DOCUMENTATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL INDICATOR DETERMINATION

Interim Final 2/5/99

RCRA Corrective Action
Environmental Indicator (EI) RCRIS code (CA725)

Current Human Exposures Under Control

Facility Name:	Standard Steel Specialty Company
Facility Address:	37th Street Extension, Beaver Falls, PA 15010
Facility EPA ID #:	004 329 074

1. Has **all** available relevant/significant information on known and reasonably suspected releases to soil, groundwater, surface water/sediments, and air, subject to RCRA Corrective Action (e.g., from Solid Waste Management Units (SWMU), Regulated Units (RU), and Areas of Concern (AOC)), been **considered** in this EI determination?

X 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 "Current Human Exposures Under Controls" EI

A positive "Current Human Exposures Under Control" EI determination ("YE" status code) indicates that there are no "unacceptable" human exposures to "contamination" (i.e., contaminants in concentrations in excess of appropriate risk-based levels) that can be reasonably expected under current land- and groundwater-use conditions (for all "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 (GPRA). The "Current Human Exposures Under Control" EI are for reasonably expected human exposures under current land- and groundwater-use conditions ONLY, and do not consider potential future land- or groundwater-use conditions or ecological receptors. The RCRA Corrective Action program's overall mission to protect human health and the environment requires that Final remedies address these issues (i.e., potential future human exposure scenarios, future land and groundwater uses, and ecological receptors).

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).

Current Human Exposures Under Control
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2. Are groundwater, soil, surface water, sediments, or air media known or reasonably suspected to be "contaminated"[1] above appropriately protective risk-based "levels" (applicable promulgated standards, as well as other appropriate standards, guidelines, guidance, or criteria) from releases subject to RCRA Corrective Action (from SWMUs, RUs or AOCs)?

	Yes	No	?	Rationale/Key Contaminants
Groundwater		X		
Air (indoors)[2]		X		
Surface Soil (e.g., <2 ft)		X		
Surface Water		X		
Sediment		X		
Subsurface Soil (e.g., >2 ft)		X		
Air (outdoors)		X		

X If no (for all media) – skip to #6, and enter "YE," status code after providing or citing appropriate "levels," and referencing sufficient support documentation demonstrating that these "levels" are not exceeded.

If yes (for any media) – continue after identifying key contaminants in each "contaminated" medium, citing appropriate "levels" (or provide an explanation for the determination that the medium could pose an unacceptable risk), and referencing supporting documentation.

If unknown (for any media) – skip to #6 and enter "IN" status code.

Rationale and Reference(s):

See following page for response to Question #2 (Rationale and Reference(s))

[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 appropriately protective risk-based "levels" (for the media, that identify risks within the acceptable risk range).

[2] Recent evidence (from the Colorado Dept. of Public Health and Environment, and others) suggest that unacceptable indoor air concentrations are more common in structures above groundwater with volatile contaminants than previously believed. This is a rapidly developing field and reviewers are encouraged to look to the latest guidance for the appropriate methods and scale of demonstration necessary to be reasonably certain that indoor air (in structures located above (and adjacent to) groundwater with volatile contaminants) does not present unacceptable risks.

CURRENT HUMAN EXPOSURES UNDER CONTROL
Response to Question #2 - "Rationale and References"

No data on groundwater conditions beneath the facility are available, and no monitoring wells have been installed at the facility. However, most of the solid waste management units at the facility are paved, prohibiting infiltration of any potential contamination to the soil or groundwater below. It does not appear probable that the contamination from the former 6,000-gallon waste oil UST would have impacted groundwater, since the contaminated soil extended to approximately 12 feet below ground surface, while groundwater is expected to occur at about 20 to 40 feet below the surface. Also, the majority of the contaminated soil from the UST location was removed. No other releases or spills were noted in the files reviewed that would have been likely to cause groundwater contamination.

Since there are no air emissions sources at the facility, there is no indication that facility operations have caused contamination to indoor or outdoor air.

Although potential sources of surface and subsurface soil contamination exist (including the former leaking pile of steel cuttings and chips, the UST that was reportedly discovered near the chip pile, the former empty drum storage area, previous releases from the roll-off area, and the former UST), it is not likely that soil has been contaminated. These potential sources of contamination have been removed and, with the exception of the roll-off area, are no longer active. Most of the solid waste management units at the facility are paved, prohibiting infiltration of any potential contamination to the soil or groundwater below.

Several events have occurred at the facility that caused contamination to surface water and sediment in the past. These include the release of oil from the recirculation sump to Walnut Bottom Run, release of cutting oil from the planers to Walnut Bottom Run, release of vibratory system sludge to plant outfalls, and oil leakage from the roll-off area to Walnut Bottom Run. For the first three events mentioned, the operation that caused the release has either ceased or been changed at the facility. No releases from those sources have been recorded since 1993. For the roll-off area, measures have been taken to prevent further releases. The drainage pool appeared free of oil contamination during the EI visit in 2003 and a subsequent visit in March 2012 confirmed that the drainage pool and Walnut Bottom Run no longer appear to be impacted by the facility.

Reference: Environmental Indicator Inspection Report, Tetra Tech FW, December 2003.

3. Are there complete pathways between "contamination" and human receptors such that exposures can be reasonably expected under the current (land- and groundwater-use) conditions?

