

**EPCRA OFF-SITE PLAN FOR**  
 CenturyLink  
 La Crosse Southern Division  
 333 Front Street North  
 La Crosse WI 54601

**I. FACILITY NAME:**  
 CenturyLink La Crosse – Southern Division  
 206 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue South  
 La Crosse WI 54601  
 608-789-1414  
 Facility ID # Assigned by SERB: **013086-7**

**II. FACILITY COORDINATOR:**  
 Melvin Conley  
 Title: Environmental Health and Safety Engineer  
 Telephone Number:  
     423-392-3092 (w)  
     423-946-1589 (cell)  
     608-796-5000 (24-hr.)

**ALTERNATE COORDINATOR:**  
 EHS HELPLINE  
 Title:  
 Telephone Number:  
     800-733-1250

**III. CHEMICALS ON SITE: EXTREMELY HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES**

<u>CAS #</u>	<u>Chemical Name/ Trade Name</u>	<u>Max. Amt.</u>	<u>Vul. Zone</u>	<u>Rural/ Urban</u>
7664-93-9	Sulfuric Acid	11,445 pounds	<0.1 miles	Urban

**OTHER HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS:**

<u>CAS #</u>	<u>Substance</u>	<u>Quantity</u>
068476-34-6	Diesel Fuel	11,250 pounds

**IV. PRIMARY EMERGENCY RESPONDERS:**

West Central Regional Type I Hazardous Materials Response Team  
 La Crosse County Type II Hazardous Materials Response Team  
 La Crosse Fire Department  
 La Crosse Police Department  
 La Crosse County Sheriff's Department  
 La Crosse County Emergency Management  
 Wisconsin State Patrol  
 Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources  
 Tri-State Ambulance

**V. SUPPORT AVAILABLE FROM FACILITY:****OUTSIDE RESOURCES AVAILABLE:**

The La Crosse Fire Department serves as La Crosse County's Type II Hazardous Materials Response Team. For Type I incidents, contact the West Central Regional Type I Hazardous Materials Response Team through the Wisconsin Emergency Management Duty Officer (1-800-943-0003).

CHEMTREC	1-800-424-9300
Scholle Corporation	708-582-7290

**VI. GENERAL INFORMATION AND ASSUMPTIONS: (Disclaimer)**

The vulnerability zones set forth in this Plan are based on the EPA Technical Guidance for Hazards Analysis. The zones are based on a credible worst-case scenario and identify the potential area for impact should an air-borne release of a single EHS chemical occur.

The vulnerability zones are NOT intended to be used as a guide for population protection in fire-related incidents. Fire incidents were considered in the development of this plan and the plan provides basic information about the facility for first responders to employ. However, in an actual fire situation at this facility, the Incident Commander is strongly recommended to reference the fire department's own individual agency pre-emergency plans and standard operating procedures as well as the County's Emergency Operations Plan - Annex K: Fire and Rescue, as they may relate to this facility when making decisions at an incident involving fire.

Further, fire departments that would respond to an incident at this facility are strongly encouraged to meet with facility representatives to determine ways to minimize an event at the facility and to determine what additional information and factors should be taken into consideration in the event of a fire, should one occur.

The field incident commander shall determine the actual response to an incident and the affected area may vary from the planning vulnerability zone identified in this Plan. Depending on wind speed and direction, the amount of material released and other pertinent factors, the ACTUAL vulnerability zone may be smaller, and in some instances larger, than the credible worst case vulnerability zone identified herein.

The vulnerability zones determined in this Plan are for general PLANNING PURPOSES.

**STATE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:**Wisconsin Statute §292.11 WISCONSIN SPILL LAW

The spill law, Chapter 292.11, Wis. Stats., requires that a person who possesses or controls a hazardous substance or who causes the discharge of a hazardous substance shall notify the department *immediately* of any discharge not exempted by the statute. The Department has a 24-hour toll free number for reporting spills: **1-800-943-0003**.

Chapter NR 706 Wisconsin Administrative Code

Ch. NR 706, Wis. Adm. Code establishes exemptions for small quantity spills of agricultural and petroleum related compounds, as well as substances that have a federal reportable quantity established. These quantities are termed "de minimis" in that below these levels, under the following conditions, state notification of a discharge is not required. While reporting

requirements may be exempted, **cleanup requirements remain**. If a discharge meets one of the following de-minimis exemptions **it must be reported to the Wisconsin DNR**:

1. Has not evaporated or been cleaned up in accordance with NR 700 – 726,
2. Adversely impacts or THREATENS to adversely impact the environment,
3. Causes or THREATENS to cause chronic and/or acute human health impacts, or
4. Presents or THREATENS to present a fire or explosion hazard or other safety hazard (including all evacuations)

**VII. HAZARD ANALYSIS SUMMARY:**

CenturyTel is the Telephone Company (TELCO) for the majority of La Crosse County and has numerous facilities located throughout the county. This facility is located on the corner of 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Jay Street in the City of La Crosse. During an event, the facility could have 100 or more employees with an undetermined number of customers on premises.

