

**LITTLE TRAVERSE BAY ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT
ACHIEVES IMPORTANT MILESTONE WITH EPA
APPROVAL OF ENVIRONMENTAL REMEDY DOCUMENTS**

PETOSKEY, Mich., May 10, 2011 – The Little Traverse Bay Environmental Project has reached an important milestone with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approval of important documents relating to the environmental work CMS Land Company is conducting at Resort Township’s East Park and the Bay Harbor development.

In 2005 CMS Land signed an agreement with the EPA to address environmental issues associated with water coming in contact with cement dust piles located at the two sites.

The EPA approved the Remedial Investigation and Alternatives Evaluation Reports for East Park on April 19 and for Bay Harbor on May 9.

The Remedial Investigation Reports contain more than six years of scientific study and information CMS has collected from both sites. This information was analyzed and reviewed by the EPA, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) and CMS Land and provided a detailed understanding of the environmental conditions at East Park and Bay Harbor.

The proposed long-term environmental remedies contained in the Alternatives Evaluation Reports were based on the large amount of data collected and analyzed. In fact, CMS Land already has installed the bulk of the proposed long-term remedies as part of its interim environmental response, which was conducted under the oversight of the EPA and MDEQ.

“We are pleased that the project has reached this important milestone and that the measures that we’ve already installed are proving effective in protecting the health of the public and the environment,” said David Mengebier, the president of CMS Land. “Those remedies have performed well and we expect that performance to improve over time.

“I’m also pleased that the proposed long-term remedies approved by the EPA were studied and analyzed by the Regional Stakeholder Group, which was comprised of a

Cleaning our shore. Protecting our bay.

LITTLE TRAVERSE BAY ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT

large number of local parties, and that group issued a majority opinion supporting the long-term remedies proposed by CMS Land.”

The EPA approval transfers project oversight to the MDEQ and enables CMS and the MDEQ to begin negotiating an agreement identifying the remaining final remedies and governing the ongoing and future environmental protection standards for the remedies to meet.

“We look forward to working with the MDEQ to finalize a new agreement that will continue to protect Little Traverse Bay and bring the project to a successful conclusion,” Mengebier said.

Environmental remedies installed at East Park and Bay Harbor include:

- Installation of more than 3,000 feet of underground collection lines to intercept water coming from the cement piles before it reaches Lake Michigan.
- Relocating and removing some of the cement dust left behind by the old plant, eliminating its contact with groundwater.
- Capping the entire East Park dust pile with a water-proof liner to prevent water infiltration.
- Installing diversion wells that redirect water around the pile at East Park.
- Installing targeted leachate collection wells at the Bay Harbor development to remove leachate from within a dust pile.

As a result of these efforts, East Park was reopened to the public in 2009 after being closed for more than four years.

“While our work at East Park and Bay Harbor is nearing completion, CMS Land desires to remain a part of the community and a continuing steward for the care of Little Traverse Bay,” said Mengebier.

In late 2010 CMS Land Company made an initial commitment of \$250,000 to establish the Little Traverse Bay Watershed Protection and Restoration Fund. The gift included an invitation for the communities surrounding Little Traverse Bay to support the project and help protect the bay and its watershed for generations to come. CMS Land will make another \$250,000 grant in 2011 if the original grant is matched by others.

Cleaning our shore. Protecting our bay.

LITTLE TRAVERSE BAY ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT

The fund has been established at the Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation. It will be overseen and decisions will be made at the local level, not by CMS Land or environmental regulators.

CMS has partnered with the Foundation and the Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council to help build the fund. Formal community fund raising efforts are scheduled to begin soon.

CMS Land has spent about \$132 million over the past six years on the Little Traverse Bay Environmental Project and achieved significant environmental progress.

East Park and Bay Harbor were reclaimed from the site of an abandoned limestone quarry and cement factory covering 1,200 acres and five miles of Lake Michigan shoreline. The brownfield site was redeveloped in 1994 and was the largest reclamation project in North America.

Although no longer a partner in the project that redeveloped the abandoned site, CMS Land agreed to address certain environmental issues associated with the cement dust left behind by the cement plant.

CMS Land is a subsidiary of CMS Energy. CMS Energy is a Michigan-based company that has an electric and natural gas utility, Consumers Energy, as its primary business and also owns and operates independent power generation businesses.

CMS Land is separate from Consumers Energy and no utility funds are used to pay for the Little Traverse Bay Environmental Project.

#

For more information about the work done at the park as part of the Little Traverse Bay Environmental Project, please visit: www.protectingourbay.com