UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 6
1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200
DALLAS, TX 75202-2733

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Request for Removal Action at the Cedar Chemical Corporation Site
West Helena, Phillips County, Arkansas

FROM: Gary W. Moore, On-Scene Coordinator
Response and Prevention Branch (6SF-R2)

THRU: Charles A. Gazda, Chief
Response and Prevention Branch (6SF-R)

TO: Myron O. Knudson, P.E.
Director, Superfund Division

I. PURPOSE

This Memorandum requests and documents the approval of a time-critical removal action as authorized by the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), 42 U.S.C. § 9604 at the Cedar Chemical Corporation Site (hereinafter referred to as the "Site"). The general scope of the removal action will be to remove and dispose of hazardous substances located on-site.

The actions described in this memorandum meet the criteria for initiating a removal action under Section 300.415 of the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP), 40 CFR § 300.415.

II. SITE CONDITIONS AND BACKGROUND

CERCLIS No.: ARD990660649
Category of Removal: Time-Critical
Superfund Site ID No.: 06NH

923954

Recycled/Recyclable • Printed with Vegetable Oil Based Inks on 100% Recycled Paper (40% Postconsumer)

A. Site Description

1. Removal site evaluation

The site is an abandoned chemical manufacturing facility which was abandoned by a bankruptcy court action on October 18, 2002. The facility consists of six (6) separate processing units, laboratories, a finished goods warehouse, a stormwater pond, a wastewater treatment plant, a spare parts warehouse, a maintenance shop, an administration building and various other buildings on 48 acres. The environmental issues associated with the site include abandoned chemicals, possible buried drums, a constructed drum vault filled with unknown chemicals, ground water contamination, surface and subsurface soil contamination, and an abandoned stormwater and wastewater treatment system. Abandoned chemicals are the only issue that currently require a time-critical removal action.

2. Physical location

The site is located in the Helena-West Helena industrial park in Phillips County, Arkansas just south of West Helena, Arkansas. The physical address for the facility is 49 Phillips Road 311, Helena, Arkansas 72342. The site is bounded by Arkansas Highway 242 to the northwest, the Union Pacific railway to the northeast, and other industrial park properties to the southeast and southwest. The land across Highway 242 is agricultural. Residential areas are located within one half mile southwest and northeast of the site.

3. Site characteristics

The site is a defunct chemical manufacturing facility which was abandoned in a bankruptcy court action on October 18, 2002. The facility was originally constructed in 1970 as a propanil manufacturing facility. In 1971, the company was sold to J.A. Williams, which transferred the plant to Eagle River Corporation, a company controlled by Ansul Company. At this time, the company began producing Dinoseb. In 1972, Ansul sold its interest in Eagle River Corporation back to J.A. Williams and the company was merged into Vertac Chemical Company. Vertac Chemical Company owned the facility until 1986, producing propanil and several products for other chemical companies, as a toll manufacturer. The contracted products included, but were not limited to, various herbicides, alkyl phenols, and arsenical compounds. Cedar Chemical Corporation acquired the facility in 1986. Trans Resources, Inc. purchased Cedar Chemical Corporation in 1988 and from then until the facility was abandoned, it produced propanil and continued to perform toll manufacturing, producing various herbicides and nitroparriffin derivatives. In 1991, Cedar Chemical Corporation constructed a processing unit to manufacture dichloroaniline, the active ingredient in propanil. See Enforcement Attachment for additional confidential discussion.

4. Release or threatened release into the environment of a hazardous substance, or pollutant or contaminant

There have been documented releases of hazardous substances as well as a current continued threat of further releases of hazardous substances into the environment from this facility.

