

**COMMUNITY RELATIONS PLAN
RESINS DISPOSAL**

The following Community Relations Plan outlines the activities to be conducted by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources (PADER) during the Superfund remedial action at the Picco Resins Landfill, Jefferson Borough, Allegheny County.

This Community Relations Plan will be modified as necessary in response to the remedial work and citizen concerns at the site. The PADER has lead responsibility at the Picco Resins Landfill, under an agreement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

1. BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

A. Site History

The Picco (Pennsylvania Industrial Chemical Company) Resins Landfill is located near the Hercules Resins Plant in Jefferson Borough, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania.

The landfill was previously owned by the Pennsylvania Industrial Chemical Corporation (PICCO), a family operation from the early 1920s, and acquired by Hercules in 1973.

The area was deep mined in the 1920s and stripmined in the 1930s and 1940s prior to its use as a disposal area. Between 1950 and 1964 approximately 77,000 tons of resin cakes, polymerized oils and filter materials from a floor tile manufacturing process.

The landfill, located in a strip mined valley, was created by construction of an earthen dike placed approximately 350 feet down the valley from Maryland Avenue. The waste was placed in the impoundments by running a sluiceway from the top of Maryland Avenue and Circle Glen Drive down to the diked area.

The disposal area was later enlarged by placing another dike 250 feet behind the first or 600 feet down the valley. The second dike is estimated to be 35 feet high. These areas were then filled and covered. In addition, random fill and trash were dumped at the corner of Maryland and Circle Glen Drive. This dumping occurred after the disposal area was completed.

Substances on the site include cadmium, benzene, PCE, naphthalene, arsenic, aromatic and aliphatic solvents in combination with clay polycakes, dechlor cakes, spent caustics, emulsion wastes and acid wash sludge.

Over the years, oily resin/solvent seepage from the landfill toe contaminated the groundwater which discharges into a small stream that drains the area.

In 1973, a leachate collection system was installed at the landfill toe. This system consisted of a series of drains and troughs which led to an oil separator tank. The control system was only partially effective in stopping the leachate discharge. A leachate collection system and treatment facility exist and discharge to a tributary to the Monongahela River.

B. SITE GEOGRAPHICS

The site is located in a valley with elevations of about 1050 feet at the north end by Maryland Avenue to 860' at Stilley Avenue to the south. The valley has old strip mine excavations around it dating to 1949.

The soils around the disposal area and in the dikes are generally mixtures of silty clay and shale fragments. The bedrock in the area consists of the Monongahela Formation and the Conemaugh Formation. These formations contain Benwood Limestone, Redstone Coal, Pittsburgh Coal and Pittsburgh Limestone in descending order below the soils. The small stream which receives the discharge from the oil separator empties into the Monongahela River which is a source of drinking water.

The groundwater flow in the waste area is south toward the mouth of the valley. This can be seen by the seeps which exist at the base of the disposal area.

There are no critical environments, endangered species or wildlife refuges within one mile of the disposal area.

The site is located adjacent to and south of a residential area. West Elizabeth is approximately one half mile east and Clairton is one and one half miles northeast.

Approximately 300 persons and 45 buildings are located within one half mile of the site. Hercules, Inc. and U.S.X. facilities are located within one mile of the site. Jefferson School is located approximately one half mile away and Routes 837 and 51 are within a half mile radius.

The public drinking water supply is the Monongahela River. One home about 1,100 feet southeast of the disposal area is on a private well. Jefferson Borough is on a municipal water supply from West Penn Water's Elrama Plant. The drinking water is obtained from a surface water intake on the Monongahela River about one mile upstream of the disposal area.

AR500021

C. SITE INVESTIGATIONS

A complaint to the Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD) in November 1979 prompted an investigation of the disposal site. ACHD's investigations on November 26, 1979 and December 18, 1979 revealed the leachate seeps by-passing the treatment facility. The case was referred to the PA DER on December 26, 1979. PADER made inspections at the site on January 2, 1979, December 1, 1980 and September 18, 1981.

PADER issued a Notice of Violation to Hercules on February 11, 1980 that the site was in violation of the Pennsylvania Clean Streams Law and the Solid Waste Management Act. Hercules met with DER and submitted a letter listing the actions taken to address the violations.

In April 1980, Murray Associates prepared a groundwater study report. The report included a visual inspection of the site including soil and geologic reconnaissance, the review of geologic and topographic data available concerning the site, analyses of possible groundwater flow directions and recommendations to install three test wells to determine if leachate is entering the groundwater.

On April 28, 1982, a Ecology and Environment Inc. field investigative team conducted a site investigation and sampling of the disposal areas. PADER personnel accompanied the team.

Weston, Inc. was hired to install test wells and conduct test borings. Remedial work in 1982 included a french drain collection system and a study of the deeper aquifer.

In the summer of 1984, an interception trench and leachate collection system were installed at the landfill toe.

Hercules submitted a draft work plan for the Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS) in February 1986. The plan outlined the plan for collection and analysis of data and for the evaluation of remedial actions necessary to mitigate the effects of the landfill on the environment.

On June 11, 1986, a draft Consent Order and Agreement was sent to Hercules.

On Nov. 2, 1987, Hercules entered into a Consent Order and Agreement with the DER in which it agreed to conduct a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS). The final Workplan was approved on April 11, 1988 and field work began in June 1988.

AR500022

The investigation was conducted in phases. Two phases of investigation were initially planned. However, mine voids were discovered in the area during the second phase. To determine the extent of the mine voids and contaminant migration through them, a third phase of investigation was conducted from Jan. to Mar, 1990. Twenty monitoring wells have been installed.

