

PROPOSED CLEANUP

**Laufen International
(formerly U.S.
Ceramic Tile Co.)**

**Located In
East Sparta, Ohio**

April 2009



**U.S. Environmental Protection
Agency, Region 5
Chicago, Illinois**

Site History

Laufen International (Laufen) purchased the U.S. Ceramic Tile Company (USCT) facility in 1995, located at 10233 Sandyville Road SE in East Sparta, Ohio. The USCT facility began manufacturing brick and roofing tile in 1913. Glazed ceramic tile production began in the 1920s. Tile manufacturing operations ceased at Laufen in September 2007.

In 2005, Laufen and U.S. EPA entered into a Consent Decree pursuant to the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). The RCRA Consent Decree requires Laufen to investigate and properly reconstruct the hazardous waste landfill built in the 1990s along Sandyville Road by USCT under an older 1988 RCRA Consent Decree. Laufen is also required to investigate and cleanup the lowland just south of the landfill and old tile waste disposal areas historically operated by USCT.

Investigation Results

- A lowland and unnamed tributary to Nimishillen Creek (or UTNC) located along Sandyville Road were not properly cleaned up in the 1990s by USCT. Soil and sediment are contaminated with high levels of lead and zinc.
- Levels of lead in soil in the lowland along Sandyville Road (also known as the IM Area) pose a potential risk to workers.

- Levels of lead and zinc in soil at the IM Area and sediment in the UTNC pose a potential risk to plants, birds, mammals, and fish.

- Potential risks associated with onsite contamination at the UTNC are not found offsite in Nimishillen Creek. Water, sediment, and fish collected from Nimishillen Creek were evaluated and no unacceptable risks to recreational users, fish, birds, and mammals were found.

- Eight areas of interest (or AOIs) were used by USCT to dispose of tile waste from 1930 to 1995.

- Elevated levels of lead, zinc, and cobalt are found in soil and sediment at the AOIs.

- Levels of lead, zinc, and cobalt vary at each AOI. Some levels of lead are high enough to pose a potential risk to workers. Metals at most AOIs pose a potential risk to plants, birds, mammals, and fish.

- Fish were collected at a large pond off Sandyville Road used for recreational fishing and evaluated for metals. The fish were safe for consumption by people, birds, and mammals.

- The hazardous waste landfill constructed by USCT in the 1990s at Sandyville Road across from the plant entrance was improperly constructed and requires improvements to ensure its long-term integrity.

Landfill Improvements

The hazardous waste landfill constructed across from the plant entrance was upgraded and work completed by Laufen in 2007. Improvements were made to the surface water drainage and leachate collection systems. A berm was constructed at the south end to protect the landfill during floods. A new impermeable cap and soil cover was placed over the entire landfill.

Scope of Cleanup

Tile waste and contaminated soil, surface water, and sediment are a principal threat to human health and the environment. Releases of metals such as lead and zinc to the environment must be remediated. Cleanup objectives are to remove major sources of contamination and eliminate the pathways for contact with the waste and contaminants. Cleanup would be accomplished by a combination of selective removal of highly contaminated soil and sediment, and the placement of soil covers over the AOIs and IM Area.

Summary of Potential Remedies

Potential remedies evaluated by Laufen to cleanup historical waste and contaminated soil, surface water, and sediment on its property are:

Institutional Controls: Restrict access using measures such as fencing, posting, and deed restrictions.

Source Removal with Disposal:

Excavate and dispose offsite all waste, impacted soil and sediment exceeding cleanup goals.

Pathway Elimination:

Eliminate direct contact with waste and contaminated soil by placing a cap and cover system over the AOIs and IM Area. The cap and cover system would range from 6” to 24” soil, and could contain impermeable membranes and geotextile layers. For sediment in the UTNC, some excavation would be performed and the channel lined with a polypropylene mat and earthen berms to reduce erosion and stabilize vegetation.

Solidification/Stabilization:

Apply agents to the soil in the IM Area to physically trap or immobilize the metals.

Maintenance and Monitoring:

Perform groundwater monitoring at the closed landfill, and inspect covers and vegetation at the closed landfill, AOIs, and IM Area.

U.S. EPA Proposed Remedy

U.S. EPA evaluated Laufen’s potential remedies and proposes the following actions to cleanup waste and contaminated soil, surface water, and sediment on Laufen property. This proposed remedy effectively protects human health and the environment.

- Engineer a combination of **Source Removal with Disposal** and **Pathway Elimination** at the AOIs and IM Area. Excavate and dispose offsite about 4,000 cubic yards of highly contaminated waste, soil, and sediment at the IM Area, and cover about 4.8 acres with 18” clean soil. Consolidate and cap about 13 acres of AOIs with 6” to 18” of soil and geotextile cover.

- Engineer the UTNC to accommodate a 25-year storm event. Install a Pyramat® high performance mat and establish riparian vegetation to control erosion.

- Conduct groundwater **Monitoring** at the landfill, and surface water and sediment **Monitoring** at the AOIs and IM Area to ensure the effectiveness of the remedy. Conduct **Maintenance** of the new cap at the closed landfill. Minimize **Maintenance** at the AOIs and IM Area through proper grading to promote runoff and control erosion, and establish a native plant cover.

- Implement **Institutional Controls** by modifying the Laufen property deed to restrict land use to industrial/commercial and impose controls on excavations at AOIs, the IM Area, and landfill.

U.S. EPA estimates the cost of the proposed remedy to range from \$6.7 to \$7.7 million.

Your Opinion Counts!

U.S. EPA wants your opinion on the proposed cleanup for the Laufen facility. A public comment period on the proposed remedy is open until May 31, 2009.

To send written comments or request more information, contact:

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(312) 886-7566
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The record supporting the U.S. EPA proposed remedy for the Laufen facility is available at:

Stark County District Library
9754 Cleveland Ave. SE
Magnolia, Ohio 44643
(330) 866-3366

U.S. EPA, Region 5
7th Floor RCRA Records Center
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604
(312) 886-0902
Hours: Mon-Fri, 8AM - 4PM

U.S. EPA will consider and respond to public comments and select a final remedy. The final remedy will be documented in a Final Decision and Response to Comments.

