

DOCUMENTATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL INDICATOR DETERMINATION

Interim Final 2/5/99

RCRA Corrective Action

Environmental Indicator (EI) RCRIS code (CA750)

Migration of Contaminated Groundwater Under Control

Facility Name: Watson-Standard Company

Facility Address: 616 Hite Road Harwick, Pennsylvania 15049

Facility EPA ID #: PAD 004397030

1. Has all available relevant/significant information on known and reasonably suspected releases to the groundwater media, subject to RCRA Corrective Action (e.g., from Solid Waste Management Units [SWMU], Regulated Units [RU], and Areas of Concern [AOC])

If yes – check here and continue with #2 below.

If no – re-evaluate existing data, or

If data are not available skip to #6 and enter “IN” (more information needed) status code.

BACKGROUND

Definition of Environmental Indicators (for the RCRA Corrective Action)

Environmental Indicators (EI) are measures being used by the RCRA Corrective Action program to go beyond programmatic activity measures (e.g., reports received and approved, etc.) to track changes in the quality of the environment. The two EI developed to-date indicate the quality of the environment in relation to current human exposures to contamination and the migration of contaminated groundwater. An EI for non-human (ecological) receptors is intended to be developed in the future.

Definition of “Migration of Contaminated Groundwater Under Control” EI

A positive “Migration of Contaminated Groundwater Under Control” EI determination (“YE” status code) indicates that the migration of “contaminated” groundwater has stabilized, and that monitoring will be conducted to confirm that contaminated groundwater remains within the original “area of contaminated groundwater” (for all groundwater “contamination” subject to RCRA corrective action at or from the identified facility (i.e., site-wide)).

Relationship of EI to Final Remedies

While Final remedies remain the long-term objective of the RCRA Corrective Action program the EI are near-term objectives which are currently being used as Program measures for the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993, GPRRA). The “Migration of Contaminated Groundwater Under Control” EI pertains ONLY to the physical migration (i.e., further spread) of contaminated ground water and contaminants within groundwater (e.g., non-aqueous phase liquids or NAPLs). Achieving this EI does not substitute for achieving other stabilization or final remedy requirements and expectations associated with sources of contamination and the need to restore, wherever practicable, contaminated groundwater to be suitable for its designated current and future uses.

Duration / Applicability of EI Determinations

EI Determinations status codes should remain in RCRIS national database ONLY as long as they remain true (i.e., RCRIS status codes must be changed when the regulatory authorities become aware of contrary information).

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2. Is **groundwater** known or reasonably suspected to be “**contaminated**”¹ above appropriately protective “levels” (i.e., applicable promulgated standards, as well as other appropriate standards, guidelines, guidance, or criteria) from releases subject to RCRA Corrective Action, anywhere at, or from, the facility?

_____ If yes - continue after identifying key contaminants, citing appropriate “levels,” and referencing supporting documentation.

 X If no - skip to #8 and enter “YE” status code, after citing appropriate “levels,” and referencing supporting documentation to demonstrate that groundwater is not “contaminated.”

_____ If unknown - skip to #8 and enter “IN” status code.

Rationale and Reference(s):

During the UST farm closure activities, PADEP inspected the facility and sampled subsurface water from the tank excavation trench. Analytical results indicated the presence of organic contaminants in the water samples. A subsequent subsurface investigation was conducted to determine the extent of any residual contamination in the vicinity of the former UST farm. Several synthetic organic chemicals were detected during the subsurface investigation.

Sample results of the water in the trenches revealed organic contaminants, including: xylenes, trimethylbenzene, isomers, naphthalene, trimethylcyclohexanone, and trimethylpentanediol. The source of the trimethylcyclohexanone and trimethylpentanediol was never determined. According to the REMCOR report, Watson-Standard representative indicated that trimethylcyclohexanone, and trimethylpentanediol were not stored in the tanks.

The objective of the subsurface investigation, conducted by REMCOR, was to define the extent of contamination associated with this SWMU. Most of the field investigation activities were conducted on May 8, 1986. Eight shallow test borings were drilled within and adjacent to the former UST area. These borings were terminated above the saturated zone. Six soil samples and one groundwater sample were analyzed for purgeable aromatics (i.e., benzene, toluene, and xylenes).

The analyses revealed that some solvent contamination was present in the area of the excavated tanks but not in the soil samples beneath or adjacent to the excavation. Analysis of fill from the excavated tank area showed xylene present at 3.9 parts per million (ppm) in soil and 4.5 ppm in subsurface water. Other contaminants present were benzene at 162 parts per billion (ppb) and tetrachloroethylene at 675 ppb in subsurface water. No contamination was detected in five soil samples from beneath and adjacent to the excavated tank areas.

No groundwater samples were obtained from the underlying confined groundwater aquifer during this investigation. The groundwater sample referenced above was collected from a boring within the excavated tank area. The REMCOR report indicated that perched water does not appear to be interconnected to regional groundwater in the underlying confined aquifer.

