

Community Update

For FMC Corporation's Agricultural Products Group, Middleport, New York Plant

Issue 1 ♦ Fall 1998

A Message from FMC

This Community Update is the first in a series of newsletters that we at FMC are publishing to keep the community informed of environmental activities related to the Middleport plant. We take pride in being a contributing member of the community and are committed to working with residents, local officials, and the regulatory agencies to ensure that human health and the environment are protected. This Community Update provides background information about our Middleport plant and our environmental investigations and activities to date. In addition, it explains the regulatory process under which we are conducting our environmental activities, as well as lets you know what future activities are planned. We have an open door at FMC, so please feel free to call us at (716) 735-3761, Ext. 202 or Ext. 364 if you have any questions.

—Stu Throop, Plant Manager

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Planned Soil Removal Project

As many of you may know, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the New York State's Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and Department of Health (NYSDOH) have directed FMC to develop a plan to remove soil at the Royalton-Hartland schoolyard. The agencies' request was based on soil sampling results at the schoolyard and the findings of a recent EPA baseline human health risk assessment that evaluated the potential health risks related to the presence of arsenic in schoolyard soils. To eliminate the potential for long-term health risks, FMC will excavate and renovate facilities in the schoolyard areas that the agencies have identified. FMC will prepare and submit, in a timely manner, a work plan that outlines the project in detail. The agencies and

FMC met on September 17th to refine the scope of work and timeframe for the schoolyard project.

Currently, the possibility of people coming into contact with arsenic in soil is minimized because the football field and track area are covered with grass, and the running track is covered with cinders. The goal of the soil removal project is to eliminate the possibility of people coming into contact with arsenic in the soil in the future.

FMC expects that the soil removal project at the school will begin in June 1999, after the 1998-1999 school year is over. The agencies and FMC are working closely with school district officials to coordinate the soil removal activities, to provide them with the opportunity to give their input to the project, and to ensure that disruptions are minimized.

According to Paul Bona, Jr., Superintendent of Schools for the Royalton-Hartland Central School District, "The school system's goal for this project is to assure a healthy environment for the students. The School Board is confident that the community's concerns will be addressed and that the appropriate steps will be taken. Until the removal work begins, we will continue to use the athletic field for home games and will relocate team practices to other areas, so that we can minimize wear and tear of the playing field."

Prior to making any final decisions as to the exact scope of the schoolyard project, the agencies will hold a public meeting this fall to provide further information, to answer any questions, and/or to address any concerns.

Plant Background

The Middleport plant is part of FMC's Agricultural Products Group (APG) and occupies 90 acres in Middleport, New York. The plant serves as a formulating ("mixing") and packaging plant for crop protection products. Originally founded in 1904, the plant was purchased as the Niagara Sprayer Company, by FMC in 1943 and was the headquarters for its agricultural products business until 1975, when the headquarters was moved to Philadelphia. From about 1928 to 1985, the Middleport plant manufactured, mixed, and packaged pesticide products. Since 1985, the plant has only mixed and packaged these products.

Today, the Middleport plant is one of FMC's largest agricultural products plants. Pesticide products are delivered to Middleport from FMC's Baltimore, Maryland, and Institute, West Virginia, plants by truck and rail car. These products are mixed according to strict standards into more than 70 different products and then packaged in containers ranging from 0.3-ounce bags to 5,000-gallon tank trucks. These products are used on nearly 100 different crops in more than 75 countries around the world.

Environmental History

FMC has been investigating environmental conditions at and near the Middleport plant under the oversight of the EPA and the NYSDEC since the early 1970's. Prior to the mid-1970's, the plant managed many of the wastes from the production and formulation of pesticide products on the plant site, including storage, treatment, and disposal in lagoons (impoundments) or on land (in landfills and trenches dug into the soil). Until 1974, these products and wastes included pesticides containing arsenic, a common ingredient at the time.

Even though the plant stopped making arsenic-based pesticides and managing wastes from these processes on the property, materials from these past practices have moved into soil and groundwater under the plant. In addition, storm water and snow runoff have caused some materials to move from the plant property to properties to the west of the plant, and to streams and ditches near the plant. While studies have been underway, several sizeable environmental protection projects have been undertaken and completed (see page 5 for details).



"FMC has been working cooperatively with the agencies and is interested in moving forward together in the best interest of the community. The soil removal project at the school provides us all with the opportunity to bring to closure concerns about the Royalton-Hartland schoolyard." — Stu Throop, FMC Middleport Plant Manager. The FMC Middleport plant (center) and surrounding area. The Royalton-Hartland schoolyard is located at the top of the picture, directly above the plant.

