

United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region IV
POLLUTION REPORT

Date: Thursday, May 7, 2009

From: Jennifer Wendel

Subject: Ongoing Removal Activities from 4/27 to 5/1/2009

Ecusta Mill

1 Ecusta Road, Pisgah Forest, NC

Latitude: 35.2711000

Longitude: -82.7050000

POLREP No.:	21	Site #:	A4AK
Reporting Period:	04/27/2009 to 05/01/2009	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

DEMOLITION

DH Griffin continued demolition of buildings 62, 86, 110.

DH Griffin continued crushing operations in the north and south ends of the site.

DH Griffin continued demolition of building slabs 11, 15, 43, 51.

DH Griffin continued perimeter dust monitoring. No dust issues or exceedences were noted.

DRV continued discharging from the north clarifier into the ASB.

ENVIRONMENTAL

Shaw collected samples from crush material for lead analysis. Analytical results are all below regulatory guidelines.

Shaw performed daily monitoring of building 89 soil stockpiles. The highest PID reading was 3.6 ppm for the week.

Shaw collected 9 samples from the coal yard for PAH and arsenic analysis.

Shaw collected under slab samples from building 43 and under basement slab samples from building 15, all were below SRG's for XRF metals analysis.

Shaw collected chip samples from the stained concrete on slab 31 for PCB analysis.

Shaw collected a water sample from the frac tank containing caustic area pump test water.

Planned Removal Actions

DEMOLITION

Shaw and DH Griffin will continue the building clearance process.

Shaw will continue collecting samples for crushed debris.

DH Griffin demolition activities will continue in buildings cleared.

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

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 with OHM material collection and T & D.

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

ENVIRONMENTAL

Shaw will continue site wide sub slab analysis and utility investigation.

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

Shaw will continue to monitor staged soil in building 89 for volatiles and to sample crushed material for lead analysis.

Shaw will begin collecting ditch samples with the geoprobe using Land Probe as a subcontractor.

Next Steps

Cleaning up the coal yard of all structures and debris and rough grading slopes.

Removing abandoned underground utilities.

Disposition of Wastes

DH Griffin shipped 60 loads of scrap metal weighing 1001 tons to DH Griffins Greensboro office for recycling.

DH Griffin continued shipping non-hazardous materials to Republic Landfill, 1 load weighing 15 tons was shipped.

DH Griffin continued shipping lead impacted brick and concrete to Republic Landfill, 32 loads weighing 506 tons were shipped.

DH Griffin shipped 2 loads of construction debris weighing 38 tons to WCA Landfill for disposal.

DH Griffin shipped 7 loads of PCB wooden blocks from building 31 weighing 142 tons to Republic Landfill for disposal.

response.epa.gov/EcustaMillSite