



VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT QUALITY

WASTE DIVISION

OFFICE OF REMEDIATION PROGRAMS

STATEMENT OF BASIS

WHEELABRATOR CORPORATION LANDFILL

BEDFORD, VIRGINIA

EPA ID NO. VAD000063669

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Table of Contents

I. INTRODUCTION..... 1
 A. Facility Name.....1
 B. Proposed Decision1
 C. Importance of Public Input.....2
II. FACILITY BACKGROUND..... 2
III. SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY..... 3
IV. INSTITUTIONAL AND ENGINEERING CONTROLS 4
V. ENVIRONMENTAL INDICATORS..... 5
VI. FINANCIAL ASSURANCE 5
VII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION..... 5

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Facility Name

The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VDEQ) has prepared this Statement of Basis (SB) for the Wheelabrator Corporation Landfill located at 3 Abrasive Avenue, Bedford, Virginia 24523 (hereinafter referred to as the Facility or Wheelabrator).

The Facility is subject to the Corrective Action Program under the Solid Waste Disposal Act, as amended by the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) of 1976, and the Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments (HSWA) of 1984, 42 U.S.C. Sections 6901 to 6992k. The Corrective Action Program is designed to ensure that certain facilities subject to RCRA have investigated and cleaned up any releases of hazardous waste and waste constituents that have occurred at their property.

Information on the Corrective Action Program can be found by navigating <http://www.epa.gov/reg3wcmd/correctiveaction.htm>.

VDEQ has prepared this SB in cooperation with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). VDEQ has reviewed all available Facility data and has determined that no additional characterization or remediation is necessary for the Facility to satisfy its federal RCRA Corrective Action obligations. Based on its review, in this SB VDEQ is proposing its final remedy for the Facility and providing the opportunity for public comment and review on its proposal and the associated permit modification.

B. Proposed Decision

This SB explains VDEQ's proposed decision that no further actions to remediate soil, groundwater, or indoor air contamination are necessary to protect human health and the environment given current and reasonably anticipated future land use. VDEQ's proposed decision requires the Facility to maintain certain property mechanisms known as Institutional Controls (ICs) and Engineering Controls (ECs). The proposed controls are discussed in Section IV below. VDEQ's proposed decision represents "Corrective Action Complete with Controls" as described in EPA's "Final Guidance on Completion of Corrective Action Activities at RCRA Facilities", (68 FR 8757, February 25, 2003). A Corrective Action Complete with Controls determination indicates that protection of human health and the environment has been achieved, and will continue as long as the necessary operation and maintenance actions are performed, and the institutional controls are maintained and complied with.

This SB summarizes information that can be found in greater detail in the work plans and reports reviewed by VDEQ and EPA, which can be found in the Administrative Record (AR).

C. Importance of Public Input

The purpose of this document is to solicit public comment on VDEQ's proposed remedy prior to VDEQ making its final remedy selection for the Facility. The public may participate in the remedy selection process by reviewing this SB and documents contained in the AR in support of VDEQ's proposed decision and submitting written comments to VDEQ during the public comment period. The information presented in this SB can be found in greater detail in the work plans and reports submitted by the Facility to VDEQ and EPA. To gain a more comprehensive understanding of the RCRA activities that have been conducted at the Facility, VDEQ encourages the public to review these documents, which are found in the AR. A copy of the AR is available for public review, in paper or electronic format, from the VDEQ contact person, the address and telephone number of which is provided in Section VII below.

When making a determination regarding the selection of a final remedy, VDEQ will consider all written comments received during the comment period (see Section VII), any oral or written statements received during the public meeting, and requirements of the Virginia Hazardous Waste Management Regulations and 40 CFR Part 124. Each person who has submitted comments will receive a written response from VDEQ. If VDEQ determines that new information or public comments warrant a modification to the proposed decision, VDEQ will modify the proposed decision or select other alternatives based on such new information and/or public comments. VDEQ is proposing to incorporate the remedy selection and determination of Corrective Action Complete with Controls in its modification of the Facility's Hazardous Waste Management Post-Closure Permit.

