EPA will monitor work, which is a critical step toward restoring this iconic New Jersey river for the communities along its banks

Source U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

March 3, 2023

A March 2 press release announced that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency issued an administrative order requiring Occidental Chemical Corp. (OxyChem) to design the interim cleanup plan that EPA selected in September 2021 for the upper nine miles of the Lower Passaic River Study Area of the Diamond Alkali Superfund site in New Jersey. OxyChem will be responsible for preparing work plans and conducting a preliminary investigation. This includes sampling to identify contamination boundaries. OxyChem will also conduct studies to assess the river bottom, shoreline, and other aspects of the river in preparation for the cleanup.

“Under this order, OxyChem will perform the engineering work needed before the actual cleanup work can begin,” said Regional Administrator Lisa F. Garcia in the press release. "EPA will closely monitor this work, which is a critical step toward restoring this iconic river for the communities along its banks."

The cleanup plan that OxyChem will be designing is an interim action. When the cleanup has been completed, EPA will evaluate

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According to Bloomberg Law, the Passaic River has been a dumping ground for companies since the late 1940s. One such company was Diamond Alkali, which operated there in the 1950s and 1960s manufacturing herbicides—including Agent Orange used in the Vietnam War. The Diamond Alkali site was later purchased by OxyChem and merged into the company.

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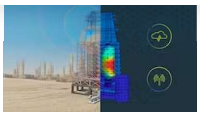

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EPA Orders Chemours to Address PFAS Pollution

Company becomes the first chemical producer to face enforcement actions for per-and polyfluoroalkyl substance discharges.

By Chemical Processing Staff

May 1, 2023

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has ordered the Chemours Company to implement testing and mitigation measures to address per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) releases from its the Washington Works facility near Parkersburg,

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an April 26 news release.

The order requires Chemours to implement an EPA-approved sampling plan to analyze PFAS and conduct analysis to further understand the presence of PFAS in stormwater and wastewater discharged from the facility. Also, Chemours must submit and implement a plan to treat or minimize the discharge of PFAS to ensure compliance with numeric effluent limits of PFOA and Hexafluoropropylene Oxide (HFPO) dimer acid. In addition, to identify best practices to reduce PFAS discharges from the site, Chemours will submit its existing standard operating procedures relating to the management of wastewater for various systems and its revised storm water pollution prevention plan, according to the EPA.

The facility exceeded permit effluent limits for PFOA and HFPO dimer acid on various dates from September 2018 through March 2023, and Chemours failed to properly operate and maintain all facilities and systems required for permit compliance, according to the EPA.

Under the Clean Water Act, it is unlawful to discharge pollutants into U.S. waterways except pursuant to a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit, issued by EPA or a state, the EPA notes. The permit sets pollution discharge limits, monitoring and reporting requirements, and other conditions designed to protect water quality. Chemours operates several manufacturing units at the Washington Works facility, which produce fluorinated organic chemical products including fluoropolymers.

The facility discharges industrial process water and stormwater to the Ohio River and its tributaries, under the terms of a NPDES permit issued in 2018 by the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection. E.I. du Pont de Nemours and Company was the NPDES permit holder at Washington Works until 2015. In 2015, the permit was transferred to Chemours. The permit imposes discharge limits and requires monitoring of certain pollutants, including PFAS such as perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), which was used in the past as a processing aid for manufacturing, and HFPO

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