SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY SERVICES OFFICE

April 16, 2015

Chris Mannes, III, P.E.
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
Region 7
Division of Environmental Remediation
615 Erie Boulevard, West
Syracuse, NY 13204

Re: Non-Routine Maintenance of Site Cover
Site #: B00003
Site Name: Midtown Plaza
Site Address: 727 East Washington St., Syracuse, NY 13244

Dear Chris Mannes:

The following information and attachments are being provided to satisfy a reporting request for any damages that occur to the site cover at the Syracuse University Center of Excellence (CoE) facility in Syracuse, NY, as required by Box 3 of the Institutional and Engineering Controls Certification for this site.

On Monday, April 6, 2015, Syracuse University began work to install a new 4-inch sewer line connection from the northeast corner of the CoE building to the city manhole on the main sewer line located under E. Water Street. The following contracted/subcontracted parties were involved with the installation of the new sewer line connection:

- General Contractor – JD Taylor Construction Corporation of Syracuse, NY.
- Excavator – Route 84 Enterprises of Central Square, NY.
- Plumber – BGG Plumbing & Heating Ltd of West Monroe, NY.
- Engineer – Peterson Guadagnolo Consulting Engineers PC of Syracuse, NY.

Prior to the commencement of excavation activities, on-site contractors were advised of the site history, the Site Management Plan, the required minimum 12 inches of cover, and the layer of demarcation fabric (orange mirafi) that separates the potentially contaminated existing soils from the clean fill that was brought in as part of previous site development activities.

The installation of the new sewer connection included three (3) on-site excavations and two (2) excavations on City of Syracuse property in E. Water Street. The location of the excavations are depicted on site map included as Attachment A. The dimensions of each of the three (3) on-site excavations were as follows:

- Excavation Area #1 started at a trench drain on the property line at E. Water St. and extended south onto the site, ending at a curb for a fenced in utility area on the CoE site. Excavation Area #1 measured approximately 20 feet in length by 5 feet in width, and 5 feet depth.

- Excavation Area #2 started on the south side of the curb where Excavation Area #1 ended and extended south to a predetermined endpoint. Excavation Area #2 measured approximately 24 feet in length, 5 feet in width, and 4 feet in depth.

- Excavation Area #3 extended west from the endpoint of Excavation Area #2 and ended at the foundation of the CoE building. Excavation Area #3 measured approximately 12 feet in length, 4 feet in width, and 3 feet in depth.

During excavation for the new sewer line on April 6, 2015, the orange mirafi demarcation layer was encountered at the property line (south of the trench drain) in Excavation Area #1 at a depth of approximately 2 feet below ground surface (ft bgs). The orange mirafi demarcation layer was not encountered in Excavation Area #2 or Excavation Area #3, as the depth of the orange mirafi in those excavation areas is greater than the final excavation depths.

After performing additional excavation above the orange mirafi in Excavation Area #1, it was determined that the depth of the orange mirafi in Excavation Area #1 increased to a maximum depth of approximately 4 ft bgs as the excavation extended south from the property line and then decreased to a depth of approximately 2 ft bgs where the excavation ended at the curb to the fenced in utility area. To reach the required depth for the new sewer line of 5 ft bgs, the depth of Excavation Area #1 had to be extended below the orange mirafi layer.

The excavation of soil from below the orange mirafi in Excavation Area #1 was performed on April 7, 2015. Syracuse University's Environmental Health and Safety Services Office (SU EHSS) was on-site during the excavation of soils from below the orange mirafi in Excavation Area #1. All soils that were excavated from below the orange mirafi in Excavation Area #1 were managed in accordance with the July 2005 Site Management Plan.

Per the Site Management Plan, SU EHSS utilized a calibrated photoionization detector PID to field screen every bucket of soil that was removed from below the orange mirafi in Excavation Area #1. The highest reading observed in any bucket of soil was 5.5 parts per million (ppm), which is below the 10 ppm action level listed in the July 2005 Site Management Plan. No visual or olfactory indications of potential contamination were observed in any of the soils that were excavated from any of the excavation areas. No debris was observed in any of the soils that were excavated from any of the excavation areas at this site.

Soils excavated from below the orange mirafi were segregated from all other excavated materials and were temporarily staged on (and covered with) polyethylene sheeting while the new sewer line was installed. Once the installation of the new sewer line was completed on April 8, 2015, Excavation Area #1 was backfilled using the soil that was previously excavated from below the orange mirafi. New orange mirafi was placed on top of that soil at an approximate depth of 20 inches bgs and was covered with 12 inches of run of crusher stone and 8 inches of concrete, which provides for the 12 inches of approved covered mandated by the Site Management Plan.

On April 8, 2015, Paradigm Environmental Services Inc. collected a composite soil sample from the remaining soils that were excavated from below the orange mirafi and not used as backfill in Excavation Area #1. The composite sample is currently being analyzed by Paradigm Environmental Services Inc., which is a certified environmental laboratory under the New York State Department of Health Laboratory Approval Program. After being sampled, the remaining soils that were excavated from below the orange mirafi were placed into four (4) 55-gallon drums. The drums are currently being stored in the designated waste accumulation area inside the CoE

building. Disposal of the drummed soil is pending the receipt of analytical data from the analysis of the composite soil sample.

If you have any questions or require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

James McCumber
Director, Environmental Health Office

Attachment A – Site Map
Attachment B – Site Photographs

Cc: E. Beattie – SU CPDC
J. Alfiere – SU CPDC
J. Blum – SU CPDC
P. McCarthy – SU CoE