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Project XL: Autoliv ASP, Inc.

WHAT IS PROJECT XL?

Project XL, which stands for "eXcellence and Leadership," is a national initiative that tests innovative ways of achieving better and more cost-effective public health and environmental protection. The information and lessons learned from Project XL are being used to assist the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in redesigning its current regulatory and policy-setting approaches. Project XL encourages testing of cleaner, cheaper, and smarter ways to attain environmental results superior to those achieved under current regulations and policies, in conjunction with greater accountability to stakeholders. It is vital that each project tests new ideas with the potential for wide application and broad environmental benefits. As of September 2000, over thirty pilot experiments are being implemented and several additional projects are in various stages of development.

SUMMARY OF THE AUTOLIV PROJECT

Autoliv ASP, Inc. is a manufacturer of automobile safety products. The Promontory, Utah, facility, located in a remote area of Box Elder County, manufactures pyrotechnic (explosive) products for use in the air bag industry. During manufacture of these materials, reactive hazardous wastes are generated. This waste is presently treated off site at a treatment storage and disposal facility (TSDF) that is permitted to accept hazardous waste from outside sources and treat it via open burning. Although open burning is an approved treatment method under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), the pollution from open burning cannot be controlled. The company currently operates a highly advanced Metals Recovery Facility (MRF) designed to process and recover aluminum and steel from previously-fired air bag inflators. Autoliv proposes that the technology and pollution control devices used in the MRF be adapted to process their waste pyrotechnic materials onsite rather than sending the materials to a TSDF for open burning. Instead of being emitted directly into the air, the pyrotechnic materials will now be processed at the MRF, where they will pass through an existing permitted air pollution control system, reducing the amount of air pollution released to the environment. Autoliv also expects to recover additional materials, such as copper, from the MRF-processed pyrotechnic materials. Additionally, Autoliv is committing to reinvest a percentage of the savings incurred through this project into additional pollution prevention activities at their facility. The type and extent of these activities will be specified after the first year's cost savings are calculated. This XL project, EPA's 35th, was signed on September 20. 2000.

SUPERIOR ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE

Through Project XL, Autoliv expects to achieve superior environmental benefits by:

- Eliminating the open burning of 158,000 pounds of pyrotechnic material per year, which will in turn eliminate 22,876 pounds per year of particulate emissions;
- Recycling copper and other materials found in the slag of the MRF-processed pyrotechnic materials, which then can be sent back to Autoliv's raw material suppliers; and
- Eliminating the risk associated with transporting hazardous pyrotechnic materials to an outside processor.

FLEXIBILITY

Autoliv seeks regulatory flexibility from RCRA Part B requirements that regulate hazardous waste treatment, storage, and disposal. For purposes of this project, EPA will grant a conditional exemption from the definition of hazardous waste. Autoliv also seeks regulatory relief from the Utah Department of Environmental Quality for similar state regulations. In effect, EPA and the state of Utah acknowledge that these particular pyrotechnic wastes do not need to be regulated as hazardous waste, due to

their low potential risks and treatment in an industrial furnace rather than an open burning/open detonation (OB/OD) unit. With this flexibility, Autoliv can safely and effectively dispose of their pyrotechnic material in the MRF while reducing emissions and pollutants to the environment.

STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT

Both local and regional stakeholders have expressed support for this project. They see this as a unique opportunity to improve the air quality in Box Elder County and surrounding communities. Participation in Project XL provides Autoliv. Box Elder County, the Utah Division of Environmental Quality, and EPA with the opportunity to explore new ways of improving environmental qualities. Stakeholders have been informed of Autoliv's intentions and the environmental benefits associated with this XL project. Autoliv will continue to provide the stakeholder group with information regarding the project, including semi-annual project updates, and will encourage them to meet on a regular basis.

APPROACHES TO BE TESTED

- Will Autoliv's proposed new system have wider applicability as an alternative treatment approach for air bag manufacturing waste streams?
- Will treating certain types of waste onsite provide clear benefits to the environment?

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FOR ELECTRONIC INFORMATION

More information about the Autoliv ASP, Inc. XL Project, or the Project XL Program, is available on the Internet at http://www.epa.gov/projectxl under "Information on Specific XL Projects," or via Project XL's Information Line at (202) 260-5754.