#### Sharon Steel Farrell Works Site OU2 Proposed Plan Meeting October 4, 2012

#### **Rashmi Mathur, EPA Region 3**

## □ <u>Meeting Agenda</u>

- Site Background and History
- Remedial Investigation Results
- What is a Risk Assessment
- Risk Assessment Findings
- Remedial Investigation Recommendations
- Summary of Operable Units at Site
- Remedial Action Objectives at Site
- EPA's Preferred Cleanup Option for Operable Unit 2 (OU2)- Asphalt Cap
- Current Schedule
- Public Comment Period on Proposed Plan for OU2
- Superfund Next Steps
- Q&A

#### Sharon Steel Farrell Works Superfund Site



# History and Background

- 3 waste areas on 400 acres in Farrell, Wheatland, and Hermitage near PA/OH border.
- Southwest of the Former Sharon Steel Plant on the Shenango River



Floodplains on Site along side the Shenango River

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# **Remedial Investigation**

- Residential well sampling- Contaminated groundwater from the Site is flowing away from the residents and thus not negatively impacting residents drinking water
- Sampling of shallow and deep aquifers from new and existing monitoring wells- Site related metal and vinyl chloride contamination in groundwater on Site. Site wide groundwater monitoring is under the OU1 Record of Decision
- Waste slag/sludge, soil, surface water and sediment sampling
- Fish and duck tissue sampling
- Risk assessment to determine the levels of cleanup to ensure human health and the environment are protected

### What is Human Health Risk Assessment

- The risk assessment estimates the current and possible future risks to human health and the environment from the Site
- The goal of the risk assessment is to understand the levels of cleanup necessary to make sure human health and the environment is protected

# **Risk Assessment Findings**

- Waste source (slag) and Floodplain areas:
  - Risks above EPA acceptable levels for future residents, current and future workers and site visitors or trespassers
  - Risks driven by dermal exposure, ingestion and inhalation of high levels of heavy metals from slag
  - Risks driven by high levels of metals infiltrating the shallow groundwater
  - Risks driven by metals contamination from the slag infiltrating the surface water runoff and shallow groundwater and then discharging into the Shenango River and negatively impacting the fish

#### Two Operable Units (OU)

- Biosolid Vegetative Cap Remedy for OU-1 is under 2006 record of decision on Northern Slag, BOF Sludge, and Southern Slag area with 2 Phases. All Groundwater and floodplain on the Site is part of the OU1 ROD
  - Phase 1 (Northern Area)
  - Phase 2 (Southern Area)
- This Proposed Plan is for OU2: will become part of Remedial actions on Dunbar Asphalt and Williams Brothers sites



# OU-1 Phases

- Phase 1 Northern Area
  - Regrade and Contour Slag
  - Biosolid Vegetative Cap
  - Erosion protection and bank stabilization
  - Native Plants and Treatment Wetland will be planted as groundwater interceptor
  - Restrictions on groundwater use and not damaging cap and Longterm Groundwater Monitoring
  - Floodplain Compost Vegetative Cap
- Phase 2 Southern Area
  - Active Mining Area
  - After mining is complete cleanup same as above



Asphalt Plant and Trucking Company on Site with Industrial Workers

## Dunbar Asphalt

- Dunbar owns 27.1 acres since before 1998 and produces asphalt on Site
- Mostly aggregate piles and staging/loading areas



## William Brothers Trucking

• This 5.8 acre parcel holds a trailer with trucks parked on the property

#### Trespassers on Site



### **Remedial Action Objectives**

- Prevent dermal and ingestion exposure to slag and contaminated soils, and inhalation of dust in air
- Reduce migration of contaminants into shallow groundwater
- Reduce surface runoff and subsequent discharge of shallow contaminated groundwater into the Shenango River

# Key Remedial Alternatives

- No Action <u>**\$0**</u>
- Purchase of two Properties/Relocation- <u>\$4,869,853</u> of two Businesses & Moving Equipment/Demolish Buildings/Construction of a Biosolid Cap/Institutional Controls
- Purchase of two Properties/ <u>\$6,953,703.75</u>
  Relocation of two Businesses & Pay for Equipment/Demolish Buildings/Construction of a Biosolid Cap/Institutional Controls
- Construction of an Asphalt Cap <u>\$2,878,449</u> at the Two Businesses Located on this Property and Institutional Controls



### EPA's Rationale for the Preferred Alternative for OU2

- One of the businesses produces asphalt already and this would make it very easy to utilize their asphalt for the preferred alternative of an asphalt cap
- The preferred alternative would take the least amount of time to complete and allow the businesses to continue to operate at their present location
- Provide the most cost effective solution for the OU2 portion of the Site
- Relocation options are very expensive, and would take a very long time to relocate the businesses and negatively impact these businesses operations.

# **Current Schedule**

- A fact sheet summarizes the preferred cleanup for operable unit two and opens the Public Comment Period; Opens September 17, 2012-Ends October 17, 2012
- This Public Meeting presents the preferred cleanup option for Operable Unit Two

# **Public Comment Period**

- Written comments on the Proposed Plan may be sent to: Rashmi Mathur

   Remedial Project Manager
   US EPA Region 3
   1650 Arch Street (3HS22)
   Philadelphia, PA 19103-2029
   Email: mathur.rashmi@epa.gov
- Comments must be postmarked or emailed by midnight, October 16, 2012. EPA will summarize the public's comments which will be included in the response to summary at the end of the Record of Decision

# Superfund Next Steps

- A Record of Decision (ROD) is the next step in the superfund process. EPA will write a document which contains site history, site description, site characteristics, community participation, enforcement activities, past and present activities, contaminated media, the contaminants present, scope and role of response action and the **remedy** selected for cleanup.
- The Record of Decision is due December 31, 2012



#### Ms. Carrie Deitzel EPA Community Involvement Coordinator (215) 814-5525

#### Ms. Rashmi Mathur EPA Remedial Project Manager (215) 814-5234

Mr. John Morettini PADEP Project Officer (814) 332-6648