

EPA Proposes Cleanup Plan

Public Comment Period Open Through May 18, 2023

Nucor Steel Marion, Inc. facility
Marion, OH

April 2023

Learn About the Site

The Statement of Basis document describes the process EPA used to select measures for cleaning up hazardous waste at the Nucor site.

EPA encourages you to view and comment on a pre-recorded presentation regarding this site. EPA is accepting comments between April 18 and May 18, 2023. The presentation and comment form are available online at: <https://bit.ly/3Jj40Zt>.

Please see the following page for other question and comment opportunities.

For More Information

If you have questions or comments on the Statement of Basis, contact:

For technical questions:

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For general questions:

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Nucor Steel Marion, Inc. facility in Marion, Ohio

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is seeking public comment on the proposed cleanup for the Nucor Steel Marion, Inc. facility, located at 912 Cheney Ave., Marion, Ohio. Nucor occupies approximately 40 acres and is surrounded by industrial property to the west and east and mixed commercial and residential properties to the east, north, and south.

Steel mill operations have been conducted at the facility since 1915. Because of the long-time manufacturing operations and hazardous waste management at the facility, an EPA environmental contractor assessed the facility as part of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, or RCRA. The facility assessment identified solid waste management units, or SWMUs, and areas of concern, or AOCs, at the facility. An AOC is an area at a facility or an off-site area, which is not known to be a SWMU, where hazardous waste and/or hazardous constituents are present as a result of a release from the facility.

Nucor conducted voluntary investigations which included soil, groundwater, and soil gas sampling to identify past releases of hazardous contaminants. As a result, evidence of past releases of hazardous contaminants was found at some of the SWMUs and AOCs.

Nucor completed interim measures in certain contaminated areas of the facility. Interim measures are steps taken to control ongoing risks to human health and the environment before final remedy selection. The interim measures included clean-ups to control potential exposure risks prior to EPA's final remedy selection.

In the Statement of Basis document, EPA proposes additional cleanup measures to be completed at the facility to manage contaminated soil and groundwater, thereby protecting human health and the environment.

Background

Nucor purchased the steel mill from Marion Steel in 2005. The facility uses electric arc furnaces to recycle scrap metal to produce reinforcement bars, fence posts, and angle iron.

Historically, hazardous waste was generated from the paint line equipment cleaning processes and from the contaminated dust created during steel production. The hazardous waste, as well as other contamination at the site, was partially addressed by Nucor in their interim measures.

Completed interim measures include:

- *Baghouse Area:* excavation and disposal of soil contaminated with electric arc furnace dust, petroleum hydrocarbons, and arsenic.
- *Settling Basin Shipping Area:* excavation and disposal of soil contaminated with polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons.
- *Billet Yard:* excavation and disposal of soils, concrete, and water contaminated by polychlorinated biphenyls, PCBs.
- *Former Press Pit:* removal of residual free product consisting of lubrication oil.
- *Former Underground Storage Tank Area:* excavation and disposal of soil contaminated by diesel fuel.
- *Former Oil Room:* in-place chemical and biological reduction of trichloroethene, also known as TCE, in shallow groundwater.
- *Former Dumping Area:* excavation and disposal of soil contaminated with lead.
- *Former Paint Pit:* excavation and disposal of soil contaminated with paint waste.

How to Comment

EPA will receive and document all comments sent between April 18 and May 18, 2023.

Please note that the project's contacts will be available for an open Q&A session, from 6-8 p.m. EST on Thursday, May 4 to answer your questions. Dial into our conference line at 312-667-5632, conference code 111 950 271#, to speak with EPA staff members about the cleanup plan for Nucor.

There are several different ways to submit comments on the proposed cleanup:

- **By confidential voicemail** at 312-886-7613
- **By website**, directly at <https://bit.ly/3Jj40Zt>
- **By e-mail** to arcaute.francisco@epa.gov
- **By mail** to Francisco Arcaute
U.S. EPA, Region 5
77 W. Jackson Blvd., 19-J
Chicago, IL 60604-3590

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- *Institutional Controls:* Nucor will establish an enforceable environmental covenant to restrict land use of the Nucor property to industrial use now and in the future.
- *Soil and Groundwater Management Plan, or SGMP:* Nucor will be required to comply with an SGMP, which is a written document describing potential contaminants that could be encountered during construction work at the facility, and how those situations should be handled.
- *Cover Inspection and Maintenance:* Nucor will cover contaminants that could not be excavated in the Baghouse Area with asphalt and concrete and will inspect the cover annually.
- *Groundwater Monitoring:* Nucor will conduct groundwater monitoring of select wells around the facility to ensure that any residual groundwater contamination from volatile organic compounds, lead, and residual free product remains stable.
- *Passive Skimming:* Nucor will continue removal of residual free product consisting of lubrication oil.
- *Soil Gas Sampling:* Nucor will conduct sampling to evaluate TCE and tetrachloroethene, also known as PCE, concentrations.
- *Long-Term Stewardship:* Nucor must submit a Long-Term Stewardship Plan to ensure that remedies are maintained and operated as intended.

EPA's Role

EPA oversaw Nucor's voluntary work under the agency's RCRA Corrective Action program, which ensures that RCRA-regulated facilities investigate and clean-up or contain hazardous waste releases that pose a risk to human health and the environment. EPA agreed that Nucor could proceed voluntarily with remedial measures provided all investigations were performed in compliance with RCRA, applicable regulations, and EPA guidance.