

FIVE-YEAR REVIEW REPORT

Fike/Artel Chemical

Superfund Site

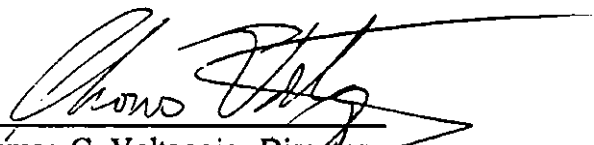
Nitro, West Virginia

Prepared by:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Region III

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania


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12/28/96
Date

**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region III
Hazardous Waste Management Division
Five-Year Review Type Ia
Fike/Artel Chemical Site (Nitro, West Virginia)**

I. Introduction

Authority Statement. Purpose. EPA Region III conducted this review pursuant to CERCLA section 121(c), NCP section 300.400(f)(4)(ii), and OSWER Directives 9355.7-02 (May 23, 1991), and 9355.7-02A (July 26, 1994). It is a statutory review. The purpose of a five-year review is to ensure that a remedial action remains protective of public health and the environment and is functioning as designed. This document will become a part of the Site File. This review (Type Ia) is applicable to a site at which response is ongoing.

Site Characteristics. The Fike/Artel Chemical Site ("Site") is located approximately 500 feet northwest of downtown Nitro, West Virginia in the Nitro Industrial Complex. The Site is situated on the location of a World War I smokeless powder (munitions) plant. The chemical plant began operations in 1951 as the Roberts Chemical Division of Security Chemicals, Inc. In 1971, the name was changed to Fike Chemicals, Inc. ("Fike"). In 1986, the name was changed to Artel Chemical Company ("Artel"). The facility was abandoned in 1988.

II. Discussion of Remedial Objectives; Areas of Noncompliance.

EPA has organized its cleanup activities at the Site into several Operable Units. EPA has conducted or is currently conducting the following remedial response activities at the Site under the authority of the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act of 1980, as amended ("CERCLA"), 42 U.S.C. §9601 *et seq.*, commonly referred to as "Superfund":

- ! Remedial Action for Operable Unit 1 ("OU-1") which addressed the removal of surface drums and wastes contained in tanks on-site. This work was performed by EPA consistent with EPA's September 1988 Record of Decision ("ROD") and completed in September 1993.

- ! Remedial Action for Operable Unit 2 ("OU-2") which addressed the removal of tanks, equipment, and structures at the Site as specified in EPA's September 1990 ROD. The Remedial Design and subsequent Remedial Action for OU-2 were performed by responsible parties pursuant to a Consent Decree. The Remedial Design was completed in September 1993. The OU-2 Remedial Action began in March 1994, and was completed in September 1995. A Supplemental Remedial Action for OU-2 included the removal of steel tanks,

plastic tanks, and drums containing dioxin contaminated sludges, water, and personal protective equipment wastes. The OU-2 Supplemental Remedial Action was performed by the responsible parties pursuant to the OU-2 Consent Decree, and was completed in October 1995.

- ! Remedial Design for Operable Unit 3 ("OU-3") addresses the removal and offsite treatment and disposal of buried drums and containers as specified in EPA's March 1992 ROD. The Remedial Design and subsequent Remedial Action for OU-3 are being performed by responsible parties pursuant to a Unilateral Administrative Order. The excavation of drums and containers was completed in March 1996; disposal of materials will be completed in Winter 1997.

Operable Units 1, 2 and 3 do not address all risks associated with the Site. A Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study ("RI/FS") for Operable Unit 4 ("OU-4") will investigate the existing conditions and possible remediation of soil, ground water, surface water, and the sewer system underlying the Site. This work is being performed by responsible parties pursuant to the terms of an Administrative Order on Consent. The RI/FS Work Plan for OU-4 is expected to be completed in Fall 1996. In addition, the responsible parties will address the Combined Sewage Treatment ("CST") Plant through a combination of a removal action and RI/FS. The Removal action, which includes the demolition of CST structures and removal and treatment of pond sludges, is ongoing. The RI/FS for the CST Plant is planned to begin in the Spring 1997. Remedial Actions for OU-4 and the CST Plant will be selected by EPA and presented in one or more additional ROD(s).

III. Recommendations.

The RI/FS for Operable Unit 4 will investigate the existing conditions and possible remediation of soil, ground water, surface water, and the sewer system underlying the Site. In addition, the CST Plant is being addressed through a combination of a removal action and RI/FS. Remedial Actions for OU-4 and the CST Plant will be selected by EPA and presented in one or more additional ROD(s).

IV. Statement on Protectiveness.

The remedy is not at this time protective of human health and the environment. As discussed above, EPA is taking steps to make the remedy protective.

V. Next Five-Year Review.

The next five-year review will be completed no later than October 2000.

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DATE	10/25	10/28	10/28	10/28				