



**Occidental Chemical Corporation Superfund Site  
Lower Pottsgrove Township, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania**

**— Operable Unit-2 Cleanup Completed—**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency—Region 3

October 27 2008

**OU-2 Cleanup Completed...**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is overseeing the cleanup at the Occidental Chemical Site, located on Armand Boulevard in Montgomery County, PA. The Superfund Site is categorized into two parts, called Operable Units (OUs). OU-1 addresses onsite contaminated groundwater. OU-2 addresses four onsite contaminated earthen lagoons.

As of September 2008, construction work for the cleanup of OU-2 has been completed.

**Work Done to Date**

Cleanup activities for OU-2 include:

- Excavating PVC-contaminated sludge and related soils,
- Solidifying materials, when needed,
- Removing and transporting the excavated sludge materials to a properly licensed facility located in Canada,
- Excavating and removing any contaminated soils and coal fine layers located underneath and/or surrounding the former sludge areas for off-site disposal,
- Backfilling and re-grading the excavated lagoons using onsite soils that meet cleanup standards,
- Backfilling and re-grading the lagoon area.

Approximately 44,000 tons of contaminated soil and PVC sludge were removed from the Site.

**Preliminary Close Out Report**

EPA completed a Preliminary Close Out Report (PCOR) for the Site. The PCOR documents the completion of the construction work portion of the cleanup for both the Site's operable units and is available for public review online at [www.epa.gov/reg3hwmd/super/sites/PAD980229298/index.htm](http://www.epa.gov/reg3hwmd/super/sites/PAD980229298/index.htm) or, on the EPA Administrative Records website at: [www.epa.gov/arweb](http://www.epa.gov/arweb).

- OU-1 construction work was completed when the groundwater pump-and-treat system was built. The ongoing treatment system has been in operation since January 1999.
- OU-2 construction work was completed in September 2008, when the last of the excavated lagoon sludge and related soils were removed, lagoons backfilled and the area re-seeded.

**Ongoing OU-1 Cleanup Activities**

Ongoing cleanup activities for OU-1 include:

- Quarterly sampling from onsite monitoring wells,
- Operation and Maintenance (O&M) of groundwater treatment facility, and
- Optimization of extraction and treatment system, when possible, meaning any potential improvements to the groundwater recovery network should be considered and/or implemented

Ongoing cleanup activities will continue to be conducted by the Potentially Responsible Party (PRP), with EPA oversight.



Photo 1: Lagoon area pre-excavation work (May 2008)



Photo 2: Excavation work for off-site disposal of lagoon soils (Aug 2008)



Photo 3: Ariel view of lagoon excavation work (Aug 2008)

## Next Steps

- ▶ Continue ongoing cleanup activities listed for OU-1 (page 2).
- ▶ The remedy for OU-2 meets residential property cleanup standards, and Institutional Controls are not required. This means that the former earthen lagoon area may be re-used in accordance to applicable zoning laws, without deed restrictions required from EPA.
- ▶ The OU-1 cleanup remedy is a much longer process, that will require long-term monitoring. Institutional Controls are necessary, meaning any re-use of the land will be limited in the sense that it must not interfere with the ongoing groundwater treatment system.
- ▶ Now that construction for both operable units is complete, the Site will be subject to Five-Year Reviews. The site will be inspected at least every five years to determine whether the remedy is functioning as designed and if it remains protective of human health and the environment. A report of the review will be compiled and available to the public.
- ▶ EPA does not have the authority to decide or suggest Site re-use purposes. However, interested property owners can find information about EPA's Brownfields and Land Revitalization program at the following websites:
  - ◆ [www.epa.gov/brownfields](http://www.epa.gov/brownfields)
  - ◆ [www.epa.gov/region03/revitalization](http://www.epa.gov/region03/revitalization)
  - ◆ [www.epa.gov/renewableenergyland](http://www.epa.gov/renewableenergyland)

EPA's Brownfields and Land Revitalization programs offer resources and technical assistance to help communities, property owners and developers safely re-use previously contaminated properties.

## Background

- The property is approximately 257 acres in size, and is bound on three sides by the Schuylkill River.
- The EPA Superfund Site portion of the property consists of the four earthen lagoons (approximately 3 acres) and a subsurface contaminated groundwater plume (an approximately 60-acre area).
- EPA investigations have shown Site-related contamination in onsite groundwater, soils, and sediments. Contaminants of concern include trichloroethylene (TCE), vinyl chloride monomer, trans-1-2-dichloroethene (1-2-DCE), and styrene.
- EPA placed the Site on the National Priorities List (NPL), designating it as a Superfund Site, making it eligible for federal cleanup funding.
- EPA has entered into a Consent Decree with the Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs), requiring the PRPs to conduct the cleanup, with EPA oversight.
- Previous owners of the property, from the 1940s to present day include: Jacobs Aircraft Engine Company; the Defense Plant Corporation; Firestone Tire and Rubber Company; and Hooker Chemicals and Plastics Corporation, which later became Occidental Chemical Corporation.
- Onsite landfills were once used to dispose of facility wastes. While EPA addresses the Superfund Site groundwater contamination, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) continues to monitor these closed landfills. EPA and PADEP will continue to work in collaboration regarding Site activities.

# Websites

- ▶ EPA's Occidental Chemical Site  
[www.epa.gov/reg3hwmd/super/sites/PAD980229298/index.htm](http://www.epa.gov/reg3hwmd/super/sites/PAD980229298/index.htm)
- ▶ EPA's Administrative Records  
[www.epa.gov/arweb](http://www.epa.gov/arweb)

# EPA Contacts

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## Occidental Chemical Site Community Update — OU-2 Cleanup Completed



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