

United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region IV
POLLUTION REPORT

Date: Friday, February 13, 2009

From: Jennifer Wendel

Subject: On going removal activities for 2/2 to 2/9/09

Ecusta Mill

1 Ecusta Road, Pisgah Forest, NC

Latitude: 35.2711000

Longitude: -82.7050000

POLREP No.:	9	Site #:	A4AK
Reporting Period:	2/2 to 2/9/09	D.O. #:	
Start Date:	9/22/2008	Response Authority:	CERCLA
Mob Date:	9/22/2008	Response Type:	Time-Critical
Demob Date:		NPL Status:	Non NPL
Completion Date:		Incident Category:	Removal Action
CERCLIS ID #:	NCD003166675	Contract #	EP-W-05-053
RCRIS ID #:			

Site Description

The Ecusta Mill is a former flax pulping and paper manufacturing facility that was built in 1939 and was operational until 2002. Cellophane production also occurred at the facility for approximately 30 years. In addition, the following activities have occurred at the Site: chlorine production operations using Sorenson mercury cells (electro-chemical building); caustic storage; water and wastewater treatment; and printing. EPA's Removal Program and the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources (NC DENR) first responded when the plant was closed down in 2002. Of primary concern were potential releases from an interruption of power to the basement sumps under the production buildings. The EPA Environmental Response Team conducted sampling of the concrete floor, the sub-floor, and soils under the electro-chemical building and sediments in on-site ditches. This sampling confirmed the presence of mercury in the sub-floor structures to 16 feet below ground surface (580 mg/kg) and the floor drains (260 mg/kg) of the electro-chemical building, in the indoor air and in the overland drainage ditches which had received historic discharge from the building.

An Expanded Site Inspection (ESI) was conducted by EPA Region 4, Science and Ecosystem Support Division and the State in March, 2004. The ESI focused on two main areas of concern, the electro-chemical building and the Aeration and Sedimentation Basin (ASB) area. Mercury was detected in soils adjacent to the electro-chemical building, in sediments in the on-site drainage ditches and in sediments of the Davison River immediately adjacent to the manufacturing area. The ESI also confirmed soils and sediments in other areas of the site are contaminated with mercury and dioxin. Groundwater sampling has confirmed low-levels of mercury in groundwater near the electro-chemical building, low levels of carbon disulfide and 1,1-Dichloroethane near the cellophane plant, and a high pH reading (pH 12.17) in the area of a previous caustic spill.

The total Site is approximately 527 acres in a mixed-use residential/industrial area. The manufacturing facility is approximately 213 acres. The ASB has a surface area of approximately 75 acres and was used for wastewater treatment. The ASB also receives storm water from approximately one-third of the site, including those areas historically most actively involved in paper production. The following industrial solid waste landfills are located at the Site: the Island landfill, the new ash landfill; the old ash and sludge landfills which are unlined industrial landfills which do not have permit numbers issued. The previous site owner is in the process of closing all landfills in compliance with State permit requirements.

A small arms firing range has been historically operated on the Site south of the main manufacturing operations on a largely undeveloped parcel of land near the confluence of the Davidson and French Broad Rivers. Lead impacted soil has been document from the historic firing range.

Renova Partners, a Brownfields redevelopment company purchased the property in January 2008. Renova formed a subsidiary company Davidson River Village, LLC (DRV) who is conducting complete demolition of all on-site structures prior to site redevelopment. D.H. Griffin was retained by

DRV to conduct the demolition.

DRV is conducting the Removal Activities at the site under an AOC with EPA. They have hired Shaw Environmental as the lead environmental contractor. Removal Activities include a Time Critical Removal Action and 2 Non-Time Critical Removal Actions.

Current Activities

Shaw continuing sampling crushed concrete/brick debris.

DH Griffin (DARI) shipping truckloads of asbestos to Charlotte Motor Speedway.

DH Griffin shipping loads of scrap metal to DH Griffins Greensboro office for recycling.

DH Griffin shipping loads of lime as product for reuse.

DARI asbestos abatement in building 52.

DH Griffin continuing demolition of buildings 30,37,62,63,87.

DH Griffin continuing crushing operations in the north end of the site.

DH Griffin continuing demolition of slabs 15,23,29,55 on the east side of the site.

DH Griffin continuing perimeter dust monitoring.

Mountain Environmental removing weak liquor from building 56 chests and transferring to the clarifier.

DRV continuing discharging from the north clarifier into the ASB.

Shaw continuing slab assessment activities in building slabs 15,23,27,29 and 55.

Shaw completing ditch sidewall sampling in the south ditch and began ditch center sampling in the south ditch. XRF analysis continued on the deepest samples that had sufficient recoveries. Began locating sample points for GPS mapping.

Shaw completing a round of ground water level monitoring from all monitoring wells and piezometers which will be used to generate a updated site-wide groundwater elevation map.

Completing the core drilling of 32 locations through the slab and into the subsurface trenches in the EC Building floor to allow camera survey access.

Planned Removal Actions

Shaw and DH Griffin will continue the building clearance process.

DH Griffin ACM and OHM abatement crews will continue asbestos abatement in building 52.

DH Griffin demolition activities will continue in buildings cleared.

DH Griffin will continue loading out scrap, C&D debris, asbestos, non-hazardous materials and recyclable product.

DH Griffin/ Shaw will continue slab removal and investigation process.

DH Griffin and Mountain Environmental will continue to remove and or transfer OHM materials.

Shaw will continue collecting samples for crushed debris.

Shaw will complete East ditch sidewall and centerline sampling sampling. Sidewall samples will be XRF screened and al samples will go off for lab analysis.

Shaw will continue site wide sub slab analysis and documentation. Completed slab investigation reports will be uploaded to the web site.

State/federal regulators will continue to investigate arsenic soil background levels.

Shaw will perform the EC building camera survey in the sub-slab trenches.

A Shaw subcontractor will complete the survey all site monitoring well casing elevations to complete the updated site-wide groundwater elevation map.

Shaw will begin sampling EC Building sub-slab trench sedimentation/debris where it is encountered during the camera survey.

Water elevation data loggers will be installed in the MW-19 (S,I,D) wells to monitor groundwater levels pre- pump testing.

Disposition of Wastes

DH Griffin (DARI) shipped 2 truckloads of asbestos to Charlotte Motor Speedway Landfill totaling 14.2 tons.

DH Griffin shipped 35 loads of scrap metal weighing 503 tons to DH Griffins Greensboro office for recycling.

DH Griffin shipped 19 loads of lime as product for reuse weighing 242 tons.

response.epa.gov/EcustaMillSite