II. FACILITY BACKGROUND

The Wheelabrator Corporation Landfill is a 2.7 acre landfill located on approximately 13 acres of land approximately two miles northwest of the Town of Bedford, Bedford County, Virginia. An unnamed stream, a tributary to Little Otter River, is located along the eastern portion of the landfill site.

Wheelabrator, currently owned by USA Waste of Virginia Landfills, Inc., was used for the disposal of furnace dust and furnace slag generated from secondary steel smelting operations conducted at the adjacent Wheelabrator Abrasives foundry. The foundry, located to the south of the landfill, melted scrap metal in an electric furnace to produce steel "shot". Furnace dust and furnace slag was disposed of in the landfill until 1985. The landfill, which operated for 16 years, was closed with waste in place on December 21, 1988.

The VDEQ issued Wheelabrator a Hazardous Waste Management Post-Closure Permit (Permit) on September 29, 1992. The Permit was renewed on July 17, 2003, with an effective date of August 16, 2003. The Permit encompasses one Solid Waste Management Unit (SWMU), the closed landfill, and requires groundwater monitoring upgradient and downgradient of the closed landfill as well as maintenance of the landfill

cap. Two additional SWMUs – Pond #2 and Pond #3 - were identified during subsequent site assessment activities. On September 26, 2006, the VDEQ’s review of the SWMU Release Assessment report indicated that there was enough data to support the determination of No Further Action for Pond #2 and Pond #3.

III. SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY

To date, the following RCRA Corrective Action milestones have been completed at the Facility:

- The operational period for the Wheelabrator Landfill was from 1973 to 1985. The landfill was closed with waste in place on December 21, 1988.
- On June 28, 1989, the RCRA Facility Assessment (RFA) was completed.
- On December 1, 1991, the Facility was ranked as a “high” priority site according to the National Corrective Action Prioritization Schedule (NCAPS).
- On September 29, 1992, the initial Hazardous Waste Management Post-Closure Permit became effective until September 29, 2002. The above permit required the Facility to implement compliance monitoring.
- On September 17, 2004, the *Current Human Exposures Under Control* Environmental Indicator was met.
- On September 23, 2003, the *Migration of Contaminated Groundwater Under Control* Environmental Indicator was met.
- On July 17, 2003, the Hazardous Waste Management Post-Closure Permit was renewed with an effective date of August 16, 2003 and remains in effect until August 16, 2013.
- On April 20, 2004, the SWMU Release Assessment Report was submitted.
- On September 26, 2006, the VDEQ determined that no further action was required at Pond #2 and Pond #3.
- On September 29, 2008, the compliance period for the regulated unit ended and the Facility moved to a reduced groundwater monitoring program.

The release assessment at the Facility focused on two former ponds (Pond #2 and Pond #3) located on the Wheelabrator property which were built to manage contact cooling water discharged from the Wheelabrator Abrasives Plant. There was also a former Pond #1 associated with the Wheelabrator Abrasive Plant, however since Pond #1 is not part of the Wheelabrator property, it was not included in this investigation. It should be noted

that Pond #1 was closed in 1992 along with Pond #2 according to the Virginia Pollution Abatement permit, and Pond #3 was closed under the waste program closure plan as a non-hazardous waste unit in 1988. Soil and sediment samples were collected from both Pond #2 and Pond #3 prior to closure. Based on analytical results, Pond #2 and Pond #3 did not show any evidence of containing hazardous waste. VDEQ completed a review of the environmental investigations, which included the SWMU Release Assessment Report dated April 20, 2004, and determined that no further action was required for Pond #2 and Pond #3. The No Further Action determination for Pond #2 and Pond #3 was transmitted to the Facility by letter dated September 26, 2006.

