Response to Inquiries Regarding Chemical Waste Management, Vickery, Ohio

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The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency today issued enforcement orders to the Chemical Waste Management hazardous waste facility in Vickery, Ohio, following four days of sampling and inspection at the site. In a total of 24 separate requirements, the Agency has ordered the company to do the following:

1) Immediately cease accepting, selling, or removing waste oils from the site until it meets certain conditions set by Ohio EPA;

2) Continue its suspension of deep well injection at the site until it receives Ohio EPA approval to resume operations;

3) Provide a plan for disposing of PCB-contaminated waste within 15 days, and carry out the disposal by June 15, 1983. Until the waste is removed, all tanks containing PCB-tainted oil must be locked;

4) Submit within 30 days a study of soil, surface water and ground water both on and off the site, to determine if PCB's have migrated from the property;

5) Immediately halt the use of lagoons 5 and 7, which have been found to contain PCB's, until receiving Ohio EPA approval to use them again;

6) Submit a detailed hydrogeologic study within 30 days in accordance with its hazardous waste permit;

7) Provide Ohio EPA with copies of all studies, reports or other information generated by the company or its consultants in investigations of the facility.

Ohio EPA investigators teamed up with U.S. EPA representatives March 29 and 30 to conduct a complete investigation into the company's compliance with all state and federal hazardous waste laws and with federal PCB requirements. Waste materials on the property were sampled by Ohio EPA and company representatives March 24 and 25.

The company's parent firm (Waste Management of Oak Brook, Illinois) shut down its deep well operations last week after learning about 135,000 gallons of PCB-contaminated oil on the property. On March 30, the firm also suspended its waste oil reclamation activities at the Vickery site. Maynard charged in his Findings and Orders that the company failed to adequately sample waste materials coming into the site, and therefore inadvertently accepted the PCB-tainted oil. His orders require detailed chemical and physical analysis of each waste stream entering the property.

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Maynard also said that three lagoons have been improperly closed at the site and a fourth, which was to have been closed by March 30, 1983, has not been closed. He is requiring the company to provide data and sampling results from the closed lagoons. A written report on plans to close the fourth lagoon must be submitted to Ohio EPA in 15 days.

Several of the enforcement orders request additional information or reports. "Our investigation is continuing," Maynard stated. "If additional problems turn up, we'll take steps to get them taken care of."

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