



UNITED STATES

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION III

STATEMENT OF BASIS

FORMER CONTINENTAL CAN COMPANY, PLANT NO.479
(CURRENTLY BERKS CAN CORPORATION)
TEMPLE, PENNSYLVANIA

EPA ID NO. PAD 000 800 193

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I. Introduction

A. Facility Name

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has prepared this Statement of Basis (SB) for the Former Continental Can Company, Plant No.479 (Currently Berks Can Corporation) facility located at 3721 Pottsville Pike, Temple, PA 19605 (hereinafter referred to as the Facility).

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 hazardous constituents that have occurred at their property.

Information on the Corrective Action program as well as a fact sheet for the Facility can be found by navigating <http://www.epa.gov/reg3wcmd/correctiveaction.htm>.

B. Proposed Decision

This SB explains EPA's proposed decision to make a Corrective Action Complete without Controls determination for the Facility. EPA's proposed decision is based on a review of EPA and Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) files regarding the environmental history of the Facility as presented in the Final Environmental Indicator Inspection Report submitted in March 2004. Based on this review, EPA has concluded that there are no current or unaddressed releases of hazardous waste or hazardous constituents from the Facility. Therefore, no further corrective action or controls are required at the Facility at this time.

C. Importance of Public Input

Before EPA makes a final decision on its Corrective Action Complete without Controls determination for the Facility, the public may participate in the remedy selection process by reviewing this SB and documents contained in the Administrative Record (AR) for the Facility. The AR contains the complete set of reports that document Facility conditions, including a map of the Facility, in support of EPA's proposed decision. EPA encourages anyone interested to review the AR. The AR is available for public review at the EPA Region III office, the address of which is provided in Section V, below.

EPA will address all significant comments received during the public comment period. If EPA determines that new information or public comments warrant 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 approve its final decision in a document entitled the Final Decision and Response to Comments (FDRTC).

II. Facility Background

Corporation generates a small quantity of hazardous waste (1-2 drums/year). This report's title uses the Continental Can Company designation since this is the name that corresponds to the USEPA Hazardous Waste Generator identification number with which USEPA is concerned. However, Giorgio Foods, Inc. currently owns the property, and Berks Can Corporation leases the part of the property formerly leased by Continental Can Company. Berks Can Corporation and Giorgio Foods, Inc. have the same parent company. Berks Can Corporation utilizes the facility to manufacture and coat cans on three assembly lines. Berks Can Corporation generates a small quantity of hazardous waste (1 -2 drums/year).

The facility is located in a moderately industrial region of Temple, Muhlenberg Township (population 16,305, *2000 Census*), Pennsylvania. There are occasional residences within one mile of the site. Temple is part of Berks County, located in southeastern Pennsylvania. The actual town of Temple is situated one mile northeast of the site. The large metropolis of Reading, Pennsylvania (population 81,207, *2000 Census*) lies three miles south of the site. A large reservoir, Lake Ontelaunee, is located three miles north of the site, and the Schuylkill River is one mile to the northwest of it. The rest of the area consists mostly of rural residences.

Continental Can Company, Plant No. 479 operated between 1975 and December 1989 under USEPA ID No. PAD 000 800 193.

The site is a 16,000 square-foot annex that was added to the southern end of the Myers Canning Company facility in 1975. The Continental Can Company rented the annex from Myers Canning Company from the time that the annex was built. Continental Can Company used the facility as a production plant for steel food-packaging cans. The cans were primarily used for packaging mushrooms.

Myers Canning Company sold its entire facility to Giorgio Foods, Inc., which asked Continental Can Company Plant No. 479 to vacate the premises by January 1990. Production at

Continental Can Company continued until November 17, 1989, when evacuation of the premises began. The equipment and property of Continental Can Company were removed by the end of December 1989. The evacuation was not considered a closure, and no authorities were present to regulate the eviction of the Continental Can Company from the premises. The facility is now owned by Giorgio Foods, Inc., and the annex is occupied by Berks Can Corporation. Giorgio Foods uses the rest of the building as a warehouse. Continental Can Company is no longer in existence.

The facility is surrounded by a fence. A service road accesses the property from Pottsville Pike, and continues around the property, accessing the annex from the southeast. Pottsville Pike borders the facility approximately 100 feet to the west and ConRail railroad tracks border the site to the southwest. The slope of the terrain at the site is not more than three percent.

