

DuPont Experimental Station

Route 141
Wilmington, DE 19898
Congressional District 1
EPA ID #: DED003930807
Final Update

Current Progress at the Site

EPA does not anticipate that any further action will be required for this facility. This facility is approximately 90 years old and is located along the banks of the Brandywine Creek, approximately four miles northwest of the city of Wilmington, Delaware.

In September 1993, EPA issued a RCRA administrative order directing the company to implement the remedy that was selected by EPA's Regional Administrator for this site in September 1991 (No Further Action with Monitoring). EPA and the facility worked jointly to complete the requirements of the order, which included:

- Conduct a five-year groundwater monitoring program including sampling, analysis of samples, and measurement of groundwater elevations in fourteen monitoring wells at the site on a quarterly and semi-annual basis.
- Prepare and submit reports describing this groundwater sampling work for EPA's review.
- Impose deed restrictions on the DuPont facility property to prevent the placement of wells that could be used for domestic purposes, and any use of the property that may permit dermal contact with subsurface soils and groundwater. DuPont is also required to notify EPA in advance and restrict access during any excavation work that may be completed in the site area.

The facility completed the five-year groundwater monitoring program that was required as the selected remedy for this site in 1999, and submitted a summary report to EPA. The groundwater data generated during this program consistently indicated that the concentrations of the hazardous constituents of concern in groundwater were significantly below the remediation standards or goals established by EPA for the site, and that concentrations significantly decreased over the duration of the monitoring program. EPA issued its approval of the 5-Year Assessment Report to DuPont on August 30, 2000, and notified the facility that they had successfully completed the RCRA Corrective Action process for the site.

Site Description

The Experimental Station is the corporate-wide central research and development facility for DuPont, and has been actively used as a research facility for approximately 90 years. Prior to this, the area along the Brandywine Creek was used for gunpowder manufacturing by DuPont. The site consists of mostly administrative office buildings, laboratories, and parking areas. DuPont also operates a hazardous waste incinerator that is equipped with air pollution control devices, and several hazardous waste storage pads that are permitted by the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC).

Site Responsibility

RCRA Corrective Action activities at this facility were conducted under the direction of EPA Region 3 with assistance from the State.

Contaminants

The main contaminants in the soil and groundwater are polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) and volatile organics such as vinyl chloride and trichloroethene (TCE).

Community Interaction

The DuPont Experimental Station Site is located on Route 141 in Wilmington, Delaware, and its southern border is immediately adjacent to the Brandywine Creek. The site is approximately four miles northwest of the City of Wilmington.

EPA Region III and DuPont held a public meeting in September 1991 at the Concord Pike Library to discuss the preferred clean-up alternative selected for the site. An advertisement was also placed in the News Journal to provide information about the public meeting and public comment period for EPA's preferred clean-up alternative.

Institutional Controls

On January 9, 1995, DuPont filed a Declaration of Covenants with the New Castle County Recorder of Deeds covering 6.08 acres of the Experimental Station Site that were subject to RCRA Corrective Action work. This Declaration of Covenants restricts the use of this portion of the Experimental Station site by preventing the placement of wells that could be used for domestic purposes, and any use of the property that may permit dermal contact with subsurface soils and groundwater. DuPont is also required to notify EPA in advance and restrict access during any excavation work that may be completed in the 6 acre area of the Experimental Station site.

Government Contacts

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For more information about EPA's corrective action webpage, including Environmental Indicators, please visit our site at: www.epa.gov/reg3wcmd/correctiveaction.htm