
Cleanup Work Planned Around Former Factory

Standard Products Site

Port Clinton, Ohio

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For more information

For questions, comments or more information about environmental activities on and around the Standard Products site, contact these EPA team members:

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www.epa.gov/region5/cleanup/standardproducts/index.html

People are not in danger from pollution that has spread from the Standard Products site to neighboring areas, but U.S. Environmental Protection Agency along with Ohio EPA will supervise cleanup activities on and around the property to correct several environmental problems. The former and current owners of the site – Cooper Tire and Rubber and Oak Hill Investments – are working to enter into a legal agreement with Ohio EPA called a “voluntary action plan memorandum of understanding.” Under this voluntary plan, the parties responsible for pollution from the Standard Products site will perform various cleanup actions on the site itself and adjacent properties.

If the companies and Ohio EPA reach a voluntary agreement, U.S. EPA will allow Cooper Tire to remove arsenic and PCB contamination from three isolated spots in the adjacent Fountains Manufactured Home Park. U.S. EPA will supervise the removal action including review and approval of work plans and health and safety plans for workers and residents. The federal Agency will then review the final report on the cleanup work. U.S. EPA will perform the removal if a voluntary agreement is not reached.

Cooper Tire will also investigate potential environmental issues encountered during a subsurface investigation on the Standard Products property. This investigation will focus on an area near the railroad platform where former employees believe drums were buried.

Cooper Tire will also correct the source of water runoff into the storm sewer on Maple Street. The runoff is believed to be from a broken water line on the Standard Products site.

Ohio EPA will oversee any additional long-term investigations conducted by the responsible parties on the Standard Products site.



Federal and state environmental regulators say nearby residents are not in danger from pollutants that moved off the Standard Products site (left), but U.S. EPA and Ohio EPA will supervise some cleanup projects.

Sampling project

Beginning in September 2011, Cooper Tire under U.S. EPA supervision conducted sampling in and around Standard Products at the request of Ohio EPA. The sampling was to determine if solvents from the Standard Products site had moved to surrounding properties. Assessment activities were divided into two phases – for the Fountains Manufactured Home Park; and for the Standard Products site itself and adjacent properties to the north, south and west. Sampling was done on soil, groundwater, surface water, soil gas and crawl space vapor conditions.

Groundwater is an environmental term for underground supplies of fresh water. Soil gas and crawl space vapor are symptoms of an environmental problem called vapor intrusion. Vapor intrusion occurs when underground pollutants release fumes that travel through the soil and cause indoor air pollution when the gas enters buildings through cracks or holes in crawl spaces and foundations. Measuring the amount of gas in soil or crawl spaces can indicate the potential for a vapor intrusion problem.

No health danger

Cooper Tire, with U.S. EPA oversight, collected and analyzed numerous soil samples from around the manufactured home park, installed wells to monitor underground water and checked soil gas levels and house crawl spaces for vapor intrusion issues.

Solvents and pollutants from the Standard Products site and other sources were found underneath Fountains Manufactured Home Park, but health experts concluded there are no human health issues associated with the pollution. The contamination is at a depth of at least 10 feet and people are not exposed. The solvents are of a family of petroleum-based chemicals called volatile organic compounds or VOCs.

The sampling found arsenic contamination in surface soil at two spots in the manufactured home park. Work will be done to remove the arsenic-contaminated soil. One area is a residential yard where the arsenic contamination is believed to have come from a treated

wooden fence. Another spot is an area behind the manufactured home park's maintenance building. A hazardous chemical compound called polychlorinated biphenyls, or PCBs, was also found along the Fountains/Standard Products property line. The pollution is in an area occupied by electrical transformers, a common source of PCBs. Work will also be done to have the PCBs removed in this area. The sampling for vapor intrusion issues turned up no human health risks, according to experts.

Other sampling

Extensive testing and sampling were also done around the Standard Products site itself as well as properties to the north, south and west. Some pollution was found, but not at levels that would expose people and cause health problems.

During the investigation it was determined water from a leaky pipe on the Standard Products site was entering a storm sewer on Maple Street. The leak will be fixed.

Site history

From 1935 to 1993, Standard manufactured a variety of products: rubber parts for the auto industry, weather stripping for windows, treads for tanks and military vehicles, carbine rifles, helicopters and missile nose cones, according to past environmental studies done at the site. Cooper Tire purchased the factory and operated it until the early 1990s when it closed.

Environmental assessments were done on the Standard Products site over several years, and a 1999 review indicates the factory had a few features that could have led to substances being released on the property. Those include aboveground storage tanks, a sump that had been used for stormwater and a building that stored hazardous waste.

Another study done on the Fountains site in 2003 – which included a look at Ohio EPA records – indicated some of the chemicals found in soil tests in the manufactured home park appeared to be moving from the Standard site onto the parkland.