



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Fact Sheet # 18
Standard Chlorine of Delaware
(aka Metachem) Site



Delaware City, New Castle County, Delaware

EPA Seeks Public Comment on Proposed Cleanup Plan

July 2009

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) continues its cleanup effort at the Standard Chlorine of Delaware Superfund Site (the Site), also known as the Metachem Site, located in Delaware City, New Castle County, Delaware. EPA's Remedial Program (long-term cleanups) is cleaning up the Site in four separate parts, called "operable units," or OUs. This fact sheet provides a summary of the proposed cleanup plan for OU-3, and announces an upcoming public meeting to discuss the details of the proposed plan.

EPA Seeks Public Comment on Proposed Cleanup Plan

EPA's cleanup at the Metachem Site is separated into four parts, called Operable Units (OUs).

- OU-1 interim (short-term) remedy for contaminated groundwater (remedy operating since 2007)
- OU-2 addresses contaminated soils and sediments contaminated by historic spills (remedy under review by EPA)
- OU-3 long-term remedy for contaminated soils and soil-gas in the former plant area (remedy being proposed Summer 2009)
- OU-4 long-term remedy for contaminated groundwater (future remedy)

EPA has developed a proposed cleanup plan ("Proposed Plan") for OU-3. The Proposed Plan lists cleanup methods evaluated for possible use at the site and highlights one of the methods as EPA's recommended cleanup option. EPA is seeking public comment on the Proposed Plan and recommended cleanup method, which consists of a **surface cap and institutional controls**.

The suggested remedy is to: 1) install a secure, permanent cover to prevent contact and/or migration of contaminated soils and soil-gas, and 2) to provide legal protections to keep the cover from being disturbed in the future.

This fact sheet provides a brief summary of the Proposed Plan. If you would like to review the entire document, it is available online at:

- * www.epa.gov/reg3hwmd/super/sites/DED041212473/index.htm
- * www.epa.gov/arweb

A paper copy of the Proposed Plan is also available for review at:

- Delaware City Public Library, 250 Fifth St., Delaware City, DE.
- Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC), 391 Lukens Dr., New Castle, DE.
- U.S. EPA, Region 3, 1650 Arch St., Philadelphia PA.

Please Note the Change in the Public Comment Period Dates

A corrected public notice was published in the 07/21/09 edition of the *News Journal* newspaper

**The 30-day Public Comment Period for the OU-3 Proposed Plan
is July 16, 2009 until August 14, 2009**

Please mail comments to: (postmarked no later than **August 14, 2009**)

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 3,
1650 Arch Street (Mailcode 3HS23), Philadelphia, PA 19103
Attn: Hilary Thornton, RPM
or
email to: thornton.hilary@epa.gov

Operable Unit (OU)-3

In order to address contaminated soils and related soil-gas in the area where the manufacturing plant used to stand, the OU-3 cleanup would consist of:

- capping approximately 23 acres of surface soil; and
- connecting that cap to the already-constructed vertical groundwater containment barrier, located below the surface.

After reviewing the Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study for the site, EPA evaluated ways to complete these tasks.

Below is a summary of cleanup options reviewed with EPA's preferred cleanup method highlighted in **bold text**.

Proposed Plan Summary

♦ No-action

No-action is an option that is required by law to be evaluated at Superfund sites. This serves as a good baseline for comparison purposes.

♦ **Surface Cap and Institutional Controls**

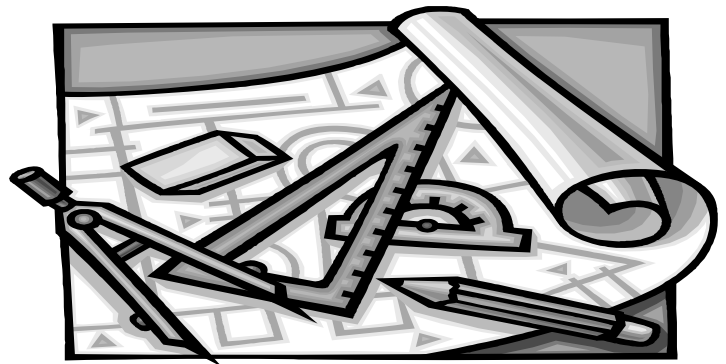
Construction of a Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA)-approved cap (such as concrete, asphalt or multi-layers) that ties into the existing subsurface groundwater barrier wall, and Institutional Controls (ICs) that would restrict future land use to commercial, light industrial or park-land purposes. ICs would also require that any onsite construction must not interfere with the integrity of the cleanup remedies in place.

