



UNITED STATES
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY REGION 4
ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER
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ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8960



U. S. Environmental Protection Agency
US FINISHING/CONE MILLS KICKOFF FACT SHEET

Integrated Remedial Investigation and Time Critical Removal Action

Greenville, Greenville County, SC

Fact Sheet No. 1

October 2011

Contact Information

*For more information on
cleanup efforts, please feel free to
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Information Repository

Hughes Main Library
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*If you would like to be placed
on the EPA's mailing list to
receive updates about the
site, please contact
Neema Atashi.*

For Additional Information

www.epaossc.org/usfinishingconemills.

Please Join Us for a US Finishing/Cone Mills Kickoff Meeting

Date: **October 11, 2011**
Location: **Lakeview Middle School**
 3801 Old Buncombe Rd.
 Greenville, SC 29617
Time: **6:00 P.M.**

Site Background

The former US Finishing/Cone Mills property is located at 3555 Old Buncombe Road approximately 3 miles north of downtown Greenville, South Carolina. The facility was constructed in 1903 as a textile bleaching and finishing facility, the plant was expanded on several occasions. In 1947, the facility was sold to the Aspinook Corporation and, in 1957, to the Cone Mills Corporation (Cone Mills). Cone Mills operated the plant until 1984 under the name Union Bleachery. American Fast Print, Ltd. (AFP) purchased the facility in May 1984 and operated under the name US Finishing until November 2003 when the main plant was partially destroyed by fire.

The main portion of the 259-acre property consists of three buildings, including the approximately 400,000 square foot industrial building that includes a basement and two floors partially destroyed by a 2003 fire. The property also formerly housed seven caustic tanks with an estimated capacity of 10,000 gallons each, a 13,500-gallon chromium storage tank and underground pipelines directing chromium to the storage tank and then delivering it to the facility. Several surface water impoundments are located or backfilled on the property, including an aeration lagoon, a former sludge settling lagoon; a former brine pit; and an impoundment on Langston Creek. Two reservoirs were utilized by the facility. The northern reservoir is located northeast of Old Buncombe Road, and the northwestern reservoir is located northwest of the residential area. A dump area is located in the Reedy River floodplain, south of the aeration lagoon.

The Site was proposed to the National Priorities List in March of 2011, and was designated as final in September of 2011.

Future Remedial Action

EPA, in cooperation with the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC), is planning to conduct a Remedial Investigation at the Site in order to fully assess the nature and extent of contamination. Specifically, EPA will collect additional soil, sediment, groundwater, and surface water samples from the Site. The results of these activities will be made available to the public through the publication of a “Remedial Investigation Report”. EPA will then use the results of the Remedial Investigation to evaluate potential cleanup options for the Site. Field work to support the Remedial Investigation is expected to begin during November 2011.

Removal Action

A Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) emergency response was initiated on August 9th, 2011 to secure the site via fencing and signage as well as securing and disposing of abandoned containers of suspected hazardous substances. Additional known hazardous substances are present in extensive asbestos containing material (ACM) which are visible as part of the fire damaged facility. The facility has been posted by the local authorities as a "structure unsafe for human occupancy or use". A CERCLA Action Memo for a Time Critical Removal Action was signed September 13th, 2011. The action will include demolition of the fire affected structures and interim on-site staging/storage. Further details can be found at the following website:
www.epaosc.org/usfinishingconemills

Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) Program

Often, there are many technical issues at Superfund sites that are hard for people to understand. The EPA’s Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) program provides money to community groups so they can pay for technical advisors to interpret and explain technical reports, site conditions, and EPA’s proposed cleanup proposals and decisions.

EPA’s cleanup decisions depend on several different things, including what studies say about site conditions, the kinds of wastes found, and the cleanup methods that would work at a particular site. A technical advisor can help community members participate in decision making by helping them to better understand what is going on at the site.

Please contact EPA for additional information about the TAG program.

Color Coding Pilot

EPA has chosen the U.S. Finishing/Cone Mills Site as a color coding pilot project. The Site map included in this fact sheet contains color schemes designed to easily represent the areas of concern and associated actions. A legend is provided to briefly explain the colors on the map. EPA is requesting feedback from your community on whether this map helps better understand the hazards and steps you can take for the U.S. Finishing/ Cone Mills Site. This map will be updated periodically as more information becomes available from the ongoing studies and cleanup activities. Please feel free to contact the Community Involvement Coordinator, Neema Atashi, for any comments or questions about the color coding pilot.

