

Marjol Battery Site Newsletter

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Consent Agreement Signed

On July 13, 2006, Gould entered into a Consent Order with USEPA and PADEP to design and implement USEPA's Final Remedy for the Marjol site. This Final Remedy is the remedy that was presented in USEPA's Final Decision which was announced on December 4, 2000 (see box below.) After the final decision was issued, there was an extensive review of USEPA's selection of corrective measures for the site by the USEPA's National Ombudsman. Out of its review, the National Ombudsman made recommendations that are being followed under the Corrective Measures Implementation Consent Order.

The signing of the new Consent Order was the first step in the Corrective Measures Implementation (CMI) Process. In an effort to move the process forward and allow a pre-design investigation to occur this construction season, Gould has already submitted its draft CMI Work Plan to USEPA and PADEP on July 21, 2006. Once the Work Plan is approved, it will be placed in the Site Repository.

The Work Plan provides a history of the site, and spells out how the design of the remedy will proceed. The CMI Work Plan also includes a Work Plan for a Pre-Design Investigation. The Pre-Design Investigation (PDI) is intended to supplement previous studies conducted at the Site to aid in designing the remedy for the Site. The PDI is discussed in more detail later in this newsletter.

EPA's Final Remedy

On December 4, 2000, USEPA, in consultation with PADEP, announced its final decision on a remedy for the Marjol Battery site. This remedy called for a combination of several actions:

1. Excavation of contaminated material from areas in the northern portion of the site, the North Woods, and wooded areas adjacent to the Woodlawn Street playground and consolidation into a central location on-site south of the Five-Foot coal seam.
2. Treatment of the uppermost layer of contaminated material.
3. Placement of a cap on top of the treated layer of contaminated material.
4. Off-site disposal of all contaminated soil and waste material exceeding 500 mg/kg lead which cannot be consolidated beneath a properly engineered cap.
5. Off-site sampling on residential properties to ensure that remedial activities have not caused off-site contamination.

Community Relations Activities

Community Forum – Throop Borough and the USEPA will hold a community forum on August 30th at 6 pm in the Throop Civic Center to discuss the Marjol Battery Site.

Marjol Web Site – We have a web site that you can go to for information regarding the Marjol site <http://www.marjolicleanup.com>. The web site provides:

- Site Background Information;
- Project Information (including air monitoring data) and Schedule;
- Meeting Information;
- Frequently Asked Questions;
- Contact Information; and
- Documents Relating to the Site

Contact Numbers—In addition to the Community Relations Office telephone number, Lisa Ayers, Gould's Community Relations Representative, can now also be contacted via cell phone at 570.249.0918.

The Pre-Design Investigation (PDI)

The Supplemental Mine Fire Investigation portion of the PDI is expected to begin the week of September 11, 2006 and will take approximately 2 to 3 weeks to complete. During that time frame, you may at times hear or feel the vibrations from the drilling that will be going on to investigate the mine seams below the site. There should not be much increase in truck traffic to the Site other than the drill rigs themselves, but you will probably see several passenger vehicles per day going into and out of the site as representatives from USEPA, PADEP, Gannett Fleming (formerly Throop Borough consultant and now a contractor to PADEP for this investigation), Gould, and AGC come and go. If you have any questions about this investigation, you are welcome to contact Gould's Community Relations Representative, Lisa Ayers. Lisa's contact information is provided at the end of this newsletter.

The PDI is divided into three separate investigations. The information in this newsletter focuses on the first investigation. More information on the remaining investigations will be presented in future newsletters.

Supplemental Mine Fire Investigation –

The primary objective of this investigation is to further evaluate the potential for a mine fire from two coal seams at the Site. Based on recommendations in the USEPA Ombudsman Final Report dated May 18, 2004, the USEPA, PADEP, Gould, AGC and Gannett Fleming agreed on specific criteria to further evaluate the potential for a mine fire to occur in two particular coal seams at the Marjol site (the Top Split of the Top Four Foot Coal Seam, and the Top Four Foot Coal Seam). Previous studies had concluded that once the contaminated materials were moved south of the Five-Foot coal seam, there was no risk of mine fire impacting the remedy at the site. Because of questions that were raised about these two particular seams during the Ombudsman review, this supplemental investigation is being performed.

