

EPA Presents Proposed Clean Up Options for Vernay Laboratories Inc. Yellow Springs, OH

Public Information Session October 24, 2019



- Provide a brief background on Vernay (the site)
- Summarize investigation activities and current stage of remediation ("corrective action")
- Solicit community input before EPA drafts proposed final remedies and the formal public comment period begins



- The site is located at 875 Dayton Street
- Vernay operated from the early 1950s through 2005
- It manufactured specialty rubber components for the automotive, appliance, and medical industries
- Above ground structures were demolished in 2009
- The property at 825 Dayton Street, aka Rabbit Run Farm, was acquired in 2010







- In September 2002, EPA and Vernay signed an administrative order on consent (AOC) under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA)
- The AOC requires Vernay to:
 - determine the type of contaminants involved
 - determine the extent of contamination
 - clean up contamination
 - prevent contaminated groundwater from flowing into unpolluted areas away from the site.
- This is referred to as "corrective action," and EPA oversees and approves of the work



- Source areas of contamination at the site include:
 - Floor Drains and Sewer Lines
 - Drum Storage Areas
 - Loading Docks
 - Storm Water Catch Basin
 - Septic System and Hydraulic Oil Trench
 - Dust Suppression and Weed Control Areas
 - Fill Area
 - Vapor Degreasers



Groundwater Investigation

- Since 1998, Vernay has tested groundwater using a series of monitoring wells
- Investigations have shown that contamination has flowed under Vernay's eastern property boundary
- Groundwater is contaminated with volatile organic compounds (VOCs) - chemicals that evaporate in air easily such as solvents
- The VOCs most prevalent in the groundwater include:
 - Tetrachloroethene (PCE)
 - Trichloroethylene (TCE)
 - 1,2-dichloropropane (1,2-DCP)
- PCE and TCE are used as metal degreasers in manufacturing while 1,2-DCP is a pesticide commonly used many years ago

WELL SURVEY

As part of the RFI and the on-going Corrective Measures Evaluation, annual water well surveys (including sampling of used water wells) were completed by Vernay within the RFI Study Area to identify private water wells that are being used or could be used. The annual survey was conducted by Vernay in cooperation with the Greene County Public Health (GCPH) agency. The current locations and uses of the identified water wells in the survey area are presented on Figure 3. As of 2019, only one property within the Study Area was using private water wells as discussed in CMP Section 3.3.3.

As part of Alternative 5, an annual water well survey will be conducted to identify the presence and use of any wells in the GMZ plume area; if any wells are identified, Vernay will request they be closed at Vernay's expense. Because all known wells in the GMZ have been closed, Vernay will seek again to have a Village ordinance established prohibiting the installation of wells in the GMZ, with a renewable sunset provision.



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- Vernay collected soil data from 1998 to 2005
- Soil next to and beneath structures at the facility contains VOCs
- The VOCs most prevalent in the soil include:
 - Tetrachloroethene (PCE)
 - Trichloroethene (TCE)
 - cis-1,2-Dichloroethene (cis-1,2-DCE)
 - 1,2-Dichloroethene (1,2-DCE)
 - Vinyl Chloride (VC)
 - 1,2-Dichloropropane (1,2-DCP)
 - Carbon tetrachloride
 - Methylene chloride (MeCl)
 - 1,1,2-trichloro-1,2,2-trifluoroethane (Freon-113)



Vapor Intrusion Investigation

- In June 2015, EPA requested that Vernay compete a soil vapor investigation of the property and surrounding off-site properties pursuant to new EPA Guidance
- Conducted from February 2016 through April 2018
- The investigation did **not** find evidence of VOCs moving into nearby homes from underground soil gas

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Ongoing Cleanup Activities



- Vernay has installed a Ground Water Capture Treatment System as an "interim measure"
 - Groundwater is pumped out from beneath the site
 - Chemicals are removed by an activated carbon filter
 - Treated water is discharged to sanitary sewers under a permit
- This "pump and treat" system works to slow the movement of contaminated groundwater, and is currently used as a "source-control measure"
- Over 200,000,000 gallons of groundwater have been removed and treated by this system since it started



Proposed Cleanup Activities

- Vernay has proposed additional cleanup activities in a "Corrective Measures Proposal"
- Storm Sewer Removal & Rerouting Proposal:
 - Storm sewers at the north and south property boundaries will be disconnected from the municipal lines and capped
 - All sewer lines will be cut back 50 feet from the site boundaries; all inlets onsite will be removed
 - More than 600 feet of sewer lines will be removed
 - Approximately 230 feet of storm sewer will be removed from the southern property boundary near Omar Drive
 - The Omar Circle storm sewer will be rerouted to the Dayton Street storm sewer
 - Intended to remove contaminated soils and pathways for contamination to travel





- Vernay has proposed to perform soil removal from six identified "hot spots"
- Two "hot spots" will be excavated in conjunction with the storm sewer removal and re-routing activities
- Proposed excavations are 50 feet by 50 feet
- Depth of excavations vary based on the what is known about the contamination
- Additional soil will be removed from areas where sewer lines are removed





Proposed Cleanup Activities

- From 2005-2019, Vernay connected nine properties to the existing municipal water supply system and permanently closed their private water wells
- Ordinance prohibiting the installation of new wells in the "groundwater management zone" is being sought by Vernay
- Village of Yellow Springs would need to approve of ordinance
- Institutional Controls



- EPA
 - Is reviewing the proposed remedies
 - Will approve or modify the document based on the review
 - Draft a Statement of Basis that will provide the cleanup recommendations for public comment



- EPA anticipates the public comment period on the Statement of Basis to begin in early 2020
- The public comment period will be open from 45 days from the date of notification
- Newspaper, radio ads, and web page announcements
- EPA will return to present the Statement of Basis and solicit comments on the document
- Community members will also be able to submit comments online, by mail and by email
- The Corrective Measures Proposal is currently available for public viewing at the Yellow Springs Community Library and on the EPA website at:

https://www.epa.gov/hwcorrectiveactionsites/hazardous-wastecleanup-vernay-laboratories-inc-facility-yellow-springs-oh 23



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