



Environmental
Protection Agency

John R. Kasich, Governor
Mary Taylor, Lt. Governor
Scott J. Nally, Director

Re: Hancock County
Dow Chemical Co.
Industrial
Storm Water

August 9, 2011

Mr. Todd Kindle, Site EH&S/ES&S Delivery
Dow Chemical Co.
3441 North Main Street
Findlay, Ohio 45840

Dear Mr. Kindle:

On July 13, 2011, I inspected Dow Chemical Co., located at 3441 North Main Street, Findlay (photos taken). The purpose of my visit was to evaluate compliance of the site with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for storm water discharges associated with industrial activity, Facility ID No. 2GR00261. Brian Brown, Manufacturing Site Leader; Steve Shiparski, Operations Leader; and you were present to provide information. As a result of the inspection, I have the following comments:

1. The facility manufactures plastic film and plastic laminates. It has a primary Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) code of 3081, Unsupported Plastics Film and Sheet.
2. While the current version of the permit has expired, your coverage remains in effect until Ohio EPA issues a new general permit. Ohio EPA is currently in the process of renewing the general permit, called the Multi-Sector General Permit (MSGP). The draft permit may be viewed at:
http://www.epa.ohio.gov/dsw/permits/IndustrialStormWater_draft_GP_oct10.a.spx

Once the general permit is renewed, Ohio EPA will send an application packet to all permittees instructing them on how to renew coverage. You will have 90 days from receipt of these instructions to renew permit coverage. At this time, **I recommend reviewing the MSGP**. Sections 1 through 8 pertain to all facilities. Subpart Y outlines some of the Best Management Practices (BMPs) required for your industry.

3. There were no storm water discharges during my inspection. Facility sampling is not required and has not been performed. However, routine visual monitoring will be required under the MSGP. The Agency is currently revising the frequency of monitoring in the draft permit. Once the permit is issued final, guidance on MSGP monitoring can be found at:
http://www.epa.gov/npdes/pubs/msgp_monitoring_guide.pdf.
4. Industrial activities with potential exposure of pollutants to storm water include: material loading and unloading activities at the docking bay doors in the event of a spill; unloading of plastic pellets from rail cars if precipitation blows into or runs into the area; the outside storage of equipment and wood pallets; material transfer into the two uncovered refuse roll-offs; and pressure relief vents from Pump House D (air collection and filter system).
5. A Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWP3) was available onsite. The last modification was June 16, 2011. The plan was signed, but did not include the required certification statement. The SWP3 did include the Pollution Prevention Team, the material inventory, and a site map. During the inspection, I noted that the locations of catch basins for the access road on the north end of the site were not shown, the location of control measures such as spill kits and catch basin screens were not shown, and the loading and unloading areas were not specifically labeled on the site map. *The missing details are a violation of Part IV.D.2.a. of the permit.*

While the facility has an SPCC plan and an Immediate Response binder, these were not mentioned in the SWP3. Where BMPs are described in other documents, the SWP3 must at least reference these documents.

A Comprehensive Site Compliance Evaluation was last performed June 16, 2011. While there was a signature; the documentation must include the certification statement.

The NPDES permit requires that the SWP3 describe and insure implementation of storm water controls. These controls must address several different components of facility operations that are listed in the permit. Storm water control implementation issues were noted for the following facility operations:

6. Good Housekeeping - The permit requires BMPs that result in the maintenance of a clean, orderly facility. Some plastic pellets were observed scattered throughout the railcar unloading area. Increased visual monitoring and sweeping is recommended for this area.

Also, Dow was doing some capital improvements indoors. Metal beams which had oil on them were stored on the ground outside. Dow agreed to move them. If this occurs in the future, please know that it may also be acceptable to cover temporary equipment staging areas with tarps.

The roll-offs containing garbage were not covered. Please make sure all outside bins and roll-offs containing material are covered or ensure the containers are leak proof. It should be noted under the draft MSGP, Section 2.2.1, permittees are required to minimize exposure of materials by locating them inside or protecting with a storm resistant shelter. Industrial materials do not need to be enclosed or covered if storm water runoff from affected areas will not be discharged to receiving waters.

