



Agricultural Products Group, Middleport, N.Y.

Project Update

May 2007

FMC Proposes Remedial Action in 2007 for Middleport Residential Properties

Timed in Conjunction with Soil Removal on a Nearby Vacant, Wooded Property, Project is Start of Work in Area Potentially Impacted by Historic Air Deposition

Approach to be Less Intrusive Than Used for 2003 Vernon Street Project

FMC Corporation, in cooperation with government regulatory Agencies (New York State Department of Environmental Conservation [NYSDEC], the New York State Department of Health [NYSDOH], and the United States Environmental Protection Agency [USEPA]), has proposed to remove and replace soil this year from up to 13 residential properties near the FMC Middleport Plant in conjunction with work planned on a nearby vacant, wooded property formerly used for industrial purposes.

The proposed project, which is an additional 2007 "Early Action," is part of FMC's approach in response to the community's desire for faster resolution of the Middleport environmental program. The proposed project represents the beginning of work expected over the next few years to address residential properties in the area where soils were potentially impacted by air depositions as a result of historic plant operations involving the production and handling of arsenical compounds.

The residential properties proposed for remediation are along Park Avenue and are either adjacent to or near the largely wooded portion of the industrial area, located along the railroad tracks north of the FMC plant, which FMC recently announced it also proposes to remediate this year as an Early Action.

For this proposed project and any additional residential properties in the air deposition area identified for future remediation, FMC plans to use an effective approach but one less-intrusive than was used for the 2003 remediation of 14 properties west of the plant, primarily on Vernon Street. Those properties required deep soil excavation, in some cases up to 6 feet deep, requiring relocation of residents for up to two weeks.

To remediate the Park Avenue properties, only shallow soil is proposed to be removed and replaced, said Brian McGinnis, FMC's remediation project manager.

"Because the work doesn't require deep excavations, it will not present a problem for residents to safely access their homes," McGinnis said. "Residents will be able to stay in their homes during the work and go about their daily routines."

FMC intends to work with property owners and the Agencies in developing a customized remedial plan for each property.

Each plan will include an approach for removal of soils beneath and/or next to non-permanent structures, trees, shrubs, and other landscape features on property. Soil from beneath houses, garages, paved driveways, sidewalks, and other structures

with permanent foundations will not be removed.

FMC and the Agencies will also work with property owners to preserve trees or plantings on their properties.

In developing the less-intrusive approach, FMC took into consideration concerns raised by residents in 2003 and input from recent meetings with the Middleport Community Input Group (CIG) and Village officials.

FMC will work with the property owners included in this remedial project, surrounding residences, and the Village to minimize inconveniences, to provide safe access to and from homes while remediation is ongoing, and to successfully restore each property, he added.

AREA POTENTIALLY IMPACTED BY HISTORIC AIR DEPOSITION

From the 1920s to 1974, pesticide products containing arsenic were handled and produced at the Middleport plant by FMC and predecessor companies. In the course of these operations, there were air emissions and fugitive dusts containing arsenic that could have resulted in deposition of arsenic in some areas downwind.

The commercial/industrial property and the nearby residential properties are in this area that was potentially impacted by historic deposition. These residential properties were included among more than 200 residential properties in the historic air deposition study area that have been sampled or proposed for sampling in recent years.

Earlier this year, the Agencies notified 46 property owners in the historic air deposition study area that no further study or any remediation is required for their properties. FMC expects to review with the Agencies

the possibility that some other properties may receive a similar determination as the process progresses.

FMC is working with the Agencies, Village of Middleport, and Middleport CIG to finalize a proposal and timetable for addressing any remaining properties in the historic air deposition study area identified for remediation. The company expects to share the proposal and timetable with residents and the community later this year.

McGinnis said the residential properties that are proposed for soil removal this summer had been included in sampling of residential areas near the plant in the 1990s and early 2000s. 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 health risk experts FMC consulted.

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 in 2004 and 2005 undertook further sampling programs in the historic air deposition and Tributary One and Culvert 105 study areas.

"Only shallow soil removal is required in the air deposition area because soil arsenic concentrations are moderately above the background levels for residential properties determined through the 2002 background study and occur primarily in surface soils," McGinnis said. "This is in contrast to the 2003 project on Vernon Street in which properties were more significantly impacted because they were in a former water migration pathway from the plant."

ALSO IN 2007

The proposed soil projects on the wooded portion of the commercial/industrial property and the Park Avenue properties are among the 2007 Early Actions FMC has proposed as part of its environmental program in the village.

These Early Actions are remedial work that can be performed for discrete areas and with the intent that they will constitute final remedies while the formal RCRA Facility Investigation (RFI) and Corrective Measures Study (CMS) proceed. The Early Actions that FMC proposed for 2007 are:

- Installation of an engineered cover over a section of the FMC-owned railroad property inside the FMC plant's property boundary.
- Rehabilitation of the Village storm water drainage system (Culvert 105) on the Coe Property (the wooded portion of the commercial/industrial property where removal of impacted surface soil, backfilling, and installation of a soil cover will otherwise be performed).
- Replacement of open ditch portions of the Village's storm water drainage system (Culvert 105) between the Canal and Sleeper Street, including at Margaret Droman Park, with a new buried sewer pipe.
- Removal of sediments from the manholes to the section of the Village's storm water drainage system (Culvert 105) from the commercial/industrial property north to Sleeper Street.
- Upgrade of FMC's onsite water treatment plant, which treats surface water and groundwater collected at the plant site.

Also, to accommodate soils removed in any Middleport remedial projects beyond 2007,

FMC announced a proposal to expand the existing area at the Middleport plant where soils removed in past remedial projects have been placed and where soils from the 2007 Early Action projects will be placed. FMC will propose the area be designated a Corrective Action Management Unit (CAMU) for placement of soils removed from remediated areas.

"The CAMU would make future remedial actions in Middleport less disruptive with less truck traffic on residential streets and would facilitate faster project schedules. It would be a permanent remedy, part of FMC's ongoing responsibility for long-term maintenance of the plant site," McGinnis said.

FMC has received input from the Middleport CIG and the Village on the possible dimensions of the proposed CAMU. In the coming months, the company will design a plan for review by the Agencies and the general public.

Communication with Residents

FMC has met and will continue to meet with the Park Avenue property owners and property owners along portions of the culvert to discuss the proposed 2007 Early Action projects. FMC also held two public information sessions on April 24 to update the community on the 2007 Early Actions.

"FMC is committed to working with and keeping these residents well informed," McGinnis said.

Residents with questions can call Debra Overkamp, Community Liaison, at the FMC Middleport Community Relations office, 735-2761 Ext. 289.

FMC and the Agencies will schedule additional public information sessions later this spring to update the community on the overall environmental program, including the proposed remedial work at the residential properties along Park Avenue.