Under the Permit, groundwater monitoring at the closed landfill is conducted for the following constituents: barium, chromium, lead, tin, vanadium, zinc, and sulfide. The groundwater monitoring network consists of six (6) sampling wells: one background well MW-1; three point of compliance (POC) wells MW-2C, 3A, and 4A; and two assessment wells MW-4C and 5. The network also includes five (5) gauging wells, MW-2A, 2B, 3B, 3C, and 4B, to be used to measure groundwater elevation. Groundwater monitoring is conducted on a semi-annual basis. At the downgradient wells, there have been no confirmed exceedances of applicable groundwater protection standards, which are included in the permit and are based on Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) or Alternate Concentration Limits (ACLs) approved by VDEQ. During the most recent monitoring event (November 5, 2009), lead slightly exceeded its groundwater protection standard (GPS) (18.4 ug/L compared to 15 µg/L) in upgradient well MW-1. Occasional detections of lead in the upgradient well at similar concentrations have historically occurred in this well and were discussed in the 2007 Annual Groundwater Monitoring Report (February 08) following a detection of 19 ug/L in November 2007. Historical concentrations have ranged from 3 to 68 ug/L. There were no detections in 2008 or spring 2009. No sustained exceedance or increasing trend is present. Groundwater monitoring will continue in accordance with the Permit.

IV. INSTITUTIONAL AND ENGINEERING CONTROLS

Institutional Controls (“ICs”) are generally non-engineered mechanisms such as administrative and/or legal controls that minimize the potential for human exposure to contamination and/or protect the integrity of a remedy. Engineering Controls (“ECs”) are generally engineered mechanisms such as a landfill cap. At the Wheelabrator Facility, waste with hazardous constituents will remain at the Facility in the closed capped landfill, and maintenance of the land fill cap as well as groundwater monitoring will be required under the Facility’s Permit.

A Deed Notice is already in place with the Bedford County Circuit Clerk’s Office, Deed Book 844, Page 767-768, identifying the location of the Facility’s closed landfill. To support the Notice, the Facility will be required to provide a coordinate survey as well as a metes and bounds survey of the closed landfill and the Facility boundary. Mapping the extent of use restriction for the landfill will allow for presentation in a publicly accessible mapping program such as Google Earth or Google Maps.

The Permit requiring maintenance of the landfill as well as groundwater monitoring during the post-closure care period will be modified to reflect the determination that corrective action is complete with controls. The permit also contains provisions for the reporting of any new SWMUs, AOCs or releases to ensure the continued protection of human health and the environment. If new SWMUs, AOCs or releases are discovered, additional measures may need to be implemented to control any impacts to human health and the environment.

V. ENVIRONMENTAL INDICATORS

Under the Government Performance and Results Act (“GPRA”), EPA has set national goals to address RCRA corrective action facilities. Under GPRA, EPA evaluates two key environmental clean-up indicators for each facility: (1) Current Human Exposures Under Control and (2) Migration of Contaminated Groundwater Under Control. The Facility met these indicators on November 26, 2001.

VI. FINANCIAL ASSURANCE

Since no further investigations or corrective actions are anticipated, financial assurance for corrective action is not required for the Facility. Financial assurance is provided under the Permit for ongoing operation and maintenance costs associated with the landfill cap and groundwater monitoring during the post-closure care period.

VII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Interested persons are invited to comment on VDEQ’s proposed decision. The public comment period will last sixty (60) calendar days from the date the notice is published in a local newspaper. Comments may be submitted by mail, fax, e-mail, or phone to Mr. Matthew M. Stepien at the address listed below.

A public meeting will be held upon request fifteen (15) calendar days from the date the notice is published in a local newspaper. The Administrative Record contains all the information considered by VDEQ for its proposed remedy for the Facility. To receive a copy of the Administrative Record, contact Mr. Matthew M. Stepien at the address below:

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