The annex is approximately 125 by 125 feet in size and is separated into distinct sections. The entrance door is on the south wall near the southeastern corner of the building. Immediately inside the door and to the east is the office area. The southern area of the annex was used by Continental Can Company to store raw materials and finished products, such as sheet metal and the actual cans. This area is currently used by Berks Can for similar purposes. The former and current production areas are located in the northern part of the annex. The area used by Continental Can Company for drum and chemical storage is now the location of Berks Can's air compressors.

The northwestern corner of the annex was the location of Continental Can Company's chemical storage and hazardous waste drum storage area. The hazardous waste drum storage area was fenced and secured and was clearly defined by signs and floor markings. The area formed the outline of an "L" in the corner of the annex. The area was located on a concrete floor along the interior wall of the building. During the *Preliminary Assessment* site visit in 1990, there was no noticeable diking or floor drain near the area, but a small access door, for removal of the drums directly to the outside, was adjacent to the area. A spill wagon, to aid in quick response to possible spills, was located next to the hazardous waste drum storage area.

Currently, all operations and storage areas of Berks Can Corporation are located inside the building.

The wastes generated at Continental Can Company during its operations included D001 (solid waste exhibiting ignitability characteristic), F002 (spent halogenated solvents), and F005 (spent nonhalogenated solvents). The waste included paints, thinners, solvents, and oils from the machines of the plant and the application of an internal paint stripe along a welding seam inside the cans. Approximately 80 percent of the hazardous waste generated by the plant was from the application of the internal paint stripe along a welding seal. The paint stripe aided in the preservation process after the cans were packed and sealed. This F005 waste stream included toluene, xylene, methyl ethyl ketone, and methyl isobutyl ketone. This waste stream was collected in a small bin on the production line, where the welding seam and paint stripe were applied to the cans. The bin was periodically emptied into 55-gallon drums in the hazardous waste drum storage area. The facility used pre-cut metal sheets for the production of the cans and did not generate any scrap metal wastes.

Three to four 55-gallon drums of liquid hazardous waste were generated every 90 days and were removed from the site by disposal companies.

Based on information obtained during the file reviews and gathered during the site visit, it appears that there have been no spills, releases, or enforcement actions at the facility.

As of 1990, the number of people living within one mile of the site was 2,947. The number of people living within 1 to 2 miles of the site was 6,985, and the number of people living within 2 to 3 miles of the site was 25,911. Based on these figures, there were 35,843 people living within 3 miles of the site.

Area residents obtain water from domestic wells or one of six municipal authorities. In 1990, the nearest probable home well that could be discerned from available references is located 1.3 miles southwest of the property. A contact at the Muhlenberg Township Authority stated that there are currently no private home wells within 0.5 mile of the property (TtFW communication with Muhlenberg Township Authority, 8/1/02). The expected direction of groundwater flow on the site is to the west-southwest, toward Laurel Run and the Schuylkill River. The nearest surface water is Laurel Run, approximately 0.5 mile due west of the site. Surface water flow from the site is generally to the south and is collected primarily by storm sewers and drains. The destination of the system is unknown. Surface water migration from the site that is not collected by the storm sewers would probably empty into Laurel Run. Any water collected by Laurel Run empties into the Schuylkill River, 1.8 stream miles southwest of the site.

III. Summary of Environmental History

Records and discussions during the Environmental Indicator site visit indicate that there have been no reportable releases, no instances or evidence of soil or groundwater contamination, no site remediation, and no past, current, or planned monitoring efforts at this Facility.

IV. Evaluation of EPA's Proposed Decision

EPA has determined that its proposed decision to make a Corrective Action Complete without Controls determination for Facility is protective of human health and the environment and that no further corrective action or controls are necessary at this time.

V. Public Participation

Interested persons are invited to comment on EPA's proposed decision. The public comment period will last thirty (30) calendar days from the date that notice is published in a local newspaper. Comments may be submitted by mail, fax, e-mail, or phone to Mr. Hon Lee at the address listed below.

A public meeting will be held upon request. Requests for a public meeting should be made to Mr. Hon Lee at the address listed below. A meeting will not be scheduled unless one is requested.

The Administrative Record contains all information considered by EPA when proposing a Corrective Action Complete without Controls determination for the Facility. The Administrative Record is available at the following location:

U.S. EPA Region III
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103
Contact: Mr. Hon Lee (3LC30)
Phone: (215) 814-3419
Fax: (215) 814 - 3113
Email: lee.hon@epa.gov