



**Public Notice of EPA's Plan to Approve, Subject to Public Notice and Comment, a Proposed  
Clean Closure Plan for the West Aeration Basin,  
Union Carbide Caribe, LLC, a subsidiary of The Dow Chemical Company,  
Peñuelas, Puerto Rico  
EPA ID No. PRD980594618**

Public Notice Number : PR-2005-02

Date: May 23, 2005

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is hereby noticing and seeking public comment on a proposed closure plan for the West Aeration Basin at the Union Carbide Caribe, LLC ("UCC") facility, a subsidiary of The Dow Chemical Company, located at 631 Road 127, Peñuelas, Puerto Rico 00624-7501. The West Aeration Basin is part of Solid Waste Management Unit (SWMU) No. 25 at the UCC facility. The proposed closure plan requires that the company remove all residual hazardous waste and hazardous waste residue down to contaminant concentrations consistent with an industrial use for the site. The West Aeration Basin will then be backfilled with clean fill and vegetated. The basin will be subject to institutional controls; all future uses of the basin and its surrounding area must be consistent with industrial use. Subject to public notice and comment, EPA expects to approve the proposed closure plan.

All Interested members of the public are invited to review and comment on the proposed closure plan. The proposed plan and related documents are available for viewing at the three locations listed below. Written comments may be submitted to EPA at the address given below if postmarked by June 5, 2005.

The UCC facility occupies about 680 acres of generally level land. The facility was formerly a large petrochemical manufacturing facility and ceased production operations in 1985. It still serves as a terminal for the bulk storage of chemical products and operates a wastewater treatment plant. The facility is broadly divided into two areas, the Main Plant area and the Puntilla area. The Puntilla area occupies most of a peninsula extending to the southwest from the Main Plant area and is the location of the West Aeration Basin.

The proposed closure plan requires UCC to close the West Aeration Basin in accordance with Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) regulations. The East Aeration Basin, which is the other portion of Solid Waste Management Unit (SWMU) No. 25, will continue to operate as part of

the wastewater treatment plant. The closure plan proposes that water and sludge contained in the West Aeration Basin will be removed down to industrial standards which are set forth in the proposed plan. Structures (i.e., concrete-lined side slopes, aerator anchor poles, and influent/effluent culverts) will be decontaminated, and the decontamination rinse water will be tested to confirm that decontamination has been effective. Structures requiring removal to facilitate backfilling operations will be demolished and removed. Solids in the basin (stabilized sludge, demolition debris, and basin bedding material) will be disposed in the RCRA-permitted on-site Industrial Landfill. The basin will be backfilled with clean fill material and the backfilled basin area will be graded and restored with topsoil and vegetation.

The plan also requires that the groundwater in the area in and around the West Aeration Basin be monitored to demonstrate that closure to industrial standards has been achieved. Monitoring must continue for a minimum of three years. If no hazardous constituents are detected for three years, EPA will consider a request by UCC that they be allowed to cease monitoring. Alternatively, if hazardous constituents are detected in the groundwater, additional monitoring and cleanup may be required.

Because clean closure would be to industrial use standards and not unrestricted use standards, a deed notification would be required indicating to future site owners that hazardous waste was formally managed in these units, indicating the presence of residual contamination (below industrial use standards but above residential use standards), and indicating future limitation of the site to industrial uses.

If the site or the area around the West Aeration Basin ceases being used for industrial purposes, further removal and remediation maybe required.

A permit was issued for the UCC facility on September 30, 2003 for ten years. The permit addressed closure of units used to manage hazardous waste at the facility. Closure must be pursuant to EPA approved plans and performed under the oversight of EPA.

The proposed closure plan for the West Aeration Basin (one of the two basins constituting SWMU No. 25) can be reviewed at the following locations:

United States Environmental Protection Agency  
Caribbean Environmental Protection Division  
Centro Europa Bldg, Suite 417  
1492 Ponce De Leon Avenue, Stop 22  
Santurce, PR 00907-4127

United States Environmental Protection Agency  
RCRA Records Center  
290 Broadway, 15<sup>th</sup> Floor, Room 1538  
New York, NY 10007-1866

and

Puerto Rico Environmental Quality Board (PREQB)  
Land Pollution Regulation Program  
National Plaza Building  
431 Ponce de Leon Avenue  
Hato Ray, Puerto Rico, 00917

For more information about the closure plan, please contact Richard Krauser, RCRA Project Manager, at (212) 637- 4166 or [krauser.richard@epa.gov](mailto:krauser.richard@epa.gov).

In addition to submitting written comments, members of the public may request in writing that a public hearing be held on this matter. The request must state the issues proposed to be raised at a hearing. Both written comments and requests for a hearing may be sent to the following individual and must be postmarked by June 5, 2005.

Mr. Adolph Everett  
Chief, RCRA Programs Branch (DEPP)  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
290 Broadway  
New York, NY 10007-1866

After the close of the public comment period, including any hearing, EPA will approve, disapprove or modify the closure plan for this unit.