe, and the remediation work in and around new and existing pipe trenches.

Installation of the new pipe and removal of the existing pipe will require the Jersey City Municipal Utilities Authority to apply for funding through the New Jersey Environmental Infrastructure Trust. The milestones for completion of the remediation of Carteret Avenue will be reevaluated based upon the outcome of the current discussions between PPG and the City with respect to planning for removal and replacement of the existing pipe as well as associated remediation activities.

#### D. Remediation of the GAG Offsite Properties

The GAG Offsite Properties include the former Halsted Bag Company (now owned by PPG), Forrest Street Properties and Al Smith Moving. Remediation of the portion of Site 135 South that has not been completed will be conducted in concert with any required actions related to Al Smith Moving.

Site 135 South and Site 135 North<sup>7</sup> were acquired by PPG in August 2015. PPG has demolished nearly all of the buildings on those sites with the exception of Building 51, which is structurally attached to the Al Smith Moving building. Building 51 was left in place because its demolition could have affected the structural integrity of the Al Smith Moving Building. Under the Revised Master Schedule, the excavation of the CCPW-impacted soils/materials at Site 135 South (with the exception of Building 51) will be completed by October 2016. The portion of Site 135 South under Building 51 and soils adjacent to that building and the Al Smith Moving Building that have not as yet been remediated have been incorporated into the milestones for the Al Smith Moving Building, as shown on the Revised Master Schedule.

PPG recently concluded an agreement with Al Smith Moving. This agreement allows PPG access to the Al Smith Moving Building to conduct pre-design investigation, demolition (if required) and remediation. PPG has completed sampling and delineation of Building 51. During the pendency of the work at the Al Smith Moving Building and Building 51, Al Smith operations will temporarily move to the Halsted Building. This temporary move was carefully evaluated and accepted by all interested parties.

The Halsted Building was acquired by PPG in February 2016. The prior owners (the Halsted Bag Company) have since vacated the building. PPG has completed predesign investigation field activities at the Halsted Building. Remediation of the Halsted Building will continue after Al Smith Moving vacates that building.

The Forrest Street Properties consist of various buildings that are occupied by operating businesses, as well as a vacant parcel adjacent to the NJ Transit Light Rail tracks. PPG plans to complete its pre-design investigation work of these parcels in 3Q 2016.

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<sup>7</sup> Excavation and backfilling of Site 135 North was completed as of the date of this Progress Report.

#### E. Groundwater at the GAG Sites

PPG has installed an extensive network of groundwater monitoring wells at the GAG Sites. Groundwater is sampled on a regular basis. The groundwater samples collected from the monitoring wells are sent to an analytical laboratory to obtain information on groundwater quality and to support on-going investigations of the extent of contaminant impacts, both horizontally and at depth within the aquifers.

Recently, PPG installed equipment in some of the monitoring wells that will provide data to evaluate seasonal changes in local groundwater elevations and the vertical groundwater flow relationships between the shallow and intermediate groundwater zones. PPG is also conducting pilot studies to investigate the possible use of biological or chemical treatment of the chromium in the groundwater. In the future, all of this information will collectively be used to select and design an appropriate method to remediate the groundwater contamination at the site. The Revised Master Schedule continues the same milestones for the groundwater at the GAG Sites established in the 2015 Master Schedule. The parties are presently discussing new milestones for the investigation and remediation of groundwater.

#### F. Remediation of the Remaining (Non-Garfield Avenue) PPG Sites

1. Site 156, Metropolis Towers: This is the large apartment complex across from City Hall, known as Metropolis Towers. Soil remediation and restoration activities at this site, mainly in the parking lot area, have been substantially completed. Nearly 60,000 tons of CCPW contaminated soils/materials have been removed and approximately 1.85 million gallons of groundwater have been removed, treated and discharged.

In the 2015 Master Schedule, Remedial Action Report Determination was projected to be completed by October 2016. However, as a result of a determined need for additional investigation in small areas of the site and additional confirmatory sampling, this milestone had to be re-set for April 2017. The remaining work for this site is limited to small areas that may require excavation, additional confirmatory sampling and report writing.

