6.0 Data Gaps and Recommendations

The Phase A investigation detailed in this report was intended to be the first of two phases of investigation, with a Phase B to be scoped based on the results of Phase A. A summary of data gaps that may be investigated as part of a future Phase B investigation is provided in this section.

6.1 Waste Extent

As noted in section 5, the lateral extent of waste has not been defined in all directions. The most notable data gaps with respect to waste extent include the following:

- The northern boundary of the Landfill, where the northernmost test trenches encountered waste and anecdotal evidence from the adjacent property owner suggested waste extended onto the U.S. Salt property
- The southern boundary of the Dump, where the southernmost test trenches encountered waste and anecdotal evidence from the adjacent property owner suggested waste extended onto the storage building property

The waste extent in other directions is also currently undefined; however, interpretation of previous investigations and reasonable assumptions based on topography result in a less significant data gap.

It is recommended that additional test excavations and/or soil borings be completed to determine the extent of waste.

6.2 Groundwater Quality

A limited groundwater investigation was completed at the Dump. A monitoring well network that allowed for adequate spacing and routine sampling would allow for a better understanding of the groundwater quality in the vicinity of the Dump. A more robust monitoring well network exists at the Landfill; however there may be opportunities to augment the monitoring well network to allow for a better understanding of groundwater quality in the vicinity of the Landfill.

Downhole geophysical logging of the existing monitoring well network was planned during the Phase A scope to gather additional hydrogeological data for the site. This work has not been completed and MPCA is continuing to work with the USGS or MGS to conduct that work in the future.

It is recommended that the downhole geophysical logging that was intended to be completed as part of Phase A be included in the Phase B scope. It is also recommended that additional monitoring wells be installed to better characterize the groundwater quality in the vicinity of the Dump and the Landfill.

6.3 Soil Cover Quality

Limited data has been collected on the quality of soil overlying waste materials. Its suitability as either a cover soil over current waste or its suitability for reuse is a data gap.

It is recommended that soil samples be collected as part of the Phase B investigation to evaluate the quality of the soil cover.