

**Documentation of Environmental Indicator Determination
in accordance with EPA Interim Final Guidance 2/5/99**

**RCRA Corrective Action
Environmental Indicator (EI) RCRAInfo code (CA750)**

Migration of Contaminated Groundwater Under Control

Facility Name: INTERNATIONAL PAPER
Facility Address: Joplin, Missouri
Facility EPA ID #: MOD 007129935

1. Has **all** available relevant/significant information on known and reasonably suspected releases to the groundwater media, subject to RCRA Corrective Action (e.g., from Solid Waste Management Units (SWMU), Regulated Units (RU), and Areas of Concern (AOC)), been **considered** in this EI determination?

 X If yes - check here and continue with #2 below.

 If no - re-evaluate existing data, or

 If data are not available, skip to #8 and enter “IN” (more information needed) status code.

BACKGROUND

Definition of Environmental Indicators (for RCRA Corrective Action)

Environmental Indicators (EI) are measures being used by the RCRA Corrective Action program to go beyond programmatic activity measures (e.g., reports received and approved, etc.) to track changes in the quality of the environment. The two EIs developed to date indicate the quality of the environment in relation to current human exposures to contamination and the migration of contaminated groundwater. An EI for non-human (ecological) receptors is intended to be developed in the future.

Definition of “Migration of Contaminated Groundwater Under Control” EI

A positive “Migration of Contaminated Groundwater Under Control” EI determination (“YE” status code) indicates that the migration of “contaminated” groundwater has stabilized, and that monitoring will be conducted to confirm that contaminated groundwater remains within the original “area of contaminated groundwater” (for all groundwater “contamination” subject to RCRA corrective action at or from the identified facility (i.e., site-wide)).

Relationship of EI to Final Remedies

While Final remedies remain the long-term objective of the RCRA Corrective Action program the EIs are near-term objectives which are currently being used as Program measures for the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993, GPRA). The “Migration of Contaminated

Groundwater Under Control” EI pertains ONLY to the physical migration (i.e., further spread) of contaminated groundwater and contaminants within groundwater (e.g., non-aqueous phase liquids or NAPLs). Achieving this EI does not substitute for achieving other stabilization or final remedy requirements and expectations associated with sources of contamination and the need to restore, wherever practicable, contaminated groundwater to be suitable for its designated current and future uses.

Duration / Applicability of EI Determinations

EI Determination status codes should remain in RCRAInfo national database ONLY as long as they remain true (i.e., RCRAInfo status codes must be changed when the regulatory authorities become aware of contrary information).

2. Is **groundwater** known or reasonably suspected to be “**contaminated**”¹ above appropriately protective “levels” (i.e., applicable promulgated standards, as well as other appropriate standards, guidelines, guidance, or criteria [e.g, Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs), the maximum permissible level of a contaminant in water delivered to end users of a public water system under the Safe Drinking Water Act]) from releases subject to RCRA Corrective Action, anywhere at, or from, the facility?

 X If yes - continue after identifying key contaminants, citing appropriate “levels,” and referencing supporting documentation.

 If no - skip to #8 and enter “YE” status code, after citing appropriate “levels,” and referencing supporting documentation to demonstrate that groundwater is not “contaminated.”

 If unknown - skip to #8 and enter “IN” status code.

Rationale and Reference(s): The First Half 2001 Semiannual Groundwater Monitoring Report submitted by International Paper indicated the presence of numerous hazardous constituents in the groundwater at levels exceeding the attached Groundwater Protection Standards established by the facility Post-Closure Permit. These permit standards are based on applicable health-based criteria for drinking water systems. Hazardous constituents exceeding these standards are too numerous to list, but include naphthalenes, chloro-phenolic compounds, and other PAH’s.

Footnotes:

¹ “Contamination” and “contaminated” describes media containing contaminants (in any form, NAPL and/or dissolved, vapors, or solids, that are subject to RCRA) in concentrations in excess of appropriate “levels” (appropriate for the protection of the groundwater resource and its beneficial uses).

3. Has the **migration** of contaminated groundwater **stabilized** (such that contaminated groundwater is expected to remain within “existing area of contaminated groundwater”² as defined by the monitoring locations designated at the time of this determination)?

 X If yes - continue, after presenting or referencing the physical evidence (e.g., groundwater sampling/measurement/migration barrier data) and rationale why contaminated groundwater is expected to remain within the (horizontal or vertical) dimensions of the “existing area of groundwater contamination”²).

 If no (contaminated groundwater is observed or expected to migrate beyond the designated locations defining the “existing area of groundwater contamination”²) - skip to #8 and enter “NO” status code, after providing an explanation.