In 1991, Cedar Chemical Corporation entered into a Consent Administrative Order (CAO) under a RCRA corrective action order with the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) to conduct a removal of buried drums discovered during facility construction activities. In addition, this CAO required a plant-wide facility investigation. The final investigation report was submitted in 1996 and a risk assessment was completed in 2001. Cedar Chemical Corporation was in the process of preparing a corrective action workplan at the time Cedar Chemical Corporation filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy. Cedar Chemical Corporation laid off the majority of its employees on March 8, 2001, and began mothballing the facility. Cedar Chemical Corporation was unable to complete those activities by the time the facility was abandoned. As a result, the corrective actions that were identified through the ADEQ CAO were never initiated in addition to the fact that chemicals were abandoned on the facility. A complete inventory of the hazardous substances that remain on the facility has not been determined. Cedar Chemical Corporation has provided a list of some of the chemicals believed to be present at the facility. These hazardous substances include, but are not limited to, acetic acid, benzoic acid, carbon tetrachloride, butylamine, 4-chloroaniline, 2-chloroethyl ether, copper, copper cyanide, cumene, 2,6-dichlorobenzonitrile, 1,2-dichloroethane, dichlorotoluene, Dimethyl sulfate, 2,4-dinitrotoluene, diphenylamine, ethylamine, ethylene oxide, formic acid, formaldehyde, hexachlorobenzene, hyrofluoric acid, nitrobenzene, p-nitrobenzene, pentachloronitrobenzene, potassium cyanide, pyridine, quinoline, sodium cyanide, sodium fluoride, sodium nitrite, 1,2,4-trichlorobenzene, triethylamine, zinc. All of these chemicals are "hazardous substances" as defined by Section 101(14) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9601(14), and 40 CFR § 302.4.

The mechanisms for releases in the past were a result of spills, or intentional releases to the ground. The current potential for releases may occur primarily through vandalism, fire, natural disaster, or deterioration of containers, equipment, or piping. The facility is fenced, but gaps exist around the rail spur which could allow access to the property. The ADEQ is currently providing security through a private security company to keep trespassers from entering the facility and causing a release.

5. NPL status

The Site is not currently on the National Priorities List (NPL). The EPA is currently conducting an evaluation based upon existing data to determine if this site would possibly rank on the NPL.

6. Maps, pictures and other graphic representations

Attachment 1: Map Identifying Location of Facility
Attachment 2: Map of Facility
Attachment 3: Enforcement Attachment

B. Other Actions to Date

1. Previous actions

There has not been a previous EPA removal action relative to this site.

2. Current actions

The owner, Cedar Chemical Corporation, prior to the abandonment of the facility conducted a substantial removal of chemicals from the facility. The company was unable to complete these actions prior to the abandonment, and those chemicals remain on-site. Upon the abandonment of the facility, ADEQ hired a security company to provide security at the facility to prevent any potential vandalism which could result of a release of hazardous substances until such time as the remaining chemicals could be removed.

C. State and Local Authorities' Roles

1. State and local actions to date

To date, the ADEQ is providing security for the facility. In addition, the ADEQ is conducting some testing of the stormwater and wastewater treatment ponds to determine what actions, if any, will be necessary to addressed those waters prior to any overflow. The ADEQ is also in the process of identifying and issuing letters to parties that may have some liability in an attempt to get their participation in the overall cleanup of the site.

2. Potential for continued State/Local response

After the completion of the EPA removal action described above the following environmental issues will remain: potential overflows of stormwater and wastewater treatment ponds; surface/subsurface soil contamination; the drum vault; ground water contamination; and, other buried drums. These issues will not be address as part of this removal action. The EPA will address the laboratory chemicals, abandoned product, abandoned raw materials, and other miscellaneous chemicals.

III. THREATS TO PUBLIC HEALTH OR WELFARE OR THE ENVIRONMENT, AND STATUTORY AND REGULATORY AUTHORITIES

A. Threats to Public Health or Welfare

Actual or potential exposure to nearby human populations or the food chain from hazardous substances or pollutants or contaminants: Residential properties are located approximately one half mile to the southwest and northeast of the site. There is a potential exposure to human populations which could result from a fire which could spread the combustion byproducts through the air over the residential areas. In addition, there is a potential exposure to trespassers who may enter the property and be exposed to chemicals and contaminated soils.

Actual or potential contamination of drinking water supplies: According to a company Facility Investigation Report dated June 28, 1996, several domestic wells and irrigation wells were identified within a one mile radius of the site; however, all of the domestic wells identified were no longer being used. According to the ADEQ, this alluvial aquifer is known to be used for drinking water and currently meets recognized aquifer classifications as a drinking water aquifer even though the ground water is currently only used for irrigation wells in the immediate vicinity of the site.

Hazardous substances or pollutants or contaminants in drums, barrels, tanks, or other bulk storage containers, that may pose a threat of release: There are hazardous substances in on-site drums. It is believed that hazardous substances also remain in equipment and piping in the process units, as well as abandoned products and miscellaneous chemicals scattered throughout the facility. A release could occur through equipment or piping failure, vandalism, or fire. The hazardous substances are listed in II.A.4. above.

