



**Public Meeting
Invitation**

**Tuesday
March 4, 2003
5:00 to 9:30 p.m.**

**Council Chambers
City Hall (2nd Floor)
505 Broadway
Rensselaer, NY**



The purpose of this meeting is to present the NYSDEC's Proposed Remedial Action Plan for the BASF Manufacturing Plant.

A public availability session (DEC and DOH staff will be available to answer questions) will occur from 5:00 to 7:00 pm.

A presentation will explain the results of the Remedial Investigation and the proposed remedial action.

Comments will be recorded AFTER the presentation, until 9:30 pm. Comments from the public will be accepted through March 17th, 2003.

**Public Comment
Period**

From: February 14, 2003

To: March 17, 2003

FACT SHEET

February 2003

BASF Manufacturing Plant #442027

36 Riverside Ave., Rensselaer, NY

NYSDEC, Region 4, Renss. County

**Remedial Action Proposed
for the BASF
Manufacturing Plant
Operable Unit #1**

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Public Comment Period, Meeting Announced
* * ***

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), in cooperation with the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), has proposed a remedial action to address contamination at the BASF Manufacturing Plant in the City of Rensselaer, New York (see Figure 1). See Page 4 of this fact sheet for a summary of the Proposed Remedial Action Plan (PRAP). The full PRAP is available for your review at the document repositories listed below.

Your Opportunities to Comment on the Proposed Remedy: Release of the PRAP begins a process to finalize selection of the remedy for the site's contamination. Your verbal and written comments about the PRAP are welcome at a public meeting and during a public comment period from February 14, 2003 to March 17, 2003. You may send your written comments to:

Daniel Lightsey, Project Manager
NYSDEC - Region 4 Headquarters
1150 N. Westcott Road
Schenectady, NY 12306
(518) 357-2374 or fax your comments: (518) 357-2398
drlights@gw.dec.state.ny.us

What Happens Next: The NYSDEC may modify the preferred alternative or select another alternative presented in the PRAP, based on new information from public comments. Therefore, the public is encouraged to review and comment on all of the alternatives. Comments will be summarized and addressed in the responsiveness summary section of the Record of Decision (ROD). The ROD is the NYSDEC's final selection of the remedy for this site.

Document Repositories: The public is encouraged to review the project documents which are available at the following repositories:

The Rensselaer Public Library
810 Broadway
Rensselaer, NY 12144
518-462-1193
hours: M-F: 10am to 5pm
M-W: 6pm to 9pm

NYSDEC Region 4 Headquarters
1150 North Westcott Road
Schenectady, NY 12306
518-357-2374
hours: M-F: 9am to 4pm
Daniel Lightsey, Project Manager

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

Meeting/Comment Period/PRAP:

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

Health-Related Concerns:

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

PROPOSED PLAN

Site History

In 1881 the Hudson River Aniline and Color Works began use of the facility that is currently the BASF manufacturing plant in Rensselaer.

In 1905 the Hudson River Aniline and Color Works facility began to supplement its dyestuffs with pharmaceuticals and aspirin. In 1913 the official name was changed to the Bayer Company. The facility was seized by the United States government during both world wars, and functioned as part of the war economy. In 1968 the official name was changed to the GAF Corporation, and in 1978 BASF purchased the manufacturing plant from the GAF Corporation. The facility ceased all operations and closed in December 2000.

Routine disposal of product(s) that did not meet their quality specifications at the southeast corner of the site (during operations at the site) resulted in the disposal of a number of hazardous wastes. Poor housekeeping led to the accumulation of sludge in three process building basements, a plume of volatile organic compound (VOC) contaminated groundwater in the north-west quarter of the site, plus arsenic contaminated soil and groundwater in the north-west quarter of the site and adjacent to the waste water treatment lagoons.

Remedial Investigation

The purpose of the RI was to define the nature and extent of any contamination resulting from previous activities at the site. The first phase of the RI was conducted between April 1999 and May 2000, and the second phase between December 2000 and May 2001. The "Remedial Investigation and Supplemental Remedial Investigation Report" (dated 11/13/00) and the "Additional Remedial Activities Report" (dated 08/03/01) describe the field activities and findings of the RI in detail.

The following activities were conducted during the RI:

- Research of historical information;
- A soil gas survey to locate VOC contaminated soils, possible vapor exposure pathways, and areas of concern for further delineation of contamination;
- Installation of 120 soil borings and 12 monitoring wells for analysis of soils and groundwater as well as physical properties of soil and hydrogeologic conditions;
- Sampling of 39 new and existing monitoring wells;
- Collection of 10 discrete groundwater samples from the installation of piezometers along the sewer lines and storm water pipes to locate the gravel bedding that has been contaminated by

migrating groundwater; and

- A survey of public and private water supply wells in the area around the site.

Interim Remedial Measure

The RI identified distinct areas of contamination which warrant remediation as an IRM. In the Spring of 2002 the NYSDEC approved two IRM work plans, for the Soil Excavation IRM and Process Buildings IRM. The nature of the wastes lend themselves to removal by straight-forward excavation/removal as opposed to in-situ or ex-situ treatment. The Soil Excavation IRM involved the removal of contaminated soil from four areas of contamination. The four areas which have been addressed are: the former drum storage area (Area 1), contaminated soils adjacent to Building 81 (Area 2), arsenic contaminated soils adjacent to Building 73 (Area 4B), and arsenic contamination on the east side of the North Lagoon (Area 4A).

