



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Proposed Remedial Action Plan Summary

Standard Chlorine of Delaware

(a.k.a. Metachem)

Superfund Site

EPA Seeks Public Comment on Proposed Remedial Action Plan

April 2004

EPA has developed a Proposed Remedial Action Plan (PRAP) for liquid chemicals at the Standard Chlorine of Delaware (a.k.a. Metachem) Superfund Site. The PRAP lists possible cleanup methods to help eliminate risks to human health and the environment related to these liquid chemicals.

After careful site-related studies, EPA looks at each method and proposes the best cleanup plan. EPA is proposing a cleanup plan that will address the bulk liquid chemicals remaining on-site. Liquid chemicals located on-site are a potential threat to the ground- water, as a possible source of contamination. **The preferred cleanup method is the removal and off-site incineration of these liquid chemicals.**

This fact sheet is a summary of the PRAP. If you would like to review the full PRAP document, it is available on EPA's website, at:

www.epa.gov/reg3hwmd/super/DE/standard-chlorine-de/prap/2004-04-22.pdf

If you would like to review a paper copy, it is available at the Delaware City Public Library (located at 250 5th Street, Delaware City, DE – phone: 302-834-4148), or please schedule an appointment with one of the contacts listed on the back page of this summary.

There is a 30-day public comment period for the PRAP that begins April 22, 2004, and ends May 21, 2004. Please mail comments (postmarked by May 21, 2004) to:

**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1650 Arch Street (Mailcode 3HS43)
Philadelphia, Pa., 19103
Attn: Trish Taylor
taylor.trish@epa.gov**

PRAP Summary

Here is a summary of cleanup choices and reasoning behind the preferred method for cleanup. EPA considered seven options, some of which have since been eliminated as a possible method for cleanup.

EPA's preferred plan is marked in **bold** print. The initial seven were:

- No-action
- Landfilling
- **Off-site Incineration**
- On-site Incineration
- Chemical Oxidation
- Limited Separation/Incineration, and
- Expanded Separation/Incineration.

Of these seven options, three were eliminated as possible methods. The methods that were screened out are Landfilling, On-site Incineration, and Chemical Oxidation.

Public Meeting Planned

EPA will hold a public meeting to discuss the PRAP, the cleanup options, and EPA's preferred cleanup alternative.

**Standard Chlorine of Delaware
PRAP Public Meeting
Tuesday, May 4th, 2004
7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
Southern Elementary School
795 Cox Neck Road, Delaware City, DE**

The remaining four options were carried forward from the initial screening. The remaining four are; No-Action, Off-site Incineration, Limited Separation/Incineration and Expanded Separation/Incineration.

The EPA is required to look at the No-Action choice as part of the PRAP process. It is used as a baseline for comparison. The remaining three options, Off-site Incineration, Limited Separation/Incineration, and Expanded Separation/Incineration, differ mainly in the degree to which the liquid chemicals would be further separated on-site before removal and off-site incineration.

Because of the work completed by EPA's Removal Program and the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC), most liquid chemicals are already, or will be, separated. As a result, the PRAP will evaluate a single **Off-site Incineration** option, rather than the three separate choices.



EPA's Nine Criteria Analysis

As part of the detailed evaluation of the various remedial alternatives available to clean up the site, EPA evaluates each alternative for nine important criteria, as summarized below:

Overall Protection of Human Health and the Environment - Off-site Incineration eliminates the potential for release of the remaining liquid chemicals on-site. As all materials in this option are incinerated, human health and the environment are protected.

Compliance with Applicable or Relevant and Appropriate Requirements (ARARs) - Off-site Incineration would comply with federal and state ARARs. Some examples of ARARs are:

- CERCLA (Superfund) regulations
- Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) regulations
- Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) regulations

Long-term Effectiveness - Off-site incineration would meet the goal of permanently eliminating the threat of release of these liquid chemicals from the site.

Reduction of Toxicity, Mobility or Volume through Treatment - Off-site incineration is a thermal treatment process, therefore it would meet this goal.