High levels of hazardous substances or pollutants or contaminants in soils largely at or near the surface, that may migrate: There is widespread surface/subsurface soil contamination on the facility due to historical spills and disposal practices on the site. The primary contaminant is Dinoseb at concentrations that exceed 2%. At this time, it does not appear that this contaminant is migrating offsite.

Weather conditions that may cause hazardous substances or pollutants or contaminants to migrate or be released: The site is an abandoned chemical manufacturing facility. The ADEQ is currently providing security until the chemicals located on the facility can be removed. The tanks, piping, and equipment are currently in satisfactory condition, but if left unattended, will begin to deteriorate. Lightning strikes, heavy rains or corrosion could rupture equipment or piping and result in a release of hazardous substances to the environment which could cause evacuations and potential exposures that may be harmful to human health and the environment.

Threat of fire or explosion: The site is not currently being maintained. A lightning strike or vandalism could result in a serious fire at this abandoned chemical plant. In any event, a fire may require the evacuation of nearby residents and result in contamination of the environment.

The availability of other appropriate Federal or State response mechanisms to respond to the release: There are no other response mechanisms that could address the chemical hazards posed by the containerized hazardous substances on this site in a timely manner. The ADEQ does not currently have the resources to address the containerized hazardous substances. The EPA will coordinate with the state and local government on this response action and will work with them to identify those areas where they may be able to participate.

Other situations or factors that may pose threats to public health or welfare of the United States or the environment: Failure to address these hazardous substances may result in a more significant off-site migration of these substances and materials, thereby creating a larger and more costly response action, and posing a greater impact on human health, welfare, or the environment.

B. Threats to the Environment

There is not enough information currently available to sufficiently characterize potential impacts to the surrounding ecosystems.

IV. ENDANGERMENT DETERMINATION

Actual or threatened releases of hazardous substances, or pollutants or contaminants from this site, if not addressed by implementing the response action selected in this Action Memorandum, may present an imminent and substantial endangerment to public health, welfare, or the environment.

V. PROPOSED ACTIONS AND ESTIMATED COSTS

A. Proposed Actions

1. Proposed action description

The intent of this action is to remove and dispose of chemicals left on-site. Those chemicals include various laboratory chemicals, chemicals remaining in tanks, piping, and equipment, chemicals remaining in warehouses, and other chemicals scattered throughout the facility. As a result of this action, it may be necessary to damage and/or demolish the tanks, piping, and equipment in order to effectuate this activity.

Asbestos Inspection and Abatement: It will be necessary to conduct an Asbestos Inspection prior to disturbing any potentially containing asbestos materials. Abatement will only be conducted on those areas necessary to conduct the cleanup activities.

Assessment and Removal of Hazardous Substances, or Pollutants or Contaminants: The materials will be tested to determine the appropriate disposal technique.

Decontamination of Containers, Equipment, Piping, and Buildings: The EPA will decontaminate all containers, equipment, piping, and buildings to the extent necessary to remove contaminants that may pose a risk for exposure.

2. Applicable or relevant and appropriate requirements (ARARs)

This removal action will be conducted to eliminate the actual or potential release of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant to the environment, pursuant to CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9601 et seq., and any oil pursuant to the CWA 33 U.S.C. § 1251 et seq., in a manner consistent with the NCP, 40 C.F.R. Part 300. As per 40 C.F.R. § 300.415(i), Fund-financed

removal actions pursuant to CERCLA Section 104, 42 U.S.C. § 9604, and removal actions pursuant to CERCLA Section 106, 42 U.S.C. § 9606 and the CWA 33 USC § 1321, shall, to the extent practicable considering the exigencies of the situation, attain the applicable or relevant and appropriate requirements under Federal environmental law, including the Toxic Substance and Control Act (TSCA), 15 U.S.C.§ 2601 et. seq., the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), 42 U.S.C. § 300 et. seq., the Clean Air Act (CAA), 42 U.S.C. § 7401 et. seq., Clean Water Act (CWA), 33 U.S.C. § 1251 et. seq., the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), 42 U.S.C. § 6901 et. seq., or any promulgated standard, applicable or relevant and appropriate requirements, criteria, or limitation under a state environmental or facility citing law that is more stringent than any Federal standard, requirement, criteria, or limitation contained in a program approved, authorized or delegated by the Administrator and identified to the President by the state.

