Central Chemical Site
Fact Sheet
Hagerstown, Washington County, Maryland

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region III **Fact Sheet** **September 2006**

This fact sheet was jointly produced by EPA and the Cooperating Companies with input from MDE, MDBED, and the Central Chemical Community Liaison Panel.

Update on Progress at the Central Chemical Site

The Remedial Investigation of the Central Chemical Site is coming to a close. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), and the cooperating companies conducting the work continue working to identify the appropriate remedy to address contamination at the site. Soil sampling is complete, and groundwater sampling continues. All structures on the property were demolished in 2005. A Remedial Investigation Report will be finalized following review by the regulatory agencies.

Last year, it was determined additional information was needed to better understand groundwater flow and to determine the extent to which groundwater may be affected beyond the site boundaries. In the fall of 2005, monitoring wells were installed near the Central Chemical property in eight locations. Very low levels of chemical compounds related to the site were found in groundwater northeast and southwest of the site. Although low, the concentrations of chemical compounds are above EPA drinking water guidelines. No one is currently exposed to the groundwater. No private wells used for drinking water have been identified. Residents receive their drinking water from the City of Hagerstown.

Eight additional monitoring wells were installed this summer at greater distance from the site. Data from the wells will be used to clearly define the extent and depth of migration of any site-related compounds. Information gained through the off-site groundwater study will be included as an addendum to the Remedial Investigation Report. In addition to providing information for this environmental investigation of the site, the wells may be used in the future to monitor the effectiveness of the site cleanup. All groundwater wells are sampled quarterly.

The next step will be to conduct a Feasibility Study. This study will provide a detailed evaluation of the engineering options (remedial alternatives) available to address the issues identified by the Remedial Investigation. The agencies and the companies are working to develop Remedial Action Objectives and are conducting the initial screening of remedial alternatives. EPA estimates the Feasibility Study may be completed late this year or early in 2007. Before making a final decision on the appropriate remedy, EPA will release a Proposed Remedial Action Plan and announce a public comment period to gain input from Hagerstown residents. A public meeting will be held during the comment period to simplify the public comment process.

Brief Site Description

The Central Chemical Superfund Site, located off Mitchell Avenue in Hagerstown, functioned as a blending and packaging facility for agricultural products. Agricultural pesticides and fertilizers produced elsewhere were mixed with inert ingredients to dilute them to commercial product

concentrations. Most of the pesticide product blending ceased in 1965. All operations at the plant stopped in 1984. Contaminants of concern at the site include arsenic, lead, DDT, chlordane, and benzene hexachloride (or BHC). The risk of exposure to site contamination is low because the Site is fenced, and Hagerstown residents receive their drinking water from the municipal supply which pumps water from the Potomac River up-gradient of the site.

Community Panel Provides Input to Site Investigation

The Central Chemical Site Community Liaison Panel (CLP) meets regularly to discuss the Central Chemical Site. The panel is made up of Hagerstown residents and local officials. Representatives of EPA, the Maryland Departments of the Environment and of Business and Economic Development, and the companies funding the work also participate in the meetings. The next meeting of the CLP is Thursday, November 9, at Haven Lutheran Church, 1033 Haven Road. Meetings begin at 6 p.m., with refreshments at 5:30 p.m. All meetings are open to the public.

Central Chemical Site Contacts

Information about the Central Chemical Site is available in the Reference Department of the Washington County Free Library, 100 S. Potomac St., Hagerstown. Information also is available on EPA's website at http://www.epa.gov/reg3hwmd/super/sites/MDD003061447/index.htm or by contacting:

Central Chemical Site Community Liaison Panel (800) 242-9317
Contact: **Roberta Fowlkes, Facilitator**
robertafowlkes@charter.net

U. S. Environmental Protection Agency Superfund Site Information (800) 553-2509
Contacts: **Carrie Deitzel, Community Involvement Coordinator**
Ext. 4-5525 or (215) 814-5525, or deitzel.carrie@epa.gov

Mitch Cron, Remedial Project Manager
Ext. 4-3286 or (215) 814-3286, or cron.mitch@epa.gov

Maryland Dept. of the Environment (410) 537-4406
Contact: **Robert Wallace, Federal Superfund Division**
rwallace@mde.state.md.us

Join the Mailing List

If you would like to be added to the mailing list for information regarding the Central Chemical Site, contact Ms. Deitzel as directed above or write to: Carrie Deitzel, Community Involvement Coordinator, USEPA, 1650 Arch Street, 3HS52, Philadelphia, PA 19103-2029.

EPA's Technical Assistance Grant Program

EPA's Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) Program provides funds of up to $50,000 to qualified citizens' groups affected by a Superfund site to hire independent technical advisors to help interpret and comment on site-related information. Since only one TAG may be awarded for a site, EPA encourages groups to consolidate to apply. For TAG information, contact Amelia Libertz, TAG Coordinator, at (800) 553-2509.