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Cc: Gerald Pepper (gerald.pepper@gmail.com)[gerald.pepper@gmail.com]; Hardcastle, Calvin[Calvin.Hardcastle@amec.com]
From: Conlan, Linda
Sent: Fri 1/24/2014 8:32:23 PM
Subject: PCBs - Pechiney - Proposed Changes to the Conditional Approvals
Pechiney_Soil Removal Area 5a_5b_5c.pdf

Hi Carmen,

Thank you for meeting with us yesterday regarding the ongoing work at the Pechiney site and the status of activities. As a follow-up to our discussion, we are proposing the following changes to USEPA Conditional Approvals under 40 CFR 761.61(c):

1) **Modification to Use of Restricted Fill (Section A.1.a – Cleanup Level C-1; July 1, 2011 Conditional Approval Letter).** This condition allows crushed concrete containing PCBs at concentrations greater than 1 mg/kg but less than 3.5 mg/kg as backfill material. This material was proposed as backfill for the 4a/4b soil excavation. Our proposed modification includes eliminating the use of restricted fill as backfill in the 4a/4b excavation. Instead, concrete containing PCBs at concentrations greater than 1 mg/kg (including concrete containing less than 3.5 mg/kg) will be transported off site for disposal at a permitted land disposal facility.

2) **PCB impacts indentified during Demolition**. Based on data collected by Alcoa and by AMEC as described in the application, several areas of PCB-impacted soil and concrete were identified and remediation associated with these impacts are in progress. However, as the demolition and soil removal work continues at the site, the extent of areas containing PCB-impacted soil and/or concrete that require removal and offsite disposal has expanded. The proposed modification to the approval is to apply a "blanket approval" to remediate the PCB-impacted soil and/or concrete as the work progresses; and such work would be conducted in accordance with the current approvals and remediation goals described in the Application and Approvals.

3) **PCB impacted soil at depths below 15 feet.** PCB-impacted soil at depths greater than 15 feet (below native grade) has been encountered in the soil removal area 5a/5b/5c areas (also referred to the Area C in our Application and the 2012 RAP). In this area, the existing concrete slab is about 4 feet above native site grade. The base of the deeper portion of the soil removal area (shown in blue on the attached figure) is currently at about 21 to 30 feet below the slab (or about 17 to 26 feet below native grade) depending on the location on the excavation floor. In the southern portion of the deeper excavation, soil containing PCBs at concentrations exceeding 23 mg/kg (actual measured concentration at this location is 73.6 mg/kg) is proposed to be left in place at an approximate depth of 26 feet below native grade. These site conditions are similar to the site conditions as specified in the Conditional Approval (refer to Section C.3.b.6; July 2, 2010 Conditional Approval letter and site grading plan) for the proposed 4a/4b soil removal area.

   The proposed modification to the Approval includes placing a physical barrier consisting of a minimum of 6 inches of concrete or cement slurry over the PCB-impacted soil at depth of greater than 15 feet below native grade. This modification will be applied to any areas where soil containing PCBs at concentrations greater than 23 mg/kg at depths greater than 15 feet below native grade with conditions consistent with the Approval for the proposed 4a/4b soil removal area. At this time, this modification is only expected to be applied to the 5a/5b/5c (Area C) excavation. For Area C, a cement-slurry in lieu of the concrete may be used based on worker safety conditions which do not allow direct placement of concrete and pumping of cement-slurry may be required to place the cover. Based on the depth and location of the soil that will remain in place and the physical barrier, disturbance of the PCB-impacted soil at depths greater than 15 feet below native grade is not anticipated during future site grading.

   Additional sampling is in progress pursuant to Section 2.3 [Soil Verification Sampling (PCBs) in the July 2010 Concrete and Soil Sampling and Analysis Plan (SAP)]. But because the Area C soil excavation is becoming unstable, backfill of Area C is expected to occur during the week of January 27, 2014. Based on the results of the verification samples, the area of the excavation where PCBs in soil may be left in place at a depth of 15 feet below native grade will be covered with a minimum of 6 inches cement slurry or concrete, which will be overlain with an orange mesh geotextile layer. The base of the excavation and concrete layer will be surveyed to document the depth and location of this feature. The remainder of the excavation will be backfilled with crushed concrete (defined as unrestricted site fill material).

Please let us know if the above proposed changes are approved.

Thank you,

Linda

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