



UNITED STATES
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION III
STATEMENT OF BASIS
WATSON STANDARD COMPANY
HARWICK, PENNSYLVANIA
EPA ID NO. PAD004397030

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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 Watson Standard facility located at 616 Hite Road, Harwick, Pennsylvania (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 at <http://www.epa.gov/reg3wcmd/correctiveaction.htm>.

B. Proposed Decision

This SB explains EPA's proposed decision that Corrective Action is complete and no land use controls are required 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 November 2007. Based on this review, EPA has concluded that there are no current or unaddressed releases of hazardous waste or hazardous constituents from the Facility.

C. Importance of Public Input

Before EPA makes a final decision on its proposal 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

The Facility is located at 616 Hite Road in Harwick, Springdale Township, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania. The Facility is bordered by Hite Road and undeveloped land to the north, residential development to the east, railroad tracks and industrial development to the south, and Route 28 to the west. The Facility covers approximately four acres. Watson Standard purchased the Facility from an unknown furniture manufacturer between 1967 and 1968 and manufactures house paints and specialty coatings for the metal and food-container industries.

III. Summary of Environmental History

In late 1985, the Facility contracted with the Western Pennsylvania Construction Company to remove and dispose of the underground storage tanks (USTs) located outside the western warehouse wall. In January 1986 during the final excavation process, a PADEP inspector observed standing liquid in the trenches of the excavation and obtained a sample, which contained xylene at 8 mg/L, trimethylbenzene isomers at 6 mg/L, naphthalene at 1 mg/L, and trimethylcyclohexanone and trimethylpentanediol estimated at between 20 and 200 mg/L. PADEP requested that the areal and vertical extent of this contamination be evaluated.

In May 1986 an investigation of the former UST area was conducted by REMCOR. The soil sample from the backfill material contained xylene at 3.9 mg/kg. The subsurface water sample (from three feet below ground surface) contained xylene at 4.5 mg/L, benzene at 162 ug/L, and tetrachloroethene at 675 ug/L; however, no contaminants were detected in the remaining five soil samples from beneath and adjacent to the excavated tank area. The report concluded that small quantities of solvents are present in the backfill material of the excavation, and that the subsurface water in this area appears to be a localized condition resulting from surface runoff infiltrating the backfill material and perching atop the silty clay alluvium layer that is consistent throughout the area. Evidence in support of this conclusion were that 1) groundwater was not encountered to a depth of 20 feet in four borings drilled for the above-ground storage tank system installed 50 feet west of the excavated tank area, 2) it is unlikely that USTs would have been installed below a water table, 3) groundwater was not reported at the time the USTs were excavated, 4) there is no appreciable recharge area contributing groundwater, and 5) a groundwater discharge point is lacking in the direction of surface slope (south of the former USTs along the railroad tracks). In July 1986 PADEP concluded that the contamination was localized and minimal and did not warrant corrective action.

An Environmental Priorities Initiative (EPI) Preliminary Assessment (PA) and Site Investigation (SI) were conducted at the Facility in January and October 1990, respectively. Sampling from the SI revealed small amounts of several solvent constituents, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, and lead in subsurface soils and isophorone in surface soil. The toxicological evaluation concluded that, under conditions of exposure expected for the site, no adverse noncarcinogenic impacts were expected from the small amounts of contamination on-site. Potential increased cancer risks from long-term exposure to on-site contamination could occur; however, all of the contaminants with carcinogenic risk were found in subsurface soil, which effectively limits exposure. Based on this information from the SI, no further action was recommended for the Facility.

An Environmental Indicator (EI) Inspection was conducted in October 2007 to assess whether human exposures to contamination and migration of contaminated groundwater were under control at the Facility. Several Solid Waste Management Units (2 active and 2 inactive) were reviewed and inspected during this visit. None of these areas exhibited any evidence of reportable spills or past releases. Findings from this inspection resulted in EPA's determination in December 2008 that both human exposures to any contamination and migration of any contaminated groundwater were under control at the Facility.

IV. Evaluation of EPA's Proposed Decision

EPA has determined that its proposed decision for the 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. Griff Miller at the address listed below.

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

The Administrative Record contains all the information considered by EPA for the proposed decision at this Facility. The Administrative Record is available at the following location:

U.S. EPA Region III
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103
Contact: Mr. Griff Miller – 3LC30
Phone: (215) 814-3407
Fax: (215) 814-3113

Email: miller.griff@epa.gov