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LOVE CANAL 1997 ANNUAL OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE REPORT

**Occidental Chemical Corporation
Niagara Falls, New York**

FOREWORD

The 1997 Love Canal Annual Operation and Maintenance Report is submitted pursuant to Section 2.C. of Appendix B of the Consent Judgment between Occidental Chemical Corporation (OCC) and the State of New York effective October 7, 1994. It covers those developments and activities which occurred in the 1997 calendar year. This is the third Annual Report issued by OCC. Annual Reports prior to the 1995 calendar year were issued by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC). For further information regarding the developments and activities at Love Canal, please contact:

Dennis M. O'Neil
Human Resources Manager
Occidental Chemical Corporation
2801 Long Road
Grand Island, NY 14072
Phone: (716) 773-8525

SUMMARY

Responsibility for site operations and control passed from NYSDEC to OCC on January 5, 1995. Shortly thereafter, on January 12, 1995, the NYSDEC reclassified the site to a Class 4 site. This is a site which has been properly closed and requires continued management. Operation in 1997 proceeded smoothly with no incidents out of the ordinary.

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LOVE CANAL LEACHATE COLLECTION AND TREATMENT

A new City wastewater discharge permit was issued to OCC on January 5, 1995. The Love Canal Leachate Treatment Facility's discharges met all discharge requirements of City permit during the year. The leachate collection system continued to function as designed drawing groundwater toward the underground drain system from both the landfill and the surrounding area beyond the cap.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE ACTIVITIES

- Replaced carbon in the lead bed at the Leachate Treatment Facility twice this year.
- Restored soil to the area of the dewatering containment facility and the clay stockpile which were removed in 1996.
- Replaced 11 outside metal vent absorbers with new plastic vent absorbers.
- Cleaned all well chambers, storage tanks, clarifier, treatment tanks and sludge storage tanks.
- Lowered riser pipes on 17 wells to flushmounts pursuant to request from LCARA and DEC to facilitate redevelopment of the area.

THE LONG-TERM MONITORING PROGRAM

The Long-Term Monitoring Program examines hydrogeologic and chemical data from the Love Canal area in order to evaluate the overall effectiveness of the containment system. In 1997, one round of samples was collected from 40 long-term monitoring wells that surround the site. Approximately quarterly groundwater elevations were taken in six groups of piezometers located around the site.

The basic conclusion from the 1997 data is that it is similar to previous data gathered from 1989 to 1996, and that the barrier drain is functioning as designed. This conclusion is supported by both the hydrological and chemical evidence.