 If unknown - skip to #8 and enter “IN” status code.

Rationale and Reference(s): The 2001 Semiannual Groundwater Monitoring report contains a contaminant extent figure that shows the areal extent of groundwater contamination is less now than in 1993. 1993 is the year that International Paper began groundwater pumping in order to control the spread of contaminants off-site and to remediate its property. The potentiometric maps prepared by International Paper indicate that contaminated groundwater no longer flows off-site, and the six pumping wells have reversed groundwater flow inward towards the center of the International Paper property.

² “existing area of contaminated groundwater” is an area (with horizontal and vertical dimensions) that has been verifiably demonstrated to contain all relevant groundwater contamination for this determination, and is defined by designated (monitoring) locations proximate to the outer perimeter of “contamination” that can and will be sampled/tested in the future to physically verify that all “contaminated” groundwater remains within this area, and that the further migration of “contaminated” groundwater is not occurring. Reasonable allowances in the proximity of the monitoring locations are permissible to incorporate formal remedy decisions (i.e., including public participation) allowing a limited area for natural attenuation.

4. Does “contaminated” groundwater **discharge** into **surface water** bodies?

 If yes - continue after identifying potentially affected surface water bodies.

 X If no - skip to #7 (and enter a “YE” status code in #8, if #7 = yes) after providing an explanation and/or referencing documentation supporting that groundwater “contamination” does not enter surface water bodies.

 If unknown - skip to #8 and enter “IN” status code.

Rationale and Reference(s): A review of historical groundwater data has revealed a tendency for groundwater to migrate downward into mine voids, and deeper stratigraphic units (limestone).

No upward groundwater movement has been noted, and no current discharge of contaminated groundwater to springs or seeps is documented on the facility property. Historically, a mine vent spring discharged groundwater to surface drainage on the southeast corner of the property. However, due to groundwater pumping, the spring has been dry since 1997. This is documented in the annual and semiannual International Paper corrective action groundwater reports.

5. Is the **discharge** of “contaminated” groundwater into surface water likely to be **“insignificant”** (i.e., the maximum concentration³ of each contaminant discharging into surface water is less than 10 times the appropriate groundwater “level,” and there are no other conditions (e.g., the nature or number of discharging contaminants, or environmental setting), which significantly increase the potential for unacceptable impacts to surface water, sediments or eco-systems at these concentrations)?

_____ If yes - skip to #7 (and enter “YE” status code in #8 if #7 = yes), after documenting: 1) the maximum known or reasonably suspected concentration³ of key contaminants discharged above their groundwater “level,” the value of the appropriate “level(s),” and if there is evidence that the concentrations are increasing; and 2) provide a statement of professional judgement/explanation (or reference documentation) supporting that the discharge of groundwater contaminants into the surface water is not anticipated to have unacceptable impacts to the receiving surface water, sediments or eco-system.

_____ If no - (the discharge of “contaminated” groundwater into surface water is potentially significant) - continue after documenting: 1) the maximum known or reasonably suspected concentration³ of each contaminant discharged above its groundwater “level,” the value of the appropriate “level(s),” and if there is evidence that the concentrations are increasing; and 2) for any contaminants discharging into surface water in concentrations³ greater than 100 times the appropriate groundwater “levels,” the estimated total amount (mass in kg/yr) of each of these contaminants that are being discharged (loaded) into the surface water body (at the time of the determination), and identify if there is evidence that the amount of discharging contaminants is increasing.

_____ If unknown - enter “IN” status code in #8.

Rationale and Reference(s): _____

³ As measured in groundwater prior to entry to the groundwater-surface water/sediment interaction (e.g., hyporheic) zone.

6. Can the **discharge** of “contaminated” groundwater into surface water be shown to be “**currently acceptable**” (i.e., not cause impacts to surface water, sediments or eco-systems that should not be allowed to continue until a final remedy decision can be made and implemented⁴)?

_____ If yes - continue after either: 1) identifying the Final Remedy decision incorporating these conditions, or other site-specific criteria (developed for the protection of the site’s surface water, sediments, and eco-systems), and referencing supporting documentation demonstrating that these criteria are not exceeded by the discharging groundwater; OR 2) providing or referencing an interim-assessment,⁵ appropriate to the potential for impact, that shows the discharge of groundwater contaminants into the surface water is (in the opinion of a trained specialist(s), including ecologist) adequately protective of receiving surface water, sediments, and eco-systems, until such time when a full assessment and final remedy decision can be made. Factors which should be considered in the interim-assessment (where appropriate to help identify the impact associated with discharging groundwater) include: surface water body size, flow, use/classification/habitats and contaminant loading limits, other sources of surface water/sediment contamination, surface water and sediment sample results and comparisons to available and appropriate surface water and sediment “levels,” as well as any other factors, such as effects on ecological receptors (e.g., via bio-assays/benthic surveys or site-specific ecological Risk Assessments), that the overseeing regulatory agency would deem appropriate for making the EI determination.

