

# Rockwood Pigments NA, Inc.

7101 Muirkirk Road  
Beltsville, Maryland 20705  
Congressional District  
EPA ID #: MDD062011796  
Last Updated: 6/23/2008

## Current Progress at the Site

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Rockwood Pigments NA, Inc. (Rockwood) entered the Facility Lead Program on August 19, 2005. In accordance with the Facility Lead Agreement, Rockwood submitted a Work Plan/Phase I Site Characterization Report on December 1, 2005. Rockwood met with EPA and the state of Maryland in June 2006 to discuss upcoming site characterization work at the facility. EPA approved the work plan, and the investigation began in the summer of 2008. A report documenting the results of this investigation was submitted to EPA in October 2008. Currently, EPA and Rockwood are evaluating the need for, and potential approach to additional site characterization activities.

## Site Description

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Rockwood Pigments, formerly operating under the names Laporte Pigments and Mineral Pigments, operates a pigment manufacturing facility, located approximately two miles north of Beltsville, Maryland. The site is bordered to the west by US Route 1 and the Chessie Railroad tracks; to the east by Conway Road; to the north by Muirkirk Road, and to the south by a light industrial park. Records indicate that the site has been used for industrial purposes since at least the 1940s. The earliest file records mentioning Mineral Pigments, however, date to 1972. The facility activities include the manufacturing of zinc phosphate and the milling and blending of iron oxides.

In March 1985, MDE inspectors reported leakage of chromate waste and other hazardous substances from containers and tanks at the site and alleged that the facility had discharged toxic substances to waters of the state. Consequently, MDE issued Consent Orders No. C-O-87-184 and C-O-88-0198 to the company in 1987 and 1988, respectively.

Shallow groundwater at the site has been investigated since 1985. Initially, seven monitoring wells were installed and tested for chromium, lead and zinc. Source removal was also conducted at this time. Later, as required by the 1987 Consent Order, semi-annual monitoring of the wells was conducted until the plan was amended in 1993 by Consent Order C-O-94-038 to a quarterly monitoring of three wells, MP-3, MP-6 and MP-7. In addition to parameters of temperature, pH, and specific conductivity, the wells have been monitored for chromium. A second source area removal was conducted in 1997.

In accordance with a requirement of the 1993 Consent Order, the company submitted to the Department, at the end of a 5-year monitoring period, reports evaluating human health and ecological risks, and remedial options. The company concluded that no risk to human health is present as long as the groundwater is not used for domestic purposes, and that there was no ecological threat. The company also recommended institutional control/natural attenuation, from among the tested remediation alternatives, for implementation.

On July 6, 2000, MDE issued Amended Consent Order ACO-01-001, requiring the facility to continue to monitor wells MP-3 and MP-7 and report semi-annually for five years. The company was also required to submit a report at the end of the 5-year period, evaluating whether the monitoring results demonstrate natural attenuation of hexavalent chromium. This report was submitted on January 20, 2005, and it presented the conclusion that the natural attenuation of chromium is occurring and it recommended that groundwater monitoring at the facility be terminated. In groundwater samples collected in June 2008, hexavalent chromium was present in MP-3 at 7.6 parts per million (ppm), and in MP-7 at 4.7 ppm. These levels are above the maximum contaminant level (MCL) of 0.1 ppm.

## **Site Responsibility**

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

## **Contaminants**

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The main contaminant of concern at the site in groundwater is chromium.

## **Community Interaction**

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The facility will develop a Community Relations Plan, which will describe how it will conduct public involvement activities to inform the local community, the State and any other interested parties of activities throughout the corrective action process.

## **Institutional Controls**

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There are currently no institutional controls in place at the site. Maryland, Prince George's County and Washington Suburban Sanitary District laws and regulations effectively prohibit the use or installation of potable water wells in the area of the facility.

## **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](http://www.epa.gov/reg3wcmd/correctiveaction.htm)

## **Facility Contact**

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