Remediation of a small area in the basement boiler room in one of the buildings located at this site is being addressed on a separate timeline. The Remedial Action Work Plan for the boiler room was deemed “approvable” in February 2016, subject to receipt of written consent from the property owner to engineering controls and a deed notice, which consent was obtained. Installation of engineering controls in the boiler room will occur this September.

2. Site 16, Linden East: This site hosts a warehouse building located at the intersection of Caven Point Road and Linden Avenue East in Jersey City. Remediation of the parking lot area of this site commenced in June 2014 and has been completed, including the excavation of approximately 46,000 tons of chromium-impacted soils.



The building owner recently entered into a lease with a new tenant and has requested that remediation of the building area be delayed. Therefore the Revised Master Schedule shows that completion of remediation within the building footprint and site restoration will be achieved by September 2021. A Remedial Action Report Determination for this site is scheduled to be complete by October 2022.

3. Site 63, Baldwin Oil: This site is located at the juncture of Burma Road and Pesin Drive in Jersey City. The work at this site is substantially complete. To date, more than 32,000 tons of CCPW-contaminated soils/materials and approximately 1 million gallons of impacted stormwater, groundwater and decontamination water were removed from this site. In the 2015 Master Schedule, RAR Determination was projected to occur by May 2016. However, as a result of a determined need for additional remediation in a small area adjacent to the site and additional confirmatory sampling, this milestone had to be re-set for March 2017.

4. Site 65, Burma Road: This site is adjacent to Site 63. The investigation and remediation of Site 65 is complicated by the presence of a water line owned by the City located within the Burma Road and Pesin Drive rights-of-way. In addition, PPG has raised questions regarding its responsibility for other potential sources of hexavalent chromium exceedances in this area and the presence of non-chromium contaminants unrelated to PPG waste products.

In the 2015 Master Schedule, the milestone for Excavation Complete was December 2016. The City and PPG are currently discussing an approach to the remediation of this site. The final remedial approach must be accepted by DEP.

I am carefully monitoring these discussions and the Revised Master Schedule milestones for this site. In particular, I am hopeful that the Parties can agree on the remedial approach for Burma Road in accordance with the Revised Master Schedule milestones.

5. Sites 107/108, Fashionland/Albanil: This site is the subject of ongoing litigation. While access to the building is to be provided in February 2017 pursuant to an Order in the matter captioned PPG Industries, Inc. v. Greenberg Property, LLC, et al., Docket No.: HUD-C-117-13, other legal issues involving PPG and the property owner are still pending. The revised Master Schedule anticipates that remediation and restoration of Sites 107/108 will be completed in 2018, though litigation delays could impact the completion date.

6. Site 174, Dennis Collins Park (Bayonne): Focused excavation of the Park was completed in July 2016. As noted in the Revised Master Schedule, DEP has agreed to extend the milestones set forth in the 2015 Master Schedule for Incremental Sampling Methodology (“ISM”) planning/implementation.

PPG, DEP and the City of Bayonne are working together to determine the appropriate timing of future field activities, remediation and restoration, especially given the City’s

plans for redevelopment of the Park. All of the Master Schedule dates will have to be reassessed based upon the discussions with representatives of Bayonne.

7. Berry Lane Park<sup>8</sup> (Sites 121 & 207), 186 (Garfield Avenue No. 1), 202 (Caven Point Realty), 203 (Claremont Associates), and 204 (Conrail Edgewater): These sites have been fully remediated to DEP's most stringent standards. Site closure documentation for these sites is as follows:

- CCPW contamination for Berry Lane Park (Sites 121 & 207) was remediated by JCRA on behalf of PPG. JCRA's LSRP issued a Response Action Outcome (RAO) for soils dated June 22, 2016 documenting the cleanup. Shallow groundwater was found to comply with DEP's groundwater standard for total chromium. Furthermore, a groundwater investigation of the deeper, intermediate zone is required by DEP's rules and regulations. JCRA will be conducting this investigation. The Park was successfully opened to the public on June 25, 2016. By any measurement, it is an impressive complex.
- DEP issued a Letter Confirming Completion of Remediation for Site 186 on July 15, 2015.
- PPG has received No Further Action letters for Sites 202, 203, and 204.