Environmental Investigations

Using the test results from extensive environmental investigations at and near the plant, FMC has prepared and submitted a draft RCRA Facility Investigation (RFI) report to the NYSDEC and EPA. These investigations included:

- Installing 120 groundwater monitoring wells both on and off of the plant property;
- Performing 40,000 chemical tests on soil and groundwater samples; and
- Collecting and testing 2,000 soil samples on and adjacent to the plant.

The RFI summarizes the results of soil, groundwater, surface water, and sediment tests for materials related to past practices at the plant. The RFI includes nearby properties, such as the Royaltan-Hartland School property and drainage areas between the plant and Jeddo Creek, which may have been impacted by plant air emissions or runoff from the plant property.

Results

The results of FMC's investigations show that some materials (arsenic, methylene chloride, and chlorinated pesticide compounds) from the production of pesticides and herbicides affect

groundwater and soil on the plant property and nearby properties.

What's Next?

FMC is preparing a work plan for the soil removal project at the Royaltan-Hartland schoolyard. In addition, FMC is working with the agencies to finalize the RCRA Facility Investigation (RFI) for the plant and surrounding area in the coming months. After the RFI is complete, a Corrective Measures Study (CMS) will be conducted that describes and compares methods that could be used to clean up impacted areas.

Human health and ecological risk assessments for the Middleport community will be conducted as part of the CMS for the plant and surrounding area to help determine the need for any additional clean-up activities. The CMS process considers both present and future land use. FMC is committed to taking the appropriate actions to ensure the continued protection of human health and the environment.

FMC is continuing to conduct environmental activities at and near the plant. FMC also plans to conduct a further survey of private wells in the vicinity of the plant to update the information that was previously collected in the 1980's and in 1990. While Village of Middleport residences do not use private wells for their supply of drinking water, this information is useful as part of the investigation and CMS.

What is RCRA?

The Federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, known as RCRA, was enacted in 1976 by Congress to protect human health and the environment and to conserve valuable material and energy resources by encouraging recycling. One important part of RCRA is the establishment of "cradle-to-grave" management and tracking of hazardous waste, from generation, to transportation, to treatment, storage, and disposal. The NYSDEC is the agency that manages the federal RCRA program in New York. FMC's Middleport plant is a generator of hazardous waste and adheres strictly to the RCRA regulations.

Part of the RCRA permit program includes corrective action provisions for the cleanup of releases of hazardous wastes from disposal areas such as impoundments, tanks, and storage areas. The Middleport plant is subject to RCRA Corrective Action requirements. In recent years, we have conducted the majority of our investigative and clean-up activities under the RCRA Corrective Action Program. The RCRA Corrective Action Program includes the following steps:

- ◆ RCRA Facility Investigation (RFI)—a study that identifies areas potentially impacted by historical waste management practices and determines whether further steps are needed;
- ◆ Corrective Measures Study (CMS)—a study that identifies and evaluates clean-up methods that could be used to clean up impacted areas identified in the RFI; and
- ◆ Corrective Measures Implementation (CMI)—the actual implementation of the approved clean-up method(s) that was selected based on the CMS.

Community Advisory Panel (CAP) Corner

FMC is committed to building and maintaining an open dialogue with the community. As part of this process, FMC sponsored the formation of a Community Advisory Panel (CAP) in March 1998 to work with the company on plant safety issues, environmental conditions, and community interests. The CAP consists of people from the area who have a variety of backgrounds, from high school students, to a minister, to small business owners. CAP members serve three-year terms. The CAP meets on the fourth Wednesday once a month or every other month, as necessary. Since March, the CAP has met each month.

Recent CAP meetings have included a plant tour and have covered topics such as: past and present operational and environmental activities at the plant; business updates; and FMC's environmental and safety records. Most recently, the CAP received a full briefing on environmental activities at the plant and surrounding area, and heard a site risk assessment presentation from FMC's technical consultant.

CAP Membership

CAP members represent their personal concerns and those of the community, and are serving three-year terms.

The 1998-2001 Middleport CAP:

Greg Bass	Jason Driscoll	Denny McAvoy	Rev. Andy Pollack
Mike Chapman	John Grabowski	Ed McCabe	Butch Rhinehart
Thurston Dale, DVM	Mary Grabowski	Julie Maedl	Jamie Shafer
Larry Demmin	Herb Keonig	Ryan Pierson	John Swick
			Judy Silsby

Business Bits

We are proud of the contribution we make as citizens in our communities. At the Middleport plant, we work to make products, which help protect and increase the world's food supply. The impact of our successful efforts to produce agricultural products is felt in many countries throughout the world.

The Importance of Crop Protection

The products made in Middleport are crop protection products that play a major role in the farmer's ability to produce food and raw materials that we use in everyday life. Crops in the United States alone must compete with over 10,000 species of insects, 1,500 plant diseases, 1,800 varieties of weeds, and 1,500 nematodes (underground parasites). Without the use of products like those made at Middleport, food production in this country alone could drop by as much as one third, causing retail food prices to soar

and creating a shortage of many foods consumed here and abroad.

