

# Solvay USA Inc, (Formerly: Rhodia Inc., Rhone Poulenc)

**2300 S. Pennsylvania Ave.  
Morrisville, PA 19067  
Congressional District 8  
EPA ID #: PAD002336410  
Facility Property Area: 90 acres  
Last Updated: October 3, 2016**

Related Links:

Rhodia - <http://www.rhodia.us/>

## Status

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On September 12, 2016, EPA issued the Agency's Final Decision and Response to Comments to select the Final Remedy for the Solvay USA Inc. facility. The Final remedy includes the following components:

1. Soil - The final remedy for the Facility soils consists of:
  - a. No further action for Areas 1, 2, 9, and Former Manufacturing Area;
  - b. Remediate Areas 5 and 10 to residential standard by capping these areas;
  - c. Maintenance and inspections of the existing engineered clay cap over area 6 and the caps over areas 5 and 10;
  - d. Develop a Post-Remediation Care Plan to verify that the caps remain effective in preventing exposure to soil contaminants beneath the caps; and
  - e. Remediate the Non-Residential Area to non-residential standard by removing the arsenic-impacted soil around sample A6-01 and compliance with and maintenance of land use restrictions to prohibit residential uses of the area.
2. Groundwater - The Final Remedy for the Facility groundwater consists of:
  - a. Groundwater at the Facility shall not be used for portable purposes;
  - b. No new wells shall be installed on Facility property in areas where caps or building foundations acting as caps are required by this Final Remedy.

In addition, the Final Remedy requires, on an annual basis, the then current owner shall submit to EPA a written certification stating whether or not the groundwater and land use restrictions are in place and being complied with.

## **Background**

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The Facility is located in Falls Township, Bucks County, Pennsylvania and occupies approximately 40 acres of a larger 90-acre property. The 50 acres of the property that is not occupied by the facility are wooded and have not been used for industrial operations or waste management activities. The Site is bordered to the north by commercial properties, to the south by Biles Creek and vacant property, to the east by the Delaware River, and to the west by wooded areas and Pennsylvania Avenue, and is fenced to restrict access.

The Facility was operated as an inorganic chemical production facility from 1948 until December 2001 and has had several different owners/operators, beginning with Victor Chemical in 1948. Stauffer Chemical bought the property in the mid-1960s and subsequently sold it to Rhône-Poulenc Basic Chemicals (Rhône-Poulenc) in 1987. In 1997, Rhône-Poulenc transferred its chemical assets, including the Morrisville Facility, to Rhodia, Inc. (Rhodia) and spun Rhodia off as a separate company in 1998. Operations were discontinued at the Facility in late 2001 and, in early 2002, Rhodia began to demolish buildings down to concrete slabs.

The Facility remained dormant from late 2002 through 2008. In 2008, demolition was reinitiated and the remaining buildings were razed. The only building currently remaining onsite is the former office building.

The primary chemical produced at the Facility was phosphoric acid. The main raw material for the production of phosphoric acid is phosphorus, which contains trace amounts of arsenic. Certain wastes from the production process were treated and disposed in onsite acid-waste ponds and landfills from 1948 through 1979. There are 10 defined waste disposal areas, primarily in the southern portion of the site. The wastes disposed in these areas include phosphorus pentasulfide (P<sub>2</sub>S<sub>5</sub>), sodium phosphates, and arsenic sulfide. Other wastes were stored in 55-gallon drums and shipped off-site for disposal.

## **Investigation & Cleanup History**

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In May 1999, ARCADIS G&M initiated remedial investigation activities at the Facility. The investigation was conducted consistent with the PADEP Land Recycling Program (Act 2) to request a release of liability from the PADEP for arsenic that had been historically detected in Facility groundwater.

On August 14, 2001, PADEP approved a non-use aquifer designation for the Facility, as well as for three adjacent properties owned by USX Corporation and WMI Properties; a portion of a property located in Trenton, New Jersey where a sewage plant operated; and the Delaware River. Groundwater within the described area is not used for drinking or agricultural purposes.

The Act 2 Final Report was approved by PADEP in a letter dated May 22, 2002.

On December 7, 2015, EPA approved the Facility's Cleanup Plan.

## **Contaminants**

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Arsenic is the primary constituent of concern at this facility. The groundwater contains arsenic above the Safe Drinking Water Act Maximum Concentration Limit (MCL) of 10 ug/l. Soils are contaminated with arsenic at concentrations above the non-residential standards of 53 mg/kg.

## **Institutional Controls**

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EPA will be working with PADEP and Solvay to implement institutional controls and place land and resource use restrictions on the property in the form of an Environmental Covenant.

## **Reuse Information**

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The future anticipated use for the site is residential and non-residential uses.

## **Government Contact**

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For more information about EPA's corrective action webpage, including Environmental Indicators, please visit our site at: <https://www.epa.gov/aboutepa/epa-pennsylvania>.