EPA Issues Order to TAV Holdings, Inc.

The EPA is ordering the owners and operator of the TAV Holdings, Inc. Empire Boulevard Facility to take immediate steps to prevent further releases into the environment as necessary to protect human health and the environment.

To view a copy of the Order and Administrative Record, please visit: https://semspub.epa.gov/src/collection/04/AR67067

Introduction

Pursuant to the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) of 1976, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4, is issuing an Order pursuant to Section 7003(a) of RCRA for the facility located at 3311 Empire Boulevard, SW, Atlanta, Georgia (the Facility), operated by TAV Holdings, Inc. (TAV).

Background

Since 2015, TAV has received and processed various solid wastes, such as automobile shredder residue, aluminum shredder residue, and waste electrical equipment, at its Facility and attempts to recover various metals from such materials. The Facility operates on approximately 37 acres and is in an area with potential environmental justice concerns.

TAV has never provided notice to the EPA or the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (GAEPD) regarding any solid or hazardous waste activities at the Facility.

Recent Inspections and Site Visits

During inspections and site visits, the EPA and GAEPD observed significant concerns related to TAV’s operations, including its management of waste materials, wastewater, and stormwater. Inspectors observed evidence that wastewater had run off site into the unnamed tributary to the South River. The inspectors...
observed large waste piles at the Facility, all of which lacked containment and/or other measures to prevent releases of waste material directly to the environment.

The EPA collected waste samples from various locations at the Facility, as well as sediment and surface water samples from the unnamed tributary of the South River. The sampling results indicated that the lead concentrations detected in five (5) waste samples, and two (2) sediment samples from the unnamed tributary of the South River, exceeded the Toxicity Characteristic Leaching Procedure (TCLP) regulatory limit for lead (5 milligrams per liter or mg/L). Waste exceeding the regulatory limit for lead is a RCRA-regulated hazardous waste.

The EPA has determined that the Facility’s operation and management of waste materials has resulted in releases of solid and hazardous waste into the environment which may present an imminent and substantial endangerment to human health and the environment.

The EPA’s Order is issued pursuant to Section 7003 of RCRA and requires the property owners and operator of the TAV Facility to:

- Cease operations that may result in releases of solid and/or hazardous waste to the environment;

- Obtain appropriate permits and approvals for Facility operations;

- Submit work plans for site stabilization, material management, business practices, and waste disposal;

- Submit a work plan to characterize and address the extent of contamination in soil, sediment, waste, and surface water at the Facility;

- Provide security at the Facility, including fencing, site signage, and controlled access;

- Submit weekly progress reports and attend weekly meetings to discuss steps taken at the Facility in response to the Order.

What Happens Next?

- The EPA will continue to investigate potential off-site contamination

- The EPA is planning a public information session for mid-January 2022