



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 5  
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD  
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF:

SE-5J

May 15, 2013

Ms. Gabriele Hauer, Chief  
Site Investigations Section  
Remediation Services Branch  
Indiana Department of Environmental Management  
100 N. Senate Avenue, IGCN 1101  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

RE: Baycote Metal Finishing Site  
1302 Industrial Drive  
Mishawaka, St. Joseph County, Indiana

Dear Ms. Hauer:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has completed time-critical removal actions at the Baycote Metal Finishing Site located at 1302 Industrial Drive, Mishawaka, St. Joseph County, Indiana. Marc Nelson with the St. Joseph County Health Department referred the Site to the EPA on November 21, 2011. At this time, EPA is referring the Site to IDEM for future remedial activities.

### **Background**

Baycote Metal Finishing (Baycote or the Site) began operation in 1982. The facility electroplated and anodized steel and steel casings with zinc, cadmium, and chromium for the automotive, recreational vehicle, and trailer industries. The facility ceased operations in January 2008, however, according to facility records approximately 111,000 gallons of waste remained on site at the time. In October 2009, the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) and the owner of the site entered into an Order to remove and dispose of all hazardous waste. However, work ceased and in February 2010, and according to Site records approximately 50,000 gallons of waste remained on-site.

### **Time-Critical Removal Actions**

At the request of the St. Joseph County Health Department, EPA conducted a Site Assessment in December 2011 and documented numerous drums, containers, and plating vats. Many of the drums and containers were labeled as acid, chromate, nitrate, hexavalent chrome, and cyanide; others contained unknown contents. EPA was negotiating a Unilateral Administrative Order with the Potentially Responsible Party, when the Potentially Responsible Party (PRP) presented an inability to pay argument and indicated that they did not intend to conduct a removal.

EPA began the time-critical removal action at the Site on May 29, 2012 and completed activities on May 13, 2013. Removal activities on Site included: Develop and implement a Site Health and Safety Plan and Site Security Plan; Develop and implement a Site Work Plan, a Sampling Plan, Air Monitoring Plan and a Site Emergency Contingency Plan; Inventory and perform hazard categorization on substances contained in vats, pits, drums, and other containers; Perform sampling and analysis to determine disposal options; Consolidate and package hazardous substances, pollutants, and contaminants for transportation and off-site disposal; Dismantle and decontaminate process equipment and building components associated with the plating areas, as necessary; Transport and dispose of all characterized or identified hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants to a RCRA/CERCLA-approved disposal facility in accordance with U.S. EPA Off-Site Rule (40 CFR § 300.440); and Take any other response actions to address any release or threatened release of a hazardous substance, pollutant and contaminant that the U.S. EPA OSC determined may pose an imminent and substantial endangerment to the public health or the environment. EPA completed all proposed actions outlined in the Action Memorandum.

### Next Steps

EPA's on-Site activities were completed on May 13, 2013. The Site may require additional remedial actions to address subsurface and groundwater. As such, EPA is referring the Site to IDEM. If you have any questions about the Site, please contact me at [Atkociunas.Paul@epa.gov](mailto:Atkociunas.Paul@epa.gov) or (312) 886-7502.

Sincerely,



Paul Atkociunas  
Federal On-Scene Coordinator

cc: Harry Atkinson