♦ Surface Cap, Institutional Controls and Soil Vapor Extraction

Construction of a RCRA-approved cap, ICs restricting future land use and installing a soil-vapor extraction (SVE) well system. The SVE system would have several (estimated 200 - 500) air extraction and inlet wells installed approximately 50 feet deep. Off-gas from the SVE system would likely require carbon adsorption treatment before emitting into the air. Additional sampling would be required to identify areas with the highest levels of contamination (called "hotspots"), and a pilot study would be needed before putting this remedy into action.


♦ Surface Cap, Institutional Controls, SVE and In-Situ Thermal Desorption (ISTD)

Construction of a RCRA-approved cap, ICs restricting future land use, SVE well system, and in-situ thermal desorption heating units and extraction wells. The ISTD heaters (estimated 2,800) and heated vapor extraction wells (estimated 1,400) would be installed throughout a 330,000 square-foot area at identified "hotspot" locations. This option would also require additional sampling to identify the hotspot areas, and a pilot study would be needed before use.



EPA's Nine Criteria for Evaluation

Before EPA chooses a cleanup method, the options are evaluated using nine criteria:

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- ◆ Overall Protection of Human Health and the Environment
 - ◆ Compliance with Applicable or Relevant and Appropriate Requirements (ARARs)
 - ◆ Long-Term Effectiveness
 - ◆ Reduction of Toxicity, Mobility or Volume through Treatment
 - ◆ Short-Term Effectiveness
 - ◆ Implementability
 - ◆ Cost
 - ◆ State Acceptance
 - ◆ Community Acceptance

Based on the information available to date, using the criteria listed above, EPA suggests using the RCRA-approved cap and Institutional Controls as the preferred cleanup option because it will:


- Be protective of human health and the environment,
- Comply with state and federal laws,
- Be efficient and cost-effective, and
- Provide a permanent remedy.

At this point, EPA has only fully evaluated the first seven of the nine criteria for each of the cleanup options listed. Only after considering input from state officials and the community regarding Proposed Plan, will EPA make a cleanup remedy decision. EPA's suggested preferred method could change in response to new information and/or public comments.

Your Role in the Process

Community involvement is critical to EPA's decision making process. To provide the community with an opportunity to comment on the Proposed Plan, there is an official 30-day Public Comment Period. **The public comment period regarding the OU-3 cleanup plan is from July 16, 2009 until August 14, 2009.**

Comments can be submitted:

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- ◆ By Postal mail,
 - ◆ By E-mail, or
 - ◆ In Person, at EPA's Proposed Plan Public Meeting, Tuesday, July 28, 2009, at the Delaware City Fire Hall, located at 815 Fifth Street, Delaware City, DE. The meeting is from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.

Next Steps

After the public comment period ends and comments have been reviewed and carefully considered, EPA, in cooperation with DNREC, will choose the OU-3 cleanup option to be used for the site. The cleanup option will be recorded in a document called a Record of Decision (ROD).

Public comments submitted to EPA about the OU-3 Proposed Plan, along with EPA's responses to those comments, will be included in the ROD, listed under the section called "Responsiveness Summary."

EPA Public Meeting

EPA will hold a public meeting to discuss the Standard Chlorine of Delaware (aka Metachem) Superfund Site Operable Unit-3 (OU-3) proposed cleanup plan.

Comments on the proposed plan can be submitted during the public meeting, which will be held on:

**Tuesday, July 28, 2009
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
at the Delaware City Fire Hall
815 Fifth Street
Delaware City, DE 19706**



For More Information

Online Resources:

www.epa.gov/reg3hwmd/super/sites/DED041212473/index.htm

www.dnrec.state.de.us/DNREC2000/Divisions/AWM/do/metachem.asp

If you have additional questions, please contact one of the following representatives:

Trish Taylor, Community Involvement
Coordinator, EPA, 215-814-5539

Hilary Thornton, Remedial Project
Manager, EPA, 215-814-3323

Todd Keyser, Project Manager,
DNREC, 302-395-2600

