

U. S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY SUPERFUND FACT SHEET

Update on Long-Term Response Activities - No. 1



ANNISTON PCB SITE

Anniston, Calhoun County, Alabama

June 30, 2003

Brief Background:

The Anniston PCB Site consists of the Solutia Inc.(formerly Monsanto) plant site in West Anniston and areas around and downstream of the Solutia plant where soil and creek sediments are contaminated with **polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs)**. PCBs were manufactured at the plant from 1929 to 1971. For more information on the Site background, please refer to the Overview Fact Sheet for the Anniston PCB Superfund Site. Copies are available at the EPA's Anniston Project Office, 1514 West 10th Street, Anniston, AL.

Time-Critical Removal Action:

In 2000, EPA's Removal Branch negotiated an **Administrative Order on Consent (AOC)** with Solutia Inc. (amended in 2001) for cleanup of any residential properties, located in zones near the plant or creeks, with surface soil contamination over 10 **parts per million (ppm)** PCBs. Work under the AOC is ongoing. The status of the work is as follows:

- 28 residential properties have been found with PCB surface soil contamination exceeding 10 ppm.
- 15 of those properties have been cleaned up or are in the process of being cleaned up.
- Access has not been granted at the remaining 13 properties.
- The design of the removal action needed for the 11th Street Ditch is complete. Access from the adjacent railroad has been requested, but not yet granted.
- Solutia completed a sampling effort initiated by EPA on the West 9th Street creek. This stream also flows into Snow Creek.

Attend the Public Meeting



When: Tuesday, July 15, 2003
From 6:30pm - 8:30pm

Where: Carver Community Center
720 West 14th Street
Anniston, AL 36201

Why: You are invited to a meeting sponsored by EPA to hear about the Status of PCB cleanup activities in Anniston, Alabama. At the meeting you will be able to ask questions.

Consent Decree:

EPA negotiated a **Consent Decree (CD)** with Solutia to address long-term cleanup efforts in Anniston. When the agreement becomes effective, it will incorporate the following agreements: continuation of the Time-Critical Removal AOC (described above); a **Non-Time Critical (NTC) Removal AOC** (to establish cleanup requirements for residential properties with surface soil contamination less than 10 ppm PCBs); and a **Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS) AOC** (to address the entire site). The status of the CD, NTC Removal, and RI/FS follows:

- The CD was lodged in Federal Court on March 25, 2002.
- A 60-day comment period was held and over 370 separate letters and one petition commenting on the lodged decree were received.
- EPA renegotiated and revised the CD to incorporate many of the comments.
- On October 23, 2002, the government made a motion to enter the revised decree with the court.
- Two hearings have been held regarding entry of the CD.
- EPA is currently awaiting entry of the CD.

Non-Time Critical Removal Action:

- Solutia has submitted a Draft **Engineering Evaluation and Cost Analysis (EE/CA) Report** as required in the CD.

- EPA has circulated the Draft EE/CA Report for technical review and comments.
- When the EE/CA Report is finalized, it will be made available to the public.
- The EE/CA Report will include a proposed removal action for residential soils.
- A 30 day public comment period will be held and advertised in local newspapers.
- EPA will finalize the residential cleanup requirements of the NTC Removal Action in an **Action Memorandum** after consideration and response to public comments.

RI/FS:

- Solutia submitted a Draft Phase I Conceptual Site Model as required in the CD. The Phase I Conceptual Site Model was intended to summarize existing data prior to establishing a work plan and field sampling plan for the RI/FS.
- EPA circulated the Draft Phase I Conceptual Site Model Report for technical review and comments.
- Solutia revised the Phase I Conceptual Site Model and resubmitted it to EPA.
- EPA is reviewing the revised report.
- Once EPA ensures that existing data is clearly identified in the report, plans to fill data gaps will be prepared.

EPA Project Office:

In May, EPA relocated its Anniston Office from Noble Street to 1514 W. 10th Street, Anniston, AL 36201, for all PCB related oversight activities and general community relations activities.



A separate location for the community outreach center is being established at 26 West 11th Street, Anniston, AL 36201. Additional details will be forthcoming.



Information Respository:

An electronic copy of the Removal **Administrative Record** for the Anniston PCB Site is located at the Public Library of Anniston-Calhoun County, Main Branch, 108 East 10th Street, Anniston, Alabama 36201. The telephone number for the

library is (256) 237-8501 and the hours of operation are Monday - Friday from 9am-6:30pm, Saturday from 9am-4pm, and Sunday from 1pm-5pm.

A paper copy of the Removal Administrative Record for the Anniston PCB Site is located at the Public Library of Anniston-Calhoun County, Carver Branch, 722 West 14th Street, Anniston, Alabama 36201. The telephone number for the library is (256) 237-7271 and the hours of operation are Monday - Friday from 9 am - 5 pm, and Saturday from 9 am - 12 pm.

As the Remedial Administrative Record is established, it will also be located at the Public Library of Anniston-Calhoun County. Solutia is working to establish an additional **information respository** adjacent to EPA's Project Office at 1514 W. 10th Street, Anniston, AL. As documents are finalized as part of the CD, they will be added to the repositories for public review.

Community Advisory Group:

In accordance with the CD, Solutia will form a **Community Advisory Group (CAG)**. A CAG is made up of representatives of diverse community interests. Its purpose is to provide a public forum for community members to present and discuss their needs and concerns related to the Superfund decision-making process.

In the next few months, Solutia will submit a Community Advisory Group Plan (CAGP) to EPA. The plan will describe how the CAG will be formed. It will also identify resources for ongoing operation of the CAG during the response action activities conducted under the CD. Meetings of the CAG will be open to the public.

