



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION III

FINAL DECISION AND RESPONSE TO COMMENTS

BETTIS ATOMIC POWER LABORATORY
WEST MIFFLIN, PENNSYLVANIA
EPA ID NO. PA0890090004

I. INTRODUCTION

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is issuing this Final Decision and Response to Comments (FDRTC) for the Bettis Atomic Power Laboratory facility located at 814 Pittsburgh-McKeesport Boulevard, West Mifflin, Pennsylvania (Facility). The purpose of the FDRTC is to describe the final remedy selected by EPA to address releases of hazardous waste and/or hazardous constituents at the Facility.

On September 8, 2010, EPA issued a supplemental Statement of Basis (SB) in which it proposed to modify the remedy described in a previous Statement of Basis, issued September 29, 1995, and finalized in a previous Final Decision and Response to Comments, issued August 15, 1997 (the 1997 FDRTC). The supplemental SB is listed as Attachment A to this FDRTC.

II. FINAL REMEDY

The following components of the final remedy remain unchanged from the 1997 FDRTC:

- Restrict and control access to, and work in, the vicinity of two inactive, underground, 40-inch Coke Gas Lines (Inactive Gas Lines) to prevent potential exposure of on-site workers to hazardous constituents and to prevent disruptions to the integrity of the lines
- Follow health and safety procedures contained in 29 CFR Section 1910.120 during any work around the Inactive Gas Lines, the Inactive Waste Site (IWS), the former Underground Waste Oil Storage Tank (UST/WOT) areas and the Trash Chute area
- Follow health and safety procedures contained in 29 CFR Section 1910.120 when handling groundwater during any excavations at the Facility
- Place restrictions on the deed to Facility property to prevent the installation of on-site drinking water wells
- Maintain vegetative cover and warning signs at the Inactive Waste Site; maintain existing covers at the UST/WOT areas and maintain existing cover and warning signs at the Trash Chute Area
- Notify EPA of all designs and/or plans for changes to the Facility involving soil disturbances (i.e. excavation) for the Inactive Waste Site, the UST/WOT areas, the Trash Chute area and the Inactive Gas Lines
- Conduct periodic environmental monitoring of the following media to detect changes in concentration of specific contaminants:

- Material deposited in the two storm sewer system outfalls
- On-site wells
- Surface water and sediments in the Bull Run stream
- Conduct periodic inspections of access points in the Inactive Gas Lines to detect changes in volume of deposited materials
- Remediate Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) in soils at the Bettis Landfill using an in-situ soil vapor extraction (SVE) system

This FDRTC revises the remedy for groundwater which has been impacted by the IWS by both adding and deleting a remedy component of the 1997 FDRTC. The following component of the final remedy has been added today as proposed in the supplemental SB:

- The Facility shall monitor the use of Valley National Gases property, which is downgradient of the Inactive Waste Site, on an annual basis to confirm the absence or presence of water supply wells and/or plans for installation of such wells. If use (or plans for such use) of groundwater is confirmed, this use will be reported by the Facility to the EPA. This requirement shall continue for 20 years or until EPA determines that it is no longer necessary.

The following components of the final remedy set forth in the 1997 FDRTC are being deleted as of today as proposed in the supplemental SB:

- Construct a system that uses subsurface drainage at the northern portion of the Facility to collect groundwater before it discharges to the surface through seeps and natural springs. Collected groundwater will be treated using Granular Activated Carbon or Air Strippers with air emission controls. Treated water will be disposed of through National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permitted outfalls. Residues from treatment units will be disposed off-site in accordance with applicable regulations.
- Conduct periodic monitoring of water and sediments in runoff from the Facility to the Valley National Gases property

The additional remedy component (monitoring of groundwater use on an off-site property), combined with Allegheny County Health Department Regulations that preclude the use of groundwater as a drinking water supply and West Mifflin zoning ordinances that preclude residential construction in the affected area, will provide assurance that groundwater use on the Valley National Gases property does not occur without notification to EPA. With the implementation of this corrective measure, the construction of a subsurface drainage collection system should no longer be necessary. The remaining portions of the remedy as described in the 1997 FDRTC have been completed.

The final remedy as described in the supplemental SB and this FDRTC is enforceable through the Final Administrative Order on Consent, which became effective April 11, 2001.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

On September 8, 2010, EPA issued the supplemental SB. Consistent with public participation provisions under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), EPA requested comments from the public on the proposed remedy as described in the SB. The commencement of a thirty (30)-day public comment period was announced in the *Tribune-Review* on September 8, 2010 and on the EPA Region III website. The public comment period ended on October 8, 2010.

IV. RESPONSE TO COMMENTS

EPA received no comments on the proposal. Consequently, the Final Remedy is unchanged from the proposal.

V. AUTHORITY

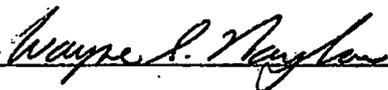
EPA is issuing this Final Decision under the authority of the Solid Waste Disposal Act, as amended by RCRA, and the Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments (HSWA) of 1984, 42 U.S.C. Sections 6901 to 6992k.

VI. DECLARATION

Based on the Administrative Record compiled for the Corrective Action at the Bettis Atomic Power Laboratory facility, EPA has determined that the Final Remedy selected in this Final Decision and Response to Comments is protective of human health and the environment.

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

A. September 8, 2010, Statement of Basis.



Sr
Abraham Ferdas, Director
Land & Chemicals Division
U.S EPA Region III



Date