

## CURRENT UPDATES

### Dartron Site

Building demolition work at the Dartron parcel (Parcel 1C5), which began in September, 2001, has been completed. All pits and tanks containing liquids were sampled and the liquids were disposed prior to the initiation of demolition work. All asbestos and mercury switches and ballasts were also removed from the buildings. The demolition contractor continues to remove demolition debris from the parcel. It is anticipated that all work will be completed by the end of April, 2002.

### Separating Dartron from the DFFO

As part of the settlement of enforcement issues at the Diamond Shamrock Painesville Work Site, Ohio EPA has proposed separating the Dartron parcel from the remainder of the Site. Ohio EPA is currently negotiating an agreement with Crompton Corp. (formerly Uniroyal Chemical Co.) for the completion of the remedial investigation (RI) and performance of the feasibility study (FS).

### Ohio Attorney General Case Status

In September 2000, Ohio EPA referred Chemical Land Holdings, the Painesville PRP Group and other potentially responsible parties to the Ohio Attorney General for enforcement for failure to perform work as required by the Director's Final Findings and Orders (DFFO). The parties have come to an agreement on all of the sampling issues related to the enforcement case and almost all of the sampling has been completed. Currently, the primary outstanding issue concerns the penalty. On January 31, 2002, the Ohio Attorney General filed a complaint in federal court concerning this issue. This case should not cause any delays in the completion of investigation at the Site.

### Coke Plant/U.S. EPA Removal

On August 22, 2001, representatives from Ohio EPA and the Painesville PRP Group discovered a release of hazardous materials from one of the tanks at the former coke plant. The property owner, Erie Coke Properties, was notified of the release by Ohio EPA, but failed to respond to the issue. On September 27, 2001, Ohio EPA requested that U.S. EPA evaluate the coke plant for a time-critical removal of hazardous wastes. This evaluation was performed and U.S. EPA agreed to pursue the removal through the federal system. U.S. EPA is currently negotiating with Chemical Land Holdings, Scepter Management Corporation (former Erie Coke and Chemical) and Erie Coke Properties for the removal of all hazardous wastes from the property. It is anticipated that either U.S. EPA or one of the potentially responsible parties will remove these wastes from the property within the next several months.

### Public Meeting May 6, 2002 – Site Development Plans

Hemisphere Corporation, a developer with offices in Beachwood, Ohio, is interested in parts of the Site. They are working with Ohio EPA, Site landowners and the responsible governing bodies to prepare and implement development plans suited for those parts of the Site. Hemisphere plans to apply for development assistance using State Brownfields money, which is available for redeveloping former industrial property. A public meeting will be held Monday, May 6, 2002 at 7:00 p.m. in the Fairport Village Hall to discuss this application and the development plans.

## MAIN PLANT PARCEL – PARCEL 1B1

(adapted from Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study Work Plan, SECOR, 1997)

The majority of the manufacturing operations at the Diamond Shamrock Painesville Works Site (“the Site”) occurred within Parcel 1B1, which is approximately sixty five acres in size. Production/manufacturing of the following products occurred within Parcel 1B1 at various times between 1912 and 1977:

- soda ash (sodium carbonate)
- chlorine
- sodium hydroxide
- hydrochloric acid (pickle liquor for steel mills)
- bicarbonate of soda
- liquid hydrogen
- carbon tetrachloride
- Chlorowax™

Soda ash production using the Solvay process was the primary manufacturing operation at the Site. In 1910, the first brine wells were installed to recover salt for soda ash production. The Soda Ash Plant was constructed in 1912 and utilized salt (in the form of brine pumped from solution wells on the Site) and limestone as raw materials. Limestone was converted to lime by heating with coke, and ammonia was recycled within the process. The primary by-product generated in the Solvay process was wastewater which contained an average of four hundred tons/day of calcium chloride, sodium chloride, sand (silica), ash, unreacted limestone, calcium and sodium carbonate.

The coal-fired Power Plant built in 1912 was used to supply electricity to the Site. By-products generated from this process included cooling water and coal ash.

Chlorine and sodium hydroxide were produced within Parcel 1B1 from approximately 1930 through the early 1970’s using an electrolytic diaphragm cell process. The primary raw material consisted of brine obtained from on-Site brine solution mining wells. Chlorine was used for the manufacture of carbon tetrachloride, hydrochloric acid, Chlorowax™, or compressed to liquefied chlorine for sale. Periodically the diaphragm cells, which were coated with asbestos, were cleaned with water to improve cell operation. Wastewater containing asbestos was generated during this cleaning process.

Hydrogen gas was also collected on Site by the General Electric Company from 1956 until 1977. The hydrogen was piped and compressed on a two acre parcel located in the southwest part of Study Area 1 and transported off Site for use in the manufacturing of electric lamps.

An anhydrous process for the manufacture of carbon tetrachloride was brought on-line in approximately 1949. Carbon tetrachloride was produced by reacting chlorine gas with carbon bisulfide. This reaction also produced sulfur chloride. By-products created by the manufacturing of carbon tetrachloride and sulfur chloride were recycled back into the production process.

Low grade hydrochloric acid (“muriatic acid”) was also produced within Parcel 1B1. This acid was produced by reacting chlorine and hydrogen in a brick-lined furnace to produce a gas. This gas was cooled and absorbed in water to produce a 36% muriatic acid solution which was then sold.

Wastewater and other non-liquid wastes generated during manufacturing processes were discharged or disposed within one of four settling basins (soup ponds) located on various parts of the Site. Once settling of solids from liquid wastes had occurred, the liquid was then pumped from the settling basin into the Hydroretention Basin (Study Area 5) prior to discharge into the Grand River. Asbestos-containing waste water from the chlorine process was pumped directly into the Hydroretention Basin.

Diamond Shamrock operations within Parcel 1B1 were discontinued by early 1977. The facilities in which soda ash, carbon tetrachloride and electricity were produced were demolished in 1986. The area was then graded, covered with soil and fence. Storm water sewer lines used during plant operations were filled with a cement/clay mixture and new lines were installed. An active vegetation ground cover was established and is currently being maintained.