



Facts About...

**CENTRAL CHEMICAL
NPL Site (MD-302)**

Site Location

The Central Chemical site occupies 19 acres in Hagerstown, Washington County, Maryland. The site is located on Mitchell Avenue, approximately 0.8 mile north of U.S. Highway 11.

Site History

From 1937 through 1984, the facility was a blender of agricultural pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers. Concentrated pesticides manufactured at other locations, were blended with inert materials to produce and package consumer grade products. In 1965, a fire destroyed the pesticide manufacturing building and operations ceased. From 1968 to 1984, the plant processed fertilizers and herbicides. The facility was later leased to various small businesses until 2003. The site is currently unoccupied.

Over the years, wind-blown powders from blending operations and product spills contaminated shallow soils throughout the property. In addition, bulk wastes and liquid wastes were disposed in several onsite areas. Contaminants of concern (COCs) at the site include the metals arsenic and lead, the pesticides DDT, DDD, DDE, chlordane, dieldrin, endrin, lindane, and alpha- and beta-BHC; and the volatile organic compounds benzene, chlorobenzene, chloroform, and 1,2- and 1,4-dichlorobenzene.

Elevated levels of DDT were first detected in sediments of Antietam Creek in 1976 by the United States Geological Survey and were traced back through sediment sampling in the surface water to the Central Chemical site. Consequently, the Maryland Water Resources Administration issued a Complaint and Order to Central Chemical, requiring a hydrologic investigation and cleanup to prevent release of DDT to surface water. Central Chemical again came to the attention of state regulators in 1987 when a former disposal lagoon for pesticides was unearthed during a trenching operation for a sewer line. Soil sampling revealed high COC concentrations. Consequently, the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) ordered Central Chemical to perform an investigation to characterize potential hazardous waste sources.

In August 1997, the Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs) entered into an Administrative Order of Consent with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to conduct the Remedial Investigation (RI)/ Feasibility Study (FS). On September 25, 1997 this site was listed on the National Priorities List (NPL). EPA approved the PRP Work Plan for the RI/FS of the Central Chemical in February 2003.

Environmental Investigations

Various consultants, the MDE, and the EPA performed hydrogeologic investigations at Central Chemical between 1977 and 1997. Results from these investigations indicated that surface and subsurface soil were extensively contaminated with pesticides and metals. Groundwater and surface water had also been



impacted. In February 1997, the fence along the northern site boundary was extended an additional 15 feet to contain soils that exceeded Removal Action Levels. A toxicological risk evaluation of soil data by MDE indicated that the risks to human health and the environment were not significant outside the new fence boundary.

In April 2003, the Central Chemical Community Liaison Panel (CLP) consisting of Hagerstown community members, the PRP Group and their consultant (URS), EPA, and MDE held it's initial meeting. The CLP meetings are held on an approximate quarterly basis.

RI fieldwork began in 2003 and was completed in 2004. The RI fieldwork focused on characterization of buildings, surface and subsurface soil, groundwater, storm water, and offsite surface water, sediment and groundwater. A draft RI Report was submitted to regulators in December 2004. Based on EPA and MDE comments, it was determined that a Supplemental Investigation of groundwater was necessary to delineate contaminants offsite and to obtain a better understanding of aquifer characteristics. In order to keep the RI/FS process moving, EPA and MDE split the delineation of the groundwater into a separate parallel Operable Unit (OU-2) from the RI/FS of onsite soils (OU-1). Fieldwork to delineate offsite groundwater was initiated in 2005 and has continued until November 2007.

Under EPA and MDE oversight, the PRP's demolished the Central Chemical building structures between February 2005 and May 2005. Construction debris was recycled or disposed at Subtitle C or D facilities.

A draft Comprehensive RI Report was prepared by URS for regulator comment in December 2005. Based on EPA/MDE comments, the draft final RI Report was submitted to regulators in December 2006. Initial work on the FS was begun in 2005 and a draft FS was submitted to regulators in July 2007. A draft final FS revised to include a Solidification/Stabilization Alternative for the former lagoon landfill was submitted to regulators in February 2008.

Current Status

The Supplemental GW Investigation Report is expected in the summer of 2008. Preliminary results indicate that offsite migration of pesticides extends approximately one half mile to the northeast and one mile to the southwest. A thorough discussion of GW results will be presented in the compressive RI Report.

CLP Meetings were held in March and July of 2007 and January 2008. The next CLP meeting is tentatively scheduled for June 2008.

The projected completion of the Final Comprehensive RI Report summarizing all phases of the RI is expected in May 2008. The Final FS for the Central Chemical Site is expected in June 2008. The EPA plans to complete a Proposed Plan for Central Chemical onsite soils (OU-1) in August 2008 followed by the Record of Decision for OU-1 in late September 2008.

Contact

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Site Repository: Washington County Free Library, Reference Department, 100 S. Potomac Street, Hagerstown, MD 21740