The report also noted a lack of groundwater discharge points in the direction of the surface slope (south of the former USTs towards the railroad tracks). The REMCOR report concluded that additional remedial action was not required. A letter from PADEP on July 21, 1986 indicated that no additional removal was warranted because 1) xylene contamination levels are less than 5 ppm, 2) the contamination is localized, and 3) the contamination does not appear to have affected the groundwater in the area. A 65 by 200 foot concrete pad currently covers the former UST area.

According to the 1991 SI report, the facility had no reportable spills outside the warehouse, but several small leaks or spills have occurred inside the warehouse. These spills were reportedly cleaned with oil-dry or rags and disposed of as solid hazardous wastes D001 or F003. During the October 29, 2007 site visit, Watson-Standard representatives stated that there have been no reportable releases since 1991.

1 “Contamination” and “contaminated” describes media containing contaminants (in any form, NAPL and/or dissolved, vapors, or solids, that are subject to RCRA) in concentrations in excess of appropriate “levels” (appropriate for the protection of the groundwater resource and its beneficial uses).

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Currently, hazardous waste drums are stored indoors in proper containment. There are current plans to improve the integrity of a berm of the concrete pad near the outside storage pad. The facility is enclosed by a locked fence and under supervision of facility personnel. The building is protected by a security system. Visitors are required to sign in and are escorted by facility personnel at all times. According to available records and following site visit discussions and an evaluation of facility operations, there have been no reportable releases, no current instances or evidence of soil or groundwater contamination or site remediation. There has not been any recent or planned soil sampling or groundwater monitoring efforts.

It should be noted that the former outdoor drum storage area was located on top of the underground tank storage area that was remediated. Therefore, it is presumed that the tank remediation work took care of both solid waste management units.

3. Has the **migration** of contaminated groundwater **stabilized** (such that contaminated groundwater is expected to remain within “existing area of contaminated groundwater”² as defined by the monitoring locations designated at the time of this determination)?

_____ If yes - continue, after presenting or referencing the physical evidence (e.g., groundwater sampling/measurement/migration barrier data) and rationale why contaminated groundwater is expected to remain within the (horizontal or vertical) dimensions of the “existing area of groundwater contamination”²).

_____ If no (contaminated groundwater is observed or expected to migrate beyond the designated locations defining the “existing area of groundwater contamination”²) - skip to #8 and enter “NO” status code, after providing an explanation.

_____ If unknown - skip to #8 and enter “IN” status code.

Rationale and Reference(s):

² “existing area of contaminated groundwater” is an area (with horizontal and vertical dimensions) that has been verifiably demonstrated to contain all relevant groundwater contamination for this determination, and is defined by designated (monitoring) locations proximate to the outer perimeter of “contamination” that can and will be sampled/tested in the future to physically verify that all “contaminated” groundwater remains within this area, and that the further migration of “contaminated” groundwater is not occurring. Reasonable allowances in the proximity of the monitoring locations are permissible to incorporate formal remedy decisions (i.e., including public participation) allowing a limited area for natural attenuation.

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4. Does “contaminated” groundwater **discharge** into **surface water** bodies?

_____ If yes - continue after identifying potentially affected surface water bodies.

_____ If no - skip to #7 (and enter a “YE” status code in #8, if #7 = yes) after providing an explanation and/or referencing documentation supporting that groundwater “contamination” does not enter surface water bodies.

_____ If unknown - skip to #8 and enter “IN” status code.

Rationale and Reference(s):

5. Is the **discharge** of “contaminated” groundwater into surface water likely to be “**insignificant**” (i.e., the maximum concentration³ of each contaminant discharging into surface water is less than 10 times their appropriate groundwater “level,” and there are no other conditions (e.g., the nature, and number, of discharging contaminants, or environmental setting), which significantly increase the potential for unacceptable impacts to surface water, sediments, or eco-systems at these concentrations)?

_____ If yes - skip to #7 (and enter “YE” status code in #8 if #7 = yes), after documenting: 1) the maximum known or reasonably suspected concentration³ of key contaminants discharged above their groundwater “level,” the value of the appropriate “level(s),” and if there is evidence that the concentrations are increasing; and 2) provide a statement of professional judgement/explanation (or reference documentation) supporting that the discharge of groundwater contaminants into the surface water is not anticipated to have unacceptable impacts to the receiving surface water, sediments, or eco-system.

_____ If no - (the discharge of “contaminated” groundwater into surface water is potentially significant) - continue after documenting: 1) the maximum known or reasonably suspected concentration³ of each contaminant discharged above its groundwater “level,” the value of the appropriate “level(s),” and if there is evidence that the concentrations are increasing; and 2) for any contaminants discharging into surface water in concentrations³ greater than 100 times their appropriate groundwater “levels,” the estimated total amount (mass in kg/yr) of each of these contaminants that are being discharged (loaded) into the surface water body (at the time of the determination), and identify if there is evidence that the amount of discharging contaminants is increasing.

