

Cedar Chemical Company

STATE PRIORITY LIST SITE WEST HELENA, ARKANSAS



ADEQ
5301 Northshore Drive
North Little Rock, Arkansas 72118



EPA ID No: AR990660649
AFIN: 54-00068
County: Phillips
Arkansas Senate District: 16
Arkansas House District: 13
US Congressional District: 1

Current Status

In 2010, Quapaw LLC leased the property. Since then Quapaw has dismantled process units 2, 3, 4, and 6 and has sold or scrapped the equipment and building structures. Units 1 and 5 were retained for future use. Quapaw continues to clean up the site and provides site security and maintenance.

Unit 1 is operated by EnviroTech Industries for the production of peroxyacetic acid (PAA). PAA is stored in 300-gallon poly totes, loaded in trucks, and shipped to poultry companies to be used for chicken cleaning. Unit 5 will eventually undergo renovation to be used for chemical production.

The Governor of Arkansas has requested Cedar Chemical Corporation be placed on the National Priority List (NPL) using Arkansas's one state NPL site selection under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). This nomination has the support of the ADEQ, local citizens, stakeholders and elected officials. The site added to the NPL on September 15, 2012.

State Priority List History

Since operations began at the plant in the early 1970's, ADEQ has issued multiple consent administrative orders (CAOs) to prompt Cedar to comply with environmental regulations. Cedar Chemical filed for bankruptcy in March 2002 and plant operations were shut down. Unable to fulfill the obligations of the CAO, ADEQ placed the site on the State Priority List (SPL) of the Arkansas Pollution Control and Ecology Commission (APC&EC) Regulation No. 30 in October 2002 for the purposes of investigation and remediation.

Site Description

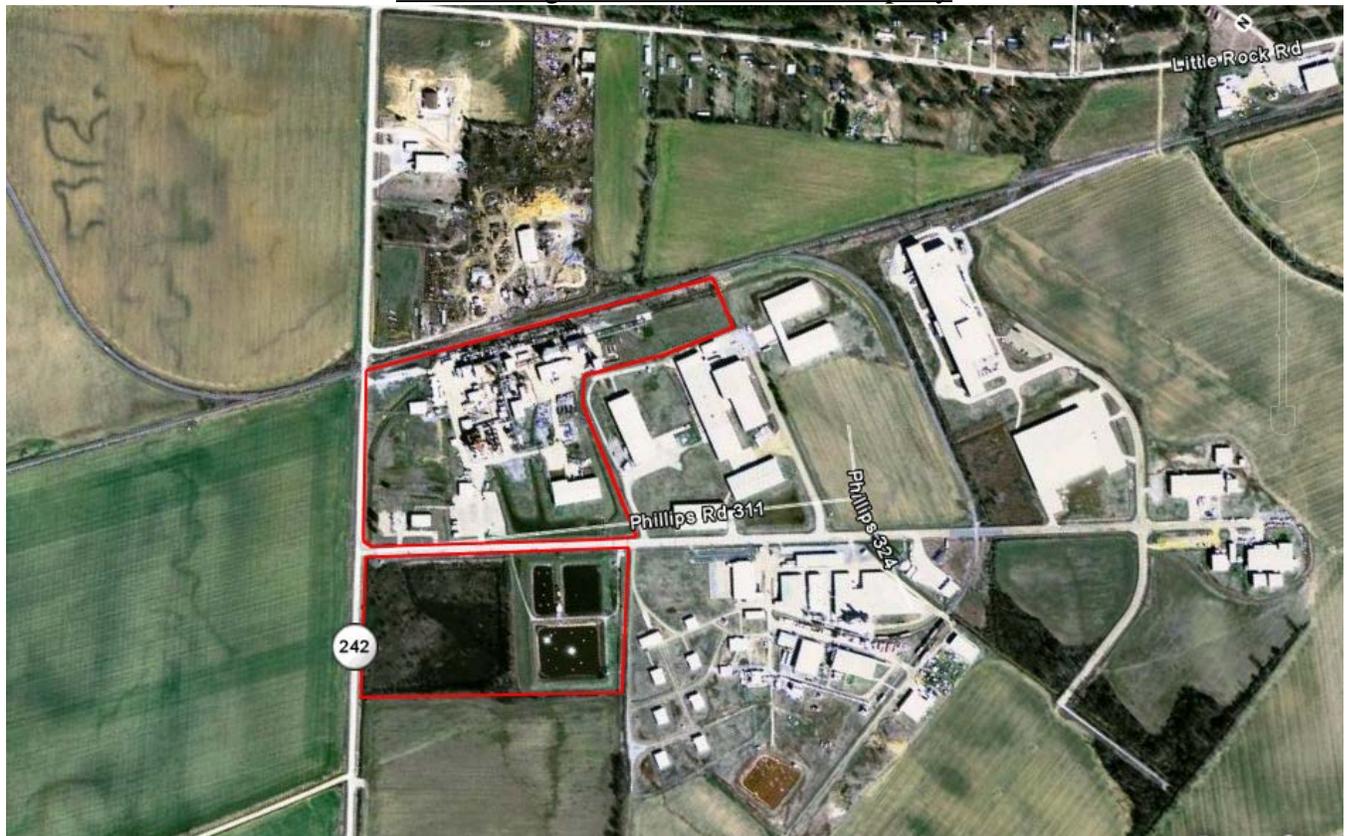
Location: The Facility is located just to the south of the city of Helena-West Helena, in Phillips County, Arkansas. The Facility consists of approximately 48 acres located within the Helena-West Helena Industrial Park, approximately 1.25 miles southwest of the intersection of U.S. Highway 49 and State Highway 242. The site address is 49 Phillips Road 311, Helena, Arkansas 74342.