Summary Exposure Pathway Evaluation Table

	Potential **Human Receptors** (Under Current Conditions)						
"Contaminated Media"	Residents	Workers	Day-Care	Construction	Trespassers	Recreation	Food[3]
Groundwater							
Air (indoors)							
Soil (surface, e.g., <2 ft)							
Surface Water							
Sediment							
Soil (subsurface e.g., >2 ft)							
Air (outdoors)							

Instructions for Summary Exposure Pathway Evaluation Table:

1. Strike-out specific Media including Human Receptors -- spaces for Media which are not "contaminated" as identified in #2 above.
2. Enter "yes" or "no" for potential "completeness" under each "Contaminated" Media – Human Receptor combination (Pathway).

Note: In order to focus the evaluation to the most probable combinations, some potential "Contaminated" Media – Human Receptor combinations (Pathways) do not have check spaces ("_____"). While these combinations may not be probable in most situations, they may be possible in some settings and should be added as necessary.

_____ If no (pathways are not complete for any contaminated media –receptor combination) – skip to #6, and enter "YE" status code, after explaining and/or referencing condition(s) in-place, whether natural or man-made, preventing a complete exposure pathway from each contaminated medium (e.g., use optional Pathway Evaluation Work Sheet) to analyze major pathways.

_____ If yes (pathways are complete for any "Contaminated" Media – Human Receptor combination) – continue after providing supporting explanation.

_____ If unknown (for any "Contaminated" Media – Human Receptor combination) – skip to #6 and enter "IN" status code.

Rationale and Reference(s):

[3] Indirect Pathway/Receptor (e.g., vegetables, fruits, crops, meat and dairy products, fish, shellfish, etc.)

4. Can the **exposures** from any of the complete pathways identified in #3 be reasonably expected to be **"significant"** (i.e., potentially[4] " unacceptable" levels) because exposures can be reasonably expected to be: 1) greater in magnitude (intensity, frequency and/or duration) than assumed in the derivation of the acceptable "levels" (used to identify the "contamination"); or 2) the combination of exposure magnitude (perhaps even though low) and contaminant concentrations (which may be substantially above the acceptable "levels") could result in greater than acceptable risks)?

_____ If no (exposures (can not be reasonably expected to be significant (i.e., potentially "unacceptable") for any complete exposure pathway) – skip to #6 and enter "YE" status code after explaining and/or referencing documentation justifying why the exposures (from each of the complete pathways) to "contamination" (identified in #3) are not expected to be "significant."

_____ If yes (exposures could be reasonably expected to be "significant" (i.e., potentially "unacceptable") for any complete exposure pathway) – continue after providing a description (of each potentially "unacceptable" exposure pathway) and explaining and/or referencing documentation justifying why the exposures (from each of the remaining complete pathways) to "contamination" (identified in #3) are not expected to be "significant."

_____ If unknown (for any complete pathway) – skip to #6 and enter "IN" status code.

Rationale and Reference(s):

[4] If there is any question on whether the identified exposures are "significant' (i.e., potentially "unacceptable") consult a Human Health Risk Assessment specialist with appropriate education, training and experience.

5. Can the "significant" **exposures** (identified in #4) be shown to be within **acceptable** limits?

_____ If yes (all "significant" exposures have been shown to be within acceptable limits) – continue and enter a "YE" after summarizing and referencing documentation justifying why all "significant" exposures to "contamination" are within acceptable limits (e.g., a site-specific Human Health Risk Assessment).

_____ If no (there are current exposures that can be reasonably expected to be "unacceptable") – continue and enter a "NO" status code after providing a description of each potentially "unacceptable" exposure.

_____ If unknown (for any potentially "unacceptable" exposure) – continue and enter "IN" status code.

Rationale and Reference(s):

6. Check the appropriate RCRIS status codes for the Current Human Exposures Under Control EI event code (CA725), and obtain Supervisor (or appropriate Manager) signature and date on the EI determination below (and attach appropriate supporting documentation as well as a map of the facility):

X YE – Yes, "Current Human Exposures Under Control" has been verified. Based on a review of the information contained in this EI Determination, "Current Human Exposures" are expected to be "Under Control" at Standard Steel Specialty Company facility, EPA ID 004 329 074, located at 37th Street Extension, Beaver Falls, PA 15010 under current and reasonably expected conditions. This determination will be re-evaluated when the Agency/State becomes aware of significant changes at the facility.

_____ NO – "Current Human Exposures" are NOT "Under Control."

_____ IN - More information is needed to make a determination.

Completed by: (signature) /Griff Miller/ Date 4/25/12

(print) Griff Miller

(title) Remedial Project Manager

Supervisor: (signature) /Paul Gotthold/ Date 4/26/12

(print) Paul Gotthold

(title) Associate Director

(EPA Region or State) EPA Region 3

Locations where References may be found:

References have been appended to the Environmental Indicator Report and can also be found at PADEP's Pittsburgh office and USEPA's Region III office.

Contact telephone and e-mail numbers:

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FINAL NOTE: THE HUMAN EXPOSURES EI IS A QUALITATIVE SCREENING OF EXPOSURES AND THE DETERMINATIONS WITHIN THIS DOCUMENT SHOULD NOT BE USED AS THE SOLE BASIS FOR RESTRICTING THE SCOPE OF MORE DETAILED (E.G., SITE-SPECIFIC) ASSESSMENTS OF RISK.