_____ If unknown - enter “IN” status code in #8.

Rationale and Reference(s):

³ As measured in groundwater prior to entry to the groundwater-surface water/sediment interaction (e.g., hyporheic) zone.

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6. Can the **discharge** of “contaminated” groundwater into surface water be shown to be “**currently acceptable**” (i.e., not cause impacts to surface water, sediments or eco-systems that should not be allowed to continue until a final remedy decision can be made and implemented⁴)?

_____ If yes - continue after either: 1) identifying the Final Remedy decision incorporating these conditions, or other site-specific criteria (developed for the protection of the site’s surface water, sediments, and eco-systems), and referencing supporting documentation demonstrating that these criteria are not exceeded by the discharging groundwater; OR
2) providing or referencing an interim-assessment,⁵ appropriate to the potential for impact, that shows the discharge of groundwater contaminants into the surface water is (in the opinion of a trained specialist, including ecologist) adequately protective of receiving surface water, sediments, and eco-systems, until such time when a full assessment and final remedy decision can be made. Factors which should be considered in the interim-assessment (where appropriate to help identify the impact associated with discharging groundwater) include: surface water body size, flow, use/classification/habitats and contaminant loading limits, other sources of surface water/sediment contamination, surface water and sediment sample results and comparisons to available and appropriate surface water and sediment “levels,” as well as any other factors, such as effects on ecological receptors (e.g., via bio-assays/benthic surveys or site-specific ecological Risk Assessments), that the overseeing regulatory agency would deem appropriate for making the EI determination.

_____ If no - (the discharge of “contaminated” groundwater can not be shown to be “**currently acceptable**”) - skip to #8 and enter “NO” status code, after documenting the currently unacceptable impacts to the surface water body, sediments, and/or eco-systems.

_____ If unknown - skip to 8 and enter “IN” status code.

Rationale and Reference(s):

4 Note, because areas of inflowing groundwater can be critical habitats (e.g., nurseries or thermal refugia) for many species, appropriate specialist (e.g., ecologist) should be included in management decisions that could eliminate these areas by significantly altering or reversing groundwater flow pathways near surface water bodies.

5 The understanding of the impacts of contaminated groundwater discharges into surface water bodies is a rapidly developing field and reviewers are encouraged to look to the latest guidance for the appropriate methods and scale of demonstration to be reasonably certain that discharges are not causing currently unacceptable impacts to the surface waters, sediments or eco-systems.

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7. Will groundwater **monitoring** / measurement data (and surface water/sediment/ecological data, as necessary) be collected in the future to verify that contaminated groundwater has remained within the horizontal (or vertical, as necessary) dimensions of the “existing area of contaminated groundwater?”

_____ If yes - continue after providing or citing documentation for planned activities or future sampling/measurement events. Specifically identify the well/measurement locations which will be tested in the future to verify the expectation (identified in #3) that groundwater contamination will not be migrating horizontally (or vertically, as necessary) beyond the “existing area of groundwater contamination.”

_____ If no - enter “NO” status code in #8.

_____ If unknown - enter “IN” status code in #8.

Rationale and Reference(s):

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8. Check the appropriate RCRIS status codes for the Migration of Contaminated Groundwater Under Control EI (event code CA750), and obtain Supervisor (or appropriate Manager) signature and date on the EI determination below (attach appropriate supporting documentation as well as a map of the facility).

 X YE Yes, "Migration of Contaminated Groundwater Under Control" has been verified.
Based on a review of the information contained in this EI determination, it has been determined that the "Migration of Contaminated Groundwater" is "Under Control" at the Watson-Standard Company facility, EPA ID # PAD 004397030, located at 616 Hite Road Harwick, Pennsylvania 15049. Specifically, this determination indicates that the migration of "contaminated" groundwater is under control, and that monitoring will be conducted to confirm that contaminated groundwater remains within the "existing area of contaminated groundwater". This determination will be re-evaluated when the Agency becomes aware of significant changes at the facility.

 NO - Unacceptable migration of contaminated groundwater is observed or expected.

 IN - More information is needed to make a determination.

Completed by	(signature)	<u> /s/ </u>	Date	<u>12/15/2008</u>
	(print)	<u>Griff Miller</u>		
	(title)	<u>Remedial Project Manager</u>		
Supervisor	(signature)	<u> /s/ </u>	Date	<u>12/15/2008</u>
	(print)	<u>Paul Gotthold</u>		
	(title)	<u>Associate Director, Office of Pennsylvania Remediation</u>		
	(EPA Region or State)	<u>EPA Region 3</u>		

Locations where References may be found:

USEPA Region III
Land and Chemicals Division
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103

PADEP
Southwest Regional Office
400 Waterfront Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

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