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"Protecting Our Water and Environmental Resources"

LOCAL GROUP SAYS SAMPLING AT CTS SITE BRINGS CLEANUP ONE-STEP CLOSER TO REALITY

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(ASHEVILLE- September 20, 2013) The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has announced a timetable for its new testing plan at the CTS of Asheville Superfund site in South Asheville. Soil and water sampling will begin at the site on September 23 and is expected to take approximately three months to complete.

Members of the grassroots community group POWER (Protecting Our Water and Environmental Resources) have been petitioning the EPA to move forward with these previously-stalled sampling activities which are part of the Soil Vapor Extraction (SVE) Confirmation Plan and the Non-Aqueous Phase Liquids (NAPL) Investigation.

Lee Ann Smith, chair of POWER, said in a statement, "We are celebrating this sampling event because it will bring us one-step closer to the full-scale cleanup that we seek."

The CTS of Asheville Site, which was listed on the EPA's National Priorities List (NPL) in March 2012, was a former electroplating facility. The factory building itself was condemned and demolished in December of 2011 but buried contaminants such as trichloroethylene (TCE) continue to migrate from the site and threaten the health of hundreds of residents.

Smith, a long-time community activist and mother of two childhood cancer survivors, teaches at Glen Arden Elementary- the school that serves residents living near the CTS site. "No one should have to live in fear of their children getting horribly sick from squishing their toes in the mud or simply breathing the air when they're playing outside," she said. "We welcome our neighbors to join in our efforts. POWER is pursuing various strategies aimed at ending the suffering that has afflicted our community for decades."

POWER applied for a \$50,000 Technical Assistance Grant which, if awarded, will allow them to hire an independent technical advisor to help the community interpret data and understand the Superfund process. The group is working with Buncombe County officials to extend city water lines to well-users who want them, and has pressed for thorough and swift EPA action at the CTS site.

Protecting Our Water and Environmental Resources (POWER) is a community group using the principles of environmental justice to push for a full-scale cleanup of the CTS of Asheville Superfund Site.

<http://poweractiongroup.org>