

## RCRA Corrective Action Statement of Basis & Public Comment Period

October 2020

**Facility Name:** Former Rohm and Haas Cincinnati Facility

**U.S. EPA I.D.:** OHD000724138

**Location:**

2000 West Street  
Reading, Ohio 45215

**Activity:**

RCRA corrective action statement of basis for the remedies selected.

**Comment Period:**

November 4, 2020 to December 21, 2020

**Submit Comments to:**

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Former Rohm and Haas Cincinnati Facility



### What does the facility do?

The Former Rohm and Haas Facility (ROH), with portions currently owned by the Dow Chemical Company, City of Reading, and the Hamilton County Land Reutilization Corporation, manufactured synthetic waxes, asphalt additives (anti-stripping agents), antioxidants, phosphonium salts and plastic stabilizers. All but one building (Building 40) has been demolished for future redevelopment. Building 40 is currently used for light commercial/industrial operations and warehousing.

### What is the Statement of Basis?

The Statement of Basis is the document which describes the process Ohio EPA uses under RCRA to select measures for containing or cleaning up a hazardous waste management facility. This statement of basis will be public noticed and will allow the community to review and provide comments to Ohio EPA if warranted. If any public comments are received, they will be addressed by Ohio EPA. A Decision Document will then be issued by the Director.

### What is the history of corrective action at the facility?

Although the ROH facility has operated under various names between 1949 and 2013, the facility operated under the name Cincinnati Milicron from 1970 to 1980. During this time, interim actions involving the onsite solid waste management units (SWMUs) were conducted including the closure of six former unlined ponds used as impoundments (SWMU 1).

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In 1980 the facility was sold to Carstab. On August 8, 1980, Carstab, notified U.S. EPA it was a generator of hazardous waste and an owner/operator of a treatment, storage, and/or disposal facility for hazardous waste, but decided to revert to a generator of hazardous waste only on September 14, 1982. On April 1, 1985 Ohio EPA confirmed Carstab to be a generator of hazardous waste only. During that same year, a ground water extraction system (SWMU 6) was installed at the Facility to control groundwater migrating into the adjacent Mill Creek, which is located west of the Facility. The system consists of four components: a French drain, an extraction well, a collection sump and a concrete slurry wall. The ground water extraction system remains in operation to this day. Ground water containing volatile organic compounds (VOCs), semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOCs) and metals was extracted from the subsurface and, during Site operations, it was transferred to a ground water treatment unit (SWMU 7).

In 1989, the facility began operating as Morton International. On July 8, 1998, a Preliminary Assessment/Visual Site Inspection (PA/VSI) report was completed and documented release to soil and ground water from the onsite SWMUs. A total of 11 SWMUs were identified.

On August 18, 2000, the U.S. EPA issued a RCRA §3013 Administrative Order (AO) to Morton International, Inc. In 1999, just prior to the RCRA AO being issued, Rohm and Haas purchased the facility, and became subject to the AO. In September 2000, a Current Conditions Report identified several areas of reported historic waste burial or potential waste management and were added to the list of waste management areas to be investigated during the RCRA Facility Investigation (RFI). A total of 22 waste management area were identified.

On March 2, 2001, the RFI work plan was conditionally approved by U.S. EPA to

determine the nature and extent of the contamination at the site as well as any impacts on Mill Creek.

On September 30, 2003, the Environmental Indicators *Current Human Exposures Under Control* (CA725) and *Migration of Contaminated Groundwater Under Control* (CA750) when achieved for the site.

On January 25, 2005, the Revised RFI Report detailing the investigation findings was conditionally approved by U.S. EPA along with a request for additional work be conducted regarding potential impacts from the Shallow Upper Aquifer at the site to the Mill Creek and an evaluation of the regional and site specific ground water flow patterns of the Deep Upper Aquifer.

On September 29, 2010, the Revised Baseline Risk Assessment was approved by U.S. EPA regarding human health and ecological risk. In addition, U.S. EPA requested to begin development of the Statement of Basis. Typically, a Corrective Measures Study (CMS) is conducted prior to the Statement of Basis. However, U.S. EPA did not require Rohm and Haas to conduct the CMS. Ohio EPA accepts this decision.

On December 14, 2017, U.S. EPA issued a letter to the Rohm and Haas Facility approving a request to transfer the lead agency responsibilities to Ohio EPA. This transfer would allow Rohm and Haas to address remaining risks associated with the facility, implement a remedy, and terminate the AO. Terminating the AO would also allow ROH to pursue environmental remediation and potential redevelopment of the facility using Ohio EPA's Voluntary Action Program (VAP). ROH would be ineligible for the Ohio EPA VAP program while under the AO with U.S. EPA.

The U.S. EPA AO was terminated on December 21, 2017. On July 24, 2018, an Environmental Covenant was voluntarily recorded with

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Hamilton County imposing the following use limitations:

- Land use is restricted to commercial/industrial use for all but the baseball fields area. The baseball field area was designated for recreational land use.
- Ground water use and extraction was limited to only environmental remediation activities as well as construction, excavation, and maintenance activities.
- No actions may be taken to interfere with the ground water remediation system or the integrated ground water monitoring system for the duration of the corrective action.
- New buildings may not be constructed without an approved vapor mitigation system or vapor intrusion assessment confirming mitigation is not required. In addition, existing buildings may not be occupied until a vapor intrusion assessment is conducted and, if necessary, mitigated.

### What would the Statement of Basis allow the facility to do?

This Statement of Basis concludes that institutional controls for the onsite soil and monitored natural attenuation for ground water are appropriate remedies for this facility. The ground water extraction system will be shut down as source control, but it will not be removed from service nor will monitoring begin until a detailed groundwater sampling and monitoring plan has been approved by Ohio EPA. Additionally, the ground water extraction system will be maintained until it has been demonstrated that existing contamination in the downgradient monitoring wells are stable or decreasing.

Lastly, the Environmental Covenant previously mentioned will restrict land use to commercial/industrial use only, as indicated;

limit ground water use and extraction; protect the ground water extraction and monitoring systems; and require a vapor intrusion assessment and, if necessary, mitigation for existing and new buildings at the facility.

### What is the regulatory basis to support this Statement of Basis?

The regulatory basis is part of the Corrective Action obligations under OAC-3745-54-101. Accordingly, Ohio EPA is issuing a draft action indicating the Director's intention with respect to the issuance of a Final Decision Document to ROH for the implementation of the remedies summarized.

### Who can I contact for more information?

For additional information, please contact Brian Marlatt at (937) 285-6083 or Don Vogel at (614) 644-2924.

### What is the history of the hazardous waste program?

The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), an amendment to the Solid Waste Disposal Act, was passed in 1976. The main reason for the amendment was to address the growing volume of municipal and industrial solid waste generated across the United States. A few goals established by RCRA include: to protect human health and the environment from potential hazards of waste disposal, to reduce the amount of waste generated, and to ensure that waste produced are managed in an environmentally sound manner.

When RCRA was written, U.S. Congress' intent was for the states to assume primary responsibility for implementing the hazardous waste regulations with oversight from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA). U.S. EPA must approve each state as an authorized state. To become an authorized state, each must demonstrate that the state program is at least equivalent to and consistent with federal laws,

