



March 7, 2008

### Open Letter to the Community: Somerville Update

I would like to share with you some recent developments.

Texas A&M had an independent laboratory analyze samples of dust taken from Somerville's schools last Fall. We received the laboratory results on March 7. Dr. Phillip Goad of The Center for Toxicology and Environmental Health (CTEH) has confirmed that all of Texas A&M's dust samples, even the samples from the attics, are below health-based guidelines established for indoor living space. These guidelines were developed by the World Trade Center Chemicals of Potential Concern (COPC) Committee, which included federal, state and local authorities, such as the EPA, the ATSDR, OSHA, the New York State Department of Health and the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

CTEH has further confirmed that remediation of Somerville schools is not necessary according to the health-based guidelines established by the COPC Committee. In addition, CTEH has also done its own testing of residential soil, living space dust and surface wipe samples from homes and dust from Somerville's schools. CTEH concluded:

- The surface soils, homes and schools tested in Somerville have not been adversely impacted by operations of the tie-treatment plant.
- People living in the Somerville community have background exposures to compounds, such as PAHs, dioxins and arsenic, that are similar to many other communities in Texas and the United States.
- Surface soils from Somerville homes and schools have concentrations of these compounds that are far below health-based criteria approved by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.
- Indoor living space dust and surfaces in Somerville homes and schools have concentrations of these compounds that are far below health-based guidelines developed in accordance with public health objectives established by the State of Texas.

These findings are consistent with studies conducted by the Texas Department of State Health Services that have repeatedly shown that cancer rates are no higher in Somerville than in other communities in the State.

Koppers and BNSF have created a website to provide you with facts about the Somerville plant and its current and historical operations. We invite you to visit [www.somervillefacts.com](http://www.somervillefacts.com).

These are all positive developments for the people of Somerville. They help to prove what we have known all along; Somerville is a safe place to live, work and raise a family.

Sincerely,

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Vice President and General Manager  
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