7. Inspections & Employee Training – Dow's SWP3 did not appear to discuss training frequency in the SWP3 or the SPCC. It is my understanding that spill response personnel are trained annually. A refresher is held once per three years for all staff. Training documentation was reviewed and appeared satisfactory. The draft Multi-Sector General Permit will require at least annual employee training of all employees who work in areas where industrial activities or materials are exposed to storm water, or who are responsible for implementing activities necessary to meet the conditions of this permit (e.g. inspectors, maintenance personnel).

The SWP3 states there will be quarterly inspections of outfalls. Please be aware that the draft Multi-Sector General Permit will require at least quarterly routine documented inspections of all areas of the facility where industrial activities or materials are exposed to storm water, and of all storm water control measures used to comply with this permit.

8. Non-Storm Water Discharge Certification - The permit requires the SWP3 to contain a certification that Dow's storm water discharge has been tested or evaluated for the presence for non-storm water discharges. A description of the results of any test or evaluation, the evaluation criteria or testing method used, the date of the assessment and the onsite drainage points that were observed must be included in the SWP3. No certification statement, documentation of assessment process and evidence or observations, and evaluation results were included. *This lack of information is a violation of Part IV.D.3. g. of the permit.*

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9. Sediment and Erosion Control- The SWP3 must identify areas that have a high potential for erosion and implement measures to limit it. While sediment and erosion controls were mentioned, site specific issues were not reported. Recently, the fire pond south of the building was removed. The soil had been hydroseeded but nothing was growing. Dow had not watered the seed and we have had no rain. I advised to water seeding or use straw mulch until fall then seed again. You indicated that Dow will water from an adjacent hydrant. *The failure to detail specific issues and implement measures to limit erosion is a violation of Part VI.D.3.h. of the permit.*

Within 30 days of the date on this letter, please submit to this office **written notification** as to the actions taken or proposed to address the above issues. Your response should include the dates, either actual or proposed, for the completion of the actions. If there are any questions, please contact me at (419) 373-3009.

Sincerely,



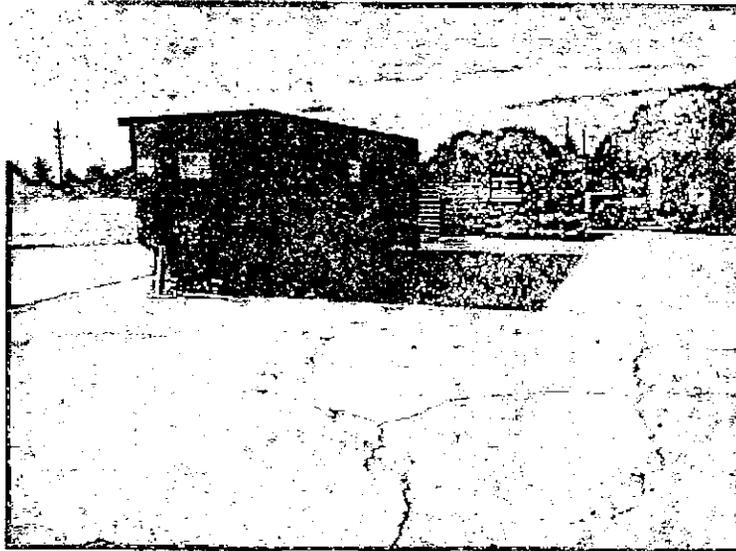
Lynette M. Hablitzel, P.E.
Division of Surface Water
Storm Water Section