_____ If no - (the discharge of “contaminated” groundwater cannot be shown to be “**currently acceptable**”) - skip to #8 and enter “NO” status code, after documenting the currently unacceptable impacts to the surface water body, sediments and/or eco-systems.

_____ If unknown - skip to 8 and enter “IN” status code.

Rationale and Reference(s): _____

⁴ Note, because areas of inflowing groundwater can be critical habitats (e.g., nurseries or thermal refugia) for many species, appropriate specialist (e.g., ecologist) should be included in management decisions that could eliminate these areas by significantly altering or reversing groundwater flow pathways near surface water bodies.

⁵ The understanding of the impacts of contaminated groundwater discharges into surface

water bodies is a rapidly developing field and reviewers are encouraged to look to the latest guidance for the appropriate methods and scale of demonstration to be reasonably certain that discharges are not causing currently unacceptable impacts to the surface waters, sediments or eco-systems.

7. Will groundwater **monitoring**/measurement data (and surface water/sediment/ecological data, as necessary) be collected in the future to verify that contaminated groundwater has remained within the horizontal (or vertical, as necessary) dimensions of the “existing area of contaminated groundwater?”

 X If yes - continue after providing or citing documentation for planned activities or future sampling/measurement events. Specifically identify the well/measurement locations which will be tested in the future to verify the expectation (identified in #3) that groundwater contamination will not be migrating horizontally (or vertically, as necessary) beyond the “existing area of groundwater contamination.”

 If no - enter “NO” status code in #8.

 If unknown - enter “IN” status code in #8.

Rationale and Reference(s): International Paper’s Post-Closure Permit requires International Paper to conduct a corrective action groundwater monitoring program until levels of hazardous constituents do not exceed the Groundwater Protection Standards at and beyond the point of compliance. This applies to samples from any of the point of compliance wells, or what International Paper refers to as the “key” monitoring wells at the facility. If no exceedances of these standards occur for a period of three consecutive years International Paper is allowed to terminate the groundwater corrective action program at the facility, although the facility would still be required to monitor the groundwater to ensure that any contaminated groundwater that remains is not moving beyond the point of compliance. International Paper also monitors wells located around the perimeter of the contaminant plume. Contaminant migration past these sampling points would require International Paper to install additional wells to maintain definition of the extent of groundwater contamination emanating from its waste management units and to propose and implement additional remedial measures to control groundwater migration, as required by the Permit and 40 CFR 264 Subpart F. Detailed requirements for groundwater monitoring at the facility are governed by the latest approved sampling and analysis plan, *International Paper Groundwater Field Sampling Plan*, dated April 1998.

8. Check the appropriate RCRAInfo status codes for the Migration of Contaminated Groundwater Under Control EI (event code CA750), and obtain Supervisor (or appropriate Manager) signature and date on the EI determination below (attach appropriate supporting documentation as well as a map of the facility).

X YE - Yes, "Migration of Contaminated Groundwater Under Control" has been verified. Based on a review of the information contained in this EI determination, it has been determined that the "Migration of Contaminated Groundwater" is "Under Control" at the International Paper facility, EPA ID # MOD 007129935 , located at Joplin, Missouri. Specifically, this determination indicates that the migration of "contaminated" groundwater is under control, and that monitoring will be conducted to confirm that contaminated groundwater remains within the "existing area of contaminated groundwater." This determination will be re-evaluated when the Agency becomes aware of significant changes at the facility.

NO - Unacceptable migration of contaminated groundwater is observed or expected.

IN - More information is needed to make a determination.

Completed by: (Signature) Original Signed by Brian McCurren on 9/20/01
(Print) Brian McCurren
(Title) Environmental Engineer

Supervisor: (Signature) Original Signed by Robert K. Morrison on 9/20/01
(Print) Robert K. Morrison
(Title) Chief, Land Disposal PCB Permits Unit
Permit Section, Hazardous Waste Program
(EPA Region or State) Missouri Department of Natural Resources

Locations where References may be found:
MDNR Hazardous Waste Program RCRA TSD files, specifically the Groundwater Monitoring file for International Paper. These files are housed at the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, 1738 East Elm, Jefferson City, MO, 65101.

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