



Community Update for American Cyanamid Superfund Site

Community Update

Volume VIII, Fall 2015

Introduction

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is issuing this update to inform the community and local officials about the status of the American Cyanamid Superfund Site (site) in Bridgewater Township, New Jersey. The previous update was distributed in May 2015; therefore, this update will focus on major tasks completed at the site over the previous five months, as well as provide important notice(s) to anticipated future events. EPA, CRISIS (the recipient of an EPA technical assistance grant) and the site owner (Wyeth Holdings LLC, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Pfizer, Inc.) provide updated site information at the following web sites:

- http://www.epa.gov/region02/superfund/npl/american_cyanamid/
- <http://www.crisistoxicwatch.org>
- <http://www.amcyrestoration.com>
- <http://www.bridgewaternj.gov/health-general-information/>

Site-wide Remedy Summary

EPA issued a Record of Decision in September 2012 to address contaminated soils, groundwater and impoundments that have not been previously addressed, with the exception of impoundments 1 and 2. This remedy, referred to as the site-wide remedy, called for the treatment via in-situ solidification/stabilization (S/S) and/or the installation of engineered capping systems to address three highly contaminated impoundments and all site soils, as well as the collection and treatment of site-related contaminated groundwater. The remedy also called for the completion of an ecological risk assessment to determine whether three additional impoundments would require excavation and relocation. The remedial design of the site-wide remedy is currently underway and is generally being addressed in two components: (1) impoundments and site-wide soils, and (2) groundwater. It is currently anticipated that the detailed design of the groundwater and impoundments/soils remedial components will be completed in 2017 and 2018, respectively.

Site-wide Remedy: Remedial Design Update

Overall, Wyeth continues to collect and/or evaluate additional data to support the design of the remedies for groundwater, soils and impoundments 3, 4, 5, 13, 17 and 24. Under the current project schedule, it is anticipated that these data collection efforts will be completed in 2016 so that Wyeth can proceed with the more detailed design of the remedies. The draft 30% design report for the groundwater treatment facility was submitted to EPA in October 2015 and it is expected that the draft 30% design report for the groundwater extraction and injection systems will be submitted to EPA for review by the end of 2015. The 30% design reports will present the layout of the extraction and injection networks, the extraction and injection flow rates, the design of the hydraulic barrier walls, the design of the conveyance systems, and the design of the treatment processes within the groundwater treatment facility. The 2012 Record of Decision requires that the groundwater remedy be designed to capture contaminated groundwater and restore it to concentrations below state and federal standards.

Settlement for Performance of Site-wide Remedy

While the completion of the detailed design of the site-wide remedy is ongoing, EPA reached a settlement with Wyeth in September 2015 to perform the remediation of soils, groundwater and impoundments 3, 4, 5, 13, 15, 16, 17 and 24. Under this agreement, Wyeth has agreed to fund the cleanup at an estimated cost of \$193.5M, as well as approximately \$1M to reimburse EPA for past oversight costs. The agreement is subject to a 30-day public comment period and final approval by the court. A copy of the agreement can be found at:

<https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2015/10/05/2015-25273/notice-of-lodging-of-proposed-consent-decrees-under-the-comprehensive-environmental-response>

Focused Feasibility Study for Impoundments 1 and 2

Due to the unique and highly complex nature of the contaminants within impoundments 1 and 2 and their proximity to the Raritan River, these two impoundments were not included in the site-wide remedy and are being addressed separately through a focused feasibility study. As part of the focused feasibility study, a pilot study was completed on impoundment 2 in June 2014 to evaluate whether solidification/stabilization, thermal treatment, or a combination of the two technologies can effectively treat the material within the two impoundments. While the results of the pilot study continue to be evaluated, the 3 treatment approaches had varying success in neutralizing pH and reducing contaminant mass and leachability. Under the current project schedule, it is anticipated that a community information session will be held in 2016 when the results of the pilot project have been thoroughly evaluated.

Impoundments 15 and 16:

The excavation and off-site recycling of 81,000 cubic yards of iron oxide material within impoundments 15 and 16 was completed in February 2015. Soils underlying these impoundments and the re-vegetation of the area will be addressed as part of the site-wide remedy.

Monitoring Update:

Wyeth continues to implement monitoring of surface water on a quarterly basis, and monitoring of sediment, groundwater and ambient air on a semi-annual basis. EPA is continually evaluating modifications to the surface water, sediment and groundwater monitoring programs, including adjustments to sampling locations and analyte lists. The most recent monitoring results for these programs have generally remained consistent with previous monitoring events, with the following notable observations. Benzene concentrations in the Raritan River remain significantly lower following the installation of a groundwater collection and treatment system in 2012. In the most recent September 2015 surface water monitoring event, benzene was not detected in the Raritan River. Due to dry weather conditions, surface water samples could not be collected from Cuckel's Brook during the September 2015 event. Following the detection of elevated concentrations of volatile organic compounds (particularly benzene) in Pond 287 in March 2015, contaminant concentrations have returned to levels consistent with historical concentrations. The drainage swale between Pond 287 and the Raritan River has been retrofitted with a valve to prevent pond and swale water from discharging to the Raritan River should it become impacted again in the future. The groundwater remedy, which is currently being designed, will ultimately prevent the migration of contaminated groundwater to surface water and sediment.

If you have any questions about the information in this community update, please contact the EPA community involvement coordinator, Melissa Dimas at dimas.melissa@epa.gov 212-637-3677.

http://www.epa.gov/region02/superfund/npl/american_cyanamid/