

Paddys Run Road Site

March 2009

The Paddys Run Road Site is located approximately 15 miles northwest of Cincinnati in the town of Fernald in Hamilton County. It consists of two active manufacturing facilities: 1) PCS operates on property owned by Rhodia Inc. (formerly Albright & Wilson and Mobil Mining and Minerals) and 2) RÜTGERS Organics Corporation. PCS manufactures food grade phosphoric acid in addition to various alkaline phosphates used by the soap industry. RÜTGERS Organics manufactures aromatic sulfonated compounds, also for the soap industry.

In 1989, environmental problems in the area prompted Ohio EPA to enter into an order with Albright & Wilson, Mobil Mining and Minerals, and RÜTGERS-Nease Chemical Company in which the companies agreed to conduct a remedial investigation/feasibility study of the facilities and certain off-property areas. The remedial investigation found ground water and subsurface soils contaminated with arsenic, various aromatic hydrocarbons, and other chemicals. An approximate 12-acre layer of free-phase aromatic hydrocarbons is also present which extends off of the RÜTGERS Organics property.

The Companies submitted a feasibility study report to Ohio EPA in August, 2000. Due to many deficiencies, Ohio EPA disapproved the feasibility study report on October 20, 2000. Following the disapproval, the companies and Ohio entered into the dispute resolution process outlined in the order. This culminated with the submittal of a revised feasibility study on March 15, 2002. The revised feasibility study report did not address all of the deficiencies in the original report and contained several unauthorized changes. OEPA resolved the dispute by issuing a revised feasibility study report. On November 29, 2004, the companies appealed this action.

Assuming that the appeal of the issuance of the feasibility study report is resolved, Ohio EPA will select a proposed remedy to address risks to human health and the environment posed by site contamination and solicit public input on that decision. Following response to any public input, Ohio EPA will finalize a remedy decision and negotiate a remedial design/remedial action order with the companies to implement the selected remedy.

The companies have also been offered the opportunity to enter Ohio EPA's Voluntary Action Program following successful conclusion of their obligations under the 1989 order if they can demonstrate that they are eligible for that program according to the Voluntary Action Program rules. Should the Companies demonstrate eligibility, they may choose to enter the Voluntary Action Program instead of entering into a remedial design/remedial action order with Ohio EPA. If the companies choose to enter the Voluntary Action Program, they would address risks to human health and the environment identified under the 1989 order according to the Voluntary Action Program rules.

In October, 2005, RÜTGERS Organics Corporation signed an interim action agreement with Ohio EPA which requires that RÜTGERS: 1) install, operate, and monitor vapor mitigation systems in adjacent residential structures, and install, operate and monitor a source area soil and ground water remediation system at the RÜTGERS property. The vapor mitigation systems were installed in adjacent residential structures in 2006 and continued monitoring has demonstrated them to be effective. The design plan for the source area soil and ground remediation system was approved by Ohio EPA in September, 2007. Construction on the remediation system began in May 2008 and was completed in February, 2009. The remediation system became operational in March, 2009.

In December, 2007, Exxon-Mobil signed an interim action agreement with Ohio EPA which requires that Exxon-Mobil excavate soils containing low levels of arsenic from the PCS property owned by Rhodia Inc. Exxon-Mobil completed the soil excavation work in September, 2008. Based on completion of this interim action, Ohio EPA expects to terminate this agreement with Exxon-Mobil in April, 2009.

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