

On October 4, 2001, EPA made a decision on a proposal announced for public comment in August 2001 to allow FMC/Astaris to cap Pond 18 instead of removing the waste and treating it in the LDR Hazardous Waste Treatment System. The 30-day public comment period on the RCRA Closure and Post-closure Plans for Ponds 18 concluded on November 16, 2001. Documents related to this matter are also available at the Idaho State University Library.

On October 11, 2001, Astaris announced its plan to permanently close down all production operations at the Pocatello facility by the end of the year. FMC/Astaris still remain legally responsible for ongoing environmental cleanup work, and EPA will be providing oversight for as long as is necessary to insure that required cleanup work is accomplished. An open letter from the EPA Regional Administrator to the citizens of the Greater Pocatello and Ft. Hall areas was published in the Idaho State Journal on October 28, 2001, which explained how the remaining cleanup work would be accomplished. There is a link below which provides the full text of that letter.