



QUARTERLY PROGRESS NEWSLETTER:

Facility Cleanup

Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Corrective Action Program

Walter Coke, North Birmingham, AL

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Reader's Note:

This second issue outlines ongoing progress of the on-site cleanup activities that are required under an Administrative 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 second draft corrective measures study, targeting the Land Disposal Area Facility was submitted to EPA on July 22, 2013. The third draft corrective measures study, focusing on the Coke Manufacturing plant was submitted to EPA on September 24, 2013. Under these corrective measures studies, the company evaluated all existing data and proposed and evaluated several appropriate cleanup remedies for these areas. EPA is currently reviewing the two recent studies and will recommend changes as appropriate. In addition to the EPA project manager, risk assessment and hydrogeologist specialists are evaluating the two recent reports. Afterwards, the revised reports 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. Once the plans are approved, corrective measure implementation phases will begin.

Groundwater Interim Measure

Walter Coke is continuing to implement an interim measure (IM) to address a contaminated groundwater plume that has begun to migrate beyond the property boundary in the area of the Former Chemical Plant. The



Operational Areas Targeted Within the Second and Third Corrective Measures Study

The recent draft reports focused on the Land Disposal Area (top photo) and the Coke Manufacturing Plant (bottom photo) areas.

goal of this interim measure is to control the migration of this plume. A hydraulic containment system has recently averaged pumping 184,000 gallons per month of contaminated ground water to the surface for treatment at the on-site Biological Treatment Facility. The company has submitted to EPA for review its' second quarterly groundwater monitoring results for locations on-site and across the street in Harriman Park.

Mineral Wool Piles

As disclosed in the last newsletter, EPA completed a small sampling study at four (4) locations of the Walter Coke Mineral Wool Piles (MWP); this now is posted on-line. Further evaluation of the MWPs, as well as the analysis of potential cleanup options, is anticipated for March 24, 2014. This is the projected completion date of the fourth Corrective Measures Study that targets the Former Chemical Plant area (which includes the MWPs) at Walter Coke.

Vapor Intrusion Study

Vapor intrusion can occur when there is a migration of organic chemicals from contaminated groundwater or soil into an overlying building. In the past several months, the EPA received the first and second quarterly sampling results of a small vapor intrusion study in Harriman Park, located near the area of the underlying contaminated groundwater plume. Four soil gas and one crawlspace air samples were collected. EPA is reviewing the results to determine next steps.

Upcoming Milestones

- Walter Coke Progress Report (Oct. to Dec. 2013) — Jan 15, 2014
- Revised CMS for SMA#1 — Jan 24, 2014
- Quarterly groundwater and air sampling — Feb 2014
- Draft CMS for SMA #4 — Mar 24, 2014
- Draft CMS for SMA #5 — Sep 24, 2014

More Information

The EPA & Walter Coke AOC, maps of the cleanup areas, Walter Coke quarterly progress reports, and other documents can be found at: 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 (CMS) 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 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 N. Birmingham Environmental Collaboration Project and working with the N. Birmingham Community Coalition.

* = Draft Corrective Measures Studies submitted to EPA during 2013



Vapor Intrusion Study: Crawlspace and Soil Gas Ports