Industrial telecommunication batteries are installed in this facility. The basement room contains six ‘strings’, or racks, or batteries. Strings A, B and C contain 24 batteries (72 total) from the C & D Battery company, model # MCT-2720. String D contains 24 Exide model GU-37 batteries. Strings E and F contain 24 (each) GNB model HCT-31 batteries. A total of 144 batteries are installed in the basement room.

A single string of 24 Exide model GU-37 batteries are installed in the first floor. Two strings of C & D model MCT-4000 batteries are installed in the Facility Room on the second floor. The CenturyTel 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue facility contains a total of **216 batteries**. Each battery contains 165 lbs. of electrolyte. The sulfuric acid is 35% solution or 57.75 lbs per battery.

It is determined that the greatest potential for accidental release would occur during the handling or movement of the batteries while restocking shelves or the unloading of batteries from the delivery vehicle.

The vulnerability zone for this facility was based on a worst-case scenario for a release of sulfuric acid from a single battery. The vulnerability zone should be less than 0.1 mile.

<b>EHS Chemical:</b>	<b>Sulfuric Acid</b>
Form:	Liquid
Container Size:	165-lbs. electrolyte
Concentration:	35%
Parameters used in the hazard analysis:	
Level of Concern:	1/10 IDLH
Duration of Release:	10 minutes
<b>WORST CASE SCENARIO:</b>	
Rural	
Wind Speed:	3.4 mph
Atmos. Stability Class:	F
Vulnerability Zone:	<0.1 miles
<b>RE-EVALUATION SCENARIO:</b>	
Rural or Urban:	Urban
Wind Speed:	11.9 mph
Atmos. Stability Class:	D
Vulnerability Zone:	<0.1 miles

The employees in the general vicinity of a spill could be affected.

#### **VIII. SPECIAL FACILITIES AFFECTED:**

**None.** The Children's Museum is located across the street, as are several office buildings. Numerous retail and office buildings are located within 2 blocks of this facility, but outside of the .1 mile vulnerability zone. The Silly Goose Child Care and Preschool is located 2 blocks east at 138 7<sup>th</sup> Street South. The main La Crosse Post Office is located 2 blocks north. Cameron Park is located one block south and a Farmer's Market is held in the park each week during the produce season. Efforts to warn people in the park may be needed during any release of sulfuric acid at the CenturyTel 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue facility.

#### **IX. POPULATION PROTECTION:**

The on-scene commander will make the determination to shelter in place or to evacuate as appropriate. The lead-time for a hazardous materials incident may be very short. Consequently, there may not be time enough for safe evacuation, especially when extremely toxic chemical fumes are involved. An evacuation under these considerations may expose the population to dangerous toxic chemicals and the decision may be made to shelter in place. Preferred areas for protective sheltering would be interior hallways, rooms without windows or exterior doors, enclosed stairways and rooms on the side of the building away from where the hazard is approaching. Doors, windows, and other potential air leaks should be sealed up to prevent toxic fumes from entering.

Experience indicates that shelter space would need to be provided for only 30% of the population within the initial isolation and evacuation zones and the remaining 70% would seek shelter with family and friends outside of the risk zone.

Roles and responsibilities relative to evacuation and sheltering as well as a list of shelters appear in the La Crosse County Emergency Operations Plan, Annex E.

#### **X. Special Considerations:**

The vulnerability zone for this facility covers a number of major traffic routes in the downtown La Crosse vicinity, which, in case of a release, may require detours and traffic redirection. The control and movement of traffic on impacted roadways would be the responsibility of the La Crosse Police Department and the La Crosse County Sheriff's Department. Control zones and detours will be established depending upon wind conditions and the size of the release. In case of a long duration situation, the La Crosse Street Department may be called upon to provide additional traffic control support using signs, barricades, flashers, and personnel.

The local 24-hour National Weather Service, the County Public Safety Communications (9-1-1 Dispatch Center), and local radio and TV stations could issue warnings to the population.

**NOTE:** There are no local ordinances in La Crosse County which mandate specific routes for vehicles carrying Extremely Hazardous Substances (EHSs). Thus, EHSs may be transported over any local, state, or federal highway for which weight limits are met.