

## VOLUNTARY RCRA CORRECTIVE ACTION GM POWERTRAIN-BEDFORD PLANT BEDFORD, INDIANA February 10, 2002

### INTRODUCTION

General Motors Corporation (GM) is undertaking Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Corrective Action at the GM Powertrain - Bedford Plant (Site) in Bedford, Lawrence County, Indiana under a voluntary agreement with U.S. EPA Region V, signed on March 20, 2001.

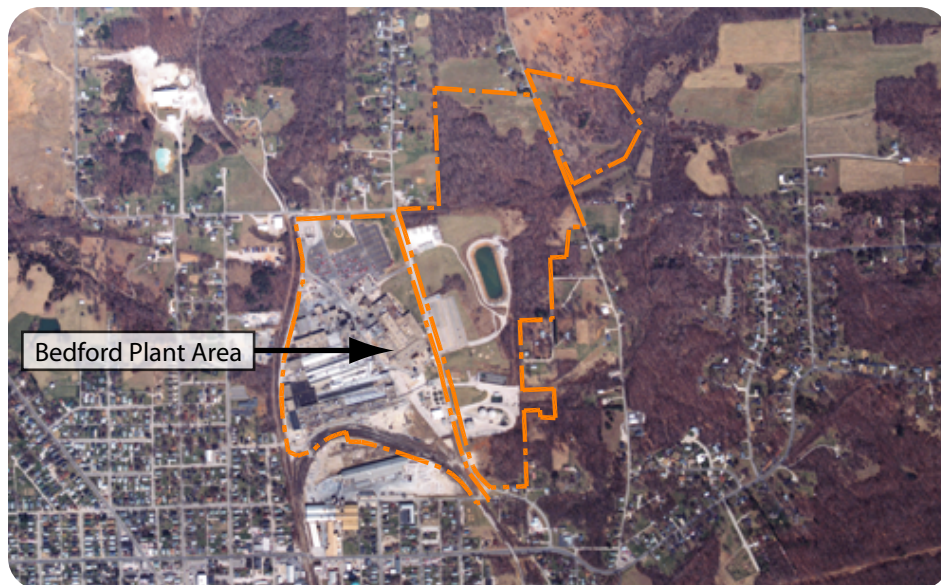
This is the third Project Fact Sheet that has been prepared to provide the community with information regarding activities being performed at the Site.

### SITE BACKGROUND

The Site is located at 105 GM Drive in Bedford, Indiana, on approximately 152.5 acres. The Site currently produces aluminum casting products, such as transmission casings, pistons, and engine blocks, within approximately one million square feet of operating floor space.

The Bedford Site was originally constructed in the early 1900's as a limestone milling operation. The U.S. Government purchased the mill in 1942, converting the Site to an aluminum aircraft engine foundry, which was operated by GM. GM purchased the property after World War II and has continued to operate the Site as an aluminum foundry as part of various GM operating divisions.

Project Fact Sheets will be issued periodically during the implementation of the Corrective Action program to keep the community informed of ongoing activities at the Site.



March 27, 2001 Aerial Photograph

### RCRA CORRECTIVE ACTION

The **Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA)** is a federal law that encourages recycling and requires responsible waste management in a manner that is protective of human health and the environment.

**Corrective Action** is a process through which the areas of a facility that may have been affected by the management of solid or hazardous waste, or releases of hazardous constituents, are evaluated and, if necessary, remediated.

**United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Region V** has signed a voluntary Agreement with GM for Corrective Action work at the Site.

**Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM)** is co-operating with U.S. EPA and GM (and providing review and comment) on the Corrective Action work being performed at the Site.

**United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)** is co-operating with U.S. EPA and GM (and providing review and comment) on the Corrective Action work being performed at the Site.

project fact sheet



Please direct any questions about this project to Ms. Kathy Bommarito of GM by phone (toll free) at 1-866-223-0856 or by e-mail at [kathy.bommarito@gm.com](mailto:kathy.bommarito@gm.com). U.S. EPA and IDEM contact information is provided on the next page.