Due to the fact that consolidation and off-site disposal are the principal elements of this removal action, RCRA waste analysis requirements found at 40 C.F.R. §§ 261.20 and 261.30, RCRA manifesting requirements found at 40 C.F.R. § 262.20, and RCRA packaging and labeling requirements found at 40 C.F.R. § 262.30 are deemed to be relevant and appropriate requirements for this removal action. Because on-site storage of hazardous wastes by EPA is not expected to exceed ninety days, specific storage requirements found at 40 CFR Part 265 are not applicable or relevant and appropriate. See 40 CFR § 262.34. All hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants removed off-site for treatment, storage, or disposal shall be treated, stored, or disposed at a facility in compliance, as determined by the EPA, pursuant to 40 CFR § 300.440. All off-site transportation of hazardous materials will be performed in conformity with U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) requirements at 49 CFR § 172.

Additionally, since this response may require demolition activities that may involve asbestos-containing material (ACM), the EPA will, to the extent practicable considering the exigencies of the situation, attain the applicable or relevant and appropriate requirements contained in 40 CFR § 61.

3. Project schedule

The EPA expects to initiate removal actions within 6 months of approval of this Action Memorandum.

B. Estimated costs

Extramural Costs:

Contractor	CERCLA Funds
Cleanup Contractor	$ 439,000
START	$ 101,000
Total Extramural	$ 540,000
Site Contingency (20%)	$ 108,000
TOTAL PROJECT CEILING	**$ 648,000**

VI. EXPECTED CHANGE IN THE SITUATION SHOULD ACTION BE DELAYED OR NOT TAKEN

If action is not taken at the Site, the natural degradation of the facility will continue until a catastrophic release of the hazardous substances located at the site occurs; or until a fire occurs which engulfs the chemicals on the site. Such a fire could lead to the releases of hazardous substances into the air which could result in residential evacuations. Additionally, trespassers and vandals could open valves, damage containers, or start a fire which could result in releases to the ground and to the air. A release from this Site could result in exposure to human populations. Since the facility is abandoned and no continuing maintenance is being conducted, it is continuing to deteriorate. Such deteriorations could eventually result in releases of hazardous substances should the proposed actions not be implemented.

VII. OUTSTANDING POLICY ISSUES

There are no outstanding policy issues associated with this action.

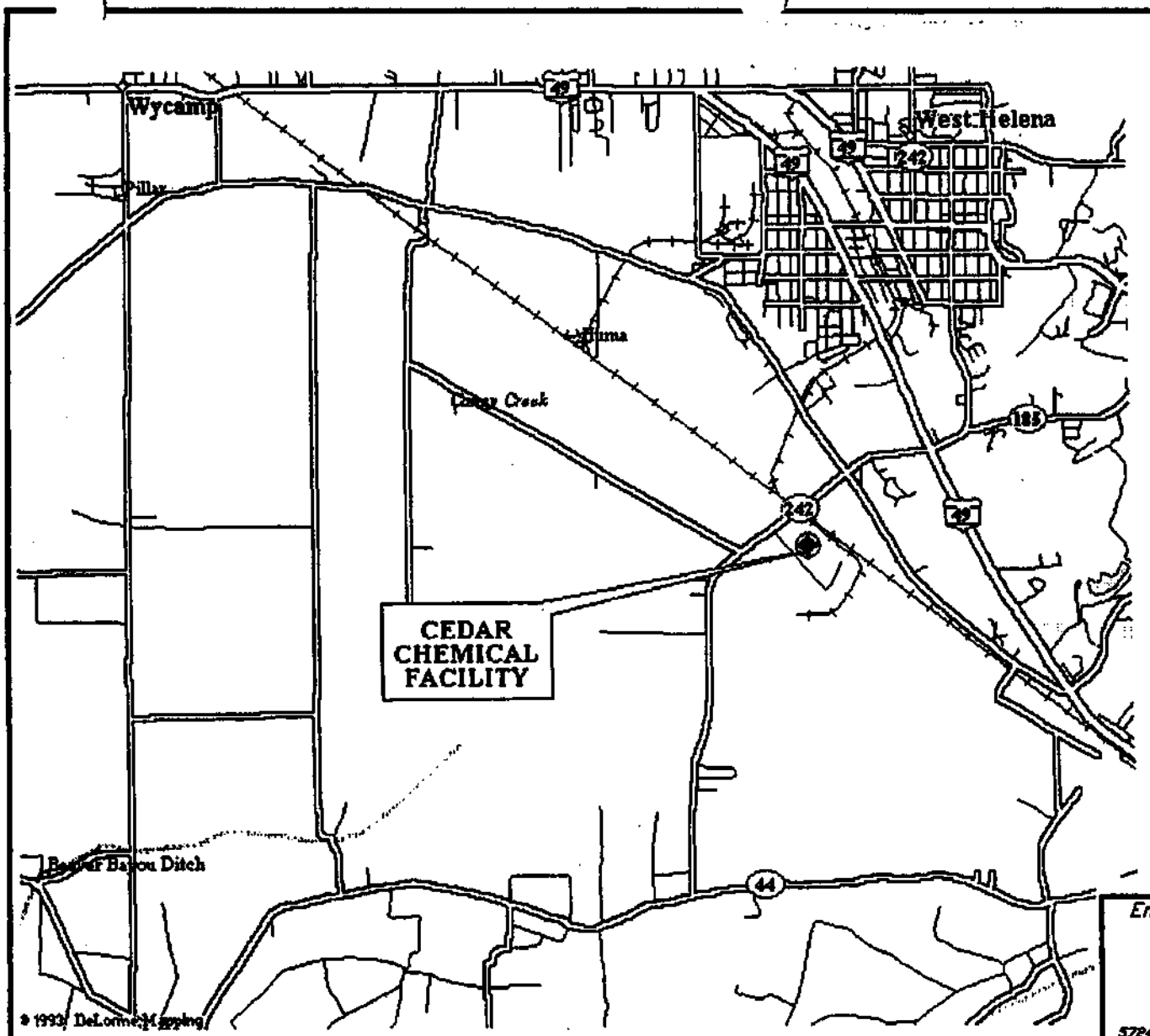
VIII. ENFORCEMENT

See Attachment 3

IX. RECOMMENDATION

This decision document recommends the selected removal action under CERCLA for the Cedar Chemical Corporation Site, West Helena, Phillips County, Arkansas developed in accordance with CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9601 et. seq., and is not inconsistent with the NCP, 40 CFR § 300. This decision is based on the Administrative Record for the Site. Because the conditions at the Site meet the criteria defined in Section 300.415 and 300.305 of the NCP, I recommend your approval of the proposed removal action. The total CERCLA extramural project ceiling if approved will be $ 648,000. Of this, an estimated $ 439,000 will come from the CERCLA removal allowance.

APPROVED: Myron O. Knudson DATE: 1/16/03



Environmental and Safety Designs, Inc.

