

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

April 27, 2016

Robert Kaplan  
Acting Regional Administrator  
U. S. EPA Region 5  
77 West Jackson Blvd  
Chicago, IL 60604

Re: Round Lake Cleanup at New Brighton/Arden Hills Superfund Site

Dear Mr. Kaplan:

We are contacting your office about the assessment and remediation of contamination of the Round Lake portion of the former Twin Cities Army Ammunition Plant, now designated as the New Brighton/Arden Hills Superfund Site.

The contamination of the groundwater, soil, and surface water at the Round Lake site and the adequacy of the cleanup is a major concern for our constituents, and as their Members of Congress we have an ongoing interest in the cleanup and management of Round Lake and the superfund site as a whole.

As a unit of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge, the management of Round Lake will be the responsibility of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for the foreseeable future. We ask that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) pay special attention to the views of the USFWS on remediation requirements. We understand that the *Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act* (CERCLA or Superfund) establishes what are known as Applicable or Relevant and Appropriate Requirements, and that legal counsel for both the EPA and the Department of the Interior have concluded that the requirements of the *National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act* should apply. We support addressing these requirements in the identification of contamination, the feasibility study, and any remediation plan that is ultimately approved for Round Lake.

The assessment of Round Lake has disclosed unacceptable ecological risks due to the presence of heavy metals and PCBs at toxic levels. Although the assessment was geared toward wildlife, we note with concern that this Refuge is surrounded by residential and commercial developments and is part of a major metropolitan area. Like other wildlife refuges in urban areas, this Refuge unit should be managed to allow human use. This is an important function of the Round Lake Unit and must be accounted for in the assessment and remediation of contamination.

As the Agency that reviews and approves the adequacy of assessments, feasibility studies, and remediation plans, we ask the EPA to set a high standard for addressing the PCB and heavy metal problems at Round Lake. This is a superfund site owned by the federal government and contaminated by a federal agency and its

contractors. The EPA has a special obligation to ensure that the U.S. Army do nothing less than a complete cleanup that makes the site safe for both conservation and sustained public use.

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency also has a consultative role in the cleanup, and we have been advised of their recommendation that the Army's remediation effort be more comprehensive. It would be unacceptable for our federal cleanup effort not to measure up to the standard that the State of Minnesota has requested. We encourage EPA to use the remediation of this federally contaminated site to serve as an example for the proper cleanup of private superfund sites and oversight by state agencies of such matters.

This troubled environmental situation at the Round Lake site has been under consideration for many years. The time has come for an appropriate resolution and remediation of Round Lake.

We ask that you respond to these concerns by answering the following questions:

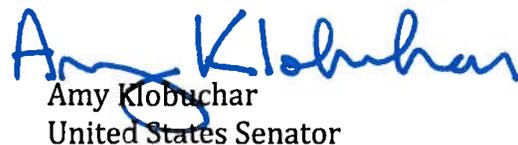
- Is the EPA including consideration of the *National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act* as part of the Applicable or Relevant and Appropriate Requirements in the Round Lake assessment and feasibility study?
- Are there any reasons why the EPA would not require that the Army's remediation manage the ecological risks identified with the Round Lake site so that it provides high quality ecological and public use benefits as part of the National Wildlife Refuge system?
- What is the EPA's role in setting and overseeing a timetable for the Army to complete its efforts with the remediation of the Round Lake site?

As you work to finalize an agreement with the Army on the remediation of the Round Lake site, we urge you to take and maintain a position on the cleanup that holds our federal government to the highest standards for the remediation of its former contamination.

Respectfully yours,



Betty McCollum  
Member of Congress



Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senator



Al Franken  
United States Senator

**CC: Tim Bodeen, Manager, Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge  
Michael R. Fix, Department of the Army, Twin Cities Army Ammunition Plant  
Amy Hadiaris, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency**