

VOLUNTARY RCRA CORRECTIVE ACTION GM POWERTRAIN-BEDFORD PLANT BEDFORD, INDIANA July 16, 2001

INTRODUCTION

General Motors Corporation (GM) and U.S. EPA Region V, under a Voluntary Agreement, are undertaking RCRA Corrective Action at the GM Powertrain - Bedford Plant (Site) in Bedford, Lawrence County, Indiana.

This is the second Project Fact Sheet that has been prepared to provide the community with information regarding activities to be 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 on the voluntary Corrective Action work being performed at the Site.

ENCORE, a wholly owned subsidiary of GM, will be performing Corrective Action work 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. U.S. EPA and IDEM contact information is provided on the next page.

RCRA CORRECTIVE ACTION

GM is currently conducting RCRA Corrective Action at the Site pursuant to a RCRA Voluntary Corrective Action Agreement between the U.S. EPA and GM, which became effective on March 20, 2001. 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. The Voluntary Agreement 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 will be reviewed with U.S. EPA and will be conducted according to standards that are protective of public health and the environment.

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 submitted to U.S. EPA and IDEM on May 25, 2001.

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, will be studied to determine if they have been affected by past operations. The investigation will collect information to determine whether remedial activities are needed and will help identify appropriate cleanup methods. The following initial RFI activities will be initiated in July 2001:

- Off-Site Well Survey and Sampling
- Stream Investigation

The Off-Site Well Survey and Sampling has been designed to determine whether groundwater wells are present within a radius of approximately 1/2 mile of the Site and if groundwater wells are present, to sample that water.

The Stream Investigation has been designed to evaluate surface water, sediment and flood bank soil quality in the nearby streams. In addition, the stream investigation will also look at fish in these streams.

These initial RFI activities will be followed by on -Site investigations and additional off-Site investigations, as necessary.

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. An information repository has been established where project related documents are available for public review. The information repository is located at:

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

CONTACT INFORMATION

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

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