

# Hooker Chemical/Ruco Polymer

## New York

EPA ID#: NYD002920312

### EPA REGION 2

Congressional District(s): 03

Nassau

Hicksville

#### NPL LISTING HISTORY

Proposed Date: 10/1/1984

Final Date: 6/1/1986

## Site Description

The Hooker Chemical/Ruco Polymer site, located in an industrial park area of Hicksville on Long Island, has been used to manufacture plastics, latex, and esters since 1945. Liquid process wastes were discharged into sand sumps from 1951 to 1975. The sand sumps for Plant 2 manufactured polyvinyl chloride (PVCs) and latex, received approximately 2 million gallons of process wastewater per year from 1956 to 1975. Reportedly, the dry well for Plant 1, used for the manufacture of esters also received wastewater. Some glycol wastes have been incinerated on site. Numerous leaks and spills of chemicals, including polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), had occurred. Waste disposal and chemical spillage also have occurred at the adjacent Grumman Aerospace Corporation Plant that is being addressed by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and the U.S. Navy. Currently, all buildings located at the site have been demolished and the entire site has been razed to ground level. The 14-acre Ruco Polymer plant site is fenced. Approximately 20,000 people live within a mile of the site. There are four public water supply wells within a mile of the site and 24 wells within 3 miles.

Site Responsibility: This site is being addressed through Federal, State and potentially responsible parties' actions.

## Threat and Contaminants

Groundwater underlying the site is contaminated with organic compounds such as vinyl chloride, trichloroethylene (TCE) perchloroethylene (PCE) and tentatively identified compounds (TICs). Several industrial wells located downgradient from the site are also contaminated with vinyl chloride.

On-site soils contained volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOCs). All the homes in the area are connected to the public water supply. There is a potential health risk is to people who eat, drink, inhale, or come into direct contact with contaminants if they were to use untreated groundwater for domestic service.

## Cleanup Approach

EPA has designated three operable units for the Site. Operable Unit 1 (OU-1) addresses contaminated soils at the Hooker/Ruco Facility. Operable Unit 2 (OU-2) addresses polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) contaminated surface soils. Operable Unit 3 (OU-3) addresses the downgradient commingled contaminated groundwater plume beyond the Hooker/Ruco Facility and also the contaminated groundwater beneath the Hooker/Ruco Facility. In 2000, the Bayer Corporation purchased the Hooker Ruco facility and in 2002 decided to close the facility. Consequently, Bayer has also had to follow the requirements of the NYSDEC's hazardous waste facility closure and corrective action requirements.

#### Response Action Status

PCB-Contaminated Soils: Based on a potentially responsible party (PRP) study to address the PCB-contaminated soils, in 1990 EPA issued a Record of Decision (ROD) for OU-2 to excavate and remove PCB-contaminated soils. This action was conducted by the potentially responsible parties under an Administrative Order issued by EPA and was completed in 1992.

Ruco Facility: In 1988, the EPA signed a Consent Order with the PRPs to conduct a study to determine the nature and extent of site contamination and to evaluate alternatives for site cleanup. In January 1994, based on the results of this study, EPA issued a Record of Decision for OU-1 for the site which includes additional soil sampling, excavation of shallow soils in limited areas, soil flushing and control of contaminated groundwater beneath the site. In June 1994, EPA issued a Unilateral Administrative Order directing the PRPs to perform the Remedial Design and Remedial Action

(RD/RA). Actions on the site are being coordinated with the actions taken on the adjoining Northrop/Grumman (Northrop) and Naval Weapons Industrial Weapons Reserve Plant (NWIRP) sites. The groundwater beneath the Hooker/Ruco Site is commingled with the downgradient contaminated groundwater beneath the Northrop and NWIRP sites. The remedial actions performed for the unsaturated soil component of OU-1 consisted of: excavation and off-site disposal of 310 tons of PCB contaminated soil; removal and off-site disposal of the concrete tank in Sump 1 and installation of a soil flushing system at Sump 1 to enhance the migration of the remaining minimal chemical presence from the unsaturated soils to the groundwater. Water flushing injections were performed at the sump in August 2002, March 2003 and February 2004. Final soil flushing injection was performed in March 2005. Contaminated groundwater at the site is being addressed by the OU-3 remedy, as noted below.

Downgradient Groundwater: In September 2000, EPA issued the ROD for OU-3 which includes remediation of a distinct subplume of groundwater contaminated with vinyl chloride, the primary contaminant at the site, using an innovative treatment system called "bioparging." Bioparging is a form of bioremediation that involves the introduction of air/oxygen into the aquifer to enhance the natural breakdown of the vinyl chloride in the groundwater. The treatment system will operate in addition to the groundwater treatment systems which are already operating under NYSDEC authority to effectively remove a mix of VOCs emanating from the sites. In April 2001, EPA issued an Administrative Order directing the PRPs for the Hooker Chemical/Ruco Polymer Site to perform a Remedial Design and Remedial Action for the OU-3 remedy. In May 2001, the PRPs responded with their intent to comply with the terms of the Administrative Order. Pre-design investigative field activities in support of the remedy were completed in August 2002. The 35% and 95% Remedial Design documents were approved and the finalization and approval of the 100% Remedial Design document was completed in August 2005. Remedial action construction activities related to implementation of Phase I of the remedy began in September 2005 and were completed in October 2006. EPA has reviewed the performance of phase 1 and requested that the PRPs complete construction of the rest of the system. Construction to be completed by 2012.

## Cleanup Progress

EPA's remedy for OU-2, which was issued first, addressed PCB contaminated soil. The remedy called for off-site disposal of 3,230 tons (1,957 yd<sup>3</sup>) of soil with PCB concentrations of between 10 and 500 parts per million (parts). In addition, 85.2 tons (52 yd<sup>3</sup>) of soil with a PCB concentration greater than 500 ppm was sent to an off-site incinerator.

The remedy for the OU-1, which was implemented after the remedy for OU2, called for off-site disposal of 310 tons of PCB contaminated soil, off-site disposal of a concrete tank from an on-site sump and installation of a soil flushing system at the sump to enhance migration of the remaining soil contaminants into the groundwater. Water flushing at the sump was conducted in August 2002, March 2003, February 2004 and March 2005.

In 2000, the Bayer Corporation purchased the Hooker Ruco facility and in 2002 decided to close the facility. Consequently, Bayer has had to follow the requirements of the NYSDEC's hazardous waste facility closure and corrective action requirements. This has resulted in Bayer performing three interim corrective action studies which resulted in the removal of 15,500 tons (9,700 yd<sup>3</sup>) of soil with a PCB concentration greater than 50 ppm. The NYSDEC has asked Bayer to conduct a final corrective action study which will result in the removal of soil with remaining PCB contamination.

Construction of the remedy for OU-3 is being done in phases. Phase I of the bioparging system was completed in October 2006. EPA reviewed the performance of phase 1 and requested the PRPs to complete construction of the rest of the system. Construction should be completed by 2012.

## Site Repositories

Hicksville Public Library, 169 Jerusalem Avenue, Hicksville, NY 11801