/llr

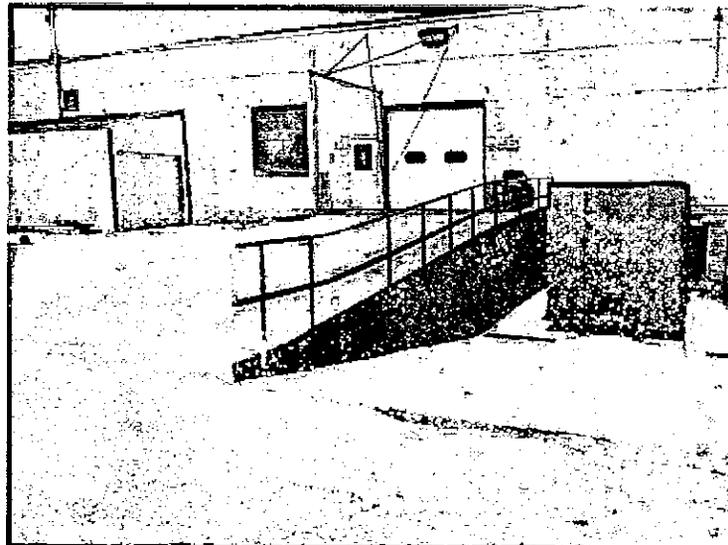
pc: ~~DSW-NWDO-File~~

.ec: Meghan Clement, City of Findlay, mclement@findlayohio.com

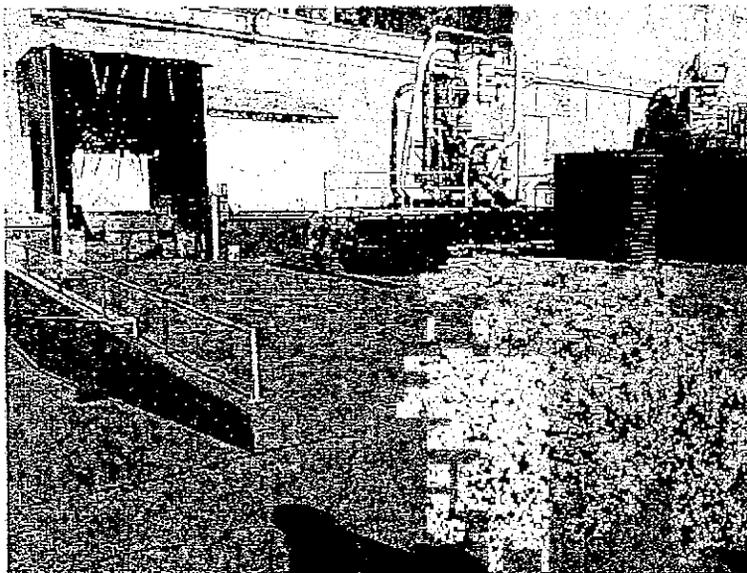
7/13/2011 Hancock County, DOW. General refuse roll-offs on the southeast side of building. Taken by Lynette Hablitzel. DOW_07132011_01.jpg



7/13/2011 Hancock County, DOW. Loading/unloading bay and compactor on east side of building. Taken by Lynette Hablitzel. DOW_07132011_02.jpg



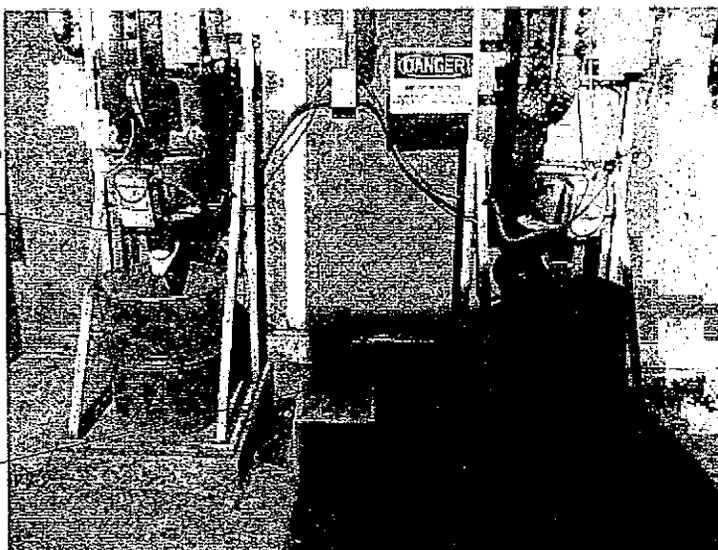
7/13/2011 Hancock County, DOW. Loading/unloading bay and material storage on east side of building. Taken by Lynette Hablitzel. DOW_07132011_03.jpg



7/13/2011 Hancock County, DOW. . On east side of building. Uncovered receiving drums were beneath the pressure relief device for the air collection and filter system. Catch basin with metal screen located between drums. Taken by Lynette Hablitzel. DOW_07132011_04.jpg

Dust collection
and filter
system
pressure relief

Screen over
catch basin



7/13/2011 Hancock County, DOW. On east side of building. Covered rail car unloading area. Plastic pellet storage silos on the right. Taken by Lynette Hablitzel. DOW_07132011_05.jpg



7/13/2011 Hancock County, DOW. On east side of building. Covered rail car unloading area. Plastic pellet storage silos on the right. Taken by Lynette Hablitzel. DOW_07132011_06.jpg

