



UNITED STATES  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION III

STATEMENT OF BASIS

SAFETY-KLEEN SYSTEMS, INC.  
FAIRLESS HILLS, PENNSYLVANIA

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

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## Section 1: Introduction

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The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has prepared this Statement of Basis (SB) to solicit public comment on its proposed decision for the Safety-Kleen Systems, Inc. facility located at 77 Towpath Road (77 Canal Road) Fairless Hills, Bucks County, Pennsylvania 19030 (Facility). 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's proposed decision is that no further investigation or cleanup is required. EPA has determined that its proposed decision is protective of human health and the environment and that no further corrective action or land use controls are necessary at this time. 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 investigated and cleaned up any releases of hazardous waste and hazardous constituents that have occurred at their property. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (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, including data and quality assurance information, on which EPA's proposed decision is based. See Section 5, Public Participation, for information on how you may review the AR.

## Section 2: Facility Background

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The Safety-Kleen Systems, Inc. Facility is a 2.4-acre treatment, storage, and disposal (TSD) facility (USEPA ID No. PAD987266715) located in Fairless Hills, Pennsylvania. The Facility consists of a 10,000-square foot warehouse building which includes office space, a return/fill area used for processing waste mineral spirits, and a container storage area. Additionally, there are six Aboveground Storage Tanks (ASTs) located in an exterior tank farm (two covered AST containment areas). A paved parking lot is also present. A six-foot high chain link fence surrounds the active area of the Facility.

The Facility has been operational since August 1, 1988. The Facility operates as a collection and distribution service center for parts washer, dry cleaning, and fluid recovery service wastes, as well as paint waste and waste antifreeze collection. The Facility is an accumulation point for waste solvents (primarily mineral spirits) and waste antifreeze (ethylene glycol) generated by Safety-Kleen customers. Wastes are ultimately shipped to a Safety-Kleen recycling Facility or a contract reclaimer and then returned to the customers as product.

The property was vacant land when purchased by Safety-Kleen Corporation on December 29, 1987. Prior to December 1987, the property was owned by WMI Properties, Inc. (WMI) who created the industrial park. It is believed that the property was owned by West Dairies prior to WMI's ownership.

On July 7, 1998, Safety-Kleen Corporation merged with LES Acquisition, Inc. (a subsidiary of Laidlaw Environmental Services, Inc.) and the corporate name would change to Safety-Kleen Systems, Inc. with lead operations at 1301 Gervais Street Columbia, South Carolina, 29201. Change of name to Safety-Kleen Systems, Inc. occurred on July 1, 1998.

The Facility is surrounded by industrial and commercial properties. ISC Salesmaster Corporation (ISC) is located to the southwest. A small wooded area is located across Towpath Road to the northwest. State Route 13 is located about 0.8 miles west of the Facility and Tyburn Road is located 0.15 miles to the south of the Facility. A residential area is located south of Old Tyburn Road, approximately 0.3 miles southwest of the Facility. Salvage yards and a railroad corridor are also located further south and east of the Facility beyond the industrial/commercial properties.

A location map and a Facility layout are attached as Figures 1 and 2, respectively.

### **Section 3: Summary of Environmental History**

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EPA identified three Solid Waste Management Units (SWMUs) and one area of concern (AOC) at the Facility. The three SWMUs are the return/fill area, the container storage area, and the exterior tank farm. The AOC is the ethylene glycol release described below.

Small quantity spills and releases have occurred in the SWMUs and other general Facility locations during routine operations and have been documented in a Spills Release Inventory. These spills and releases have been limited to concrete or paved areas which cover approximately 93 percent of the Facility. All of these small quantity spills and releases have been cleaned up with vacuum trucks and/or absorbents.

Two large quantity spills have been documented at the Facility. On April 23, 1993, approximately 2,500 gallons of waste antifreeze leaked into the secondary containment system of the exterior tank farm from an AST. No waste antifreeze was released to the soil or groundwater. The secondary containment area and AST were pressure washed and a full report of the spill incident was sent to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP). After cleaning, rinse samples analyzed were found to be below EPA Region 3 Regional Screening Levels.

The second spill occurred on September 8, 2011 when a tanker truck tipped and released 3,029 gallons of ethylene glycol into a drainage swale. Approximately 729 gallons of waste ethylene glycol was recovered and approximately 22-tons of soil was excavated and disposed. Confirmatory sampling results within the excavation area were below laboratory detection levels and EPA Region 3 Regional Screening Levels.

EPA, PADEP, and Michael J. Baker Inc. visited the Facility on January 12, 2012 as part of the Environmental Indicator (EI) process and to document the findings of the releases described above. Based upon information in the EI Inspection Report, EPA considers the spills and releases to have been remediated appropriately and protection of human health and the environment to have been achieved.

### **Section 4: Environmental Indicators**

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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. The EPA has determined that the Facility met the current human exposures under control and migration of contaminated groundwater under control indicators on August 15, 2012.

## Section 5: Public Participation

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Before EPA makes a final decision on its proposal 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 AR contains all information considered by EPA in reaching this proposed decision. It is available for public review during normal business hours at:

U.S. EPA Region III  
1650 Arch Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19103  
Contact: Kevin Bilash  
Phone: (215) 814-2796  
Fax: (215) 814-3113  
Email: bilash.kevin@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 notice is published in a local newspaper. You may submit comments by mail, fax, or e-mail to Mr. Kevin Bilash. EPA will hold a public meeting to discuss this proposed decision upon request. Requests for a public meeting should be made to Mr. Kevin Bilash.

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 Mr. Kevin Bilash at the address listed above.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Figure 1 – Facility Location Map

Figure 2 – Facility Layout

Statement of Basis

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## **Index to Administrative Record**

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Spill Cleanup Report, Safety-Kleen Branch Service Center, 77 Towpath Road, Fairless Hills, PA 19030, prepared by Shaw Environmental & Infrastructure, Inc., December 2011.

Environmental Indicator Inspection Report for Safety-Kleen Systems, Inc., 77 Towpath Road (77 Canal Road) Fairless Hills, Pennsylvania 19030, prepared by Michael Baker Jr., Inc., May 2012.