



The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation will be approving a modification to the Soil Excavation IRM that is ongoing at the BASF Manufacturing Plant Site.

BASF is proposing to add on-site treatment before the off-site disposal of approximately 2,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil. The Interim Remedial Measure will still address the known sources of soil contamination.

FACT SHEET

October 2002

BASF MANUF. PLANT, #442027

36 Riverside Ave., Rensselaer, NY

NYSDEC, Region 4, Rensselaer Co.

Interim Remedial Measure Modification for BASF

On-site Treatment Before Off-site Disposal Announced

The completion of a Remedial Investigation at the BASF Manufacturing Plant has found process sludges and contaminated soils that act as the sources of groundwater contamination. As a result, Interim Remedial Measures (IRMs) were approved to address these sources of the contamination (as described on page 2 of this fact sheet).

The Proposed Modification: the excavation of soils that act as the sources of groundwater contamination has yielded a minor portion (approximately 2000 cubic yards out of 15,000 cubic yards of soils) that exceed the Federal regulations for land disposal restrictions. The modification will add on-site soil vapor extraction treatment, before the off-site disposal, in order to meet these land disposal restrictions. By adding the on-site treatment, the level of contamination will be reduced through thermal destruction and will be cost effective. However, the completion date for the entire IRM will change from December 2002 to February 2003.

What Happens Next: Approval of the modification will initiate the construction of the sealed soil vapor extraction cells. The soil vapors will be collected within these sealed cells and treated by thermal destruction and activated carbon. All DEC air emission guidelines and standards will be met. The cell will be dismantled when the level of soil contamination is below land disposal restrictions, and the soil will be properly disposed of at an off-site facility. BASF estimates that the treatment process will take three weeks of treatment for each of the anticipated five cells (for a total of 15 weeks),

Document Repositories: To access the work plans, Remedial Investigation, and other site information; a repository has been established at the Rensselaer Public Library, 810 Broadway, Rensselaer, NY 12144. The telephone number for the library is (518) 462-1193.

For More Information: Call or write the following staff for more information:

Remedial Invest./IRMs/PRAP:

Mr. Daniel Lightsey
NYSDEC, Div. Env. Remediation
1150 N. Westcott Road
Schenectady, NY 12306
(518)357-2374

Health-Related Concerns:

Mr. Daniel Geraghty
NYSDOH, BEEI
547 River Street, Room 300
Troy, NY 12180-2216
(518)402-7890; 1(800)458-1158
Ext: 27890

INTERIM REMEDIAL MEASURE

Site History

1881 is the first year of use of the facility that is currently the BASF manufacturing plant in Rensselaer. The facility began to supplement its dyestuffs with pharmaceuticals and aspirin in 1905. The facility was seized by the United States government during both world wars, and functioned as part of the war economy. In 1968, the company became the GAF Corporation; and in 1978 BASF purchased the manufacturing plant from GAF Corporation. BASF ceased operations at the facility in December of 2000.

The manufacturing plant site was listed in the NYS Registry of Inactive Hazardous Waste Disposal Sites as site #442027 in 1992.

Summary of the Interim Remedial Measures

The IRMs involve the removal of source materials at four (out of five) Areas of Concern (AOCs). These four AOCs to be remediated are: Volatile Organic Compound (VOC) contamination at the former drum storage (AOC 1), VOC contamination adjacent to Building 81 (AOC 2), Arsenic contamination adjacent to the northern lagoon (AOC 4A) and Building 73 (AOC 4B), and sludges in the earthen basements of process buildings 84, 87, and 93 (AOC 5).

Highlights of the IRMs include:

- ! All excavated soils and sludges (from the AOCs described above) will be properly managed on-site until their ultimate disposal at an off-site facility.
- ! Soils exceeding land disposal restrictions will be treated on-site using soil vapor extraction technology before being properly disposed of at an off-site facility.
- ! A Community Air Monitoring Program will be implemented, as required by the NYSDOH.
- ! Upon completion, the excavated areas will be backfilled with clean fill material.
- ! All soils that will remain on-site following implementation of the IRM work plans, at a concentration above the NYSDEC Recommended Soil Clean-up Objectives (RSCOs), will be addressed in a deed restriction, covered with clean fill material, and capped.

INTERIM REMEDIAL MEASURE

Future Activities

The NYSDEC anticipates releasing a Proposed Remedial Action Plan (PRAP) for the entire site in December 2002. The PRAP will propose the final remedy for the site and be available for review and comment from the public. A public meeting will be conducted at that time as well.

INTERIM REMEDIAL MEASURE
