
Cleanup Begins at Former Fertilizer Manufacturing Plant

Traylor Chemicals Site

Royal Center, Indiana

November 2013

You're invited

The EPA will share details about the planned Traylor Chemicals site cleanup at a **public meeting**:

Monday, Nov. 25
Royal Center Town Hall
104 E. North St.
7 - 8:30 p.m.

For more information

You can contact these EPA team members for questions, comments or more information about the cleanup in Royal Center:

For technical questions:

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For general questions:

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You may call the EPA's Chicago regional office toll-free at 800-621-8431, weekdays, 9:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

On the Web, visit:
www.epa.gov/region5/cleanup/traylor/

Beginning in mid-November, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will begin an urgent cleanup to remove strong acids, corrosives and other hazardous materials from the abandoned former Traylor Chemical and Supply Co. The facility is at 126 N. Market St. in Royal Center. EPA expects the cleanup at the former fertilizer manufacturing plant will cost almost \$1 million.

This project is what EPA calls a “time-critical removal action,” the technical term for a cleanup of contamination that poses an imminent threat to the health and safety of nearby residents and the environment. EPA will hold a public meeting on Nov. 25th to explain the planned cleanup process to local residents (*see box, left*). EPA is conducting the removal under the emergency authority provided in federal law.¹ The cleanup is expected to last up to four months.

Background

The property has been abandoned since 2009, but EPA does not know exactly when the former manufacturing facility closed. Fertilizer chemicals were made at the 2.9-acre site, which consists of several one-story industrial buildings. The facility is now vacant. Concerns have been raised about the site from the surrounding community.

The site is bordered by industrial and residential properties and the Panhandle Pathway recreational trail (formerly A & R Railroad).



Numerous 275-gallon totes, 55-gallon drums, 5-gallon pails and 2.5-gallon jars containing various chemicals are leaking, corroding, bulking and stockpiled inappropriately.

¹EPA conducts time-critical cleanups in accordance with Section 104(a)(1) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), 42 U.S.C. §9604(a)(1); and 40 C.F.R. §300.415 of the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP).

EPA site assessment

EPA conducted a site assessment in April 2013 and observed the following:

- Buildings were in various stages of decay with leaking roofs noted.
- Buildings were covered with graffiti and had evidence of trespassing.
- Numerous vats, drums and small containers with various hazardous chemicals were leaking, bulging and falling over.
- One drain in the building is overflowing with a green liquid that contains nitrogen.

EPA determined the site poses an immediate hazard because of the numerous abandoned hazardous chemicals close to a residential area with easy public access.



Unknown chemicals were spilled on the floors throughout the facility.

Cleanup plan

Emergency cleanup activities at the site will include:

- Developing and implementing a health and safety plan for residents and workers, including an air monitoring plan.
- Developing and implementing a plan to secure the site.
- Inventorying, analyzing and categorizing all substances, and dispose of waste and containers at an approved off-site facility.
- Cleaning floors to remove contaminated waste and to prevent pollutants from moving or crossing cleaned areas.
- Cleaning heavy equipment as necessary and appropriately dispose of contaminated water.
- Taking necessary steps to address any release or threatened release of hazardous substances the EPA determines to threaten human health.



55-gallon drums labeled as containing corrosive material, showing evidence of leaking and deteriorating.



Facility floor showing evidence of corrosive material.