8. 457 Communipaw Avenue: This area is located at the intersection of Berry Lane and Communipaw Avenue. In December 2015, a JCRA contractor discovered an area potentially impacted with CCPW. It was ultimately confirmed that CCPW was present in the soils in excess of applicable DEP remediation standards. The portion of this impacted area located on property owned by the City has been fully remediated. It was determined, however, that the CCPW impacts may extend onto 457 Communipaw Avenue, an adjacent privately owned property. PPG is currently seeking to obtain access to that property to conduct an investigation and determine whether and to what extent remediation may be required.

## **V. Mediation Proceedings**

Pursuant to the Mediation Order, I was appointed as Mediator with respect to the following:

1. To attempt to obtain agreement among PPG, JCRA, and the City of Jersey City with respect to:

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<sup>8</sup> Berry Lane Park is not within the scope of the Site Administrator's responsibility under the JCO. Nonetheless, because it was the subject of much discussion during both public meetings that I attended, I thought it appropriate to include the status of the remediation of the Park in this report.

the rights and obligations between the Parties for investigation, remediation, access, restoration, development, construction and/or use of City of Jersey City facilities within the Garfield Avenue (“GA”) Group sites, which for the purpose of this Order includes Hudson County Chromate Sites 114, 132, 133, 135, 137, 143 Carteret Ave., Garfield Ave., Forrest St., Halladay St. and/or any other GA Group site in the Master Schedule (as defined below)(“the Mediated Sites”), including streets, sidewalks, above- and below-ground utility corridors, water and sewer mains, and other necessary City improvements and infrastructure related to the Mediated Sites, as well as those streets, sidewalks, utilities, and water and sewer mains which are not currently existing and/or located within the Mediated Sites but are included within the scope of the City of Jersey City, Canal Crossing Redevelopment Plan.

2. To attempt to obtain agreement among PPG, JCRA and Hampshire with respect to:

remediation and restoration of Hudson County Chromate Sites 114 and 132, terms of a deed notice for Sites 114 and 132, and reimbursement of Hampshire and JCRA incremental costs and all related issues with respect to Sites 114 and 132.

The Mediation Order also provided that the issues addressed by the Mediation could be expanded upon further agreement of the Parties.

Since the entry of the Mediation Order I have held mediation sessions on the following dates: March 1, May 11, May 24, June 7 and June 29. The mediation continues.

Significant progress toward settlements has been made in several areas, but not all. By the end of August, I expect that settlement will be reached with respect to a number of issues. As to those issues where settlement is not reached, I will declare the mediation to be at an impasse and, therefore, closed.

## **VI. Conclusion**

Remediating and restoring all of the PPG Chromium sites, as well as redeveloping the GAG sites, is an arduous and complex task. Every day there are issues to be addressed and resolved. As Site Administrator, my goal has been to make sure that all remediation, restoration, and redevelopment activities are done safely, efficiently, expeditiously, and effectively. To date, while good progress is being made on all fronts, much work remains to be done.

As the Revised Master Schedule reflects, in some cases remediation and restoration is several years from completion. And, of course, redevelopment of the GAG sites cannot

commence until at least the soils remediation and restoration work at the GAG sites is finished and approved by DEP.

I want to commend, and thank, representatives of the DEP, PPG, Jersey City, the JCRA and Hampshire for their support in assisting me and my staff from the moment we began our Site Administrator work. It is essential that these groups work together to achieve an outcome that will best serve the people who live, work, and recreate at or near the PPG contamination sites.

Despite the inevitable complexities and tensions inherent in a multifaceted project such as this, everyone I have dealt with has been a quintessential professional. Everyone is committed to remediating, restoring, and/or redeveloping the PPG sites as soon as possible but, always, with public safety being the paramount consideration.

Your Honor's May 2016 Order requires status conferences to be held before the Court twice per year. In light of this Progress Report, would Your Honor kindly advise if the Court wishes to proceed with the scheduling of a status conference.

I thank the Court for considering this Progress Report. I am available at your convenience to answer any questions you may have.

Respectfully submitted,



Ronald J. Riccio  
Site Administrator

Attachments: Master Schedule with Figure 1 and Figure 2

cc: PPG Industries  
NJDEP  
City of Jersey City  
JCRA  
Hampshire