



IMC Fertilizer Site

UPDATE

United States Environmental Protection Agency

June 2002

Background Information on The IMC Site

The IMC Site is a 41-acre property, located in the Arkwright community just south of Spartanburg, South Carolina. The former fertilizer plant was used from approximately 1910 to 1986 to produce nitrogen-phosphate-potassium (N-P-K) fertilizer. The site was brought to EPA's attention in late 1997 by a local citizen living nearby. An EPA Site Investigation (SI) was conducted in September 1998 recommended sampling of the site and further sampling was conducted in the ESI (January 2000). (See process figure 1-1) In 1999, in response to community concerns over the state of the property, Vigindustries voluntarily reacquired the facility to deconstruct the remaining facility buildings.

Recent Events

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), Region 4, signed an Administrative Order on Consent (AOC) with Vigindustries (the site) on July 10, 2001. Since that time, EPA has worked with Vigindustries by reviewing and providing guidance and comments on the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) Workplan and companion workplanning documents, such as the Sampling and Analysis Plan and the Site Health and Safety Plan, prepared for the sit in accordance with the Administrative Order by Consent. The AOC is an agreement between EPA and the **Potentially Responsible Party (PRP)** to perform and/or pay the cost of the cleanup at IMC. It includes information concerning the actions that will be taken at the site. In addition, arrangements have been made to conduct a public meeting to address components of the proposed focused Removal Action and the RI/FS process.

Where Are We Now?

The IMC Site is in a phase called the **Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS)**. During this phase, data is gathered to determine the type and extent of the contamination, establish what is needed to clean up the site, identify and screen different ways to clean the site during the **remedial action (RA)**, and investigate different technologies and their costs. Currently, as a requirement of the AOC, the Respondent is in the process of submitting documentation to the EPA for review and comment in the form of work plans and accompanying documents that outline a plan to complete all aspects of remedial work to be performed at the site. In addition to the RI/FS work plan, some of the accompanying documents include the Base line Risk Assessment (BLRA), Field

Sampling and Analysis Plan (FSAP), Health and Safety Plan (HASP) and the Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP).

What Will Happen Next?

As EPA approves the required documentation, the Respondent and the EPA will plan to coordinate community and field activities (sampling, putting in wells, etc.) by following a proposed schedule of activities. After the RI/FS is completed, a proposed plan is prepared. The Proposed Plan is a summary of how the site should preferably be cleaned up, why a particular technology is chosen for the cleanup, all the technology that was investigated for the cleanup and waivers to cleanup standards that may be proposed. A public meeting will be held. This meeting is held to present and discuss the different technologies that were investigated to clean up the site and which technology is preferred for clean up. During this time, there will be a comment period, which is 30-days, for the public to comment on the proposed plan. Comments will be taken during the proposed plan meeting.

More Information

An information Repository has been set up for your convenience at the following location:

Reference Desk (Upper Level)
Spartanburg Community Library
151 South Church Street
Spartanburg, SC 29306
(864) 596-3503
Library Contact: Doris Wright, Assistant Director

Glossary of Terms

Administrative Order on Consent (AOC) - A legal agreement between EPA and **potentially responsible parties (PRPs)** agree to perform or pay the cost of a site **cleanup**. The agreement describes actions to be taken at a site and may be subject to a public **comment period**. Unlike a **consent decree**, an administrative order on consent does not have to be approved by a judge.

Cleanup - Actions taken to deal with a release or threatened release of **hazardous substances** that could affect public health or the environment.

Hazardous Substance - Any material that poses a threat to public health and/or the environment. Typical hazardous substances are materials that are toxic, corrosive, ignitable, explosive, or chemically reactive.

Potentially Responsible Party (PRP) - An individual or company potentially responsible for, or contributing to, the contamination problems at a Superfund site.

Remedial Action (RA) - The actual construction or implementation phase that follows the remedial design of the selected cleanup at a site.

Remedial Design (RD) - An engineering phase where technical drawings and specification are developed for the remedial action at a site.

Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) - Two distinct but related studies. They are usually performed at the same time, and together referred to as the "RI/FS". They are intended to: Gather the data necessary to determine the type and extent of contamination at a Superfund site; Establish criteria for cleaning up the site; Identify and screen cleanup alternatives for remedial action; and Analyze in detail the technology and costs of the alternatives.

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