

BULK CHEMICALS, INC. SITE

COMMUNITY UPDATE | July 9, 2019

U.S. EPA continues response oversight at Bulk Chemicals, Inc.

The Bulk Chemicals, Inc. Site is a chemical facility located on Mohrsville Road in Shoemakersville, Perry Township. On Sunday, June 9, the Shoemakersville Fire Company, Berks County Department of Emergency Services and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) responded to a spill of nitric acid at the facility. On Monday morning, June 10, the Shoemakersville Fire Company returned to respond to a fire in the building where the nitric acid was released. Some local residents were asked to evacuate their homes to ensure their health and safety during these events. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) arrived on Site on June 10 at the request of PADEP to provide assistance. Since arriving on the scene, EPA and PADEP have been coordinating with local agencies and Bulk Chemicals, Inc. (BCI) to assess conditions at the facility and are overseeing site stabilization and cleanup efforts being conducted by BCI and its contractors. EPA is also continuing to monitor air quality to ensure the safety of on-site workers and the nearby community until the site is stabilized.

What is going on at the Site?

The response team continues to make progress to stabilize conditions at the BCI facility. During the week of July 1, the response team transferred the remaining nitric acid from a temporary storage container to permanent containers. Current work is focused on the stabilization of additional containers.

Once all chemical containers have been stabilized, EPA will transition the response oversight to PADEP and conclude its continuous air monitoring around the perimeter of the facility. EPA expects this transition to occur within the next week. PADEP efforts will then focus on the proper disposal of waste from the cleanup, which may continue for several weeks. Since the air monitoring began on June 11, air quality outside the facility continues to be safe for residents. EPA also sampled five residential drinking water wells in the immediate vicinity of the facility. Preliminary sampling results show no impact from the spill to these drinking water wells.

What can I expect?

- Closure of Mohrsville Road through July 12.
- Cleanup activities in and around the BCI facility for 1-4 weeks.
- Increased noise, truck traffic, and equipment on Mohrsville Road.
- Coordination between PADEP and local officials for the remainder of the response.

QUESTIONS? Contact Us!



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«Current Resident»

«House Number» «Pre-directional» «Street»

«Street Suffix»

«City», «State» «Zip Code»