

**EPCRA OFFSITE PLAN FOR:**

CenturyLink  
Mailing Address:  
333 Front Street North  
La Crosse, WI 54601

**1. Facility Name**

**CenturyLink– Lincoln Avenue**

2801 Lincoln Avenue  
La Crosse, WI 54601  
608-796-7280  
Facility ID # Assigned by SERB: 013087-9

**2. FACILITY COORDINATOR:**

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

**ALTERNATE COORDINATOR:**

Gordon Bernice  
Title: Corporate Safety Coordinator  
Telephone Numbers:  
318-340-5137  
608-796-5000 (24-hr.)

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

CAS #	Chemical Name/ Trade Name	Max.Amt	Vul. Zone	Rural/Urban
7664-93-9	Sulfuric Acid	4685 lbs.	<0.1 miles	Urban

**OTHER HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS:**

NONE

**4. 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 Department  
La Crosse County Emergency Management  
Wisconsin State Patrol  
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources  
Tri-State Ambulance

**5. SUPPORT AVAILABLE FROM FACILITIES:**

Outside Resources Available:

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

CHEMTREC

1-800-434-9300

## 6. 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)

## 7. HAZARD ANALYSIS SUMMARY:

The CenturyTel facility is a telephone-switching complex. It houses electronic switching equipment as well as an array of industrial batteries. The 48 industrial batteries are along the west wall on a two tiered rack.

The CenturyTel facility could have upwards of five employees at the facility during an event. The facility is located behind the Shelby Township Fire Department building and adjacent to the Burlington Northern Railroad. These locations are within the .1 mile vulnerability zone.

The bank of storage batteries is arranged along the inner west wall of the facility. The north door of the facility would allow the closest access to the storage batteries. The batteries are clear see-through cases arranged in two rows with one row on top of the other. The entrance doors of the building are securely locked at all times and would require an operator to allow entry.

Potentially dangerous materials are used and stored at this facility. These materials, when used under normal conditions, pose no threat. However, the hazard to persons and property can increase dramatically if the materials are somehow released from their controlled environment.

It was determined during the site visit that the greatest risk of a hazmat incident would occur during the servicing of batteries. Each battery contains 164.8 lb. of electrolyte. The MSDS indicates that the sulfuric acid is 30% of the electrolyte, or 49.44-lbs per battery.

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

<b>EHS Chemical:</b>	<b>Sulfuric Acid</b>
Form:	Liquid
Container Size:	4685-lbs.
Concentration:	30%
Parameters used in the hazard analysis:	
Level of Concern:	1/10 IDLH
Duration of Release:	10 minutes
<b>WORST CASE SCENARIO:</b>	
Rural or Urban:	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

Any employees near the spill would be affected, as would any Shelby Township employees in the Town Shop or any Shelby Fire Department firefighters or EMT's that would be in the building or parking lot area.

## 8. SPECIAL FACILITIES AFFECTED:

The Shelby Township Public Works Shop and Fire Department Building and Riverfront – Lincoln House (located at 2731 Lincoln Avenue) are within the vulnerability zone. The Erickson Park Aquatic Center (public swimming pool) is located approximately 6 blocks northwest. The Trane Credit Union is located 3 blocks west, and the Trane South Complex manufacturing facilities are 4 blocks west, as is a Mc Donald's restaurant and the Advance Auto Parts store. Upwards of 500 persons, or more, could be present in these facilities during a chemical release from the CenturyTel – Lincoln Avenue facility. There are no schools or day care facilities within .1 mile of this facility. (There is one on Ward Ave just east of the RR tracks.)

## **9. 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.

## **10. SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS:**

The vulnerability zone for this facility covers some major and lesser traffic routes, 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.