## RCRA CORRECTIVE ACTION

Corrective Action is required for all facilities which applied for a permit to manage hazardous waste and is basically an evaluation of whether plant waste management operations have impacted the environment. Corrective Action is designed to identify and address any significant risks to human health or the environment resulting from the release of hazardous waste or hazardous constituents to environmental media such as soil or water. Under the terms of the voluntary agreement, GM is taking the lead role to investigate the Site and perform any needed remediation work. The scope of investigation and any required cleanup work is reviewed with U.S. EPA and is conducted according to standards that are protective of public health and the environment. IDEM and USFWS are also involved with the review and comment on project scope and data evaluation.

The Corrective Action process begins with a Current Conditions Report, which provides a summary of current Site environmental conditions at areas where wastes have been managed or stored with the potential for release to environmental media. The Current Conditions Report was completed and submitted to U.S. EPA and IDEM on May 25, 2001.

## RFI WORK PLAN

The next step in the Corrective Action process is a RCRA Facility Investigation (RFI). The RFI involves gathering information regarding possible releases of hazardous waste or hazardous constituents from waste management units and other areas of interest at the Site. During the RFI, environmental media, such as soil or water, are tested to determine if they have been affected by past operations. The first RFI Work Plan for initial on-Site activities was submitted to U.S. EPA and IDEM on October 29, 2001. Additional separate work plans addressing evaluation of off-Site issues were submitted to the U.S. EPA and IDEM prior to the main RFI Work Plan. These work plans included the Off-Site Well Survey and Sampling Work Plan and the Stream Investigation Work Plan.

## COMPLETED RFI FIELD ACTIVITIES

On July 25, 2001, GM began field work under the Off-Site Well Survey and Sampling Work Plan. GM teams interviewed over 380 owners of properties within a 1/2 mile radius of the Bedford Plant to locate wells and cisterns. Based on the results of the interviews, eleven groundwater samples were collected and analyzed. Results of this study have found one well (used for watering the lawn) which has low levels of PCBs (1.1 parts per billion). All property owners interviewed indicated that drinking water for the properties is supplied by the City of Bedford or the North Lawrence Water District.

GM completed a field reconnaissance of the area streams near the Bedford Plant in August 2001. Based on this reconnaissance, GM developed a plan for the collection of initial surface water, sediment, flood bank soil, and fish samples. The sampling work was completed on October 7, 2001. Sediment, stream water, bank soil, and fish samples were analyzed for a variety of chemicals. Results of the study indicated levels of PCBs in some of the samples to be at concentrations of concern requiring further testing and evaluation and in some cases taking precautionary measures. This testing is currently ongoing.

As a precaution, residents living near the streams, who are downstream from the Site, have been asked to not use the streams or the area that generally floods on their property. They have also been asked to keep pets and other animals they may own out of that area.

## ONGOING RFI FIELD ACTIVITIES

GM is working closely with the U.S. EPA, IDEM, and USFWS and is currently collecting samples from the operating Plant property. This work consists of collecting surface and subsurface soil and rock, groundwater, sediment, and surface water samples from various areas on the Plant property. In addition, new rounds of stream sampling are being conducted to further define PCBs in stream bank soil, sediment, and water. Testing of cattle that have had access to the stream is also occurring.

## UPCOMING RFI FIELD ACTIVITIES

Upcoming activities include both stream sampling and on-Site soil and water sampling. A tank cleaning project that is a Site maintenance activity and not part of the Corrective Action is anticipated to occur in the next few months. Residents may notice some increased truck traffic off of GM Drive at that time.

## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A Community Relations Plan has been prepared as part of the RCRA Corrective Action program. The purpose of the Community Relations Plan is to present GM's general approach to keeping the community informed of the findings and status of activities and to receive input from the community. Progress Reports are published every calendar quarter. An information repository has been established where project related documents, which includes the Community Relations Plan, are available for public review. The information repository is located at:

Bedford Public Library  
1323 K Street  
Bedford, Indiana  
Tel: (812) 275-4471

An information center will also be available at the Site for use by residents by appointment. This information center will be located in the GM Powertrain lobby at the Bedford Plant on GM Drive. Parking for the Information Center is available in the lot across the street from the lobby. Appointments can be made by contacting Kathy Bommarito toll free at 1-866-223-0856 (or by e-mail at [kathy.bommarito@gm.com](mailto:kathy.bommarito@gm.com)).

## CONTACT INFORMATION

If you would like more information about this project, please contact any of the following:

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