

United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region IV
POLLUTION REPORT

Date: Friday, February 6, 2009

From: Jennifer Wendel

To: Christopher Masterson, EPA

Subject: On going Removal Activities for 1/26 to 1/31/09

Ecusta Mill

1 Ecusta Road, Pisgah Forest, NC

Latitude: 35.2711000

Longitude: -82.7050000

POLREP No.:	8	Site #:	A4AK
Reporting Period:	1/26 to 1/31/09	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.

Shaw continuing the building clearance process. Building 62 transformers (10) were drained and 12,000 gallons of non PCB oil were recovered.

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

DH Griffin shipping loads of scrap metal weighing 568 tons to DH Griffins Greensboro office for recycling.

DH Griffin shipping loads of lime as product for reuse.

DARI continuing asbestos abatement in pipelines on the east side of the site and building 109 sheds.

DH Griffin excavating impacted soil associated with the vault excavation adjacent to building 75.

DH Griffin continuing demolition of buildings 75,87.

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

DH Griffin continuing demolition of slabs 15,27,29,55 on the east side of the site.

DH Griffin continuing perimeter dust monitoring.

Pike Electrical removing the last remaining structure, a transformer, from building 39 area.

DRV continuing discharging from the north clarifier into the ASB.

Shaw continuing slab assessment activities in building slabs 27,28,29,75 and 90. Building 75 slab exceeded field PID guidelines and was sent for laboratory analysis.

Shaw collecting samples from the vault excavation adjacent to building 75 and from the building 27 footer excavation. The vault excavation appeared to contain residual black liquor and the building 27 footer excavation had high levels of volatiles (1300 ppm PID). Samples from both locations were sent for laboratory analysis.

Shaw continuing ditch side sampling in the east ditch and began ditch side sampling in the south ditch. XRF analysis continued on the deepest samples from each side sample location. 433 samples have been collected through 1/31/09.

Shaw completing grading, seeding and strawing of the rifle range excavation area.

Planned Removal Actions

Shaw and DH Griffin will continue the building clearance process.

DH Griffin ACM abatement crews will start asbestos abatement in building 52 and continue OHM abatement in building 60.

DH Griffin demolition activities will continue in buildings cleared.

DH Griffin recycling contractors will continue removing recyclable supplies and equipment.

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

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

Shaw will collect samples for crushed debris.

Shaw will continue ditch sampling of side samples and begin ditch center sampling. Two foot deep ditch center samples and will be collected using a two foot core sampler. Side sampling will continue using a hand auger. The bottom 6" of each sample location will continue to be analyzed on site using and XRF in addition to laboratory analysis for all depths.

Shaw will continue sub slab analysis and documentation.

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

Shaw will prepare for the EC building camera survey by core drilling access points in the sub-slab trenches.

Shaw will survey monitoring well elevations and collect a round of groundwater levels.

Estimated Costs *

	Budgeted	Total To Date	Remaining	% Remaining
Extramural Costs				
RST/START	\$200,000.00	\$120,672.59	\$79,327.41	39.66%
Intramural Costs				
Total Site Costs	\$200,000.00	\$120,672.59	\$79,327.41	39.66%

* The above accounting of expenditures is an estimate based on figures known to the OSC at the time this report was written. The OSC does not necessarily receive specific figures on final payments made to any contractor(s). Other financial data which the OSC must rely upon may not be entirely up-to-date. The cost accounting provided in this report does not necessarily represent an exact monetary figure which the government may include in any claim for cost recovery.

Disposition of Wastes

DH Griffin (DARI) shipped 7 truckloads of asbestos to Charlotte Motor Speedway Landfill totaling 55 tons.

DH Griffin shipped 37 loads of scrap metal weighing 568 tons to DH Griffins Greensboro office for recycling.

DH Griffin shipped 12 loads of lime as product for reuse weighing 163 tons.

response.epa.gov/EcustaMillSite

POLREP #8 Last Updated 2/6/2009