INTRODUCTION TO EPA ANALYTICAL TESTING RESULTS

On February 9, 2011, EPA inspectors went to the Western Environmental Inc. facility to collect physical samples. They collected a total of 80 samples from six areas on the facility, which were then analyzed by EPA's laboratory.

- The sample locations were:

  ISPPA is the incoming soil processing area

  OSPTA is the outgoing soil post treatment area

  CFUA is the chemical fixation unit area before treatment

  CFU is the treated chemical fixation area

  WTA is the water treatment/storage area

  UOTA is the used oil transfer area.

- Samples were analyzed for various constituents depending on the sample source. Analysis included metals, mercury, volatile organic compounds, semi-volatile organic compounds, pesticides and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs).

- The analytical results found all samples were below federal hazardous waste levels.

- Some samples of incoming contaminated soil were found to have polychlorinated biphenyls also known as PCBs at up to 4.2 ppm, which are potentially regulated under the Toxic Substances Control Act, a federal law.

- The PCBs are listed in the analysis results by their brand name "Aroclor" and formulation. For example, Aroclor 1016 and 1221 are different formulations of PCBs.

- Please note that some solvents such as acetone and methylene chloride are used in the lab, and often show up in lab analysis results.

- Samples labeled as Quality Control are generated or treated inside the lab, and do not indicate the levels present when the sampling took place.

- Many of the results are reported in parts per billion, or ppb. To convert those results to parts per million, or ppm, move the decimal point three spaces to the left. For example, 1,000 ppb is 1 ppm.