February 2, 2011

Residents of West Hillhurst
NW Calgary, Alberta

Dear Residents:

Subject: ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLING IN WEST HILLHURST COMMUNITY

I wish to inform you about upcoming environmental sampling in Calgary's West Hillhurst community. Alberta Environment has contracted Golder Associates to conduct sampling to update the Human Health Risk Assessment that was completed in 1993. This updated assessment will guide the ongoing management of off-site impacts from the historical Canada Creosote site in downtown Calgary.

From 1924 to the mid-1960s, Canada Creosote operated a wood treatment plant on a 45-acre site on the west side of downtown Calgary, along the south side of the Bow River. In the early 1990s, it was discovered that contaminants from the site had migrated under the Bow River and into the community of West Hillhurst. Since that discovery, Alberta Environment has taken action to prevent contaminants from migrating further, including:

- Installing a containment barrier on the south side of the Bow River along the site;
- Setting up wells to divert clean groundwater from entering the site, and to draw off contaminated groundwater from leaving the site; and,
- Conducting extensive monitoring which indicated the containment measures were effectively mitigating further release of contaminants into the environment.

In 1993, Alberta Environment completed a Human Health Risk Assessment that indicated there was no human health or environmental risk associated with contamination from the former Canada Creosote site. An updated assessment will help determine what, if any, additional measures may be necessary to ensure continued human health and environmental protection.

As part of the Human Health Risk Assessment, Golder will be sampling groundwater and soil vapours at approximately 20 locations along Westmount Boulevard, Broadview Road, and 16, 17 and 18 Streets. You may see technicians on-site at locations near your property. The work is expected to begin during the week of February 14, 2011 and will take place between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday to Friday. Additionally, one to two follow up visits to sample the installed wells will be conducted over a two to three week period.

A small drill rig that generates the least possible noise and vibration will be used. Due to constraints in the roadway and sidewalks, most drilling will take place on the public right-of-way strips of land on lawns between the sidewalk and the actual property line. The attached map identifies the planned well locations; we may not require all of the wells identified.

When the sampling program is complete, the boreholes (wells) will be closed with a 20 cm metal security cap installed flush to the ground. Any disturbances to your landscaping will be repaired at no cost to the resident in the spring, when weather conditions permit.
There will be temporary disruptions to traffic, back lane access and daytime parking on the streets. Please regard the drill sites as an industrial work area and monitor any children and pets to ensure they do not come into close proximity to those areas.

Alberta Health Services and the City of Calgary are aware of this Human Health Risk Assessment. If you have any questions regarding the work or the former Canada Creosote site, please feel free to contact Mr. Warren Riley, Contaminated Sites Specialist at 403-297-7445 (dial 310-0000 for a toll-free connection), or by e-mail at Warren.Riley@gov.ab.ca

Yours truly,

Original signed by ______________________
Martin Foy
Southern Region Director
Alberta Environment

Enclosure
Government of Alberta

Canada Creosote site

Question and Answer

1. Where did the creosote come from?
From 1924 to 1962, the Canada Creosote Company, later known as Domtar Corporation, operated a wood treatment plant on the south side of the Bow River in downtown Calgary. Creosote and other compounds were used to pressure-inject wood, which was then dried over unprotected soil. Over time, the creosote migrated under the Bow River and beneath the community of West Hillhurst.

2. What is creosote?
Creosote is a liquid compound made from distilled coal tar. It consists primarily of aromatic hydrocarbons. It is used chiefly as a wood preservative.

3. Is my community safe?
Yes, the current Human Health Risk Assessment indicates the community is safe and we expect the updated assessment will confirm this. Alberta Environment, Alberta Health Services, and the City of Calgary will continue to work together as we move forward with the updated Human Health Risk Assessment and its results.

4. How was the creosote discovered on the site?
Drilling at the site in 1988 revealed a mixture of contaminants, including wood preservatives. Investigation by Alberta Environment in the late 1980s and early 1990s identified that creosote had migrated into and beneath the Bow River and into the community of West Hillhurst.

5. What was done to manage the situation?
Alberta Environment undertook extensive studies in the late 1980s and early 1990s, including a Human Health Risk Assessment in 1993.

In 1995-96, Alberta Environment installed a containment wall to intercept and minimize movement of contaminated water and creosote into the Bow River, and to control the flow of water from the river into the porous soils on the site. Interceptor wells were installed to prevent clean groundwater from entering the site and becoming contaminated, and extraction wells were installed immediately south of the barrier wall to prevent contaminated groundwater from leaving the site.

Downstream water samples taken after the containment system became operational in the mid-90s showed a decrease in the concentrations of contaminants previously detected in the water. This indicated that the barriers were preventing those compounds from leaving the site.

6. Why is Alberta Environment conducting a Human Health Risk Assessment now?
The last Human Health Risk Assessment was completed in 1993. Alberta Environment requires updated data to ensure that there continues to be no measurable risk to human health and determine what, if any, additional measures may be necessary to continue to ensure human health and environmental protection.
7. **Will the assessment results be made public and, if so, when?**
   The Human Health Risk Assessment will be available to the public through the Alberta Environment's Environmental Site Assessment Repository at [http://environment.alberta.ca/01520.html](http://environment.alberta.ca/01520.html). The results of the assessment are expected to be available in summer 2011.

8. **How can I get more information?**
   Warren Riley, Alberta Environment Contaminated Sites Specialist, can be reached at 403-297-7445 or Warren.Riley@gov.ab.ca.

   Health-related questions can be directed to Lynn Que, Alberta Health Services Environmental Public Health Officer, at 403-943-8048.

   Questions about city services can be directed to the City of Calgary by dialing 311.