



UNITED STATES
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION III

STATEMENT OF BASIS

Bethlehem Apparatus Company, Inc.
BETHLEHEM, PENNSYLVANIA
EPA ID No. PAD 0000453084

Prepared by
Office of Pennsylvania Remediation
Land and Chemicals Division
November 2012

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List of Acronyms

AST	Aboveground Storage Tank
BA	Bethlehem Apparatus Company, Inc.
COC	Contaminant of Concern
EI	Environmental Indicator
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
HASP	Health and Safety Plan
MCL	Maximum Contaminant Level
MSC	Medium Specific Concentration
OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Administration
PADEP	Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
RCRA	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
RSL	Regional Screening Level
SB	Statement of Basis
SC	Site Characterization
SHS	Statewide Health Standard
UST	Underground Storage Tank

Section 1: Introduction

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has prepared this Statement of Basis (SB) in accordance with the Corrective Action Program to solicit public comment on its proposed decision for the Bethlehem Apparatus Company, Inc. (BA) facility located at 935 Bethlehem Drive, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania (the Facility or the Site). EPA's review of available information indicates that there are no unaddressed releases of hazardous waste or hazardous constituents from the Facility. Based on that assessment, EPA is proposing no further corrective action or land use controls are necessary at this time at the Facility. EPA has determined that its proposed decision is protective of human health and the environment. This SB highlights key information relied upon by EPA in making its proposed decision.

The Facility is subject to EPA's 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. §§ 6901 *et seq.* (Corrective Action Program). The Corrective Action program is designed to ensure that certain facilities subject to RCRA have been investigated and that all releases of hazardous waste and hazardous constituents have been remediated. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (the Commonwealth) is not authorized for the Corrective Action program under Section 3006 of RCRA. Therefore, EPA retains primary authority in the Commonwealth for the Corrective Action program.

The Administrative Record (AR) for the Facility contains all documents on which EPA's proposed decision is based. The Index to the AR is found at the end of the SB. See Section 5, Public Participation, for information on how you may review the documents contained in the AR and submit any comments you may have concerning EPA's proposed decision for the Facility.

Section 2: Facility Background

The Bethlehem Apparatus Company (BA) is an approximately 38,400-square foot facility located on 2.88 acres. The Facility is located in a mixed commercial/industrial area within the City of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. The property includes an office area, a material sorting and preparation area, an enclosed and covered container storage area, six high vacuum mercury retorts and associated equipment, a high vacuum auto-feed retort system, a calomel (mercurous chloride) process area and a research and development laboratory. The Facility location map and layout are presented in Figures 1 and 2, respectively.

The BA reclaims mercury from mercury bearing hazardous wastes. The Facility's operations include material sorting, material preparation and liquid mercury separation, and mercury recovery in the retort recovery furnaces. The reclaimed mercury is shipped to its sister facility located in Hellertown, PA where the mercury is further refined by distillation to commercial grade. The refined mercury is sold to commercial and industrial users. All hazardous and non-hazardous wastes, raw materials, and product handling and storage activities are conducted within the enclosed building. Hazardous

and non-hazardous wastes generated from its operations are shipped offsite for proper disposal.

Section 3: Summary of Environmental Investigation

As part of the Environmental Indicator (EI) inspection and evaluation for Current Human Exposures and Migration of Contaminated Groundwater, a comprehensive record search and review were conducted by the PADEP and its contractor, Michael Baker Jr., Inc. (Baker). This undertaking consisted of evaluating the Facility's manufacturing operations and waste management practices, RCRA permit applications, historical spills and releases, documentation of previous site inspections, RCRA closure activities and correspondence between the EPA, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protections (PADEP) and the Facility.

On June 16, 2011, PADEP and Baker conducted a site visit. The visit consisted of a plant tour and information gathering to assess the current status of the Facility. No obvious areas of concern were identified during the visit. Based on the site visit and the comprehensive file review, there appears to be no indications of spills or releases that have negatively impacted soil, groundwater, surface water, or air that would lead to adverse impacts to human health or the environment at this time.

