



QUARTERLY PROGRESS NEWSLETTER:

Facility Cleanup

Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Corrective Action Program

Walter Coke, North Birmingham, AL

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CONTACT INFORMATION

Brian Holtzclaw,
Community
Engagement
Coordinator, 404-
821-0697,
holtzclaw.brian@epa.gov

**Meredith
Anderson, RCRA
Project Manager,**
404-562-8608,
anderson.meredith@epa.gov

Reader's Note:

This first issue outlines progress of the on-site cleanup activities that are required under an Administrator Order on Consent (AOC) between EPA and Walter Coke, Inc. Refer to side 2 for more information on the AOC.

Corrective Measures Study (CMS) Spotlight

The first draft corrective measures study, targeting the Biological Treatment Facility was submitted to EPA on May 24, 2013. Under this corrective measures study, the company was to evaluate all existing data and propose and evaluate several appropriate cleanup remedies for this area. EPA is currently reviewing the study and will recommend changes as appropriate. Afterwards, the revised report will be made available for public review. A public meeting, along with a public comment period, will be scheduled to allow public input on the preferred cleanup remedy. EPA is committed to community engagement and collecting feedback on the proposed cleanup plans.

Groundwater Interim Measure

Under EPA's direction, Walter Coke is implementing an interim measure (IM) to address a contaminated groundwater plume. The plume is documented to have migrated beyond the property boundary. The affected location is the Former Chemical Plant as well as across the street (near F. L. Shuttlesworth Drive and 41st Avenue North) in Harriman Park. The goal of this interim measure is to control the migration of this plume, with eventual elimination. Currently contaminants include, but are not limited to: benzene, toluene, and vinyl chloride. There are no



Operations Targeted Within the First Corrective Measure Study

Both the facility's waste and storm-water treatment facility, including this 'Polishing Pond,' are part of the "Biological Treatment Facility" area. At the Northeast portion of the Walter Coke property, the 10-15 acre pond collects stormwater and treated wastewater which then discharges, as permitted, into a tributary of Five Mile Creek.

drinking water wells in the vicinity of this groundwater plume. The approach to address the groundwater contamination includes the following:

- a) **Hydraulic containment system**—a pumping system to control the movement of contaminated ground water towards the facility, thus preventing the migration of the contaminated zone. Contaminated groundwater will be pumped to the surface for treatment in the on-site Biological Treatment Facility. EPA will require a one year effectiveness study; this will be made public when available.
- a) **Monitoring strategy**—groundwater will be tested periodically using a system of groundwater monitoring wells.

Vapor Intrusion Study

Vapor intrusion can occur when there is a migration of volatile chemicals from contaminated groundwater or soil into an overlying building. On May 30, 2013, a small vapor intrusion study began at one home in Harriman Park, located near the area of the underlying contaminated groundwater plume. The purpose of this testing is to ensure no harmful vapors are accumulating in the home that could cause residential indoor air pollution problems. An EPA approved workplan is being followed, which calls for four quarterly sampling events.

Mineral Wool Pile Limited Sampling Report



Mineral Wool Piles

EPA completed a small sampling study at four (4) locations of the Walter Coke Mineral Wool Piles. EPA's RCRA corrective action program, with support from the EPA laboratory located in Athens, GA, provided oversight and contracted the independent evaluation report. This report and the results are now available at the Harriman Park Recreation Center and the North Birmingham Library; the report can also be found online. Further evaluation of the Mineral Wool Piles, as well as the outlining of potential cleanup options, is anticipated for March 24, 2014, the projected completion date of the fourth Corrective Measures Study that targets the Former Chemical Plant at Walter Coke.

More Information

The EPA—Walter Coke AOC, maps of the cleanup areas, and other documents can be found at: http://www.epa.gov/region4/foiapgs/readingroom/rcra_community/walter.html. Information repositories are at the Harriman Park Recreation Center and the North Birmingham Library.

Administrative Order Overview

In September 2012, the EPA Region 4 RCRA Corrective Action Program entered into an Administrative Order on Consent (AOC) with the Walter Coke facility. This AOC outlines requirements for Walter Coke to finalize RCRA Corrective Measures Studies and implement EPA approved remedies (site restoration or cleanup) at the facility. This AOC builds upon the previous investigations and moves the facility from the investigative phase into a cleanup phase. This AOC also dovetails with the EPA's overall mission to protect human health and the environment.

The AOC, effective September 24, 2012, includes a phased approach to implement remedies at fifty one (51) specific smaller areas within five (5) broader areas that require attention:

Biological Treatment Facility Area (SMA 1)

Land Disposal Area (SMA 2)

Coke Manufacturing Plant (SMA 3)

Former Chemical Plant (SMA 4)

Former Pig Iron Foundry (SMA 5)

The AOC contains schedules with targeted deliverables. All work will be based upon sound science using EPA technical guidance.

The EPA RCRA program is also part of the EPA North Birmingham Environmental Collaboration Project .