



State of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

**Southeast District Office**

2195 Front Street  
Logan, OH 43138

TELE: (740) 385-8501 FAX: (740) 385-6490  
www.epa.state.oh.us

Bob Taft, Governor  
Bruce Johnson, Lieutenant Governor  
Joseph P. Koncelik, Director

March 20, 2006

**SCIOTO COUNTY  
NEW BOSTON COKE  
CORRESPONDENCE**

**RECEIVED**

**MAR 22 2006**

**CITY CLERK'S OFFICE**

The Honorable James Kalb  
Municipal Building  
728 Second Street - Room 1  
Portsmouth, Ohio 45662

Dear Mayor Kalb:

I understand that the City of Portsmouth is in the process of purchasing land adjacent to the City of Portsmouth's drinking water plant. The land is being purchased so that the city will be able to install a Miex treatment system.

As you are aware, the New Boston Coke Corporation operated at that location for many years. During the course of its long history, chemicals, products and wastes were often spilled. While Ohio EPA is not aware of any active industrial operations on the land the City of Portsmouth intends to purchase, it is possible that hazardous materials could have been released in this region.

It is Ohio EPA's recommendation that the City of Portsmouth obtain the services of a consultant to perform a Phase I and Phase II investigation of this land prior to beginning construction. Due to the property's extensive industrial history, we think this would be prudent.

Ohio EPA has been contacted by citizens who are concerned with the safety of their drinking water supply due to the proximity of the drinking water plant to the former New Boston Coke Corporation facilities. By collecting environmental samples and analyzing the samples for the chemicals of concern that could potentially be present, the city would be reassuring the community that land in the vicinity of their water plant facilities are safe.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact me at (740) 380-5258.

Sincerely,

Christine Osborne  
Site Coordinator  
Division of Emergency and Remedial Response

cc: Portsmouth City Council  
David Kuhn, Solicitor, City of Portsmouth  
Sam Sutherland, City of Portsmouth Drinking Water Plant  
Sarah Wallace, DDAGW, Drinking Water