The RI/FS was completed in September 1990. At this time, DER and EPA are reviewing the document. The agencies expect to make a decision about the remediation methods, known as the record of decision (ROD) by June 30, 1991.

PADER is still concerned about the environmental impact of the site and offsite migration of contaminants in soils and ground water. Stream samples revealed significant concentrations of inorganic contaminants-metals. Analyses of on-site monitoring wells sampled revealed significant concentrations of contaminants. No source of air pollutants, except for volatile organics, were noted near the leachate collection system. Solvent odors were emitted from the leachate seeps. Obvious signs of stained soil were observed near the leachate seeps.

2. COMMUNITY CONCERNS/INVOLVEMENT

Concerns and issues identified by local officials and citizens associated with the Picco Resins Landfill include:

- A. Groundwater contamination
- B. Soil contamination
- C. Odor

There are signs posted and the access road is chained to prevent site access by car. The waste is covered although the depth of the cover is unknown. The only means of direct contact would be at the leachate collection system. Paths across the disposal area can be noted.

PADER is concerned about the health and environmental impacts of the site and the offsite migration of contaminants in soils, surface water, air and ground water.

A. OBJECTIVES OF THE PICCO RESINS LANDFILL COMMUNITY RELATIONS PLAN

1. To ensure that local residents and state and local officials are kept informed of possible actions under consideration and the reasons for these actions.

2. To ensure that local residents, state and local officials and concerned groups are notified of activities and decisions in a timely and effective way.

AR500023

3. To provide the media with timely, detailed, accurate information about all response and remedial actions at the site.

4. To ensure that accurate and timely information is provided to address citizen inquiries and concerns.

5. To provide local residents and state and local officials with the opportunity to comment on all phases of activities at the site.

B. IMPLEMENTATION OF COMMUNITY RELATIONS ACTIVITIES

The following actions will be implemented by PADER:

1. PUBLIC INQUIRY RESPONSE

Inquiries by interested parties may be made by telephone and/or by writing to Community Relations Coordinator Betsy Mallison (see attached Contact List).

2. BRIEFINGS

Briefings may be conducted to inform state and local officials of recent developments.

3. PUBLIC MEETINGS

Public Meetings will be held by the PADER to present information, to answer questions, and solicit and receive public comments.

4. FACT SHEETS/PROGRESS REPORTS

Fact sheets may be distributed to government agencies, the boroughs, the media and the general public to report progress at the site.

5. NEWS RELEASES

News releases will be issued to report results of Public Meetings and to announce other timely matters.

6. INFORMATION REPOSITORY/PROJECT FILE

A PADER repository containing site information and documents on site activities is located in the Jefferson Borough Municipal Building, 925 Old Clairton Road, Clairton, Pennsylvania 15025. The file may be viewed from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. The file will be continually updated by the PADER as new information is generated.

AR500024

CONTACT LIST

For all general inquiries and written correspondence, please contact:

Betsy Mallison
Community Relations Coordinator
PADER - Southwestern Regional Office
121 South Highland Avenue
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15206 (412) 645-7138

AGENCY PERSONNEL

PADER - Deborah McNaughton, Project Officer
121 S. Highland Ave.
Pittsburgh, PA 15206 (412) 645-7295

USEPA - Garth Connor, Project Officer
841 Chestnut Building
Philadelphia, PA 19107 (215) 597-6800

USEPA - Pat Gaughan, Community Relations Coordinator
303 Methodist Bldg, 11th and Chapline Streets
Wheeling, West VA 26003 (304) 233-2328

LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIALS

JEFFERSON BOROUGH

Mayor Michael Stanton
Box 308, R.D. 4
Finleyville, PA 15332 (412) 384 -6846

Pres. William M. Chamberlin
Council 925 Old Clairton Rd.
Clairton, PA 15025 (412) 655-9235

Secretary Saundra J. Walsh
925 Old Clairton Road
Clairton, PA 15025 (412) 384-4750

AR500025

COUNTY ELECTED OFFICIALS

Commissioner Thomas J. Foerster (Chairman)
Commissioner Pete Flaherty
Commissioner Lawrence W. Dunn
Court House, Room 119
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

FEDERAL ELECTED OFFICIALS

U.S. Senator Arlen Specter
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
(202) 224-4254

U.S. Congressman Rick Santorum
200 Fleet Street, Suite 4000
Pittsburgh, PA 15220
(412) 928-0725

STATE ELECTED OFFICIALS

Senator D. Michael Fisher
71 McMurray Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15241
(412) 831-9898

Senator Albert Belan
100 Homeville Road
West Mifflin, PA 15222
(412) 466-2201

Representative David K. Levdansky
117 Second Avenue
Elizabeth, PA 15037
(412) 384-2258

AR500026

MEDIA LISTING

McKeesport Daily News
Box 128
409 Walnut Street
McKeesport, PA 15134

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette
50 Blvd. of the Allies
Pittsburgh, PA 15230

KDKA
One Gateway Center
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

WAMO-AM
1500 Chamber of Commerce Bdg.
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

WIXZ-AM
Box 1360
East McKeesport, PA 15035

KDKA-TV
One Gateway Center
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

WTAE-TV
400 Ardmore Blvd.
Pittsburgh, PA 15221

May 1991

Pittsburgh Press
34 Blvd. of the Allies
Pittsburgh, PA 15230

West Mifflin Area Record
3623 Brownsville Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15227

WEDO
414 Fifth Avenue, Midtown Plaza
McKeesport, PA 15132

KQV
411 Seventh Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

WTAE
400 Ardmore Blvd., Box 1250
Pittsburgh, PA 15230

WPXI-TV
11 Television Hill, Box 1100
Pittsburgh, PA 15230

AR500027