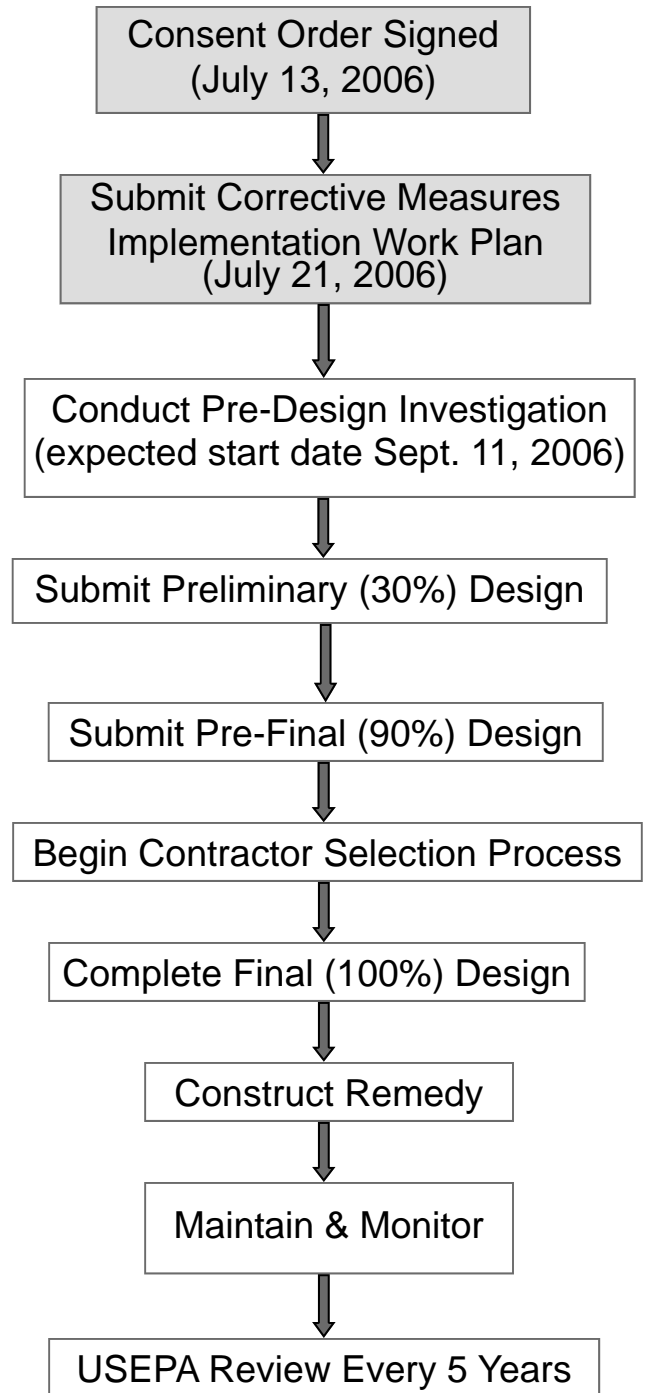
USEPA/PADEP's Final Decision requires that all contaminated material be moved south of the Five Foot Coal Seam or that a noncombustible barrier be constructed between the contaminated material and the Five Foot Coal Seam. Consequently, a secondary objective of the Supplemental Mine Fire Investigation is to better define the limit of the Five Foot seam for design purposes.

Seven borings will be drilled using sonic drilling methods. More information on the PDI can be found at <http://www.marjolicleanup.com>.

Schedule

The flow chart provides a general idea of the steps involved in the Corrective Measures Process. At this point in time we do not expect construction of the remedy to be completed before the end of 2009.

Corrective Measures Implementation Process



(NOTE: We will provide more information on specific steps as they occur.)

