

FMC to remediate limited areas near Middleport plant, conduct additional studies

FMC Corporation, in cooperation with the federal and state government regulatory agencies, today announced plans to remove and replace soils from 14 residential properties near the FMC Middleport Plant.

From the 1920's to 1974, pesticide products containing arsenic were produced at the Middleport plant by FMC and predecessor companies. Due to historic flooding and surface water runoff, the soils on portions of these 14 properties contain levels of arsenic that are above background values. As a result, FMC and the agencies have determined that the soils on these 14 properties should be remediated at this time.

The 14 properties are located to the west of the plant in the historic water drainage pathway from the plant. Ten of the properties are adjacent to the plant on South Vernon Street, and four (two on South Vernon Street and two on Main Street) are traversed by an existing sewer line that formerly conveyed storm and other waters from the plant. FMC will also remove the sewer line and soils surrounding the line and replace the active portion of the line from South Vernon Street to Main Street.

In addition, FMC announced that it plans these other environmental projects for 2003:

- ♦ FMC will conduct additional sampling of properties along a tributary to Jeddo Creek and a drainage culvert that runs from the ditches at the northern border of the FMC plant property to the tributary. These streams received surface water discharges from the plant site over the years. Some areas along the tributary south of Pearson Road and along the culvert were sampled in fall 2002. The results were varied, with some findings at or below background and others above. The sampling in 2003 will allow FMC and the agencies to further define the levels and extent of arsenic in properties adjacent to these streams and to evaluate areas where future remedial actions may be warranted. Sampling along the tributary north of Pearson Road is planned for 2004.

- ♦ FMC will undertake a bio-monitoring program for village residents in the summer and fall of 2003 to assess levels of arsenic in urine.



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with your questions, comments or concerns.

remediation and additional sampling... continued

Participation will be on a voluntary basis. As part of this program, FMC plans to collect samples of soils from the yards of persons participating in the program.

- ♦ FMC will install fencing between the Roy-Hart School property and the northern ditch that runs beside the railroad tracks at the northern border of the FMC plant property. FMC will also repair any animal burrows or other penetrations of the cover that FMC previously installed in the ditches on both sides of these tracks.

FMC is coordinating the projects with the appropriate agencies, including the United States Environmental Protection Agency, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, and New York State Department of Health, and discussing these projects with the property owners.

FMC will meet on a regular basis with the owners and residents of the properties that were sampled in 2002. The owners and residents of the properties sampled in 2002 have also been invited to attend meetings of the Middleport Community Advisory Panel hosted by FMC. FMC and the agencies will hold a public information session for the community on the remediation, sampling, and bio-monitoring projects on Mon., June 9 at 7 p.m. at the Roy-Hart Jr./Sr. High School auditorium.

SOIL REMOVAL PROJECT

The 14 residential properties that are proposed for soil removal this summer had been included in limited sampling of residential areas near the plant in the early 1990's. Those sampling results, provided to property owners at the time and published in reports submitted to the agencies and available in public information repositories, did not indicate any immediate health threats according to the public health risk experts FMC consulted or the agencies.

In 2002, FMC and the agencies conducted a study of the levels of arsenic that might be expected in soils due to natural conditions or sources other than the Middleport plant ("background"), and also undertook a further sampling program that included the 14 properties. As a result, the background values have been recalculated. In addition, while many of the sampling results were consistent with the previous findings on the 14 properties, there were also some findings of significantly higher values, mostly in subsurface soils several feet below the ground surface.

Total work on the 14 residential properties is expected to take eight to ten weeks. FMC will provide relocation assistance for property owners and residents during the up to two weeks time that excavation and backfilling work will be performed on their individual properties.

FMC MIDDLEPORT PROGRAM

The FMC Middleport plant has not produced arsenic-based pesticides since 1974. Since 1985, it has not manufactured chemicals, but has only formulated and packaged ingredients for FMC agricultural products. FMC initiated studies in the early 1970's as to the presence and levels of arsenic in soils, surface water and groundwater at the plant.

The FMC Middleport plant has operated in accordance with New York State controls and permits regulating wastewater discharge since those requirements went into effect in the 1970's, and implemented controls under the federal waste management program after regulations were adopted in 1980.

