

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, USEPA, and New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection representatives met in October to discuss the final remedy and the path to implementation.
- SW began obtaining access agreements from residential property owners in order to perform the final delineation sampling and pre-design activities necessary for remedy design specifications.
- On November 30, 2015, SW began soil sampling on specific residential properties in Gibbsboro under an EPA-approved work plan, as required under the Record of Decision. Soil sampling and pre-design activities will continue on properties in Gibbsboro and Voorhees over the coming months.

### **Route 561 Dump Site**

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

- The Human Health Risk Assessment (HHRA) was submitted on March 26, 2015; SW received comments from EPA on June 1, 2015; SW submitted a revised report on July 1, 2015; SW received Conditional Approval of the HHRA from EPA on August 11, 2015. On October 27, 2015, SW received Final Approval of the HHRA from EPA.
- The Baseline Ecological Risk Assessment (BERA) was submitted to EPA on March 27, 2015; SW received comments from EPA on May 13, 2015; SW submitted a revised report on June 5, 2015; SW received Conditional Approval of the BERA from EPA on August 3, 2015. SW received additional comments from EPA on October 27, 2015; SW addressed those comments and submitted a revised BERA on November 9, 2015. On November 24, 2015, SW received Final Approval of the BERA from EPA.
- SW submitted the Route 561 Dump Site 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 the FS on November 30, 2015 and will respond to comments and submit a revised document by December 21, 2015.

### **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.

### **The United States Avenue Burn Site**

SW continues investigations at the U.S. Avenue Burn Site.

- The HHRA Pathways Analysis Report (PAR) was submitted to EPA on March 27, 2015; SW received comments from EPA on September 29, 2015. SW submitted a Response to Comments document and a draft HHRA for the Burn Site, incorporating EPA's comments on the PAR, to EPA on November 11, 2015.
- 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. SW performed the field investigation between October 12 and November 9, 2015. Samples of surface soil, surface water, sediment, pore water, and biological tissues were collected for analysis.
- On March 30, 2015, SW submitted the Site Characterization Report (SCSR) to EPA for review; SW received comments from the EPA on November 16, 2015 and will incorporate EPA's comments in the Remedial Investigation Report.

### **Former Manufacturing Plant**

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

- On September 14, 2015, SW began a soil boring and groundwater monitoring well installation program at the FMP and surrounding properties in accordance with an EPA-approved scope of work.
- On December 1, 2015, SW began soil sampling in the wooded and commercial areas southwest of Foster Avenue in Gibbsboro under an EPA-approved work plan.
- As part of the ongoing investigation at the FMP, EPA identified methane gas in the subsurface environment. Methane is formed through the decomposition of organic matter, such as plant and animal material, or organic chemicals, like those historically used at the former paint manufacturing plant.
- Methane is being monitored within the buildings located on the former manufacturing site out of an abundance of caution to ensure building occupants remain safe. SW is working with EPA to implement appropriate interim remedial measures at 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.