



UNITED STATES
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 3
STATEMENT OF BASIS
ALTA KITSON FARM
HENRY, VIRGINIA
EPA ID NO. VAD 000 447 623
FEBRUARY 11, 2009

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I. Introduction

A. Facility Name

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has prepared this Statement of Basis (SB) for the Alta Kitson Farm facility located at 7732 Henry Road, (Rt. 606 and Rt. 605), Henry, VA 24102 (hereinafter referred to as the Facility).

The Facility is subject to the Corrective Action program under the Solid Waste Disposal Act, as amended by the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) of 1976, and the Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments (HSWA) of 1984, 42 U.S.C. Sections 6901 to 6992k. The Corrective Action program is designed to ensure that certain facilities subject to RCRA have investigated and cleaned up any releases of hazardous waste and hazardous constituents that have occurred at their property.

Information on the Corrective Action program can be found by navigating <http://www.epa.gov/reg3wcmd/correctiveaction.htm>.

B. Proposed Decision

This SB explains EPA’s proposed decision that Corrective Action is complete and no land use controls are required for the Facility. EPA’s proposed decision is based on a review of EPA and Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VDEQ) files regarding the environmental history of the Facility as presented in the Final RCRA Site Visit Report submitted in January, 2008. Based on this review, EPA has concluded that there are no current or unaddressed releases of hazardous waste or hazardous constituents from the Facility.

C. Importance of Public Input

Before EPA makes a final decision on its proposal for the Facility, the public may participate in the remedy selection process by reviewing this SB and documents contained in the Administrative Record (AR) for the Facility. The AR contains the complete set of reports that document Facility conditions, including a map of the Facility, in support of EPA's proposed decision. EPA encourages anyone interested to review the AR. A copy of the AR is available for public review from the EPA Region 3 office, the address of which is provided in Section V, below.

EPA will address all significant comments received during the public comment period. If EPA determines that new information or public comments warrant a modification to the proposed decision, EPA will modify the proposed decision or select other alternatives based on such new information and/or public comments. EPA will approve its final decision in a document entitled the Final Decision and Response to Comments (FDRTC).

II. Facility Background

The Facility is located at 7732 Henry Road, (Rt. 606 and Rt. 605), in Henry, Virginia. The Facility is bordered by mostly rural property and farms. The Blue Ridge Talc Company's (Blue Ridge Talc) plant was the only industrial site in the area during the late 1990's, which is located across route 605 (North) of the Facility.

The Alta Kitson Farm is a horse farm that was used for a one time unpermitted disposal of hazardous paint wastes from the Blue Ridge Talc facility located across Route 605 (North) of the Facility (a formerly active manufacturer of latex and solvent based paint). The site consists of two parcels, one parcel of approximately 20 acres and another parcel that is approximately 40 acres.

III. Summary of Environmental History

Documentation indicates that the only waste streams historically generated at this property consisted of Investigation Derived Waste (IDW) including purge water.

Waste paints and thinners (xylene and toluene) were disposed at the property on April 13, 1993 by Blue Ridge Talc in a Former Farm Ditch Area that was located at the base of a small mountain and along the edge of a relatively flat pasture area. Near the middle of the ditch, a small mountain stream entered the ditch and flowed southeast toward Town Creek. According to the July 6, 1998 Surface Impoundment Closure Plan for this unit, waste disposal did not continue beyond April 13, 1993.

The Farm Ditch was a generally linear drainage ditch that appeared to have been created to divert stormwater away from a farmhouse and pasture. This unit was located along a ditch at the backside of a field on the Alta Kitson Farm. The ditch extended from the bottom of a small hollow behind the farmhouse, southeast approximately 600 feet along the edge of a pasture. Due to surface water run off of waste material, the impacted area was estimated to be 4 feet wide by 300 feet long, extending down gradient to the confluence of the ditch and a small mountain

stream (spring).

The occurrence of waste disposal practices at this site was determined based on review of waste disposal practice documentation, interviews of Blue Ridge Talc employees, review of Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) and Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) Title III Form Rs, first hand observations, and analysis of soil samples collected for priority pollutant analyses. The Closure Plan was approved by VDEQ on July 31, 1998.

According to the Surface Impoundment Closure Plan prepared by Olver Laboratories, dated July 6, 1998, the contents of approximately 20 drums were disposed of in the upper part of the ditch. The drums were reported to be partially full and contained water, paint solvents, and pigments. The liquids flowed by gravity toward the tributary of Town Creek entirely within the confines of the banks of the ditch.

Initial abatement activities were conducted within one week of the disposal event and consisted of the placement of oil absorbent booms and pads at strategic locations along the ditch and construction of an underflow dam near the confluence of the ditch with the receiving stream. No evidence was found indicating that contaminants reached or entered the stream.

Soil and surface water sampling performed in April and June 1993 revealed elevated levels of toluene, ethylbenzene, and xylenes in soil; concentrations ranged from non-detect to more than 5,000 mg/kg. A groundwater monitoring plan was being implemented at the time the July 6, 1998 Surface Impoundment Closure Plan was issued. Initial groundwater sampling results indicated there was no impact to groundwater. The Closure Plan indicated that it was unknown if contaminants were migrating on or offsite; however, it was believed that contaminants were sorbed onto soil particles and were being naturally attenuated.

The Closure Plan indicated that soil excavation would be conducted to achieve closure in the event that a statistical analysis of soil sampling results (based on a grid system) did not demonstrate closure. Excavation was to extend to a maximum depth to the seasonally low water table or bedrock; whichever was encountered first. Excavated soil was to be properly disposed of offsite. Closure was also to include groundwater monitoring. It is not clear when the excavation took place.

A letter from VDEQ to Ms. Kitson dated December 10, 2001, indicated that groundwater results demonstrated clean closure in the saturated soils at the Alta Kitson Farm. Constituents sampled at the site had not shown statistically significant increases above the upgradient well. The December 10, 2001 letter also indicated that the Alta Kitson Farm site would be considered clean closed for groundwater and soils once the closure certification reports were submitted to the VDEQ and approved. A February 5, 2002 letter from VDEQ to Ms. Kitson (discussing other issues relating to the Blue Ridge Talc Plant) reiterated the fact that the Alta Kitson Farm site would be considered clean closed for groundwater and soils once the closure certification reports were submitted to the VDEQ and approved.

Olver Laboratories (and Consulting Scientists) submitted Clean Closure Certifications for the Alta Kitson Farm to VDEQ on June 3, 2002 and indicated that clean closure certification was complete. On June 4, 2002, Blue Ridge Talc submitted a Closure Certification Report to VDEQ

for the Alta Kitson Farm. A July 19, 2002 letter from VDEQ to Ms. Kitson indicated that the Alta Kitson Farm had achieved clean closure.

IV. Evaluation of EPA's Proposed Decision

EPA has determined that its proposed decision for the Facility is protective of human health and the environment and that no further corrective action or controls are necessary at this time.

V. Public Participation

Interested persons are invited to comment on EPA's proposed decision. The public comment period will last thirty (30) calendar days from the date that notice is published in a local newspaper. Comments may be submitted by mail, fax, e-mail, or phone to Mr. Denis Zielinski at the address listed below.

A public meeting will be held upon request. Requests for a public meeting should be made to Mr. Denis Zielinski at the address listed below. A meeting will not be scheduled unless one is requested.

The Administrative Record contains all the information considered by EPA for the proposed decision at this Facility. To receive a copy of the Administrative Record, contact Mr. Denis Zielinski at the address below:

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