

**United States Environmental Protection Agency**  
**Region IV**  
**POLLUTION REPORT**

**Date:** Thursday, February 26, 2009

**From:** Jennifer Wendel

**Subject:** Ongoing Removal Activities for 2/16 to 2/21/09

Ecusta Mill

1 Ecusta Road, Pisgah Forest, NC

Latitude: 35.2711000

Longitude: -82.7050000

<b>POLREP No.:</b>	11	<b>Site #:</b>	A4AK
<b>Reporting Period:</b>	2/16 to 2/21/09	<b>D.O. #:</b>	
<b>Start Date:</b>	9/22/2008	<b>Response Authority:</b>	CERCLA
<b>Mob Date:</b>	9/22/2008	<b>Response Type:</b>	Time-Critical
<b>Demob Date:</b>		<b>NPL Status:</b>	Non NPL
<b>Completion Date:</b>		<b>Incident Category:</b>	Removal Action
<b>CERCLIS ID #:</b>	NCD003166675	<b>Contract #</b>	EP-W-05-053
<b>RCRIS ID #:</b>			

**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 miscellaneous sampling crushed concrete/brick debris.

Shaw continuing building clearance process.

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

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

DH Griffin shipping construction debris to WCA Landfill for disposal.

DH Griffin shipping lead impacted brick to Republic landfill.

DH Griffin continuing demolition of buildings the boiler plant, filter plant and bldg 73.

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

DH Griffin continuing demolition of building slabs 68,87,88.

DH Griffin completing the removal of utilities between building 87 and 88.

DH Griffin continuing perimeter dust monitoring. No dust issues were noted for the week.

Kessel Engineer continuing oversight of the geotechnical operations for fill being placed in reservoir 54 and 57.

Kessel Engineering collecting geotechnical boring samples. Shaw providing oversight and location for each of the twelve borings with a GPS.

Mountain Environmental continued 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.

Shaw completed collecting sediment samples in the EC building trenches

### **Planned Removal Actions**

Shaw and DH Griffin will continue the building clearance process.

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 will continue removing utilities less than 4 ft below ground level.

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

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

DH Griffin will continue T & D of lead impacted brick.

Shaw will continue collecting samples for crushed debris.

Kessel Engineering will continue to provide oversight for backfill operations and drill soil borings for geotechnical data collection.

Shaw will continue to investigate environmental aspects of the geotechnical borings performed by Kessel Engineering.

Shaw will continue site wide sub slab analysis and documentation.

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

Shaw will install two additional monitoring wells , and one 6” pumping well, near the caustic area and begin pump and slug tests.

### **Disposition of Wastes**

DH Griffin (DARI) shipped 2 truckload of asbestos to Charlotte Motor Speedway Landfill totaling 20.5 tons.

DH Griffin shipped 42 loads of scrap metal weighing 659 tons to DH Griffins Greensboro office for recycling.

DH Griffin shipped 32 loads of construction debris weighing 613 tons to WCA Landfill for disposal.

DH Griffin began shipping lead impacted brick from buildings 15 and 33 to Republic landfill, 23 loads weighing 366 tons were shipped.

Mountain Environmental continued removing weak liquor from building 56 chests and transferring to the clarifier. Approximately 20 loads have been transferred to the clarifier totaling 50-60,000 gallons.

[response.epa.gov/EcustaMillSite](https://response.epa.gov/EcustaMillSite)