Population: 2010 U.S. Census Bureau population estimate for Helena-West Helena: 12,282.

Setting: The Facility is bordered by farmland and other industrial park properties. State Highway 242 and a rail spur border its western and northern boundaries respectively. The onsite buildings on the Premises include an office complex, an R & D laboratory, a QA/QC Laboratory, various warehouse buildings, an employee changing station, truck scales, various process control rooms and Process Units 1 and 5. Other structures include three (3) wastewater treatment ponds no longer in service, and three (3) closed surface impoundments located between the manufacturing area and Highway 242.

Hydrology: The Site is bounded to the north by Caney Creek which flows generally to the west towards the Mississippi River. Surface water in the vicinity of Cedar Chemical drains to the southeast towards two unnamed tributaries which are flowing in a southwesterly direction.

Aerial Image Cedar Chemical Company



Waste and Volumes

Hazardous substances detected in soils at concentrations greater than risk-based screening criteria include Arsenic, Cadmium, Mercury, Aldrin, Dieldrin, Dinoseb, Heptachlor, Methoxychlor, Toxaphene, 3,4-Dichloroaniline, Propanil, Chloroform, 1,2-Dichloroethane, Methylene Chloride, and Pentachlorophenol.

Hazardous substances detected in groundwater at concentrations greater than risk-based screening criteria and/or Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) include Arsenic, Barium, Cadmium, Chromium, Lead, 4,4'-DDT, Alpha BHC, Aniline, 4-Chloroaniline, Chlorobenzene, 1,2-Dichlorobenzene, 1,3-Dichlorobenzene, Chloroethane, 1,4-Dichlorobenzene, 2,6-Dinitrotoluene, 3,4-Dichloroaniline, 4-Chlorozniline, Dinoseb, bis(2-Chloroethyl)ether, bis(2-Ethylhexyl) phthalate, 1,2-Dichloroethane, 4-Methyl-2-Pentanone, 2-Methylphenol, Acetone, Benzene, Chloroform, Vinyl Chloride, Methylene Chloride, Trichloroethene, 1,1,2-Trichloroethane, 1,2-Dichloropropane, Bromodichloromethane, Bromoform, Dibromochloromethane, and Toluene.

In summary, the surface soils and subsurface soils are contaminated with pesticides, volatile organics, and heavy metals. The onsite surface water bodies and groundwater are contaminated with volatile organics and heavy metals. The sediments are contaminated with pesticides and heavy metals.

Eighty (80) Solid Waste Management Units (SWMUs) (including approx. 30 sumps and 10 drum/drum storage/drum crushing areas) have been identified onsite to date that are deemed areas of concern.

Health Considerations

Site investigations have concluded significant impacts to surface soils, subsurface soils, surface water and groundwater. The chemicals used onsite in the processes included volatile organic compounds (VOCs), semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOCs), pesticides, and metals. These constituents have been detected in the respective media in concentrations greater than background. The levels detected are at concentrations that could continue to contribute to groundwater contamination and at levels which could pose an unacceptable risk to human health and/or the environment under various exposure scenarios.

ADEQ Response Actions

In October 2002, after Cedar filed for bankruptcy, ADEQ assumed control of the site. From 2002 until ADEQ leased the site to Quapaw LLC in 2010, ADEQ provided 24-hour site security, site maintenance, and maintained the on-site wastewater treatment plant with an operator to handle storm water runoff from the facility. Currently Quapaw provides security to the site.

In January 2003, USEPA Region 6 conducted a removal action and removed chemicals left at in tanks and containers. On March 22, 2007, ADEQ, pursuant to the authority of the Arkansas Remedial Action Trust Fund Act ("RATFA"), issued a Consent Administrative Order (CAO) LIS 07-027 to three primary responsible parties (PRPs):

- Tyco Safety Products-Ansul Incorporated, formerly known as Wormald US, Inc. (Ansul),
- Helena Chemical Company (Helena Chemical), and
- ExxonMobil Chemical Co., a division of ExxonMobil Corporation (ExxonMobil).

