



Allied Universal October 13, 2000

Introduction

The Georgia Environmental Protection Division (GEPD) requested that the Georgia Division of Public Health (GDPH) address the public's health concerns associated with Allied Universal Corporation (Allied) in Ranger, Georgia. Local residents are concerned that Allied has released hazardous contaminants and that their groundwater and air is contaminated.

Site Description and History

Allied has been in its present location since 1991 and began full-scale operations in early 1992. The chemical plant manufactures sodium hypochlorite and sodium bisulfate, and repackages chlorine, muriatic acid, sulfuric acid, sodium hydroxide, sodium hypochlorite, and sulfur dioxide. The amounts of chemicals that are handled at the facility are too small to warrant regulation under federal requirements, such as those that govern Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) facilities.

The property consists of 125 acres in Ranger, Georgia, on Possum Hollow Road. The plant itself occupies approximately 3 acres, and the remainder of the property is leased to a farmer who grows corn on low-lying areas.

Environmental Sampling/Results

To address residents' concerns about releases of hazardous contaminants into groundwater, existing groundwater sampling data were reviewed. GDPH determined that a completed contaminated groundwater exposure pathway did not exist in the past and does not currently exist for residents near Allied because no chemical contamination has been detected in groundwater. Future exposure to chemical contamination is unlikely because GEPD oversees that the facility strictly enforces standard operating procedures at Allied.

Coliform bacteria were found in some wells samples. This particular type of bacteria can cause health problems, primarily with the digestive system. Future exposure to bacterial contamination is unlikely if the wells are disinfected or are no longer used as a drinking water supply.

No air data have been collected; therefore, GDPH cannot address whether anyone has been exposed to contaminants in air.

Conclusions

GDPH believes a completed contaminated groundwater exposure pathway does not exist for the residents near Allied; therefore, this site currently poses **no public health hazard**. Bacteria found during private well sampling can be a health problem if resident do not take measures to disinfect wells as instructed.

Recommendations

In agreement with GEPD, GDPH recommends to continue to disinfect their drinking wells in order to eliminate bacterial contamination. GDPH also recommends well sampling in the event of a reported chemical spill to the groundwater at Allied.