FMC and the agencies have set priorities in studying and addressing on-site and off-site areas based on considerations such as levels of arsenic, potential for exposure and whether the areas were potential source areas for arsenic migration. The work that has been undertaken has included:

- ♦ installation of a cover on soils for the north side of the plant site;
- ♦ construction and operation of a series of groundwater extraction wells and interceptor trenches on the plant site;
- ♦ excavation of surface soils and installation of a liner and soil cover on the northern ditches;
- ♦ removal of soils from behind the south bleachers at the Roy-Hart Jr./Sr. High School; and
- ♦ removal of soils and restoration of the football field and track area and adjoining areas at the Roy-Hart Jr./Sr. High School.
- ♦ purchase of the property to the northwest and north of the plant from Conrail, and extension of the north side cover and security to this property.

After the completion of the Roy-Hart schoolyard project, the fall 2002 sampling program was conducted to better evaluate soil arsenic levels in several other areas near the FMC Middleport plant site, including the 14 residential properties in the historic water drainage pathway from the plant.

CAP asks for bio-monitoring study

by Brian Vain, Plant Manager



A few months ago at a meeting of the Middleport CAP, one member asked if a health study had been done in Middleport to see whether the arsenic levels in our soil are causing increased exposure. It was a good question, and it put FMC into motion.

While a study of school children was done in 1986 and found that there was no increased exposure to arsenic when compared to a control group of children in the Albany area, the Agencies now say the study is outdated.

FMC has proposed to conduct a new bio-monitoring study of a much larger sample of Middleport residents, in fact, as many as want to take part in it. The study would detect and measure trace concentrations of arsenic in urine samples from Middleport residents.

Levels of arsenic in urine would be compared to levels to what we know are considered standard levels of arsenic in urine. The results would help us better understand the levels of arsenic that people in Middleport are exposed to in a scientific way.

The planning and design of the study will involve experts from a panel of independent consultants including academic institutions.

The procedures proposed for collection and analysis of the data would be thoroughly reviewed by a multi-stakeholder committee, including CAP members and other Village residents.

The investigation and analysis will be thoroughly reviewed by leading independent scientists in the field as well as scientists from the New York State Department of Health and from FMC.

Are you exposed to more arsenic due to the slightly elevated levels of soil in Middleport? FMC doesn't think so and we encourage all Village residents to participate in the study and find out for yourselves.

For more information about bio-monitoring from the American Chemistry Council and the Centers for Disease Control go to:

www.accnewsmedia.com/site/page.asp?TRACKID=&VID=1&CID=251&DID=952

OR

www.accnewsmedia.com/site/page.asp?TRACKID=&VID=1&CID=251&DID=952



How a bio-monitoring study works

■ Study Design

A team of professional, community members, etc. makes plan for study.

■ Community Education

Information is shared with the community about the study.

■ Identify Participants

Focus on young children aged 0-6 years. Encourage all residents to be included.

■ Collect Samples

Deliver and then collect urine collection kits from participants. Soil and/or indoor dust will be sampled from participants' homes.

■ Analyze Samples

Collection kits and soil samples are brought to qualified lab for analysis.

■ Evaluate Results

Examine results of urinary and soil sampling.

■ Follow-up

Deliver results to participants and answer questions.

*To review documents related to environmental activities at the plant, visit the FMC repository at the Middleport Free Library
9 South Vernon Street
Middleport, NY 14105
(716) 735-3281*

Postal Customer

FMC donates \$8,640 to United Way



John Merrimen, co-chair of the FMC Middleport plant's 2002 United Way Campaign, presents George Bidleman, Campaign Chair of the Western Orleans United Way, a donation check from the FMC Middleport employees. Plant personnel contributed \$5,400 to the Orleans and Eastern Niagara United Ways. An additional \$3,240 was donated by FMC Corporation as part of a matching funds program for a total of donation \$8,640 to the United Way.

New equipment installed

Bob Wilcox, FMC Middleport Plant Engineer, alongside the new boiler he recently installed.

The boiler is much smaller than the boiler that previously was in operation during all four seasons. The smaller, more efficient boiler can be used during the summer months when less heating capacity is required. This means energy savings for the Middleport facility.

The larger boiler will be used in the colder months when there is greater demand.



Vain speaks at Barker Lions Club

Brian Vain, FMC Plant Manager, spoke at the March 5 meeting of the Barker Lions Club. He updated the club on current plant activities, community outreach programs and its FMC Middleport's most recent environmental programs. Club members were interested in the 2002 Gasport and Middleport soil sampling programs and what the results of studies mean.