Short-Term Effectiveness - The short-term risks associated with the storage and handling of the liquid chemicals are higher for the off-site incineration option when compared to no-action. However, the risk of a release of liquid chemicals continues indefinitely under the no-action alternative.

Implementability - The off-site incineration option is feasible with existing available technology.

Cost - Off-site incineration is estimated to cost approximately \$9,300,000. The cost to implement the no-action alternative, which includes long-term maintenance of the site and monitoring of these chemicals, is approximately \$19,300,000.

State Acceptance - The State of Delaware supports the off-site incineration option.

Community Acceptance - Community acceptance will be evaluated after the public comment period ends and comments are reviewed.

Although EPA has identified a preferred cleanup method, no final decision has been made. EPA may modify the preferred method, select a different option, or develop another option, if public comment warrants or if new information is presented. EPA, in consultation with DNREC, will make its final selection in an Amendment to the Record of Decision (ROD).

Your Role in the Process

EPA relies on your input. The PRAP is written to seek public comment on the proposed cleanup. EPA welcomes any comments or questions you may have about the site cleanup and the listed cleanup methods. In addition to this PRAP Summary fact sheet, the primary PRAP and supporting documents are available for your review on the EPA website, at www.epa.gov/arweb.

To make sure that the community has a chance to comment on the PRAP, there is a 30-day public comment period. During this 30-day public comment period, EPA will hold a public meeting about the PRAP, where we will take your oral or written comments and answer any questions you may have about the cleanup methods.

The PRAP public meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 4, 2004, from 7:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. at the Southern Elementary School located at 795 Cox Neck Rd., Delaware City, DE.

All written comments must be post marked by the last day of the 30-day public comment period. The post mark deadline is May 21, 2004.

After we have collected your comments, EPA will summarize the comments and responses. This summary is called the Responsiveness Summary. It will be a part of the Record of Decision (ROD) Amendment process.

Join the Electronic Mailing List

If you would like to receive community updates by email and/or you would like to be removed from this postal mailing list, please send your requests to Tad Yancheski at tad.yancheski@tetrattech.com or call (302) 283-2251

Be sure to include your

- Name
- Address
- Email Address (if applicable)
- Phone number (optional)

Specify whether you are requesting to be added to the email list, deleted from the postal mailing list, or both.

Standard Chlorine of Delaware Site Facts

- The former Standard Chlorine of Delaware (a.k.a. Metachem) facility is located at 753 Governor Lea Road in New Castle County, Delaware.
- The site covers 65 acres of land.
- Previous owners include Tidewater Refinery Company, Diamond Alkali Company, and Standard Chlorine of Delaware.
- The contamination is linked to past industrial practices and a series of major releases in the 1980s.
- Chemicals from the facility have contaminated surrounding soil and groundwater.
- The contaminants of concern include benzene, several chlorobenzene compounds, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), and dioxin.
- The site was added to the National Priorities List ("Superfund List") in 1987.
- Although bankrupt since 2002, Metachem still owns the property.
- EPA's Removal Program and DNREC have worked together to make the site safer. More than 60 million gallons of wastewater have been treated, and 550,000 gallons of liquid chemicals have been removed from the site.

If you would like more information about this PRAP, please contact.

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**Trish Taylor, U.S. EPA
Community Involvement Coordinator
(800) 352-1973, extension 4-5539
taylor.trish@epa.gov**

For more information on the Standard Chlorine of Delaware site, visit any of the websites listed below:

- www.epa.gov/reg3hwmd/super/DE/standard-chlorine-de/
- www.epaossc.net/site_profile.asp?site_id=03H6
- www.dnrec.state.de.us/DNREC2000/Divisions/AWM/do/metachem.asp
- www.epa.gov/arweb. Select “DE” for the state; “Standard Chlorine of Delaware” for the site; “Remedial” for AR type; “Search”; then “Search Results.”

Or to review the Administrative Record in person, call for an appointment with:

Lynn Krueger, (302) 395 - 2632
Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Control
391 Lukens Drive
New Castle, DE, 19720

-- or --

Anna Butch, (215) 814 - 3157
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency,
Region III Office
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA. 19103