

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

MARCH 2008 NEWSLETTER
regarding
ENVIRONMENTAL INVESTIGATION AND CLEAN-UP ACTIVITIES
at the
RADIO MATERIALS CORPORATION SITE
1095 East Summit Street
Attica, Indiana

Background

The Radio Materials Corporation (RMC) Site (Site) is located in the northeastern portion of the City of Attica at 1095 East Summit Street, and consists of buildings located north and south of Summit Street. RMC began conducting manufacturing activities at this location in 1948. RMC operations included the manufacture of ceramic components, such as capacitors and resonators for the electronics industry. The main plant, where primary manufacturing operations were performed, is located south of Summit Street. Six buildings that were used as storage areas, warehouses, and maintenance facilities are located north of Summit Street to the south of Riley Airfield. Riley Lake, a fire and irrigation water holding pond, is located south of and adjacent to Summit Street. Manufacturing operations no longer take place at the Site today.

A 1992 Preliminary Investigation/Visual Site Inspection Final Report identified conditions at the Site that warranted further investigation and potential clean-up activities. In 1999, RMC entered into an Administrative Order on Consent (AOC) with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) to investigate certain areas associated with former operations performed by RMC, and to clean up these areas, as necessary, based on the results of the investigation (Consent Order No. IND005477021).

In 2002, Kraft entered into a Remedial Investigation and Action Agreement with RMC under which Kraft agreed to undertake certain investigation and remediation activities at the Site. Kraft never owned or operated the Site but agreed to conduct these investigation and remediation activities because of a series of corporate mergers, acquisitions and sales. Although Kraft did not contribute to the conditions at the Site, Kraft is working with U.S. EPA to complete the appropriate environmental investigations and clean-up activities at the Site.

Extensive Investigations Have Been Conducted To Date

Extensive environmental investigations have been performed at, and in the vicinity of, the RMC property since 2003. These investigations have included extensive soil, groundwater, soil vapor, and air studies both on and around the RMC property. The purposes of these environmental investigations have been to: (1) gather data needed to make decisions on stabilization during the early phases of the investigation; (2) identify and characterize sources of potential contamination; (3) define the nature and extent of potential contamination; (4) identify the potential pathways of contaminant migration; (5) identify actual or potential human and/or ecological receptors; and (6) support development of alternatives from which corrective measures may be selected by U.S. EPA.

Investigation activities completed to date have identified certain chemicals known as volatile organic compounds (VOCs) associated with the facility present in the soil, groundwater, and soil gas associated with the facility on the Site property, and to the north and northwest of the Site. Primarily, the chemicals are associated with RMC's former degreasing operations, such as trichloroethylene (TCE) and tetrachloroethylene (PCE).

Interim Clean-up Activities Are Underway

As a result of the soil and groundwater investigations conducted on the Site and in nearby areas, U.S. EPA approved several Interim Corrective Measures (ICMs) to stabilize and clean up areas on the Site. The ICMs were designed to remediate on-Site areas and minimize the potential for the migration of

contamination off-Site in soil vapor and groundwater. The following on-Site activities began in the Fall of 2007 and will be ongoing through the Spring of 2008: (1) excavation of Site materials and soils for off-Site management; (2) installation and operation of soil vapor extraction (SVE) systems to remove VOCs from on-Site soils and to minimize VOC movement in groundwater and soil vapor; and (3) the use of chemical oxidants to reduce VOCs in on-Site soils. Once installation of the ICMs is complete, Kraft will submit a draft Corrective Measures Report to U.S. EPA for approval, and the community will be updated on proposed final clean-up activities for the Site.

Next Steps in the Investigation

Based on the results of investigations to date, U.S. EPA has approved the installation of soil vapor mitigation systems in certain houses near the Site consistent with guidance published by U.S. EPA and the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM). U.S. EPA and Kraft have no indoor air data to indicate that the air inside these houses is above the state's conservative residential indoor air action levels, but are taking a precautionary approach by proactively installing these systems as the off-Site soil vapor investigation continues. These systems draw air from beneath the basement/floor slab of a house and vent it outside to minimize any discharge of vapors from the ground into the house. This is a common and reliable technology that is approved by U.S. EPA and widely used in similar circumstances.

In addition, Kraft has submitted to U.S. EPA a sub-slab and indoor air sampling plan for some houses located north and northwest of the Site to ensure that all appropriate environmental investigation activities related to the Site are being undertaken. It is anticipated that U.S. EPA will approve the sub-slab and indoor air sampling plan within the next few weeks, and that these sampling activities will be initiated at houses where access is granted in the Spring or early Summer of 2008. The sampling activities would be conducted again the following Fall/Winter to further evaluate potential conditions.

The final stages of the groundwater investigation are also in progress. This work will complete the delineation of Site-related chemicals in groundwater, and assist in the selection of final corrective measures for the groundwater. Going forward, Kraft's environmental consultant will periodically perform routine groundwater monitoring using the monitoring wells installed during the previous investigations and report these data to U.S. EPA; as well as perform regular operation, maintenance, and monitoring of the SVE systems.

Contact Information for Questions

Documents containing specific information on the Site have been placed in a public document repository in the Attica Public Library.

Attica Public Library
305 South Perry St.
Attica, IN 47918
Tel: 765-764-4194
<http://www.attica.lib.in.us>

Interested people also may contact the following individuals for more information:

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