



UNITED STATES  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION III  
STATEMENT OF BASIS  
GE TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS  
GROVE CITY, PENNSYLVANIA  
EPA ID NO. PAD 059 290 908

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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 GE Transportation Systems facility located at 1503 West Main Street Extension, Grove City, Mercer County, Pennsylvania 16127 (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 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 Administrative Record (AR). 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 proposal for the Facility, the public may participate in the remedy selection process by reviewing this SB and documents contained in the 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 1503 West Main Street Extension, Grove City, Mercer County, Pennsylvania. The Facility is approximately one-mile northwest of the center of Grove City. Figure 1 is a site location map for the Facility. Figure 2 shows the Facility property layout as well as the locations of the Solid Waste Management Units (SWMUs) and areas of concern (AOCs).

GE Transportation Systems site is an active diesel locomotive engine manufacturing facility. General Electric purchased the property in 1970 from a re-development authority and has owned the Facility since. The ownership history before 1970 is not known.

The Facility occupies an approximately 50-acre area. The plant building covers approximately 10 acres and consists of a 2.5-acre original building in the north and a 7.5-acre addition built in 1983. The site is bordered by Bessemer and Lake Erie railroad tracks to the north, the George Junior Republic School for Boys to the west, and residential areas and commercial land to the south and east.

### **III. Summary of Environmental History**

On March 12, 1991 NUS Corporation, under EPA contract, submitted an Environmental Priorities Initiative Preliminary Assessment (PA) for the Facility. Twenty-three SMWUs were identified at the facility. No releases were observed or reported from the SWMUs and no further action was suggested.

The PA did, however, indicate two events at the Facility determined to be AOCs. First, on June 16, 1985, approximately 1,000 gallons of waste Van Stratten 759 coolant were accidentally released from a drain at the tank unloading facility to a storm sewer leading to nearby wetlands. The coolant is not a RCRA-regulated hazardous waste. O.H. Materials was contracted for the cleanup. 20,500 gallons of water were removed from the wetlands and processed through the plant's wastewater treatment facility. PADEP was notified and involved in the cleanup. No samples were collected. Second, on September 19, 1990, approximately 100

gallons of high-flash virgin mineral spirits leaked out beneath a door onto the front lawn of the property. PADEP was notified and was involved in the cleanup. A backhoe removed 60 to 70 cubic yards of soil and soil samples were collected. Since the spirits contained a large variety of solvents, the samples were analyzed by comparing sample chromatograph peaks with peaks present in an analysis of the virgin product. Contaminated soil was removed to a depth below the building foundation, when it was not possible to excavate further. Trace amounts of mineral spirits were still present in the soil. The area was backfilled, and three monitoring wells were installed on November 14, 1990 under PADEP oversight. The wells were sampled on November 21, 1990. The sample analyses did not reveal total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPH). PADEP granted closure of the spill investigation in 1992.

On March 24, 1994, Tetra Tech, Inc. submitted a Screening Site Inspection Report prepared for the EPA utilizing the Alternate Remedial Contracting Strategy. Sampling results indicated benzo(a)pyrene, benzo(b)fluoranthene, and benzo(a)anthracene above EPA's Risk-Based Concentration (RBC) screening levels. The location of these exceedances was in the wetland sediment at Outfall 2, the discharge point of the stormwater drain where the 1985 Van Stratten 759 coolant release occurred.

In December 2003, Tetra Tech FW, Inc. submitted a Final Environmental Indicator (EI) Inspection Report. The EI Report indicated that all underground storage tanks were removed in 1992. The report summarized the two release events discussed above and indicated that there was no reported or observed releases from the Facility SWMUs. EPA reviewed this report and scheduled a site visit on October 8, 2008 to discuss the next steps regarding questions about the following areas: mineral spirits spill excavation, SWMU 2 (former engine test cell scrap engine oil UST), SMWU 4 (removed spent mineral spirits tank), and Outfall 2 sample results.

The Facility provided responses to EPA's questions on October 28, 2008. The responses satisfied EPA that the mineral spirits spill excavation, SWMU 2, and SMWU 4 were no longer a Corrective Action concern at the Facility. However, EPA requested a follow-up sampling at Outfall 2 to assess current conditions and to abandon wells related to the closure of USTs.

The Facility performed the requested actions on May 14 & 15, 2009. A Sediment Sampling and Well Abandonment Report was submitted July 13, 2009. The Report indicated that polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) were detected at each sample location; the 1994 samples were generally higher concentrations suggesting the Facility was not a continuing source; no PAHs were detected above PADEP Non-Residential Direct Contact medium-specific concentrations (MSCs); only benzo(a)pyrene exceeded the PADEP Residential Direct Contact MSC at one location (directly adjacent to Outfall 2); and the sample collected 15 feet downgradient of Outfall 2 did not exceed any MSC indicating benzo(a)pyrene concentrations are not widespread. EPA agreed with the conclusions and approved the report on July 30, 2009.

The one sample at Outfall 2 that exceeded the PADEP Residential Direct Contact MSC for benzo(a)pyrene was in the wetland off the Facility property. EPA believes that exposure to the benzo(a)pyrene, given the location at an outfall adjacent to railroad tracks, would more likely resemble Non-residential settings. Given that the sample does not exceed the Non-Residential MSC and that the downgradient sample, 15 feet away, did not exceed any MSC, EPA believes this isolated condition is not a threat to human health or the environment.

#### **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. Kevin Bilash at the address listed below.

A public meeting will be held upon request. Requests for a public meeting should be made to Mr. Kevin Bilash 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. Kevin Bilash (3LC30)  
Phone: (215) 814-2796  
Fax: (215) 814 - 3113  
Email: [bilash.kevin@epa.gov](mailto:bilash.kevin@epa.gov)