

United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region III
POLLUTION REPORT

Date: Monday, October 19, 2020

From: Ann DiDonato

Subject: Precision National Plating Site
198 Ackerly Road, Clarks Summit, PA
Latitude: 41.5105000
Longitude: -75.7155000

POLREP No.: 100	Site #:
Reporting Period: 10/13/2020 tp 10/16/2020	D.O. #:
Start Date: 8/17/2020	Response Authority: CERCLA
Mob Date: 8/10/2020	Response Type: Non-Time-Critical
Demob Date:	NPL Status: Non NPL
Completion Date:	Incident Category: Removal Action
CERCLIS ID #: PAD053676631	Contract #
RCRIS ID #:	

Site Description

The Precision National Plating Site is located at 198 Ackerly Road, Clarks Summit, Pennsylvania, approximately 10 miles north of Scranton, Pennsylvania. The property measures 46 acres, approximately five acres of which were used for site operations and the remainder of which are undeveloped and largely wooded. A 45,000 square foot operations building that was demolished in 2000 was the principal structure on the site. Portions of the concrete slab floor remain and are utilized as a staging area for materials during cleanup.

The site began operation as a chromium electroplating facility for locomotive crankshafts in 1956. This operation continued when Precision bought the facility in 1971. Precision operated an industrial component reconditioning facility on site from 1971 until 1999. Site operations ceased in April 1999.

In September of 2005, EPA approved a Remedial Action Plan, submitted on behalf of Precision National Plating by the Retec Group. The Plan details procedures for use of calcium polysulfide to reduce the hexavalent chromium in the soils and groundwater to trivalent chromium, a less toxic form of chromium, which will precipitate and remain in the soil/bedrock matrix.

In July 2006, Precision injected calcium polysulfide into source areas at the site. The goal of the treatment was to reduce hexavalent chromium levels in soil to below 60 mg/Kg, and hexavalent chromium levels in Ackerly Creek to below 11 ug/L.

In March 2007, Precision began excavation of the basement of the former facility. The purpose of the removal was to mitigate impacts by potentially contaminated soils beneath the basement. Any visually contaminated soil and concrete encountered during the excavation was shipped offsite to an appropriate disposal facility.

Additional site investigation activities were performed in the Fall of 2007 and February/March 2008. The soil boring, rock coring and groundwater sampling activities completed in October 2007 and March 2008 confirmed that residual source contamination remains at the Site in the shallow weathered and competent bedrock (18 - 30 feet below the ground surface).

In August 2008, Precision began using calcium polysulfide in-situ chemical injections to treat these residual areas of contamination in the shallow bedrock. Hexavalent chromium levels dropped in Ackerly Creek due to chemical injection treatments in July 2006, the basement excavation in March 2007, and subsequent injection activities.

Precision and EPA signed an Administrative Settlement Agreement and Order on Consent on May 3, 2012. On July 30, 2012, Precision's contractor, Arcadis U.S. Inc, submitted a new Response Action Plan, detailing ongoing activities. Multiple rounds of calcium polysulfide injections were conducted between Fall 2012 and Fall 2018.

Between 2016 and 2020, semi annual and quarterly sampling events occurred to document hexavalent and total chromium levels throughout the site in absence of ongoing injection activities. Injections appear to have been effective at the former site footprint and nearby areas. Some hexavalent chromium continues to persist in isolated areas and further downgradient towards Ackerly Creek. The 2020 injection activities will focus on these remaining areas of hexavalent chromium.

Current Activities

Injections began on August 17, 2020 and will continue through the Fall 2020.

Early in the week, injection chemical influence was detected in hexavalent chromium impacted wells adjacent to Ackerly Creek, however, no further surfacing of injection chemical in the creek was noted. Injection locations were revised based upon this information and gravity-fed injections resumed on October 15, 2020.

During the week of October 11, 2020, a total of 1,564 gallons of 1% calcium polysulfide (CaSx) was gravity fed into sixteen wells.

24-hour air monitoring stations are operating at locations near Ackerly Creek and in the lagoon area which supplements handheld air monitors operated by site personnel during working hours. Air monitors measure hydrogen sulfide concentration, a byproduct of the injection chemical, with a lower detection limit of approximately 3 parts per billion (ppb). The hydrogen sulfide site specific action level for nuisance odors is 30 ppb. To date, no hydrogen sulfide was detected above the lower detection limit in any of the air monitoring stations.

Semi-annual well sampling was conducted during this week.

Planned Removal Actions

Injection activities will continue Monday to Friday into November 2020. These activities and associated sampling as described in the In-Situ Chemical Reduction Work Plan will continue.

As previously scheduled, downhole geophysical logging to evaluate the bedrock characteristics in newly installed wells will be completed during the week of October 19, 2020.

Next Steps

The next split sampling between EPA and Precision of Ackerly Creek is scheduled for January 2021.

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