Technical Assistance Plan:

In accordance with the CD, Solutia will submit a **Technical Assistance Plan (TAP)** to EPA, for providing and administering funds to qualified citizen groups to hire technical advisors, independent from Solutia, to help interpret and comment on Site-related documents developed under the CD.

The TAP will include an application process and eligibility criteria for awarding and administering the funds.

Eligible citizen groups must be:

- a representative group of individuals potentially affected by the Site;
- incorporated as a nonprofit organization for the purposes of the Site or otherwise established as a charitable organization that operates within the geographical range of the Site and is already incorporated as a nonprofit organization; and
- able to demonstrate its capability to adequately and responsibly manage any funds awarded.

Ineligible citizen groups include:

- parties potentially responsible for contamination at the Site;
- an academic institution;
- a political subdivision;
- a group whose ability to represent the interest of affected individuals might be limited as a result of receiving paid services from a potentially responsible party; or
- a group established or sustained by government entities, a potentially responsible party, or any ineligible entity.

Funds may be awarded to one qualified group at a time. The TAP will provide for an initial payment of up to \$50,000 and may be renewed twice in \$50,000 increments, if necessary, to help interpret and comment on Site-related documents through the comment period for the ROD.

Any technical advisor hired by the group must possess the following credentials:

- demonstrated knowledge of hazardous or toxic waste issues by proven work experience in such fields in excess of five years;
- a bachelor of science in a relevant discipline (e.g., biochemistry, toxicology, environmental sciences, engineering);
- ability to translate technical information into terms understandable to lay persons;
- experience in making technical presentations in a public meeting or hearing setting; and
- demonstrated writing skills.

The technical advisor may not be a party to or be associated with an organization that is a party to or a witness in any current or past legal proceeding against Solutia.

To the extent practicable, the TAP recipient should be established by the time the RI/FS Workplan is due to EPA.

Community Involvement Opportunity:

EPA would like to meet with the community to discuss the status of work in Anniston. At the meeting, EPA will briefing discuss the contents of this fact sheet and will then answer questions from the community.

The meeting will be held on July 15, 2003, from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm. The meeting will be held at the Carver Community Center

located at 720 West 14th Street, Anniston, AL. The telephone number for the Carver Center is (256)231-7630.

For More Information:

For more information on the Superfund Program, please refer to <http://www.epa.gov/superfund/>

For more information on the Anniston PCB Site, please refer to <http://www.epa.gov/region4/waste/npl/nplal/annpcbal.htm>

Persons interested in obtaining additional information are encouraged to contact the EPA Project Office at (256)236-2599. The Project Office is staffed by EPA's support contractor. For the past three years the office has been staffed by Jennifer Brice. Jennifer (below) will continue to support EPA during the NTC Removal Activities.

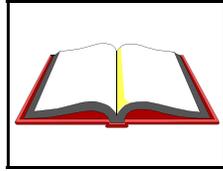


EPA's Community Involvement Coordinator is Stephanie Brown. Stephanie (below) can be reached at the Anniston Office or in the Atlanta Office at (404)562-8450. Her email address is brown.stephaniey@epa.gov



EPA's Remedial Project Manager is Pam Scully. Pam (below) can be reached at the Anniston Office or in the Atlanta Office at (404)562-8935. Her email address is scully.pam@epa.gov





GLOSSARY

Action Memorandum: A public document describing EPA's rationale for selection of a Superfund (removal) cleanup decision.

Administrative Record: Material documenting EPA's selection of cleanup remedies at Superfund sites, usually placed in the **information repository** near the Site.

Administrative Order on Consent (AOC): A legal agreement signed by EPA and potentially responsible parties (PRPs), through which PRPs will conduct all or part of a cleanup

Community Advisory Group A committee made up of representatives of diverse community interests. Its purpose is to provide a public forum for community members to present and discuss their needs and concerns related to the Superfund decision-making process.

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA): A Federal law passed in 1980 and modified in 1986 by the Superfund Amendment and Reauthorization Act (SARA); the act created a trust fund, known as Superfund, to investigate and cleanup abandoned or uncontrolled hazardous waste sites.

Consent Decree (CD): A legal document, approved by a judge, that formalizes an agreement reached between EPA and potentially responsible parties (PRPs), through which PRPs will conduct all or part of a cleanup at a Superfund site..

Engineering Evaluation and Cost Analysis (EECA): Study under Superfund short-term cleanup process to analyze removal action alternatives for a site.

Information Repository: File of data and documents located near a Superfund Site.

Non-Time Critical (NTC) Removal - A short-term response requiring action taken to address releases of hazardous substances; action can start later than 6 months after the determination that a response is necessary.

parts per million (ppm)- a way of expressing small concentrations of pollutants in air, water, soil, tissue, food, or other media.

Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs): a group of toxic, persistent chemicals used in transformers and capacitors for insulating purposes and in many other products; no longer manufactured in the U.S.

Remedial Investigation/ Feasibility Study (RI/FS): Study under Superfund long-term cleanup process to collect necessary data to determine the type and extent of contamination at NPL sites and examine possible alternatives for reducing risks posed by sites.

Superfund: See CERCLA.

Technical Assistance Plan (TAP): plan submitted to EPA by PRP for providing and administering funds to qualified citizen groups to hire technical advisors, independent from the PRP, at Superfund Alternative Sites..

Time-Critical Removal Actions: A short-term response requiring action taken to address releases of hazardous substances; action required within 6 months.

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U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - Region 4
61 Forsyth Street, SW
Atlanta, Georgia, 30303

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Penalty for Private Use
\$300

Pam Scully
Remedial Project Manager
South Site Management Branch

***INSIDE:
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