

# BULK CHEMICALS, INC. SITE

COMMUNITY UPDATE | **August 19, 2019**

## **U.S. EPA concludes response oversight at Bulk Chemicals, Inc.**

The Bulk Chemicals, Inc. Site is a chemical facility located on Mohrsville Road in Shoemakersville, Perry Township. On Sunday, June 9, 2019, the Shoemakersville Fire Company, Berks County Department of Emergency Services and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) responded to a spill of nitric acid at the facility. On Monday morning, June 10, the Shoemakersville Fire Company returned to respond to a fire in the building where the nitric acid was released. Some local residents were asked to evacuate their homes to ensure their health and safety during these events. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) arrived on Site on June 10 at the request of PADEP to provide assistance. EPA and PADEP coordinated with local agencies and Bulk Chemicals, Inc. (BCI) to assess conditions at the facility and oversaw site stabilization and cleanup efforts conducted by BCI and its contractors. EPA monitored air quality to ensure the safety of on-site workers and the nearby community during the stabilization. EPA also conducted residential drinking water well sampling.

## **What is going on at the Site?**

During the week of July 8, Site stabilization efforts were completed and Mohrsville Road was reopened. EPA concluded its response oversight and air quality monitoring on July 10. For the duration of the continuous air monitoring (June 11-July 10), air quality remained safe for residents.

PADEP is now overseeing the ongoing cleanup efforts by BCI and its contractors. Over the last month, efforts have focused on the cleanup of residual contamination at the facility and on the off-site disposal of waste. BCI and its contractors are working to complete the remainder of the cleanup and perform soil sampling based on PADEP's recommendations.

Final sampling results of the five residential drinking water wells sampled on June 17 show no impact from the spill. BCI will conduct a second round of sampling from these wells with PADEP oversight to ensure that they remain unimpacted from the spill.

## **What can I expect?**

- Continued cleanup activities and environmental sampling in and around the BCI facility through December 2019.
- Additional residential drinking water well sampling of homes adjacent to the facility.
- Continued coordination between PADEP and local officials throughout the remainder of the response.

## **QUESTIONS? Contact Us!**



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## BULK CHEMICALS, INC. SITE COMMUNITY UPDATE

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