

United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region III
POLLUTION REPORT

Date: Friday, October 26, 2012

From: Ann DiDonato

Subject: Precision National Plating Site
198 Ackerly Road, Clarks Summit, PA
Latitude: 41.5105000
Longitude: -75.7155000

POLREP No.:	58	Site #:	
Reporting Period:		D.O. #:	
Start Date:		Response Authority:	CERCLA
Mob Date:		Response Type:	Non-Time-Critical
Demob Date:		NPL Status:	Non NPL
Completion Date:		Incident Category:	Removal Action
CERCLIS ID #:	PAD053676631	Contract #	
RCRIS ID #:			

Site Description

The Precision National Plating Site is located at 198 Ackerly Road, Clarks Summit, Pennsylvania, which is approximately 10 miles north of Scranton, Pennsylvania. The property measures 46 acres, approximately five acres of which were used for site operations and the remainder of which are undeveloped and largely wooded. A 45,000 square foot operations building was the principal structure on the site.

The site began operation as a chromium electroplating facility for locomotive crankshafts in 1956. This operation continued when Precision bought the facility in 1971. Precision operated an industrial component reconditioning facility on site from 1971 until 1999.

Site operations ceased in April 1999. With PADEP and USEPA oversight, the former plating building was demolished in the Fall of 2000.

EPA approved a Remedial Action Plan, submitted on behalf of Precision National Plating by the Retec Group in September of 2005. The Plan details procedures for use of calcium polysulfide to reduce the hexavalent chromium in the soils and groundwater to trivalent chromium, a less toxic form of chromium, which will precipitate and remain in the soil/bedrock matrix.

In July 2006, Precision injected calcium polysulfide into source areas at the site. The goal of the treatment was to reduce hexavalent chromium levels in soil to below 60 mg/Kg, and hexavalent chromium levels in Ackerly Creek to below 11 ug/L.

In March 2007, Precision began excavation of the basement of the former facility. The purpose of the removal was to mitigate impacts by potentially contaminated soils beneath the basement. Any visually contaminated soil and concrete unearthed during the excavation was taken to an appropriate disposal facility.

Further site investigation activities were performed in the Fall of 2007 and February/March 2008. The soil boring, rock coring and groundwater sampling activities completed in October 2007 and March 2008 confirmed that residual contaminant sources remain at the Site in the weathered rock and shallow competent bedrock (18 - 30 feet below the ground surface).

In August 2008, Precision began using calcium polysulfide in-situ chemical injections to treat these residual areas of contamination in the shallow bedrock. Hexavalent chromium levels have dropped in Ackerly Creek due to chemical injection treatments in July 2006 and the basement excavation in March 2007, and subsequent injection activities beginning in August 2008 and continuing through December 2011, however they still remain above the target ecological goal of 11 ug/L.

Current Activities

The current round of injections began on September 6th, 2012. A total of 10,352 gallons of 1% calcium polysulfide solution was injected this week. Injection occurred in eleven points, within the overburden, shallow bedrock, and intermediate bedrock zones. Injection points included areas within the fenced site, and downgradient as far as MW-12S and MW-12I. A total of 86,756 gallons of 1% calcium polysulfide has been injected during this round of activities.

Prior to, and during injection activities, hourly air monitoring readings were taken with a Jerome hydrogen sulfide meter along the perimeter of the site fence and along Arch Avenue. Concentrations of hydrogen sulfide were documented along the perimeter of the site as high as 4 ug/m3, however, most readings were less than the detection level of the instrument. The hydrogen sulfide site specific action level for nuisance odors is 30 ug/m3, and the NIOSH recommended exposure limit is 10,000 ug/m3.

Fourteen totes of 29% calcium polysulfide solution have been used onsite (approximately 3,150 gallons). Four totes of solution were delivered to the site on October 24th. An additional four totes are currently scheduled to be delivered to the site next week, pending any delays due to weather.

On Wednesday, October 24th, EPA personnel distributed a fact sheet to nearby residents announcing an availability session at the Glenburn Township Building on November 1st, from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM, to introduce a web-based data viewing tool. The fact sheet is also available in the documents section of this website.

Planned Removal Actions

The current round of injection activities began on September 6th, 2012. Injection activities are expected to continue through November 2012, injecting calcium polysulfide solution into overburden and shallow bedrock aquifers. During injection activities, air monitoring will be conducted for concentrations of hydrogen sulfide by two fixed point monitoring stations 24 hours a day at the lagoon and on Arch Avenue. In addition, during working hours, Precision contractor personnel will conduct hourly air monitoring using hand held instruments at predesignated locations.

During injection activities, Precision contractors will sample potable wells, currently in-use and directly adjacent to the site, once every two weeks for hexavalent chromium, total chromium, sulfides, sulfates, and pH. Additional groundwater and surface water locations will be monitored for pH, dissolved oxygen, oxidation-reduction potential, specific conductance, and concentrations of sulfide and sulfates on varying schedules. Additional details regarding the injection activities are documented in the Response Action Plan. EPA will have personnel onsite to document monitoring and progress throughout the injection activities.

Next Steps

EPA has developed a web based data viewing tool to better provide access and easier understanding to the public of sampling activities and progress at the site. EPA has scheduled an availability session for residents at the Glenburn Township Building on November 1st, from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM, to introduce the data viewer, and answer any questions regarding use of the viewer.

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