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**FINAL DECISION AND
RESPONSE TO COMMENTS**

for

**Occidental Chemical Corporation
Montague Township, Michigan
EPA I.D. No. MID 006 014 906**



July 18, 2001

FINAL DECISION

OCCIDENTAL CHEMICAL CORPORATION MONTAGUE TOWNSHIP, MICHIGAN MID 006 014 906

Introduction

This Final Decision and Response to Comments document is presented by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) for the Occidental Chemical Corporation (OCC) facility located in Montague Township, Michigan. This document consists of the Final Decision, U.S. EPA's Response to Comments (Attachment I), updated Index to the Administrative Record (Attachment II), and previously issued Statement of Basis (Attachment III).

This Final Decision selects the remedy to be implemented at the OCC facility, based on the Administrative Record and public comments. The Statement of Basis provided the proposed remedy and was available for public review and comment, from March 1, 2001 through May 30, 2001. A 45-day public comment period was initially held from March 1, 2001, through April 15, 2001. It was extended for an additional 45 days through May 30, 2001, upon request from the public. A public meeting was held on March 1, 2001. The Response to Comments addresses public concerns raised at the public meeting and during the 90-day public comment period.

Assessment of the Facility

The response action documented in this Final Decision is necessary to protect human health and the environment.

Selected Remedy

U.S. EPA has selected the following remedial components as the final remedy to address contaminated groundwater, soil, and sediment at the OCC facility:

- Continued collection of contaminated groundwater by the purge well system and treatment using carbon filtration before discharge to White Lake;
- Evaluation and implementation of feasible on-site collection/treatment options for contaminated groundwater and residual waste to expedite groundwater cleanup;
- Implementation of a groundwater monitoring program to ensure the long-term integrity of the remedy and protection of human health and the environment;
- Excavation of surface soil exceeding cleanup goals at the Former Small Disposal

Pile Exposure Area and off-site treatment/disposal;

- Placement of a soil cover, grading, and seeding of the Former Burn Pit Exposure Area to minimize potential risk to human health and the environment;
- Dredging of sediment in the vicinity of the outfall in White Lake that is contaminated with PCB concentrations greater than 2 ppm and/or hexachlorobenzene concentrations greater than 0.45 ppm. Dredged sediment will be dewatered on-site, and thermally treated on-site and/or sent off-site to be properly treated/disposed;
- Maintenance of site access controls, as necessary, to minimize unacceptable risk associated with human exposure to site contaminants; and
- Implementation of institutional controls to restrict land use (non-residential) and groundwater use.

The remedy selected in this Final Decision has been modified from the proposed remedy in the Statement of Basis, based on additional data and public comments. In particular, bioremediation has been eliminated as a reliable remedial alternative for contaminated soil and sediment, and dredging is the selected remedial alternative for contaminated sediment in White Lake.

The final remedy provides the best balance among the alternatives with respect to the evaluation criteria described in the Statement of Basis, including: 1) technical (performance, reliability, implementability and safety); 2) overall protection of human health; 3) overall protection of environment; and 4) institutional.

Public Participation Activities and Comments

On March 1, 2001, a public meeting was held at the Montague Township Hall located at 8915 Whitbeck Road, in Montague, Michigan to present the Statement of Basis and accept oral comments. Eleven people offered oral comments during the public meeting. Their comments are presented and responded to in Attachment I.

A 90-day public comment period was held from March 1, 2001 through May 30, 2001. Numerous written comments were received from twenty-one (21) local residents, City of Whitehall, White River Township, City of Montague, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), Glenn Springs Holdings Inc. (OCC), Technical Outreach Services for Communities (TOSC), Lake Michigan Federation, and White Lake Association. Eighty-seven (87) written comments are presented and responded to in Attachment I.

Administrative Record

The Administrative Record supporting the selected final remedy is available at the Montague Branch Muskegon County Library, White Lake Community Library, and the 7th Floor Records Center at the U.S. EPA, Region 5 office. Attachment II identifies all documents contained within the Administrative Record.

Future Actions

Within 30 days of receipt of this Final Decision and Response to Comments, OCC must submit a Corrective Measures Implementation Program Workplan for U.S. EPA's approval. Within 30 days of U.S. EPA's approval of the workplan, OCC must commence the work. During the remedy implementation period, U.S. EPA will provide information to the public by updating the Administrative Record and conducting meetings, as requested.

Declarations

Based on the Administrative Record compiled for this corrective action, U.S. EPA has determined that the selected remedy for the OCC facility is appropriate and protective of human health and the environment.

Joseph M. Boyle, Chief
Enforcement & Compliance Assurance Branch
U.S. EPA, Region 5

Date

Attachments (3)

IN THE MATTER OF:

***Occidental Chemical Corporation
Montague Township, Michigan
U.S. EPA I.D. No. MID 006 014 906***