Section 4: Environmental Indicators

EPA sets national goals to measure progress toward meeting the nation's major environmental goals. For Corrective Action, EPA evaluates two key environmental indicators for each facility: (1) current human exposures under control and (2) migration of contaminated groundwater under control. EPA has determined that the Facility met these indicators (i.e., there is no contamination problem that creates an unacceptable risk to human health nor is there any evidence of adverse groundwater contamination impact to the environment) on October 26, 2012.

Section 5: Public Participation

Before EPA makes a final decision on its proposed decision for the Facility, the public may participate in the decision selection process by reviewing this SB and documents contained in the Administrative Record (AR) for the Facility. The Index to the Administrative Record lists the documents and all information considered by EPA in reaching this proposed decision. The AR is available for public review during normal business hours at:

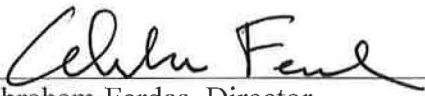
U.S. EPA Region III
1650 Arch Street
Mail code: 3LC30
Philadelphia, PA 19103
Contact: Khai M. Dao
Phone: (215) 814-5467
Fax: (215) 814-3113

Email: dao.khai@epa.gov

Interested parties are encouraged to review the AR and comment on EPA's proposed decision. The public comment period will last thirty (30) calendar days from the date that the notice is published in a local newspaper. You may submit comments by mail, fax, or e-mail to Khai M. Dao. EPA will hold a public meeting to discuss this proposed decision upon request. Requests for a public meeting should be made to Khai M. Dao.

EPA will respond to all relevant comments received during the comment period. If EPA determines that new information warrants a modification to the proposed decision, EPA will modify the proposed decision or select other alternatives based on such new information and/or public comments. EPA will announce its final decision and explain the rationale for any changes in a document entitled the Final Decision and Response to Comments (FDRTC). All persons who comment on this proposed decision will receive a copy of the FDRTC. Others may obtain a copy by contacting Khai M. Dao at the address listed above.

Date: 11/1/12


Abraham Ferdas, Director
Land and Chemicals Division
US EPA, Region III

Index to Administrative Record

Environmental Indicator Inspection Report, Bethlehem Apparatus Company, Inc., Bethlehem, PA, prepared by Baker, February 2012.

Phase I Environmental Audit Report, Bethlehem Industrial Park, Bethlehem, PA, prepared by EcolSciences Inc., May 9, 1994.

Attachment A



LAT=40° 37'37"N
LON=75° 21'19"W

BETHLEHEM APPARATUS
COMPANY, INC.

