

# Removal of Burning Debris Pile on Schedule

## VIM Recycling Inc. Site

Elkhart, Indiana

October 2009

### Community Availability Session May be Offered

EPA wants to keep you updated on the progress of the removal project. In addition to this fact sheet, a community availability session will be held if there is interest from neighbors.

If you are interested in meeting with EPA, please contact Denise Gawlinski at 312-886-9859 (or toll free at 800-621-8431 ext. 69859), or by email at [gawlinski.denise@epa.gov](mailto:gawlinski.denise@epa.gov).

Please respond by October 30.

If there is sufficient interest, EPA will schedule a community availability session to provide an update on the removal of the C Pile and to answer your questions.

### On the Web

The following web site contains links to important documents and progress reports on the removal of the C Pile:

<http://www.epa.gov/region5/sites/vim/index.htm>

### Halloween Schedule

To make Halloween more enjoyable for everyone, workers will temporarily stop excavating on Friday, October 30. Removal operations will resume on Monday, November 2.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 is overseeing the removal of a pile of wood waste at VIM Recycling Inc. EPA inspected the facility and found a large pile of smoldering wood waste releasing smoke into the neighborhood. EPA negotiated and entered into a legal agreement with VIM called an administrative consent order requiring the company to remove the smoldering debris by December 31. EPA expects the project to be completed safely and on schedule, which will eliminate the source of the smoke and reduce odors from the site.

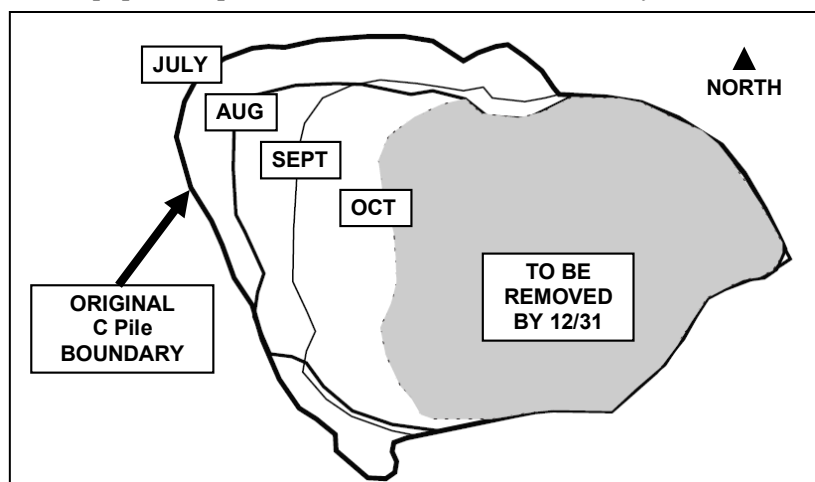
### Progress Update

So far, over 50 percent of the large pile of wood waste (the "C Pile") has been excavated and screened. Larger pieces of wood are loaded onto trucks and sent to a nearby landfill. The remaining material is stored on site for composting and incorporation into a manufactured soil product. The material left behind on site resembles topsoil.

As the hot debris is excavated, it sometimes generates significant smoke and steam which can be seen or smelled off site. These conditions are expected for the rest of the project, especially as temperatures drop later in the year.

### Safety measures

EPA continues to ensure that workers try to reduce emissions of smoke and dust. However, due to the heat within the C Pile, it is impossible to stop all smoke and steam emissions. Temperatures are constantly monitored to prevent conditions which may lead to a fire. To date, there have been no fire outbreaks. The site is monitored regularly to catch and put out any fires that may arise during nights and weekends. Finally, EPA has conducted air monitoring during excavation, screening and removal operations to ensure that the equipment operators, laborers and the community are safe.



*Progress of C Pile removal since July 2009. The shaded area will be removed by the end of the year.*

## Contact information

You may contact these team members with any questions, comments or for more information:

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VIM RECYCLING SITE: Removal of Pile to be Completed by End of Year

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