



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 5  
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD  
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

MAR 06 2017

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF:

Dear Senator Baldwin:

Thank you for your February 15, 2017 letter concerning recent reports in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel regarding the handling of chemical and hazardous waste by Greif, Inc., including at Mid-America Steel Drum Company, Inc., at locations in Milwaukee, St. Francis, and Oak Creek, Wisconsin.

I share your concerns for chemical and worker safety, and potential impacts to the surrounding communities. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency intends to take all appropriate action following inspections of the Greif/Mid-America Steel Drum facilities. EPA, in coordination with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, is investigating these facilities for potential violations of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, and Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act, and will follow up as appropriate. EPA also contacted OSHA regarding potential worker impacts.

On February 24, 2017, EPA, along with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Department of Transportation Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, jointly inspected the Greif Inc./Mid-America Steel Drum Milwaukee facility. The EPA team consisted of hazardous waste, air, emergency planning and reporting, and Superfund emergency response personnel. In addition, EPA inspected the Greif, Inc., St. Francis facility on February 28, 2017, and inspected the Greif, Inc. facility in Oak Creek on March 2, 2017.

EPA conducts inspections of facilities that report hazardous chemical or substance storage, and uses a variety of enforcement tools to locate non-reporting or under-reporting facilities. The Milwaukee facility never notified EPA or the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources that it was treating, storing, or disposing hazardous waste, or generating hazardous waste under RCRA. EPA or Wisconsin DNR previously inspected the St. Francis and Oak Creek, Wisconsin, facilities which had made hazardous waste notifications.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Denise Fortin, Region 5 Congressional Liaison, at (312) 886-3000.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert A. Kaplan".

Robert A. Kaplan  
Acting Regional Administrator