SHERWIN-WILLIAMS

Progress Update – March 2016

The Sherwin-Williams Company (SW) is actively working under an Administrative Order on Consent (AOC) with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to investigate environmental conditions associated with past industrial operations at the former paint manufacturing plant in Gibbsboro, New Jersey. This update provides information regarding activities and progress at the Sherwin-Williams/Hilliards Creek Site, the Route 561 Dump Site, the United States Avenue Burn Site (the Sites), and related properties.

Residential Properties Remedy

On September 30, 2015, EPA released its Final Remedy to remediate residential soils and issued a Record of Decision for the Residential Properties adjacent to the Sites.

- SW continues to perform final delineation sampling, land surveys and other pre-design activities necessary to prepare remedial design specifications. It is anticipated that the first residential properties will be remediated during the summer/fall of 2016.
- On December 16, 2015, SW submitted a Site Recontamination Analysis Report to EPA. This study evaluated the potential for residential properties located within the floodplains to be recontaminated if their cleanup is conducted before the cleanup of upstream areas. The study concluded that recontamination of residential properties is highly unlikely during the expected period of time between the residential cleanup and the remediation of sediment and upstream areas. Based on this evaluation, SW is moving forward with the sequential remediation of all residential properties.
- During the public comment period for the residential soils remedy, the Borough of Gibbsboro submitted a request to EPA for soil sampling at the Gibbsboro School. While there is no reason to suspect that the School property has been impacted from past operations at the former manufacturing plant, EPA and SW have agreed to perform the investigation. The soil sampling is being performed in accordance with an EPA-approved scope of work during the last week of March 2016.

Route 561 Dump Site

Significant progress continues at the Dump Site, which is the most upstream area.

- SW submitted the Route 561 Dump Site Draft Feasibility Study (FS) to EPA on September 9, 2015. The FS evaluates various remediation alternatives based upon EPA's criteria. SW received comments from EPA on November 30, 2015 and provided a revised FS to EPA on December 18, 2015. Final EPA comments were received on March 24, 2016 and a Final FS document is due to EPA on April 21, 2016.
- Upon approval of the Final FS document, EPA will release for public comment a Proposed Plan for addressing the Route 561 Dump Site and associated properties. A public meeting will be held shortly after the Proposed Plan is released.

The United States Avenue Burn Site

Progress continues at the U.S. Avenue Burn Site.

- On May 18, 2015, SW submitted the Baseline Ecological Risk Assessment (BERA) Work Plan to EPA for review; SW received comments from EPA on September 17, 2015. On September 25, 2015, SW submitted a Revised BERA Work Plan which was approved by EPA. SW performed the field investigation work during the fall of 2015. The BERA report was submitted to EPA on March 29, 2016.
- On March 30, 2015, SW submitted the Site Characterization Summary Report to EPA for review; SW received comments from the EPA on November 16, 2015. Based upon these comments, SW submitted a draft Remedial Investigation (RI) Report to EPA on January 22, 2016.

Former Manufacturing Plant

Soil, groundwater and other investigations continue at the Former Manufacturing Plant (FMP) to fully delineate the impacts from past industrial operations.

- SW continued a series of soil and groundwater investigations at the FMP in accordance with the EPA-approved scope of work. This work will continue through at least the first half of 2016.
- SW will submit the Site Characterization Summary Report for the FMP by March 31, 2016.
- As part of the ongoing investigation at the FMP, semi-volatile and volatile organic compounds were identified in the subsurface environment. SW, along with EPA, is monitoring indoor air quality within the buildings located on the former manufacturing site to ensure building occupants remain safe. In addition, SW is working with EPA and the property owner to implement appropriate interim remedial measures at select buildings within the FMP.
- SW previously installed an interim remediation system in an area near One Foster Avenue to remove free product from groundwater. SW continues to inspect the area on a monthly basis and product, when present, is recovered and removed for offsite disposal.

Hilliards Creek and Associated Waterbodies

SW is implementing a long-term stream monitoring program under an EPA-approved Work Plan. The purpose of this program is to collect reliable data on stream flow and water quality conditions along Hilliards Creek and its tributaries for the purposes of informing environmental investigations, remedy designs, and remedy implementation.

Background

The former manufacturing site in Gibbsboro has a long history of industrial use. The property was developed in the early 1800s as a sawmill and later, a grain mill. In 1851, John Lucas & Co., Inc. purchased the property and converted the mill into a paint and varnish manufacturing facility where it produced oil-based paints, varnishes and lacquers. SW purchased Lucas in 1930 and expanded operations at the facility. For over a century, the SW plant was an economic fixture in the community and region. The manufacturing plant was closed in 1978 and sold to a private developer in 1981. During its years of operation, management of materials and waste was conducted within accepted practices and regulations of the time. Three Sites associated with these manufacturing activities are being addressed in accordance with the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) program. SW is working with EPA and other stakeholders, to move the site remediation process forward. SW is committed to implementing a site remediation program that is protective of human health and the environment, in compliance with legal and regulatory requirements, and responsive to stakeholder input.