The Products Made in Middleport

The products made in Middleport play a huge role in helping farmers successfully protect vital food crops. A major product we produce is Furadan[®] Insecticide-Nematicide, used worldwide in more than 80 countries to help grow more and better food products, reducing production losses to insects by up to 50 percent per year. Furadan[®] effectively protects such crops as corn, sorghum, bananas, coffee, tobacco, sunflowers, alfalfa, soybeans, sugarcane, rice, sugar beets, and cotton against yield-robbing insects and nematodes.

Another important Middleport product is Command[®] Herbicide, which increases the efficiency of farmers by effectively controlling a variety of weeds in a single application. Worldwide, Command[®] is applied for weed control in soybean, cotton, rice, and other vegetable crops.

We have enjoyed the commercial success of making some of the most effective crop protection products in the world. We also take our responsibilities for producing these products seriously. From the initial design of products, we devote our attention to ensuring their safety to people, wildlife, and the environment. The production at the Middleport plant is subject to stringent health and environmental standards and undergoes a meticulous and extensive testing process. The plant's operations are subject to both state and federal regulatory oversight to demonstrate compliance with these standards.

FMC's Commitment

We at Middleport have a commitment to being the best at what we do. This includes a commitment to both safety and quality in our plant, and to producing products, which are the best of their kind. The fact is that we have spent years at this location striving to meet the needs of our customers and have also spent those years as proud members of the Middleport community.

Our role in Middleport is not simply a matter of money spent in the community. Our employees participate in United Way activities, the Boy Scouts, and area churches. Several of our employees also serve as firefighters for their local volunteer fire departments. Through our community leadership and the many important contributions made possible by being a responsible employer, we try to positively influence the community's quality of life. We also have special relationships with Royalton-Hartland Central schools and are involved in the Eastern Niagara and Medina Chambers of Commerce.

We are also committed to operating the plant in a manner that gives the community and our customers the benefits of our products without compromising safety or the protection of the environment. After all, we also live in the community. Our goals and commitments assure our own safety, as well as that of our families and our neighbors. We realize in going to work each day that our job performance is directly tied to the well being of our loved ones and the community in which we live.

Did You Know?

- ✓ FMC pays over \$130,000 in local taxes and is the largest taxpayer in the Middleport community.
- ✓ FMC supplies 68 full-time jobs and currently pays over \$3 million in salaries.
- ✓ It is estimated that three additional full-time jobs are created in the regional economy for every full-time FMC job.

FMC's Efforts to Protect the Environment

Over the past 25 years, FMC has taken several actions to protect the environment, including:

- Installing a water treatment plant that collects and treats rain water, snow melt, and groundwater from the northern half of the property. The water treatment plant treats approximately 50 million gallons of water a year;
- Installing subsurface drains, sumps, extraction wells, and trenches to collect groundwater and send it to the water treatment plant;
- Constructing a clay and asphalt cover over impacted soil areas on the northern half of the property; and
- Excavating soil with elevated levels of arsenic from the area behind the bleachers at the Royalton-Hartland Central School football field, the ditches on both sides of the railroad tracks located immediately north of the plant property, and the areas between FMC's property and the school grounds. This soil was buried on FMC's property and the excavated areas were filled in with clean material.

For Further Information

FMC has been a member of the Middleport community for over 50 years and is committed to properly addressing environmental issues related to our plant. FMC will continue to work with the community, local officials, and the agencies throughout this process. If you have any questions about environmental activities at the plant, or are interested in learning more about the plant or our CAP, then please feel free to contact: Mr. Robert Wojcik, FMC Corporation, Agricultural Products Group, 100 Niagara Street, Middleport, NY 14105 (716) 735-3761, Ext. 202



FMC Corporation, Agricultural Products Group
100 Niagara Street
Middleport, NY 14105

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Occupant

Community Involvement

RCRA provides opportunities for public involvement. The public will have an opportunity to comment on FMC's soil removal project at the Royalton-Hartland schoolyard, the RCRA Facility Investigation, and any Corrective Measures Studies. The NYSDEC will hold a public meeting this fall to give the community opportunity for formal input on the soil removal project.

So that the community will have an opportunity to review documents related to FMC's RCRA activities, document repositories have been established. Copies of the technical reports detailing the environmental work related to FMC's Middleport plant can be found in the following document repository locations:

Middleport Free Library
9 South Vernon Street
Middleport, NY
(716) 735-3281

Lee-Whedon Memorial Library
The West Avenue Corner North
Medina, NY
(716) 798-3430

NYSDEC's Buffalo Office
270 Michigan Avenue
Buffalo, NY
(716) 851-7220

Please contact these repositories for convenient times to review documents.