Summary of 2006 Annual Blood Lead Screening Program

The annual blood lead screening was conducted in two parts. Clinical Laboratories from Throop conducted the door-to-door screening during the week of July 10th. On July 19th and 22nd, blood lead screening was conducted in the Throop Borough Civic Center.

1) How was the participation in the 2006 screening?

Overall, a total of 35 individuals were tested: 21 from the door-to-door screening and 14 at the Civic Center. Of the 35 tested, 4 individuals or 11% were children 12 and younger.

To provide some reference:

Year	No. of Participants	No. (%) Participants Children 12 yrs. and younger
2000	66	4 (6%)
2001	55	7 (13%)
2002	62	6 (10%)
2003	26	3 (12%)
2004	36	7 (19%)
2005	24	3 (13%)
2006	35	4 (11%)

2) What does my blood lead result mean?

The blood lead reports sent by Clinical Laboratories indicate the following blood lead reference numbers: "In general, for an adult (or older child), a blood lead level under 25 is considered within the reference range. For a child, a blood lead level under 10 is considered within the reference range. The OSHA regulatory level for workplace exposure is under 40 ug/dL."

This year, and every year since 1997, there has been no child (aged 12 and under) tested with a result above 5 ug/dL. For the past 5 years, no adult has tested above 10 ug/dL.

3) What was the average blood lead level for those tested this year?

The overall average blood lead level this year was 2.9 ug/dL. The average blood lead level for the children (12 and under) tested was 3.3 ug/dL. Of the other individuals tested (age 13 and older), none tested above 7ug/dL.

Ongoing Monitoring Activities

Water and Sediment Sampling - The Storm Water Management Basin and the Lackawanna River continue to be tested quarterly. Sediment and surface water samples continue to show that the site has no impact on the Lackawanna River water or sediment quality.

Air Monitoring - Regular air monitoring (every six days) continues to be conducted at the Site. All results indicate that air lead levels at the Site are similar to background. In April of 2004, PADEP set up two high volume air samplers at existing air monitor locations #1 and #4. PADEP continues to run its air samplers concurrently with Gould's air samplers on a quarterly basis. PADEP's air monitoring results have been consistent with those from Gould's high volume air samplers.

Weekly Site Walks and Monthly Site Visit Reports - Weekly Site walks and monthly Site visit reports continue to be performed and prepared.

Monitoring Reports

In the past, reports for the ongoing monitoring have been attached to the Marjol Bi-monthly Progress Reports. Under the new Consent Order, Quarterly Progress Reports will be submitted to the agencies (USEPA and PADEP) in place of the Bi-Monthly Progress Reports. The first of these will be submitted on November 15, 2006. Monitoring information will now be a part of the Quarterly Progress Reports.

Note: Copies of the Bi-monthly Progress Reports and in the future, the Quarterly Progress Reports, may be reviewed at the Throop Municipal Building Repository, at the Marjol Community Relations Office located at 502 George Street in Throop, or at the Marjol web site <http://www.marjolicleanup.com>.

Site Maintenance Activities

Gould's site maintenance contractor, TEEM Environmental Services, Inc., recently completed its second round of grass cutting activities for this Season. In addition to grounds maintenance, the following site maintenance activities were also performed:

- Constructed temporary roadways to provide access to the drilling locations for the Pre-Design Investigation;
- Placed stone and regraded the decontamination pad area and basin haul road;
- Filled in ground hog holes with gravel, slurry mixture;
- Re-tied/re-folded sandbags on the hi-haz stockpile as necessary and pulled weeds growing in the sandbags;
- Removed woody shrubs from the rip-rap channels;
- Re-attached a small section of plastic fencing outside the back door of the decontamination trailer.

Contacts

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Repository Location

Marjol Battery Site Repository

The repository is located at the Throop Borough Municipal Building, 436 Sanderson Street, Throop, PA and is open Monday through Friday 9 am to 4 pm.

Do you want to be added to our lists?

If you would like to be added to the Marjol Battery site newsletter mailing list or the website changes list, please contact Lisa Ayers via e-mail, telephone, or fax or you can submit your address information on our web site at <http://www.marjolcleanup.com>.

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