



Rose & Westra
A Division of GZA



GEOTECHNICAL
ENVIRONMENTAL
ECOLOGICAL
WATER
CONSTRUCTION
MANAGEMENT

The Widdicomb Building
601 Fifth Street NW
Suite 102
Grand Rapids, MI 49504
T: 616.956.6123
F: 616.288.3327
www.rosewestra.com
www.gza.com



Sent Via Email: hendershotta@michigan.gov

File No. 16.0062335.53

December 8, 2017

Ms. Abigail Hendershott
Acting District Supervisor – Remediation and Redevelopment Division
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
350 Ottawa Avenue NW #10
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Re: Wolverine World Wide, Inc. – Alleged Disposal Areas
Various Locations, Kent County, Michigan

Dear Ms. Hendershott:

Based on our November 20, 2017 Alleged Disposal Areas Work Plan, Wolverine World Wide, Inc. (Wolverine) is providing the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) the following required summary of response actions.

House Street Area

The November 20, 2017 letter references multiple sites near Wolverine's House Street property which are discussed below. Several tasks were outlined to be completed by December 8, 2017. A summary of the progress is outlined below.

1786 House Street

Debris, leather scraps, a rusted drum, and drum fragments were observed at this location. R&W/GZA did not identify evidence the drums were associated with Wolverine, but because leather scraps presumed to be from Wolverine are present, Wolverine offered to remove this waste from this area.

Additional assessment activities proposed included using a metal locator in a gridded pattern in the location of the debris and waste characterization sampling.

R&W/GZA completed the metal locator survey on November 29, 2017. Several small anomalies likely to small buried metallic debris were identified on this parcel. These anomalies did not appear to be consistent with drums or other large metallic objects. Based on the available information, it appears the majority of the debris is surficial.

Since the November 29, 2017 visit, correspondence with the homeowner's counsel has not yet resulted in access to complete some hand digging to further investigate the anomalies (prior to mobilizing heavy equipment to the site), to collect composite waste characterization samples, or to complete a property line survey in the area of solid waste.



1850 House Street

Drum fragments have been observed in the western portion of this property. This area is contiguous to the area of debris on the 1786 House Street parcel. Leather was, however, not observed. A small depression in the ground surface was also reported and observed in the northeast corner of the property.

Additional assessment activities proposed included using a metal locator in a gridded pattern in the location of the drum fragments and depression and performing one test pit in the depression to assess the potential existence and extent of buried waste in these areas.

R&W/GZA completed the metal locator survey on November 29, 2017. No significant anomalies likely to indicate buried drums or other significant metallic debris were identified on this parcel. It appears the majority of the debris is surficial and extends onto the adjoining real estate to the west.

No metal anomalies were identified during completion of the metal locator survey over the depression in the northeastern corner of the property. The homeowner requested R&W/GZA not complete any digging on the site. Correspondence with the homeowner's counsel has not yet resulted in access to complete some hand digging, collection of composite waste characterization samples, or to complete a property line survey in the area of solid waste.

1680 House Street

MDEQ reports a farm dump in a ravine on this parcel. The disposal area includes drums. We are not aware of any evidence these drums are associated with Wolverine. Because the drums are near Wolverine's House Street property, however, Wolverine agreed to coordinate removal of the drums if the property owner approves. Wolverine did not propose removing other debris or conducting post-removal sampling unless stained or soil with unusual odor is present. As of the date of this letter, the property owner has not responded to R&W/GZA's requests for access and removal.

1617 House Street

Debris has been observed in a small ravine on the north side of this property. Debris included a rusted drum and drum fragments, rusted pails, carpet, carpet padding, fabric, a rusted bed spring, wood, cinder blocks, and other miscellaneous trash. We understand neither MDEQ nor R&W/GZA observed leather or other debris associated with Wolverine's former tannery. Wolverine is not aware of any evidence this waste is associated with its former operations. Because the drums and drum fragments are near Wolverine's House Street property, however, Wolverine agreed to coordinate removal of the drum and drum fragments if the property owner approves. Wolverine did not propose removing other debris or conducting post-removal sampling unless stained or soil with unusual odor is present. R&W/GZA spoke with the homeowner about removal of the drum and fragments. The homeowner asserts there is other Wolverine waste in the ravine. We have not observed it. R&W/GZA requested the lines of evidence and documentation from the MDEQ for their visit(s) to this site. As of this letter, this request has not been fulfilled. We are working with the homeowner and their counsel to resolve this as well.

As you can see, while significant efforts have been made to complete the tasks outlined in the November 20, 2017 letter, access restrictions and communication with the property owners has significantly limited R&W/GZA and Wolverine's availability to complete these tasks.



Very truly yours,

Rose & Westra, a Division of GZA GeoEnvironmental, Inc.

Mark A. Westra
Associate Principal

maw/ljp

Loretta J. Powers
Project Manager/Consultant Reviewer

c: Mr. Dave Latchana – Wolverine World Wide, Inc. *via email David.Latchana@wwwinc.com*
Mr. John V. Byl – Warner Norcross & Judd LLP *via email jbyl@wnj.com*

J:\62000\623xx\62335.53 - House ST Removal\Waste Sites All-Misc\DEQ-12-8-2017_Removal_Update-F.docx