



The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation has approved the start of the Basement Sludge Excavation IRM at the BASF Manufacturing Plant Site. The Interim Remedial Measure will address the basement sludge and underlying contaminated soils acting as the source of groundwater contamination. The final remedy for the site will be selected in the Record of Decision (ROD) which the Department anticipates releasing in the late Spring/early Summer of this year.

FACT SHEET

April 2003

BASF MANUF. PLANT, #442027

36 Riverside Ave., Rensselaer, NY

NYSDEC, Region 4, Rensselaer Co.

Interim Remedial Measure for Sludge Excavation to Start at BASF

Basement Sludge Excavation and Off-site Disposal Announced

The completion of a Remedial Investigation at the BASF Manufacturing Plant has identified process sludge and underlying contaminated soils in building basements that act as the source of groundwater contamination at the site. As a result, an Interim Remedial Measure (IRM) was approved in 2002 to address this source of contamination (as described on page 2 of this fact sheet). The Department has approved this IRM to address this source of contamination in a timely manner and the BASF company is now prepared to implement this IRM.

The Approved Basement Sludge Excavation IRM: includes the excavation of both basement sludge and the underlying contaminated soils that act as the source of groundwater contamination. The IRM will involve on-site de-watering and stabilization of the sludge before off-site disposal at an approved facility.

What Happens Next: BASF will initiate the preparation of the site by construction of the containment areas to be used for sludge de-watering and stabilization. The waters generated during excavation will be collected within these containment areas. The stabilized sludge and the collected waters will be properly disposed of at an off-site facility. BASF estimates that the excavation and stabilization process will take 8 weeks. All on-site work and the disposal of all the basement sludge and underlying contaminated soil off-site is scheduled to be completed by August 30, 2003. Department personnel will be overseeing this work.

Document Repositories: To access the IRM work plan, 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:

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INTERIM REMEDIAL MEASURE

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. The Hudson River Aniline and Color Works facility began to supplement its dyes and colorants 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 Measure

An IRM is conducted at a site when a source of contamination or exposure pathway can be effectively addressed before completion of the RI/FS.

The RI identified distinct areas of contamination which warranted remediation as an IRM. In the Spring 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 23,000 tons of contaminated soil from four areas and is largely completed. The approved work plan for the Process Buildings IRM was not started by BASF in 2002, but the company is now prepared to start this IRM. The Process Buildings IRM will involve the removal and off-site disposal of process waste and associated contaminated soils in the earthen basements of process buildings 84, 87, and 93, on-site de-watering and stabilization and off-site disposal at an approved facility.

Highlights of the IRMs include:

- ! After excavation, all sludge and underlying contaminated soils (from the basements described above) will be properly managed on-site until their ultimate disposal at an approved off-site facility.
- ! As required by the NYSDOH a community air monitoring plan will be implemented during IRM activities to prevent the migration of site-related air contaminants in concentrations that would represent a health concern.
- ! All sludge and underlying contaminated soils (from the basements described above) will be de-watered and stabilized before their ultimate disposal at an approved off-site facility.

INTERIM REMEDIAL MEASURE

Future Activities

The NYSDEC released a Proposed Remedial Action Plan (PRAP) for the site on Feb. 14, 2003. A public meeting was conducted on March 4, 2003 and comments were accepted through April 16, 2003. The NYSDEC anticipates releasing a Record of Decision later this Spring or early Summer which will present the final remedy for the site.