

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

Date: Friday, October 8, 2010

From: Jack Kelly

Subject: Powhatan Mining Company

6721 Windsor Mill Road, Woodlawn, MD

Latitude: 39.3250000

Longitude: -76.7358000

POLREP No.:	9	Site #:	A3NA
Reporting Period:	9/27/10 - 10/8/10	D.O. #:	0703-03-026
Start Date:	8/16/2010	Response Authority:	CERCLA
Mob Date:	8/15/2010	Response Type:	Time-Critical
Demob Date:		NPL Status:	Non NPL
Completion Date:		Incident Category:	Removal Action
CERCLIS ID #:	MDN000306665	Contract #	EP-S3-07-03
RCRIS ID #:			

Site Description

The Powhatan Mining Company site is the location of a former asbestos processing facility. The mill operated from approximately 1920 to 1980 primarily processing anthophyllite asbestos. Asbestos ore for the mill was mined in Maryland until about the 1940s and later brought in from several States including California, Georgia and Alabama. The site is bordered on all sides by residential properties and the residential yards to the southwest lie within feet of the former processing facility and in the path of site runoff. In 2006, the property to the east of the former mill was subdivided into residential lots for new home construction. From 2006 to 2008, the residential lots were cleared and graded and retention ponds were installed. Development ceased after only two homes were constructed.

The former processing facility is a multi-story building with a loading area on the northeast end (cement block portion) and a processing area at the southwest end (rusted metal portion). The asbestos fiber extraction process took place inside the building complex. Asbestos ore was reportedly received and first dried in the cement block portion of the complex. Further processing of the rock ore is believed to have occurred in the metal portion of the facility, a multi-level, timber-framed structure with stone foundation and corrugated metal siding. In the milling operation believed used at this facility, the asbestos ore was first crushed to a normal, even size and then dried. Fiber extraction then occurred through a series of crushing operations, each followed by vacuum aspiration of the ore running on a vibrating screen. On the screen, the fibers were released from the ore and collected into a vacuum system. Fibers recovered from consecutive vibrating screens were brought to cyclone separators, and the air filtered to remove the finer, suspended fibers.

The property was brought to EPA's attention by the Maryland Dept of the Environment. After an initial assessment, a non-emergency Removal Action primarily intended to secure building openings was initiated by the OSC in a Special Bulletin dated August 11, 2009. More recent sampling data and conditions warranted a time-critical action. A time-critical Action Memorandum for the site, concurred on by HQ, was signed on June 8, 2010. In addition, a memorandum authorizing demolition and compensation to the property owner was approved by the Region and HQ on this date.

EPA will be conducting removal activities at the site in order to deconstruct the facility and remove/cover soil which may pose a threat to public health and/or the environment. During activities which will cause significant disturbance of interior dust or outdoor soils, air samples periodically will be collected from personal sampling devices on cleanup personnel to determine if proper levels of protection are being used at the site. Additional air samples will be collected along the perimeter of the site to confirm that engineering controls are protective of the surrounding community.

Current Activities

- ERRS continues cleaning the owner's personal items for conex box storage and bagging items to be discarded as asbestos-containing waste. Tires are being cleaned of asbestos and staged in the building for ultimate removal from the site by the recycler. A wood and poly "air-lock" was constructed at the side garage door for removing the tires and bagged asbestos waste,

- OSC Greg Ham was at the site during latter part of 9/27 week. The OSCs attended our Safety and Program meetings on October 5, 6 and 7 in the Philadelphia area.

- On 9/27, the OSC reviewed a disposal company bid table and concurred on a company selected by ERRS to dispose of asbestos waste.

- On 9/28, the OSC and an MDE Land Recycling Program rep visited the law offices of the attorney formerly assigned by the County Court to serve as the trustee to sell the Powhatan Mining Company property. Approximately two file boxes were available for review but the materials were not useful. No copies were made by the OSC.

- On 9/29, the contract task order modification came through adding \$1.5 million all at once to the Powhatan Site task order (funding was made available by EPA HQ to be used prior to the close of the fiscal year).

- On 10/4, post-cleaning microvac samples were collected from four tires in the old facility to determine if tires could be sent off for recycling (tires cannot be landfilled in Maryland). Results were all below 5000 s/cm², well below the 50,000 s/cm² benchmark used at the site for materials to be landfilled. Approximately 120 tires will be sent off for recycling/disposal.

- the OSC continues to search for historic documentation on the Powhatan Mining Company.

Planned Removal Actions

- Continue cleaning personal items of asbestos and storing in conex boxes. Properly bag discardable items for ultimate transport and disposal.

- Continue fine tuning what will be needed for new garage construction.

Next Steps

- Await to receive notice of the zoning hearing.

- Continue to coordinate with the site owner on the fate of interior items and the likely progression of upcoming work.

Key Issues

- The zoning hearing results will have significant consequences for future work.

response.epa.gov/powhatan