

Sartomer Company, Inc.

**610 South Bolmar Street
West Chester, PA 19382
Congressional District 16
EPA ID #: PAD042259374
Site Property Area: 12 Acres
Last Updated: 10/15/2009**

Current Progress at the Site

Site Description

The Sartomer Company facility (now part of Atofina) is located in West Chester, Chester County, PA. It is located in an industrial area with a small stream and a high-density residential area to the west. The site consists of 12 contiguous acres of which 8 are the industrial portion. The area is served by a public water and sewer system.

The facility began operations in 1967. It is primarily a manufacturer of multi-functional acrylate and methacrylate monomers that are used in the surface coating industry. Wastes generated by the site include various forms of wastewater or sludge containing acrylic or methacrylic acid, sodium hydroxide, and sodium salts. A hydrocarbon waste stream includes benzene (until 1989), toluene, and heptane.

Sartomer Company is utilizing the flexibility available under RCRA and highlighted in a recent EPA headquarters RCRA Reforms Initiative to move ahead with remediation activities without a permit or Order under Region 3's Facility Lead Program. As part of the Facility Lead Program, Sartomer submitted a Letter of Commitment to EPA on April 9, 2001.

In 1987 Sartomer (then ARCO) recognized there had been a release of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) such as benzene, toluene, and heptane to groundwater. In 1988 they began a groundwater pump and treat remediation program. At that time the system consisted on 23 wells and the VOC concentration at the facility boundary was more than 10,000 parts per billion (ppb). The remediation system has been modified and upgraded over time. In 1996, the groundwater testing at the facility boundary showed less than 10 ppb for benzene, less than 1 part per million (the drinking water limit) for toluene, and heptane could not be detected. Currently, all facility boundary wells are non-detect for the constituents of concern.

Remediation activities are continuing within the facility boundaries. Contamination at the facility is now confined to 2 distinct areas which are being addressed through DPE. DPE was being

performed only in the Area 1, Area 1A, Pad A portion of the site until August 2003 when it was expanded to Area 2. The goal was to achieve additional source reduction in this area.

Sartomer submitted a completed Corrective Action Program Work Plan in December, 2001. EPA evaluated the work plan and met with Sartomer in September, 2002. Sartomer conducted an Indoor Air Quality study in the Spring, 2003. EPA evaluated this report and concluded that the constituents are below the respective OSHA PELs, NIOSH RELs, and ACGIH TLVs and do not present an unacceptable health risk to site workers.

Sartomer shut down the groundwater pump and treat system and their dual-phase extraction (DPE) system to evaluate the effectiveness of natural attenuation processes. The monitoring for natural attenuation began in November 2004 and was performed for a period of two years (eight quarters) with the interim results being included in the annual progress report of the site.

A meeting was held on March 21, 2007 to discuss the results of the natural attenuation evaluation even though the final report was not yet complete. The final *Natural Attenuation Evaluation Results* report was received electronically on August 28, 2007. The conclusions presented at this meeting and in the final report were that natural attenuation is occurring on the site based on the physical, chemical, and biological parameters measured and containing the plume on-site.

EPA approved the report on November 21, 2007 agreeing with the conclusions that natural attenuation processes are occurring and allowing Sartomer to continue with this as a remedial measure.

Site Responsibility

Corrective Action activities at Sartomer are being conducted under the direction of EPA, under the RCRA Corrective Action Facility Lead Program, and PADEP, under Act 2.

Contaminants

There are 3 areas of groundwater contamination which contain benzene, toluene, and heptane. The contaminated groundwater is contained on-site. Contaminated soils have been removed.

Community Interaction

Sartomer meets with a Community Advisory Panel (CAP) to foster an open dialogue, an exchange of ideas, better understanding and cooperation between Sartomer and surrounding community regarding plant health, safety, and environmental protection programs. If there is further action, EPA or Sartomer will inform the public.

Institutional Controls

There are no current institutional controls (ICs) established for this facility. The facility is currently preparing draft IC language for review and approval by EPA.

Government Contacts

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For more information about EPA's corrective action webpage, including Environmental Indicators, please visit our site at: www.epa.gov/reg3wcmd/correctiveaction.htm