

## Phthalchem, Inc.

*Last Updated March 2012*

The Phthalchem facility, located at 226 West Mitchell Ave., Cincinnati, Hamilton County, Ohio is the focus of an investigation and removal action to address free product trichlorobenzene (TCB) and dichlorobenzene (DCB) contamination of soil, ground water, and surface water (Mill Creek). A remedial investigation was initiated by Phthalchem in 1993 to determine the extent and environmental impact of contamination at their facility. This investigation is being performed in accordance with an Administrative Order on Consent entered into by Phthalchem and Ohio EPA on February 19, 1987.

On December 6, 1989, a preliminary injunction consent order was filed in Hamilton County Common Pleas Court with the state of Ohio as plaintiff and the city of St. Bernard as Plaintiff-Intervenor. The preliminary injunction enjoined Phthalchem from, among other things, operating the facility in a manner which constituted an air nuisance, placing pollutants into waters of the state without a permit. The preliminary injunction also required the company to remove sub-surface free-phase product and to prevent the migration of contaminated ground water offsite. A permanent injunction consent order was filed with the Hamilton County Court on March 4, 1992. Under these orders, Phthalchem has been operating a free product/ground water recovery system to remove free-phase DCB and TCB and prevent the off-site migration of dissolved phase TCB and DCB. Ohio EPA approved a work plan for additional free product removal and ground water control on May 9, 1997. Field work under this work plan is ongoing.

In May 2000, Ohio EPA approved a work plan to evaluate the feasibility of several containment technologies at the site. Phthalchem submitted a Feasibility Analysis report for several containment technologies applicable to the site in July of 2000. Ohio EPA approved the Feasibility Analysis report in August 2000. Ohio EPA approved the *Detailed Design Report* for a ground water interception trench and slurry wall in May 2001. Construction of the interception trench and slurry wall began in October 2001 and was completed in March 2002, and has been operating since April 2002. Phthalchem (SunChemical) is currently developing a schedule for performance and completion of RI/FS activities under the 1987 Consent Order. Ohio EPA is currently reviewing the Feasibility Study report.

### **Ohio EPA Contact:**

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