The approved work plan for the Process Buildings IRM was not started by BASF. The Process Buildings IRM would have involved the removal and off-site disposal of process waste and associated contaminated soils in the earthen basements of process buildings 84, 87, and 93. This task is being incorporated into the proposed remedy presented in this document.

Highlights of the completed IRM include:

- Excavation of the sources, during which all excavated soils (from the areas described above) were properly disposed of at an off-site facility. During implementation of the IRM, BASF proposed to pre-treat some of the soils (on-site) prior to off-site disposal. The NYSDEC agreed to this proposal and notified the public prior to initiating the pre-treatment process. However, the pre-treatment was ineffective (and was discontinued) causing the soils to be disposed of off-site (at an approved facility) as hazardous waste;
- Implementation of a Community Air Monitoring Program, as required by the NYSDOH; and

- Backfilling of the soil excavations at Area 1, Area 2, Area 4A and Area 4B with clean fill material.

The residual contaminated soil that remains on-site at concentrations above the NYSDEC recommended soil clean-up objectives (RSCOs), will be addressed as part of this PRAP.

Summary of Proposed Remedial Action

The Proposed Remedial Action Plan (PRAP) describes the remedy preferred by the NYSDEC and NYSDOH to address hazardous waste contamination at the BASF Manufacturing Plant (see attached maps). The proposed remedy was chosen following a detailed investigation of the site and study of alternatives to address the contamination. Elements of the preferred action include:

1. A remedial design program to verify the components of the conceptual design and provide the details necessary for the construction, operation & maintenance, and monitoring of the remedial program. Any uncertainties identified during the RI/FS would be resolved;
2. A low permeability asphalt and concrete cap over those areas with residual soil contamination not currently covered by competent pavement or buildings;
3. Completion of the removal of the source of contamination in the soils near the wastewater treatment lagoons, and disposal of these excavated soils off-site (at an approved facility);
4. Removal of the process building basement sludge and underlying contaminated soils and disposal of these excavated materials off-site (at an approved facility);
5. Excavation, stabilization (dewatering), and off-site disposal (at an approved facility) of the sludge from the treatment lagoons;

6. Development of a soils/dust management plan to address residual contaminated soils that may be excavated from the site during future redevelopment, or disturbed during building demolition. The plan would require soils characterization and, where applicable, disposal/reuse in accordance with NYSDEC regulations;
7. Imposition of an institutional control in such form as the NYSDEC may approve that would require compliance with the approved soils management plan;
10. Since the remedy calls for untreated hazardous waste remaining on-site, a long term monitoring program would be instituted. Off-site monitoring wells would be sampled along the western and southern boundaries to assure that the contamination levels in the groundwater continue to decrease by eliminating the sources. This program would allow the effectiveness of the asphalt cap and groundwater collection system to be monitored and would be a component of the operation and maintenance for the site.

Imposition of an institutional control in such form as the NYSDEC may approve that would prevent future residential and inappropriate commercial/institutional use of the site, and prevent the use of groundwater as a source of potable or process water without necessary water quality treatment as determined by the Rensselaer County Department of Health and NYSDOH.

The property owner would complete and submit to the NYSDEC an annual certification until the NYSDEC notifies the property owner in writing that this certification is no longer needed. This submittal would contain certification that the institutional controls put in place, pursuant to the Record of Decision, are still in place, have not been altered, and are still effective;

Cost of the Proposed Remedy

BASF would pay to implement the comprehensive remedy (including excavation of the building basements sludge and lagoon sludge). The cost to construct the remedy is estimated to be \$10,406,400. The annual operation and maintenance cost (also part of the comprehensive remedy) is estimated to be \$164,600. The total present worth (the value IF paid for immediately, rather than making a payment each year) for 30 years of annual operation and maintenance is estimated to be \$2,781,000. The total present worth for the comprehensive remedy would be \$13,187,400.

8. Construction of a groundwater containment system (GCS), which would extract impacted groundwater, treat the groundwater on-site, and inject the treated groundwater into the residual soils of the source areas (see Figure 2). If re-injection is no longer viable at some future date, all the treated groundwater would be discharged to either the Rensselaer POTW or the Hudson River;
9. A soil gas monitoring program to evaluate the need for gas venting and gas control due to the possible build up of vapors under the cap which may impact indoor air quality from soil vapors migrating into buildings; and

8.14.00

HUDSON RIVER

LAGOON AREA

ORGANICHEM

BUILDING 39

BASF CORPORATION
MAIN PLANT

PARKING AREA

CLOSED
LANDFILL

COASTAL
CORPORATION

SOUTH
40

450' 0 450'

SITE AREAS

RENSELAER, NEW YORK FACILITY

Prepared For: **BASF CORPORATION**
MOUNT OLIVE, NEW JERSEY



ROUX ASSOCIATES INC
Environmental Consulting
& Management

Compiled by: N.E.	Date: 11/7/01	FIGURE 1
Prepared by: S.S.	Scale: AS SHOWN	
Project Mgr: C.M.	Office: NY	
File No: 3F1119802.WCP	Project: BF25111Y03	

AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH DATE : APRIL 14, 2000

