4.9 HEALTH AND SAFETY ISSUES

Protection of the workers and the surrounding community from exposure to hazardous substances was a primary concern.

4.9.1 Medical Surveillance Program

Each employee on the site maintained a current certification of completion of OSHA training required for hazardous waste workers. Contact was made with a local occupational health facility to provide each worker with an entrance physical. Exit physicals were offered to each employee upon termination of employment or completion of the project. Eight workers chose to take the examination; all were declared fit for work.

4.9.2 Air Emissions

Two air emission concerns were VOCs released during excavation and dewatering, and particulates released during the transportation and disposal phase. The site was monitored daily using an HNu Photo Ionization Detector (PID) and VOC levels recorded. Approved action levels were established by the on-site Health and Safety plan. Readings were taken, not only near the workers' area, but within the excavated Creek bed. During normal excavating operations, workers wore Level D protection as long as VOC levels remained below the VOC action level of 25 ppm, as specified in the Site Health and Safety Plan. When VOC levels were monitored above 25 ppm, workers upgraded to Level C personal protective equipment.

During the loading process, which took place within site boundaries, dewatered material passed the Paint Filter Test but was damp enough to prevent particulate emissions. During transportation, each truck was covered to keep particulates from release. Laborers covering the trucks wore Level C protective equipment during the loading process. The subcontractor, Chemical Waste Management, established its own action levels for utilization of personal protective equipment, which were different from those specified in the Site Health and Safety Plan.

4.10 COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND PARTICIPATION

The purpose of this program was to involve the community, local and state public officials, public interest groups and other interested/affected citizens and corporations in the removal action

DSW 136717

STLCOPCB4036677

process. The community relations program was directed according to the community's needs for information.

The bulk of the contact with the community was performed by the IEPA's Community Relations Officer. Beginning in July 1985 when the IEPA sent letters to PRP's concerning their intent to conduct an SI/FS, the IEPA has maintained an open line of communications with the citizens and corporate community regarding Dead Creek.

On June 16, 1988, IEPA advised the community in a Public Notice that an E&E Report was available at the Cahokia Library and the Cahokia and Sauget Village Halls. Again on July 31, 1988, the IEPA released an Information Fact Sheet on the Sauget sites. A copy of the notices are in Attachment A.

During the followings months, Cerro and the IEPA met several times to discuss the potential for a removal action. During the Summer and Fall of 1989, Cerro performed a Site Investigation/ Feasibility Study. On January 16, 1990, Cerro provided the IEPA with a preliminary Status Report on the Site Investigation. On January 17, 1990, Cerro provided the Monsanto Chemical Company the same report provided the IEPA the day earlier.

After months of negotiation and discussion with the IEPA and the IAGO, on July 5, 1990, all parties came to an agreement and signed a Consent Decree. A joint press conference was held at the Dead Creek site to announce the agreement and the cleanup action to the public on that same date. Local media was on hand for the announcement. A copy of the press release is shown in Attachment E, along with a list of those attending the press conference.

On July 27,1990, Cerro notified State and Local Officials and Potential Affected Parties of the removal action. A copy of the notice is shown in Attachment C with the mailing list of those receiving the notice.

On July 30, 1990, a Public Information Record was set up at the Cahokia Library. Included in the record are copies of the Consent Decree, the SI/FS, the Work Plan, the Health & Safety Plan, the Engineering Bid Documents and monthly reports that were submitted to the IEPA. A copy of the letter setting up the Record is Attachment D.

On August 4, 1990 and August 8, 1990, a public notice appeared in the Belleville News-Democrat and the Cahokia-Dupo Herald, respectively, requesting public comments from the community. No comments were received by Cerro. A copy of the notices are in Attachment E.

DSW 136718

STLCOPCB4036678