Source: pamap.pasda.psu.edu

SCALE: 1" = 200'
S.O. NO.: 000000
DSN/DWN:KT/RRR

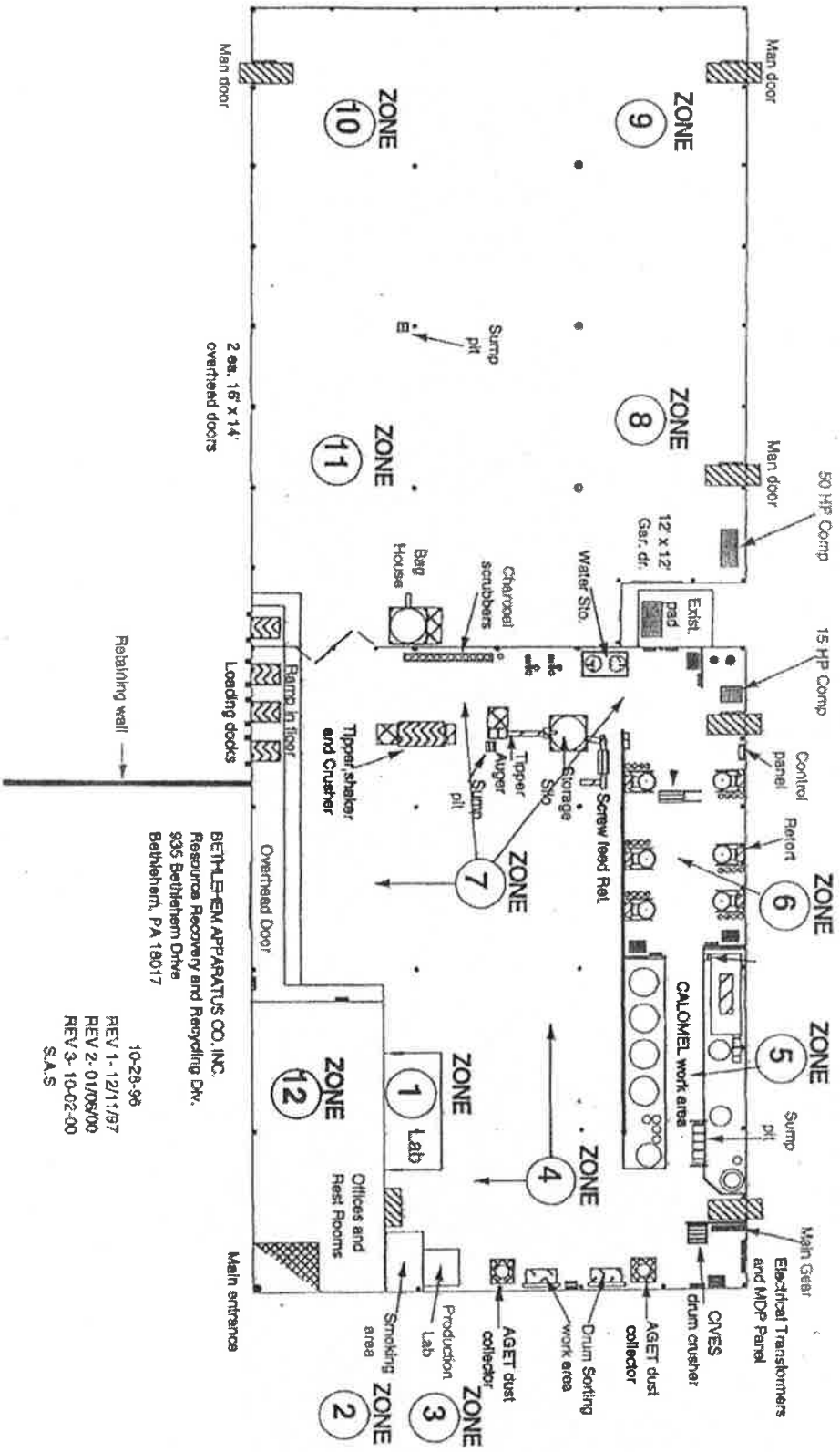
DATE: JUNE 2011
FILE: 000000-BETH-01
CHK: SF



MICHAEL BAKER JR., INC.
MOON TOWNSHIP, PENNSYLVANIA

FIGURE 1
FACILITY LOCATION MAP
BETHLEHEM APPARATUS COMPANY, INC.
BETHLEHEM, PENNSYLVANIA

Daily Vapor Reading Zones



BETHLEHEM APPARATUS CO. INC.
 Resource Recovery and Recycling Div.
 835 Bethlehem Drive
 Bethlehem, PA 18017

10-28-96
 REV 1 - 12/11/97
 REV 2 - 01/08/00
 REV 3 - 10-02-00
 S.A.S

Source: BETHLEHEM APPARATUS COMPANY, INC.
 RESOURCE RECOVERY AND RECYCLING DIV.

SCALE: NOT TO SCALE DATE: JUNE 2011
 S.O. NO.: 000000 FILE: 000000-BETH-02
 DSN/DWN:KT/RRR CHK: SF



MICHAEL BAKER JR., INC.
 MOON TOWNSHIP, PENNSYLVANIA

FIGURE 2
 FACILITY LAYOUT
 BETHLEHEM APPARATUS COMPANY, INC.
 BETHLEHEM, PENNSYLVANIA