EnSafe

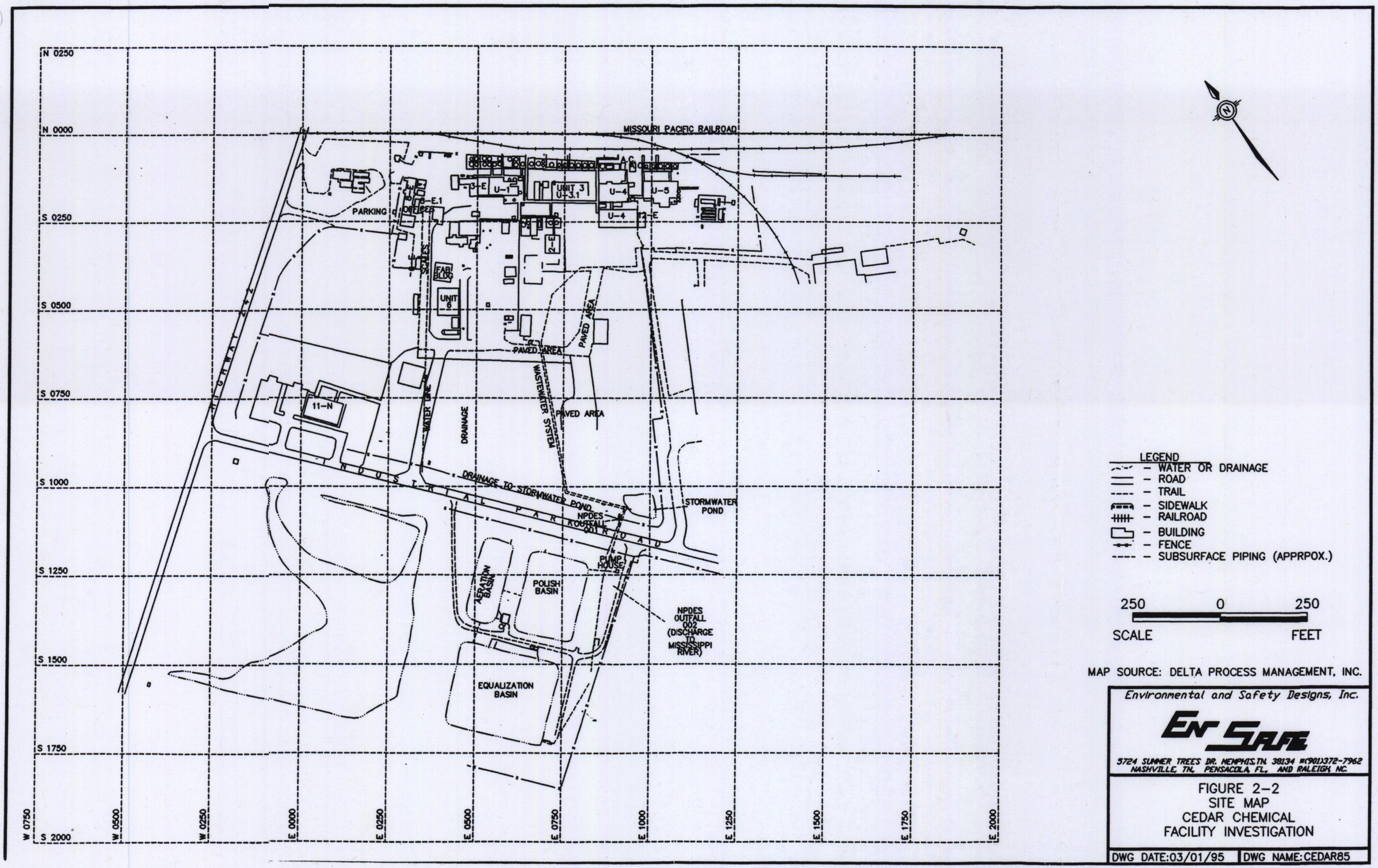
5724 SUMMER TREES DR. MEMPHIS, TN. 38134 ☎(901)372-7962
NASHVILLE, TN, PENSACOLA, FL, AND RALEIGH, NC

FIGURE 2-1
VICINITY MAP
CEDAR CHEMICAL
FACILITY INVESTIGATION

DWG DATE: 03/01/95 | DWG NAME: BOARD

Attachment #1

Attachment #2



MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Request for Removal Action at the Cedar Chemical Corporation Site
West Helena, Phillips County, Arkansas

FROM: Gary W. Moore, On-Scene Coordinator
Response and Prevention Branch (6SF-R2)

THRU: Charles A. Gazda, Chief
Response and Prevention Branch (6SF-R)

TO: Myron O. Knudson, P.E.
Director, Superfund Division

I. PURPOSE

This Memorandum requests and documents the approval of a time-critical removal action as authorized by the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), 42 U.S.C. § 9604 at the Cedar Chemical Corporation Site (hereinafter referred to as the "Site"). The general scope of the removal action will be to remove and dispose of hazardous substances located on-site.

The actions described in this memorandum meet the criteria for initiating a removal action under Section 300.415 of the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP), 40 CFR § 300.415.

1/16/03

II. SITE CONDITIONS AND BACKGROUND

CERCLIS No.: ARD990660649
Category of Removal: Time-Critical
Superfund Site ID No.: 06NH

12/19/2002 12/19/2002

Moore	Doty	Petersen	Gazda	Werner	Pair	Turner	Peycke	Buzzell
6SF-R2	6SF-RS	6SF-R2	6SF-R	6SF-AC	6SF-AC	6RC-S	6RC-S	6SF
12/18/02		12/18/02	12/18			1/7/03	01/02	