

City Commissioners
Daniel F. Aussem
Accounts & Finance

Edward V. Whitney
Public Health & Safety

Dale F. Baxter
Streets & Public Improvements

Wayne A. Eichelkraut, Jr.
Public Property

CITY OF OTTAWA

ROBERT M. ESCHBACH
MAYOR

301 W. MADISON STREET, OTTAWA, ILLINOIS 61350



Pool, Leigh & Kopko
Corporation Counsel

Donald J. Harris
City Treasurer

David A. Noble
City Engineer

Shelly L. Munks
City Clerk

Phone: 815-433-0161
Fax: 815-433-2270
www.cityofottawa.org

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 26, 2010

For nearly a dozen years the U.S.E.P.A. has been working to remediate various locations throughout the City of Ottawa that were contaminated by radium from the old Radium Dial and Luminous Processing plants. The City has worked with the U.S.E.P.A. in this effort and provided valuable in-kind services over the years.

The U.S.E.P.A. had named Ottawa as a "potentially responsible party" for some of the cost of cleanup of these locations. There is evidence that in the distant past the City had some role in the operation of a landfill on Route 6 east of Ottawa. The old landfill site is the largest of the contaminated sites, and it is estimated the cleanup of that site could cost from \$60 to \$80 million.

The City and the U.S.E.P.A. are proposing to enter into a consent decree which limits the City's financial contribution toward the cleanup at cost of \$150,000. The City Council approved the agreement several months ago. According to Mayor Eschbach, "It is my understanding that the U.S.E.P.A. is now filing the actual lawsuit so that the consent decree can be entered. The City has also agreed to continue to cooperate with the U.S.E.P.A. in the continuation of the cleanup projects." Mayor Eschbach added "While the clean up process has been ongoing for some time, we expect that it could continue for another 10 years before all of the remaining sites are remediated."